



## **Northern Frontier Section of the GMC Summer/Fall 2024 Newsletter**

Summer Greetings Everyone!

Our trail work season started a little earlier this year due to drier weather during May. So far, we haven't had the wet weather and smoke from Canada that we had last summer. The Northern Frontier Section has scheduled a variety of hikes and outings this season and we'll also need help on our work days. I hope you're able to enjoy this season and get out on the trail, on the water, or a bike path!

Last winter, we had intermittent springlike and winter weather conditions throughout the season. The NFS scheduled six snowshoe hikes and four of them were attended. The Whiteheads hosted a potluck/hike at their home with 11 hikers. Two of us hiked up Laraway Mountain (to Laraway Lookout). One of us hiked up Moose Mountain to Willoughby Vista on a very cold day. Seven of us hiked the Canyon Road Trails near Jeffersonville and enjoyed lunch afterward at Martell's Restaurant. Two of our hikes were canceled because of bad weather, however the four hikes we had were fun and enjoyable.

We had a successful and fun annual meeting/potluck recently with 28 of us attending. Many thanks to all who attended and shared their good food and company. Thanks Jeff Miller for being our grill master and cooking bratwursts for everyone! The meeting summary is below and includes the latest information about our section.

NFS Annual Meeting  
Montgomery Recreation Area Pavilion  
June 9, 2024

Present: Jeff and Cathy Miller, Elizabeth and Adam Paashaus, Bill and Joan Hildreth, Bryon Dickinson, David and Louise Ransom, Beebe Potter, Kip Potter, Randy Gates, Diane Leary, Russ Ford, Ferdinand Lauffer, Dan Seeley and Adele Wolfson, Maggy Young, Melissa Haberman and David Burns, Quenten Jones, Danny Richardson, Jane Williams, Brooks Sturtevant, Art and Joy Bliss, Ken and Sharon Whitehead

President Ken Whitehead called the meeting 4:45 PM. After welcoming everyone, each person introduced themselves. Ken then explained the organization of the GMC and the role volunteers play in maintaining the trails. Last winter our section scheduled 6 hikes, 2 of which were canceled due to weather. A total of 21 people participated in our events.

Ken then said that most trail walk throughs and shelter visits have been completed. Keegan and Ken hiked Rte 242 to Hazen's Notch assessing the trail for improvements. Keegan documented 38 locations that need work including mud holes, relocations and washouts. Keegan will look into funding for these and also possibly schedule some puncheon work to take place in October. Projects on that section may be done by the GMC during the next two years.

The Jay Camp Tent Platform needs to be rebuilt so on June 4th, Bill Haynie, Christian Lakos, Kip Potter, and Ken unloaded materials from two trailers to carry up to the site. Expecting a long day of hauling boards, they were pleasantly surprised that a group of 20 - 25 hikers offered to help out and carry lumber. The group was from The Tyler Place resort in Highgate, VT and they were hiking up Jay Peak that day. In a short time, all the lumber got moved to the tent platform location. A hearty Thank You to them for making a long day a much shorter one! Volunteers Bill and Christian will complete the platform in the next few weeks and we greatly appreciate their work.

Lorne Currier (GMC Volunteer Coordinator) is looking for a new shelter adopter for Shooting Star Shelter. A big thanks to MaryAnne Wood who has been the adopter for at least 6 years! She's done a great job. If you are interested, contact Lorne at [lcurrier@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:lcurrier@greenmountainclub.org) or (802) 241-8329.

#### Other work:

- In August and September, Lorne Currier would like to have Sterling College students work with us on the puncheon north of Jay Peak to Laura Woodward Shelter.
- Re-blazing needs to be done north of Jay Peak to Shooting Star Shelter. In July we can ride up the tram to begin work. A group of 4 on a work day would work best for this. Contact Ken if you are interested.

#### Events:

- On **June 16th**, there is a GMC benefit at the Woodshed Lodge for the Jay Focus Group. There will be different bands and food trucks.
- On **September 7th**, we will have a table at the Jay Village Oktoberfest. It will be a Trail Magic table from 10:00 to 3:00. Volunteers are needed to man the table. Please contact Ken if you are willing to help out.
- **September 21st** is Long Trail Day but we will not be having a table at Jay Pass this year since we'll have the table at the Oktoberfest. The GMC will have fundraising teams on their website ([greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday](http://greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday)) like the previous years if you want to donate. We will start a "Northern Frontier Team" and your donation of any size is greatly appreciated!

**GMC Board Report: Kip Potter**

The new office building is under construction. There have been some cost overruns (\$1.5 million versus \$1 million). A new Code of Conduct for GMC members has been developed and is on the website for viewing. There was a deficit of \$34,000 in the 2024 budget which has been resolved by using other funds. The club is trying to save money to make sure this does not happen again. Molly Flanagan is in charge of obtaining land for the club to safeguard our trails. Only a couple of miles are not protected at this point. Ideally there should be a 1,000 corridor on the trails. The side trails are in need of more protection. All trails are posted on the GMC website indicating if they are protected or not.

**Elections**

One vote was cast to elect the following:

President: Ken Whitehead

Secretary: Sharon Whitehead

Treasurer: Walter Pomroy

The group voted unanimously for:

Vice President: Kip Potter

Our meeting ended at 5:15 PM with a potluck dinner and lively conversation!

More Announcements, etc.

A Game of Logging Chainsaw Course will be offered through the GMC this September 6th - 8th in Johnson, VT. Completion of the course gives a certification to cut blowdowns on the Long Trail system for three years. This certification is required right now on federal land only (the Green Mountain National Forest). Our section of trail crosses state land and the certification is not required for state land now, but may be in the future. That decision is in the works and the GMC has input on it. The cost of the course is \$660 and our section can't afford it at this time. Other courses will be available in the future and perhaps they'll be more affordable or subsidized.

Just a reminder to all volunteers who do work on trails and shelters: Please submit a volunteer work report on the GMC website ([greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org)) click on Volunteer, then Volunteer Report and just fill in the relevant info for your work trip. A copy of the report will be sent back to you and we'd like you to share it with the trails and shelters officers and myself. It's important that we all know what's being done on the trail. Many many thanks to the volunteers who work on our NFS section. Your hard work is greatly appreciated!

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

## 2024 Outings

Wednesday June 19th	Bike ride on the Lamoile Valley Rail Trail. Highgate to Swanton & back; about 10 miles. Stop for a restaurant lunch halfway! Contact Brooks at <a href="mailto:brooks24@gmail.com">brooks24@gmail.com</a> or (802) 285-2217
Saturday July 6th	Paddle your canoe or kayak with us on Green River Reservoir. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@jgmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@jgmail.com</a> or (802) 933-5352
Saturday July 27th	Hike Mt. Norris in Eden, VT. A strenuous hike, 3.6 miles round trip, 1320' ascent. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or (802)933-5352
Saturday August 10th	Hike and Potluck at Jeff and Cathy Miller's home. Hike the Jay Recreation Centre Trails and enjoy a potluck after at the Miller's. Bring a dish to share. Contact Jeff and Cathy at <a href="mailto:mill48@comcast.net">mill48@comcast.net</a> or (802) 528-6785
Saturday August 31st	Hike the Krusch Nature Preserve Trails and Cambridge Pines (Old growth pine forest). Easy hike in beautiful woods; about 2.5 miles 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
Saturday September 7th	Jay Village Oktoberfest. Trail Magic table in Jay Village 10:00 AM to 3:00PM. To volunteer contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or (802)933-5352
Saturday September 21st	Long Trail Day. Hike Belvidere Mountain from Route 118 to the summit. A strenuous hike: 5.6 miles round trip; 2040' ascent. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or (802)933-5352
Saturday October 12th	Hike Niquette Bay State Park trails in Colchester, VT. An easy hike through woods past the bay on Lake Champlain; about 3 miles. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or (802)933-5352
Saturday October 26th	Hike the LT and Babcock Trail Loop to Devil's Gulch and back. An easy to moderate hike; 4.9 miles; 500' ascent. Contact Ken at <a href="mailto:kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com">kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com</a> or (802)933-5352

**NFS Officers:**

President: Ken Whitehead 802-933-5352

Vice President: Kip Potter 802-868-3125

Secretary: Sharon Whitehead

Newsletter: Ken and Sharon Whitehead

Treasurer: Walter Pomroy 802-635-1770

GMC Board Rep: Kip Potter 802-868-3125

Trails: Jeff and Cathy Miller 802-528-6785

Shelters: Russ Ford 802-848-7303

Website: Rolf Anderson 802-326-4799

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Northern Frontier Website

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**Our 2024 Annual Meeting**

