

Northeast Passages

From the Green Mountain Club's Northeast Kingdom Section

On the Web - nekgmc.org

Volume 8, No. 1

SUMMER 2008



WHEELER POND CAMPS & SUMMER 2008 NEKGMC QUARTERLY MEETING

On Saturday June 14, a dedicated crew of NEKGMC volunteers, under the able leadership of the Green Mountain Club's Director of Stewardship, Education & Facilities Manager Pete Antos-Ketcham, installed a new wood burning stove from Vermont Castings at the Beaver Dam Camp, one of the GMC's Wheeler Pond Camps in Barton. The stove is a sturdy and state of the art unit that meets all of the latest federal EPA pollution control criteria.

Starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday July 12, a similar new stove is scheduled for installation at the neighboring Hadsel -MaresCamp. Other on site tasks to be completed will include the stacking of a new multiple-cord wood supply. A combined NEKGMC summer quarter Executive Committee-General Business Meeting will follow at 3:00 p.m. Topics to be discussed include the status of the GMC's proposed hiking corridor management plan for the former Champion Lands, management issues at the Wheeler Pond Camps, and an update on construction of the new South Barn and connector at the main club's Waterbury Center campus. Everyone is encouraged to bring a food contribution for a potluck meal to be held during the late afternoon.

SUMMER 2008 GMC NEK OUTINGS

Events during July and August

Saturday June 28 Hike to Laraway Lookout on Long Trail. 3.6 mile round trip, 1400 feet elevation gain. Moderate Call Kevin at (802)222-5951

Saturday July 12 NEK GMC Quarterly Meeting at Wheeler Pond Camps work at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday July 13 Kayak float Conn River between Moore Dam and Commerford Dam in Lower Waterford. Easy Call Joan Klappert (802)748-0077 Start at 11:00 AM

Saturday July 19 Worcester Range Hike with O Section. Hike to the highest point on the Worcester Range with a side trip to Stowe Pinnacle on the way. 5 mile round trip. 2500 feet elevation gain. Strenuous. Call Kevin (802)222-5951

Sunday July 20 Kayak Clyde River from 10 mile Square Road to Pensioneer Pond in Charleston, Vt. Moderate Start at 10:00 AM Some small portages may be required call Walter McNeil to confirm (802)748-2333

Sunday July 27 Hike Belvidere Mt Forester Trail to Summit Start at 10:00AM 6 miles round trip 2000 feet elevation gain Call to confirm Cathi (802)626-8742

Saturday August 9 Sable Mountain Bushwhack with Jean Haigh Call first to confirm (802)586-9637 Easy to Moderate

Sunday August 17 Kayak the Conn. River from Woodsville NH to Newbury Vt. 10 miles Picnic on island in River Moderate 10:00AM Call Walter McNeil to confirm (802)748-2333

Saturday August 23 Hike Haystack MTN. On the Long Trail near Hazen's Notch. 4.2 miles round trip. 1450 feet elevation gain Moderate Call Kevin at (802)222-5951

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2008 NEKGMC ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 29, 2008 – BURKE MOUNTAIN CLUBHOUSE -EAST BURKE,
VERMONT**

By Michael Chernick – Section Secretary

Bylaws' Amendments –The proposed NEKGMC Bylaws' amendments include: extending the authorized continuous tenure of the section's treasurer to six consecutive years, permitting the annual meeting to occur in March or April, and clarification of the executive committee's composition, as well as a few non-substantive wording improvements. Upon section approval, the amendments must be ratified at the May 31, 2008 GMC Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that the section adopt the amendments, a motion not requiring a second:

MOTION [Executive Committee]: That the Northeast Kingdom Section approves the section bylaw amendments as the Executive Committee recommends]

Approved unanimously

2008-2009 Officers–The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the 2008-2009 term:

President – Jean Haigh

Vice President – Kevin Williamson

Secretary –Michael Chernick

Treasurer – Ed Guest

Director to the Main Club – 2008-2011- Michael Chernick

The slate was approved unanimously

Luke O'Brien gave a brief farewell speech and turned over both the president's role, and a new hand-made gavel, to Jean Haigh. the new section president.. Jean thanked Luke O'Brien for his service as president.

Appointments–The following appointments were made to the Executive Committee: Membership Chair (Jerry Philips), Newsletter Editor (vacant); Outing’s Chair (Patty Aubin), Program Coordinator (Daisy McCoy), Trails & Shelters Coordinator (Luke O’Brien), Trails Adoption Coordinator (Kevin Williamson), Publicity Coordinator (Wendy Beattie), Archivist (Michael Chernick), Webmaster (Lara Fors with content editing from Kevin Williamson), and Wheeler Pond Camps’ Cochairs (Jean Haigh & Joe Anastasia).

Treasurer’s Report – NEKGMC Treasurer, Ed Guest reported the following::

Checking Account Cash Flow Summary		
01/03/08 Starting Balance		\$1,345.44
Deposits		
Donation from Lenny Targonski	\$50.00	
From Main Club (for December)	403.75	
From Main Club (for January)	105.00	
From Main Club (for February)	100.00	
Expenses		
Donation to the Burke Mountain club	100.00	
03/28/2008 Ending Balance		\$1,904.19

Certificate of Deposit Summary

12/31/07 Balance (1)	\$1,064.71

Footnote

(1) First Quarter CD statement not yet received

The Executive Committee:

- Authorized the treasurer to add \$500.00 to the CD when it matures in June;
- Voted to donate \$500.00 to the Second Century Campaign, and
- Recommitted that it will pay \$200.00 for a second stove.

Ed Guest and Jean Haigh reported that the NEKGMC has a new family life member, the Kingston Family. On a motion of Luke and Gary Aubin the treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously.

Director’s Report–Jean Haigh, the outgoing NEKGMC Section Director, reported on the Second Century Campaign’s progress. (Since the section’s annual meeting in March, the \$5.2 million dollar minimum goal was raised).. The GMC has received a \$270,000.00 federal earmark through the efforts of U.S. Senator Leahy that will be applied to construction costs of the new South Barn,. Waterbury headquarters staff is being temporarily shifted in part, both on and off campus, in preparation for construction of the new South Barn. .

The Jay Peak ski area and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources continue to discuss the scar situation with the GMC. The alleged perpetrators are in criminal proceedings. A proposed new development (housing and ski trails and lift) at the site of the former Ski Valley in southern Vermont, will impact the adjacent AT/LT. The

developers have met with the GMC's Trail Management Committee. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 2009 National Conference will be held at Castleton State College, and the club will celebrate its centennial in 2010.

On another topic, Jean Haigh explained that the NEK needs to increase its membership by 15 additional persons to meet its share of the goal of club's 10,000 membership goal. She suggested that personal contact from the chapter with individuals who had dropped their membership was a good idea.

The main club board, at its March 2008 meeting, noted with pleasure NEKGMC's Kevin Williamson's very successful effort to expand the number of retail outlets that sell GMC publications.

Wheeler Pond Camps-GMC volunteers, Erik and Laura Tobiason, who have constructed a number of shelters on the Long Trail, visited the camps recently to assess their structural condition. They concluded that Hadsel-Mares is viable with a series of improvements including the addition of more natural light and reconfiguring the space to make it more open. However, they reported that in time, Beaver Meadow will need to be replaced. The Tobiasons' assessment means the need for a capital campaign in the Kingdom. But, more immediately, the section will make short-term repairs to the camps. The new gate and stoves' installation will occur this year. It was suggested to offer lower rates for midweek (Tuesday-Thursday) rentals.

Trails & Shelters-Luke O'Brien announced the Essex Timber is selling its land for approximately \$12 million. GMC has proposed to develop hiking trails on the former Champion Lands much of it on the Essex Timber section. Any sale would be subject to the existing conservation easements. He expressed concern that this was supposed to be a long term investment. The ANR-GMC Hiking Corridor Management Agreement for the former Champion Lands is not yet finalized. Senator Sanders has developed trails funding proposal for which Northwoods Center, the GMC and the Vermont Youth Conservation corps have each submitted proposals.

National Trails Day -Saturday June 7th is National Trails Day. GMC is holding an airlift in preparation for the major reconstruction at Montclair Glen Shelter.

Kingdom Corps-Luke O'Brien announced the trails the Kingdom Corps will work on this summer including Victory Bog and the Pisgah north Trail. He invited GMCers to visit the crews. There may also be a project on Sugarloaf in New Hampshire. Lastly, he reminded everyone about spring trail conditions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2008 GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB ANNUAL MEETING MAY 31, 2009-GMC CAMPUS-WATERBURY CENTER, VERMONT

By Michael - Chernick Section Director

The 98th Annual Meeting of the Green Mountain Club took place, on May 31st, under a tent situated on the back land of the GMC's Waterbury campus.

The main club ended Fiscal Year 2008 (ending April 30, 2008) \$21,000 in the red which represented a mark improvement over Fiscal Year 2007's \$69,000 deficit. During the past year, the club has instituted financial economies through a consolidation of full-time staff assignments, and a nearly 20 percent payroll reduction. This reduction enabled the GMC to hire a third summer field assistant for 2008. In 2007, the workload proved nearly monumental for the two excellent field assistants.

GMC President Richard Windish focused his report to the membership on the Second Century Campaign's conclusion, and its exceeding the minimum \$5.2 million goal. Funds received are being allocated among the general endowment, the trails and shelters endowment, the stewardship endowment, and the construction of the new South Barn and connector building.

The new facilities will include a hiker information and retail center, an unobstructed meeting space designed to seat 125 persons, office space for the field operations program, volunteer work space, and a storage area, began in May. Under the expert direction of Eric and Laura Tobiason, a barn raising weekend is now planned for August.

GMC Executive Director Ben Rose delivered a report centered on the need for the club to slow its pace slightly after the hectic years of the Second Century Campaign. He also focused his attention on the importance of safety in the activities the club sponsors.

A special guest at the meeting was Bob Paquin from Senator Leahy's staff. He was a key player in arranging for a \$270,000 federal earmark to support construction of the new South Barn. Paquin presented recently retired GMC Development Director Bob Lincoln an American Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and a commendatory letter from the senator. Earlier this spring, Bob became the first GMC staff person awarded honorary life membership which is the club's highest accolade.

Presidents' Awards were presented to Andrew Nuquist and Joe Frank for their cochairing of the Second Century Campaign.

After the adjournment of the full membership annual meeting, the board of directors convened. The board reelected the current slate of GMC officers including President Rich Windish, Vice President Marge Fish, Secretary Sue Girouard, and Treasurer Bill Lyons.

Most importantly for the NEKGMC, the board unanimously approved our section's proposed bylaw amendments that the section had already approved at its annual meeting in March.

As a land and easement owner, and sponsor of recreational activities, liability insurance is a critical issue for the GMC. The board reviewed the recent challenges obtaining this coverage. The club has purchased a policy for the coming year from Meadowbrook Insurance that offers better protection for the sections. As a condition of the policy, the GMC can not sponsor rock climbing activities. For purposes of the policy, rock climbing entails the use of equipment and being suspended in the air. It does not include the typical scrambling that we encounter on hiking trails. The board discussion also reiterated that the club's liability insurance policy is not a substitute for activity participants' personal health insurance.

GMC President Rich Windish announced his plan to divide the Legal, Insurance, and Endowment Committee into two separate committees. One would be comprised of attorneys and insurance specialists focusing exclusively on legal and insurance issues. The second committee would be a committee with responsibility for overseeing the club's endowment.

The board also discussed the new Long Range Plan (Five Year) that a special committee, which Michael Chernick is chairing and Jean Haigh serves on, is developing.

Also of importance to the NEKGMC, the board briefly discussed the club's wind power policy. Currently, it provides that the club will actively oppose the construction of

wind towers proposed for construction on the LT corridor or within 500 feet of the corridor. At greater distances from the LT, the GMC reserves an option to comment on or intervene in an administrative review proceeding. The club is feeling pressure from the wind power industry and other environmental organizations to modify that policy to be more proactively positive toward projects beyond the LT corridor. Given the strong feelings that many NEKGMCERS have towards the construction of towers along the ridgelines in the Kingdom, we will need to monitor the situation extremely carefully. As your section direction, I will be seeking our local members' input should the board decide to revisit the issue.

HOW TO HIKE NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 48 PEAKS OVER 4000 FEET

By Kevin Williamson

There are many summits in the White Mountains of New Hampshire that reach an elevation of more than 4000 feet above sea level. According to the criteria set forth by the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Granite State boasts a total of 48 qualifying peaks. To be included on this official list, each of these summits must also rise above the lowest point on the connecting ridge between itself and a higher neighbor (if one exists) by a minimum of 200 ft. For anyone interested in hiking to the top of all these mountains, a major part of your challenge will be trying to determine the best way to go about this endeavor. If the prospect of studying numerous maps and sorting through all those pages of trail descriptions is enough to keep you from even getting started, then perhaps the following recommendations will help. My version of this well-known list takes the added step of identifying those trails, which comprise (what are potentially) the best routes to follow for each of these proposed hikes. I've also included the total mileage and elevation gain for each outing. The information provided here is **not intended for winter use**, because several prominent access roads are closed to vehicular traffic during that season. Physically fit and ambitious hikers should be able to climb to all of these summits in just 28 trips. As outlined here, this goal can be accomplished without relying on the use of a shuttle, or resorting to the practice of spotting an extra car at a second trailhead (although I've reserved that option for the Bonds). Hopefully, this list will simplify the process of picking and planning your next hike in the Whites. For most of these outings, I've selected those trails, which form the shortest and/or easiest routes possible. In a few instances where the available choices are nearly equal in distance and difficulty, I've chosen what I feel are the most interesting routes.

It is possible to complete all of these outings as day hikes. In the case of Owl's Head, or when hiking the Bonds from the south, you may choose to ride in on a bicycle from the Lincoln Woods trailhead to the boundary of the Pemigewasset Wilderness (where only foot traffic is permitted). However, in doing so, you will be disqualified from joining the White Mountain Four Thousand Footer Club. On the other hand, if that is not part of your goal, then using a bike on this nearly three-mile section of rail-trail can save valuable time on these very long hikes. When traveling to Owl's head, all but the last mile of this trek is relatively easy (except for the brook crossings). The southern approach to the Bonds also goes quickly for the first five miles, even if you're on foot the entire way.

WARNING: This outline is **not intended as a substitute for using a comprehensive guidebook and detailed maps**, such as those produced by the AMC. As with any other trail related information, unexpected changes can occur. These guidelines are offered solely at the reader's own risk. The author assumes no responsibility for their use. Please adhere to low impact practices when you are hiking on these very busy trails.

**48 PEAKS IN 28 HIKES: total mileage
Name & summit elevation & elev. gain - when using these recommended hiking trails**

1. Washington 6288' Monroe 5384'	10.4 (loop) - 4200'	Up via Ammonoosuc Ravine & Crawford Path Down via Gulfside & Jewell Trail
2. Adams 5774' Madison 5367'	10.0 – 5000'	Air Line, Gulfside, Osgood, & Air Line Cutoff
3. Jefferson 5712'	5.0 – 2700'	Caps Ridge Trail
4. Lafayette 5260' Lincoln 5089'	8.9 (loop) - 3900'	Up via Falling Waters & Franconia Ridge Trail Down via Greenleaf & Old Bridle Path
5. South Twin 4902' North Twin 4761' Galehead 4024'	14.4 – 4350'	Gale River, Garfield Ridge, Frost, Twinway, & North Twin Spur
6. Carter Dome 4832' Middle Carter 4610' South Carter 4430'	14.4 – 4750'	Nineteen Mile Brook, Carter Dome, & Carter-Moriah Trail
7. Moosilauke 4802'	7.2 – 3100'	Benton Trail
8. Eisenhower 4780' Pierce 4310'	10.0 – 3250'	Crawford Path, Webster Cliff Trail, & Mount Eisenhower Loop
9. Carrigain 4700'	10.0 – 3250'	Signal Ridge Trail
10. Bond 4698' West Bond 4540' Bondcliff 4265' Zealand 4260'	20.0 – 5000' (or 19.8 – 3700' - - from north to south only)	Zealand, Twinway, Bondcliff, & W. Bond Spur <u>When spotting a second car at the Lincoln Woods trailhead, and descending by way of the Bondcliff, Wilderness, and Lincoln Woods Tr.)</u>
<u>or all 3 Bonds from south</u> (if hiking Zealand w/Hale)	22.6 – 4600'	Lincoln Woods, Wilderness, Bondcliff, & West Bond Spur
11. Garfield 4500'	10.0 – 3000'	Garfield Trail & Garfield Ridge Trail
12. Liberty 4459' Flume 4328'	10.0 (loop) - 3700'	Up Whitehouse, Liberty Spring, & Flume Slide, across Franconia Ridge, & down Liberty Spring
13. Wildcat (A) 4422' Wildcat D 4050'	8.4 – 3850'	Wildcat Ridge Trail
14. Hancock 4420' South Hancock 4319'	9.8 – 2650'	Hancock Notch, Cedar Brook, & Hancock Loop
15. South Kinsman 4358' North Kinsman 4293'	10.0 – 3900'	Mount Kinsman & Kinsman Ridge Trail
16. Field 4340' Willey 4285' Tom 4051'	10.0 (loop) - 3400'	Up via Avalon, A-Z, & Mt. Tom Spur Trail, across via Willey Range Trail, and down via Willey Range, Avalon, & A-Z Trail
17. Osceola 4340' East Osceola 4156'	7.6 – 3100'	Greeley Ponds & Mount Osceola Trail

18. North Tripyramid 4180'	11.0 (loop)	Livermore & Mount Tripyramid Trail
Middle Tripyramid 4140'	- 3000'	(Up via north slide and down via south)
19. Cabot 4170'	9.6 – 2500'	York Pd, Bunnell Notch, Kilkenny Ridge, & Mt. Cabot Tr.
20. Cannon 4100'	4.4 – 2100'	Kinsman Ridge Trail
21. Hale 4054'	4.6 – 2300'	Hale Brook Trail
<u>or Hale & Zealand 4260'</u>	14.6 (loop)	In via Hale Brook, Lend-A-Hand, & Twinway
(if hiking Bonds from south)	- 3850'	Out via Twinway, Zealand, & Zealand Road
22. Jackson 4052'	5.2 – 2150'	Webster-Jackson & Mt. Jackson Branch Trail
23. Moriah 4049'	10.0 – 3150'	Stoney Brook & Carter-Moriah Trail
24. Passaconaway 4043'	12.0 (loop)	Up via Blueberry Ledge, across via Rollins,
Whiteface 4020'	- 3800'	then up and down via Dicey's Mill Trail
25. Owl's Head 4025'	18.0 – 2900'	Lincoln Woods, Franconia Brook, Lincoln Brook, & Owl's Head Path
26. Waumbek 4006'	7.2 – 2750'	Starr King Trail
27. Isolation 4004'	14.6 – 3600'	Rocky Branch, Isolation, and Davis Path
28. Tecumseh 4003'	5.0 – 2200'	Mount Tecumseh Trail

**NEKGMC -The Green Mountain Club Section in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom
Section Officers**

President/Wheeler Pond Camps Co-Chair -Jean Haigh

wolfdog@myvermont.com

Immediate Past President /Trail & Shelters Coordinator-Luke O'Brien,

luke@northwoodscenter.org

Vice President/Trail Adopter Coordinator – Kevin Williamson overmt@charter.net

overmtn@charter.net

Secretary/Section Director – Michael Chernick

chernick5@comcast.net

Treasurer -Ed Guest

enkguest@charter.net

Wheeler Pond Camps Co-Chair –Joe Anastasia

vtjoe@kingcon.com

Publicity Coordinator – Patty Aubin

pattyaubin@hotmail.com

Webmaster-Lara Larafors

lara@larafors.com

Join the GMC!

We would be thrilled to have you join the GMC, support the Long Trail, and participate in the great activities that the Green Mountain Club offers throughout Vermont and especially in the Northeast Kingdom. Annual membership is \$40.00 (Individual) and \$45.00 (Family). You can download a membership form from our website www.nekgmc.org or contact the main club's office at 802-244-7037 and either request a membership form. When joining, please remember to indicate the Northeast Kingdom Section on the application. There is no extra charge, and you will receive additional printed, and if chose online, information on local activities!