

Green Mountain Club

Montpelier Section Annual Meeting – 50th Anniversary Celebration

April 1, 2005

The Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club held its annual meeting April 1, 2005 at Christ Church in Montpelier. There were 62 members present. The section's 50th anniversary made this annual meeting a special affair.

Events Preceding Business Meeting

The 50th Anniversary Committee -- Priscilla Page (Chair), Nancy Jordan, Reidun Nuquist, Doris Washburn, Thomas Weiss, Priscilla Daggett, Ken Hertz, Mary Garcia developed the celebratory portions of the meeting. At 5:30 p.m. members began to gather to visit and view a historic photo exhibit. A potluck dinner began at 6:00 p.m. At 6:40 p.m. President Bill Clark welcomed the group and thanked the members of the 50th Anniversary Committee. Andrew Nuquist, GMC president and section member, Richard Windish, GMC vice president, Mary Lou Recor and Chris Hanna from the Burlington Section were also welcomed. Priscilla Page cut the special anniversary cake while Reidun Nuquist introduced several special guests: Marian Gorham, David Otis, Bill Osgood, Johns Sairs, Marianne Codling, Cindy Lindemann, Sally Sairs, Lois Hadd, George Plumb, and Esther Farnsworth. These members had been active in several capacities in the past.

Business Meeting

Bill Clark called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and welcomed GMC Executive Director Ben Rose, who reflected on the GMC's next 50 years. He mentioned that the GMC faces many challenges and listed his top ten:

10. **Fee demos** (now in White Mountain National Forest) — In coming years GMC will face potential fees to use Green Mountain National Forest land. GMC will fight this limit on access to take a walk in the national forest, which is publicly owned .
9. **Guidebook competition** — GMC's Long Trail Guide and Day Hiker's Guide to Vermont are no longer the only guides available. GMC does not have a proprietary right to guidebooks that describe the trails that GMC maintains. Many maps are available electronically at no charge.
8. **Increasing use of the Long Trail** — use is increasing slowly, especially in winter
7. **Stewardship** — GMC is now a land trust. We must steward the land we've protected.
6. **Competition for use of public land** — ATVs, snowmobiles, others wish to use public land
5. **Sprawl** — Development, real estate is changing the character of the Long Trail and its vistas.
4. **Wind turbines** — GMC Board has voted not to oppose all wind turbines, but there may be a fight against some depending on location.
3. **Air quality** — challenges vistas, health
2. **Global climate change** — hard to know when spring and fall mud seasons will arrive
1. **Financial stability of GMC** — The club's primary concern.

Ben countered the challenges with two rays of hope: 1. The strength of GMC's volunteers and staff and 2. Vermont and the values and qualities it holds for many — it is worth saving!

Bill C. thanked Ben for his support over the years and emphasized the key relationships between the section volunteers and GMC staff to accomplish goals.

A. Old Business

Bill C. briefly reviewed the 2004 minutes for the group and entertained a MOTION and a second to accept the minutes of the 2004 annual meeting. The motion passed.

B. New Business

- a. **Sterling Pond Shelter / Watson Camp Update** (page 9) — Bill Clark and Eric Seidel presented the plans for the new Sterling Pond Shelter, using large panels created by Dave Blumenthal to illustrate what the unique two-sided shelter will look like. The plan is to replace two old shelters (Sterling Pond Shelter, now burned, and Watson Camp) with a new shelter on the old Sterling Pond Shelter site. The sides of the shelter can be moved to create more protection in different seasons. A third side can be added in the future if necessary. Plans call for a shelter with at least a 50-year (and possibly longer) lifespan. (The “old” Sterling Pond Shelter was built in 1972 and dismantled in 2004.)

During discussion questions were raised about the orientation, the overhang, the view, the size, and the footprint. Answers included that the orientation is still under debate but it will likely face northeast into the woods but because the shelter is square, the orientation can be decided during a site visit on 5/22/05. The overhang will be 30 inches and the shelter will likely face away from the pond and toward the woods to offer protection from inclement weather. The shelter is 16 feet square and fits on the footprint of the old shelter in accordance with state permits. Clearance inside is approximately six feet, six inches.

Volunteers of all skill levels are needed for shelter construction and work on the trails near the shelter. Construction is planned for at least two weekends in August. GMC staff hopes to get materials to the site with the use of school and scout groups. The privies will likely be built as Boy Scout projects and be installed by Labor Day. Duncan Wilkie is the Section Trails and Shelters Coordinator and he will manage the labor pool.

- b. **Approval of Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget** (page 11) — Bill C. noted that the section is in good fiscal health. The section can afford to build the shelter and maintain its trails. MOTION and a second to accept the treasurer’s report and proposed budget. The motion passed.
- c. **Questions Regarding Section Reports** (pages 14 – 19) — Written reports included a Trails and Shelters report, Outings report, and 50/50 Status report. Of note is the increase in the number of outings the section is offering (155 up from 109 in the previous year). Outings also seem to be drawing more nonmembers than in the past. Nancy Schulz — in a poodle skirt — encouraged folks to attend her 50/50 hikes and to pledge and to have fun and do good all at the same time.
- d. **Election of Officers** (page 21) — Bill Clark thanked outing Membership Coordinator Allen Jacobs for his work, noting Allen’s dedication and good humor throughout his tenure. He presented Allen with cards and a gift in appreciation for his work. Bill C. also noted that the GMC is a wonderful way to meet people and enjoy the company of others.

As an outgoing officer, Allen chaired the nominating committee and introduced the slate of officers for the section's approval. President: Bill Clark, Vice-President: Jill Aspinall, Secretary: Sylvia Plumb, Treasurer: Ken Hertz, and Membership Coordinator: Mary Garcia. (Mary is the newest member of the Executive Committee, succeeding Allen.) MOTION and a second to accept the slate of officers as presented. The motion passed.

- e. **Awards for Outings and Trail Work** — Vice President Jill Aspinall presented gifts (socks, water bottles, guidebooks) to recognize several section members whose efforts add to the vitality of the section. The following received awards: Nancy Schulz (led the most trips, 33); Ed Lowenton was the runner up with 11 trips; Duncan Wilkie (most popular outing, to fix Sterling Pond Shelter, 17 attendees); Ken Hertz (attended the most trips, 28); Andrew Nuquist was the runner up with 16; Ken Hertz (attended the most work trips, 7). Bill C. then recognized Jill A. for her hard work, for being the sparkplug and coordinator of many section activities.
- f. **Other Business** — Nancy Schulz posed a trivia question in honor of the section's 50th Anniversary Q. What was the number one song in 1955 on April 2, the day the section was formed? Nobody was able to answer the question. A. The Ballad of Davy Crockett.

There was a MOTION and a second to close the meeting. The motion passed and the business meeting part of the evening ended at 8:00 p.m.

Events Following the Business Meeting

John Buddington won the special anniversary door prize of a gift certificate.

Doris Washburn awarded special 50th anniversary logo coasters to those members who lead more than 50 trips in the past 50 years. The recipients were Nancy Schulz (184), Sally Sairs (67), Andrew Nuquist (212), Steve Lightholder (58), Reidun Nuquist (191), Barbara Slayton (51), Peter Downey (58), David Otis (64), Eric Seidel (75), Michael Chernick (83). She also gave coasters to Dave Blumenthal (50th anniversary logo designer) and Priscilla Page (50th Anniversary Committee Chair).

Doris then narrated "The Montpelier Section at Work and Play, 1955 – 2005: A Slideshow," featuring images longtime members who are still with us and those who have since passed on. Andrew Nuquist manned the 1950s slide projector.

The Annual Meeting events ended around 8:45 followed by some socializing and a brief cleanup period.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Plumb, Secretary