



# Green Mountain Council Scouting Alumni & Friends

Fall 2020

Volume I, Number 4

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## Upcoming Events:

10/17/20 – Work Day at Norris  
Followed by a Welcome Home  
Party for Hawkeye!

For more information check out  
our Facebook Event Pages.

## Check us out online:

Facebook @gmc592aa

or

[www.scoutingvermont.org/council-  
alumni-association](http://www.scoutingvermont.org/council-alumni-association)

## Hawkeye Hikes the LT

Clint Buxton, the Mt. Norris Scout Reservation's Camp Director finished his Long Trail journey on September 24th, and he raised \$36,000 in the process.

### **What was your most memorable experience while hiking the Long Trail?**

The solitude and also the company encountered on the trail. It was important for me to have ample time for introspection, but equally memorable were the fellow hikers that I met and especially the friends and family that joined me for parts of the journey.

### **What was your favorite stretch on the Long Trail?**

There were several, but probably the most impactful was Camel's Hump. Although I live close to this beautiful mountain, the 176 NOBO miles it took to get there served as an unexpected prelude as my anticipation built for the south face of the Hump. It was inspiring to summit in this manner.

### **What does being a Long Trail end-to-ender mean to you?**

Fulfillment of a lifelong goal right in my own backyard. Growing up in Richmond the LT was always close by, but couldn't be fully realized until this year when the coronavirus pandemic disrupted my planned summer. Although certainly a personal accomplishment, it was gratifying that my trek also served to engage the youth in the outdoors through an outreach initiative with Scouting in Vermont. I was pleased that dozens of young people joined me for portions of the hike and they will hopefully grow to also enjoy this wonderful resource as well. The support shown not only in the outreach, but thru service to the camps and the generosity of those that gave was indeed overwhelming. I'm humbled by the response.

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## Work Days at Mt. Norris

A big thanks to the Mount Norris Scout Reservation Alumni Association and Bill Baron who coordinated a successful renovation and roofing upgrade to the Equinox Cookshack. More than a dozen volunteers turned out Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The group has planned another work day for October 17, 2020. Check online or contact us for more information.

## Alumni Committee Members

- George Beach
- Monica Gragg
- Brad Jenkins
- Walter Morris
- Barry Simays
- Richard Simays
- John Sonnick

## Contact Us

info@gmcaa.org

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## The Campmaster Program

Miss camping at Sunrise or Norris? Want to go back from time to time to take in the lake, roam the grounds and have a relaxing, away-from-civilization weekend? The Green Mountain Council is looking for a number of people who would enjoy spending the occasional weekend on our beautiful camp properties who could also lend a hand in helping folks who are using the property for an event on the same weekend. This could mean checking folks in as they arrive or letting them into certain buildings or provisioning gear. A very light ask for a weekend in paradise! If you're interested, [drop us a line](#) and we'll be in touch.

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## Troop Historian

The troop position of historian is often left unfilled in smaller troops and thought of as a less "substantial" leadership position in many other troops. Scouts that take on the historian job may find that they have nothing to do for 6 months except put a newspaper clipping or two in an old scrapbook. It doesn't have to be that way. Every troop leadership position can and should have real leadership responsibilities. Leadership doesn't need to be demonstrated in a charismatic, up-in-front, follow me manner. There is a whole lot of leadership that can happen behind the scenes or in quiet supportive roles. An opportunity to get in front of the troop should be added to every leadership role. And that is a principal underlying purpose of the Green Mountain Council Scouting Alumni and Friends Troop Historian/Unit Anniversary Project.

Of course, in addition to the leadership service that is provided by the unit historian, the work provides numerous opportunities to explore and successfully complete requirements for merit badges, including photography, communications, collections, graphic arts, journalism, public speaking, and scouting heritage, just to mention a few.

For the assistant scoutmaster/registered adult volunteer, service as the adult partner for the youth historian can also be a rewarding way to assist the unit, its alumni, and friends, to "reconnect" to their own proud heritage of Scouting presence in, and service to the unit's home communities.

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## Introducing Mark Saxon, our new Scout Executive

### **How long have you been in Scouting as a Scout, volunteer and professional?**

I joined Scouting as a Webelos in 4th Grade and remained active in Troop 1 Portsmouth, RI until I became an adult. I had limited opportunities to give back while pursuing my degree from Arizona State University but remained registered until I became a professional Scouter in 2008. I was encouraged by several Scouters to consider a career in Scouting in 2008 and I have been grateful to give back to our movement ever since.

**If you were a Scout, what rank did you achieve?**

I achieved the rank of Eagle in 2001.

**What are some of your favorite memories as a Scout and as a professional?**

As a Scout. ... my favorite memories almost always involved improvising and overcoming the unexpected. Whether it was the weekend of winter camping at Yawgoog Scout Reservation when all but one of my troopmates backed out of the trip due to a nor'easter and I ended up sleeping outside in a quinsy or the countless cooking adventures where missing ingredients, equipment, or techniques had to be overcome creatively. There's an incredible feeling of accomplishment that comes with tackling the unexpected and overcoming situations as a group.

As a professional. ... I have been fortunate to work with some incredibly passionate and talented volunteers. The most rewarding moments for me have always been the times throughout my career when I have helped empower other Scouters to pursue and achieve their dreams. Early in my career for example, I had the opportunity to help restart an NYLT course at a council that hadn't organized one in more than 5 years. That was huge and it all started as a hopeful conversation on the porch outside of the trading post with a few like-minded volunteers.

**What achievement are you most proud of while working as a professional scouter?**

In Philadelphia we worked to support After School Scouting Packs and Troops for under-resourced youth living in the inner city. After nearly a decade, I was invited to attend Raymond Johnson's Eagle Scout Court of honor and I was incredibly honored to have helped play a part in his journey from one of the city's most financially challenged communities to the pinnacle of Scouting.

**What makes you excited about working for the Green Mountain Council?**

Vermonters want Scouting. Our programs have been shown to foster the types of pro-social values that have been a hallmark of the Green Mountain State going back all the way to the settlement period. Villages and towns Vermont need help connecting the next generation of leaders with a powerful sense of purpose and community. Scouting is uniquely suited to meet that need while building a life-long appreciation for the outdoors and the stewardship of our natural resources.

Green Mountain Council is blessed to have New England's most dedicated volunteers and an abundance of outdoor adventure opportunities for our young people to enjoy. The pandemic is truly our moment to lean in and provide a safe social network for families across the state who are yearning for connection and a path to prosperity for their young people. Let's show folks we're about so much more than campfires!

**What do you see as some challenges facing GMC?**

We've seen a number of trends accelerate during the COVID-19 crisis in 2020. Ensuring that every Vermont youth can join a quality Scouting program is a priority and we have a number of places where it's going to be important for us to reestablish and reinvigorate Packs and Troops as we emerge. We should be proud

that Scouting's ranks are more diverse on average than Vermont's general population, but Scouting should be playing a more central role in helping new Americans and other groups achieve prosperity. Vermonters have been blessed to pass down Camp Sunrise and Mt. Norris Scout Reservation from one generation to the next. We'll need to band together in support of this heritage, which has been threatened by the forced closure of our resident camp programs. I am deeply appreciative that Clint Buxton has taken it upon his shoulders to help inspire awareness and support for our outdoor programs which are facing a \$160,000 operating deficit. Thanks to generous donors we've raised more than \$36,000 to help us sustain them at [www.scoutingvermont.org/buxtonhikeslt](http://www.scoutingvermont.org/buxtonhikeslt)

Please join us for a socially distanced Homecoming Rendezvous following the final Mt. Norris Scout Reservation Alumni Association Beaver Day on Saturday, October 17 from 3-6 p.m. Dave McAllister is playing host 282 Stagecoach Rd. Morrisville. Please RSVP to [mark.saxon@scouting.org](mailto:mark.saxon@scouting.org)



[www.scoutingvermont.org/BuxtonHikesLT](http://www.scoutingvermont.org/BuxtonHikesLT) #BuxtonHikesLT

