



Green Mountain Council BSA Alumni

Fall 2021

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Upcoming Events:

10/23/2021 – Beaver Day at Mt. Norris

Nov/December – Meet & Greet?

01/14/2022 – GMC BSA Alumni Night at UVM Hockey

01/20/2022 – History of Scout Camps in Vermont – online presentation

For more information check out our Facebook Event Pages.

Check us out online:

Facebook @gmc592aa

or

<https://www.scoutingvermont.org/council-alumni-association.html>

Alumni Night at UVM Men's Hockey

We had such a great time attending a UVM hockey game, we're doing it again! Join us on Friday January 14th 2022. Keep an eye on your e-mail and Facebook as details come together.

Council Family Reunion Recap

Congratulations 2020/2021 GMC Silver Beavers! More than 100 well wishers turned out for the inaugural Council Family Reunion and Honor Court at Camp Sunrise on Saturday August 14th to help recognize Vermont's newest Silver Beavers and other award recipients.

Silver Beaver awards were presented to Paul Mergens and Peter Massari (2020) and Glenn Macy and Scott Herring (2021). Council Commissioner Leslie Sanborn presented the Commissioner's Key to Simon Drew. Dan Richardson recognized the Mount Norris Scout Reservation Alumni Association with the President's Award before receiving his Wood Badge Beads for completing his ticket. Walt Morris presented the 2020 and 2021 Alumnus of the Year Awards to George Beach and Dick Simays respectively and District Award of Merit honorees and the top selling Popcorn Units and Scouts from last fall were also recognized.

The Honor Court was preceded by a day of various activities and Scouting affinity group gatherings. A pop-up Council Scouting museum in Vaughn Lodge had frequent visitors. The day's programs began with Dr. Paul Stanilonis' Tales from the Scouting Trail; followed by gatherings of Order of the Arrow members past and present at the Stanley Burnham memorial campfire site (concluding with rededication via the Obligation and Order Song); and an enthusiastic group of Critters recalling Wood Badge days and singing a rousing version of "Back to Gilwell". Special thanks to Alison Hampson and George Beach for updates on Wood Badge, and plans for the next course in 2022. Last but not least, thanks to Jeff and Sarah-Lynne Carrara and Alison Hampson for making Archery, and other family activities available. The event would not have been possible but for the hard work of our District Executives, Billy and Francesca, and capable registration staffing by Rick Kent. Based upon turn out and evident enthusiasm, this is looking like it

Alumni Committee Members

- Brad Jenkins
- Dave McAllister
- Walter Morris
- Barry Simays
- Richard Simays

Contact Us

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may become an annual event to celebrate the GMC Scouting Family!



Camping in 2022!

Camping season may have just ended, but our GMC Camping Committee is already looking forward to camping in 2022! Here's their latest update:

We are incredibly excited to announce our Summer 2022 resident camp plans and provide you with a schedule to help your unit and families plan for a Summer of outdoor adventure in the Green Mountain Council. While we are quite pleased with the success of our unified resident camp this past summer, we remain mindful of the reality that fewer and fewer Scouting Councils can meet the demanding accreditation standards the Boy Scouts of America now require to be authorized to operate a resident camp program. While it was sad to learn of several storied summer camp programs in New York and New England being denied an authorization this past Summer, we were fortunate to have executed a successful model that will permit us the opportunity to continue offering a summer resident camp in Vermont in 2022.

We have a great deal of work to do though as we must attract a minimum 150 Cubs and 500 Scouts BSA youth in 2022 in order to be granted a future authorization. For these reasons, we are continuing with our successful model of a unified resident camp program at Mt. Norris Scout Reservation that will serve both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA youth on the same property. **This will also include the return of Frontiers Camp, National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), and a specialty week for Scouts BSA.**

By returning to a single location for all summer resident camp programs, we will be able to focus on increasing camp attendance, expanding program opportunities for our youth, increasing retention of Scouts by encouraging Packs and Troops from the same community to attend camp together. We anticipate expanding adult leader training opportunities, and strengthening numerous efficiencies gained by shared resources to help keep camp affordable. Mt. Norris Scout Reservation will now be host to seven straight weeks of outdoor adventure for our youth as well as hosting an Order of the Arrow Conclave and Wood Badge leader training later in August 2022.

We are very excited about this unified model and feel it will allow us to focus on achieving our National Camp Accreditation Program 2022-2026 Authorization Goals which require GMC to reach sustainable year-round camps in the next 4 years. We hope that our renewed focus will achieve this measure and allow for continued Summer resident camping programs in Vermont.

Alumni Spotlight

Howard VanBenthuyzen was recently appointed as the President of the Green Mountain Club. We are very excited as he has an extensive history with Scouting. Read on to learn more about Howard, and how both GMCs can benefit from working together.

Please tell us about your career. How long were you a Superior Court Judge? What did you do before becoming a judge?

I was a Superior Court Judge for 24 years, having been appointed by Governor Dean in 1997. I was in private practice in St. Albans with my friend Judge Greg Rainville at the time. I was Franklin County State's Attorney from 1985 to 1995, and in private practice in Burlington, Vermont from my graduation from Law School in 1982 to 1985. I was also a police officer in the Town of Shelburne Vermont from 1977 to 1979, and graduated from the Vermont Police Academy in 1977 and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in 1976. I was a Green Mountain Club Ranger Naturalist on Mt. Mansfield during the summers of 1973 and 1974, and a National Park Service Ranger at Fire Island National Seashore in 1976.

How long were you involved in Scouting? As a Cub Scout or Boy Scout? As a volunteer? What was the highest rank you achieved in Boy Scouts?

I started in Cub Scouts in South Burlington, Vermont somewhere around 1958 or 59! I became a Boy Scout in 1962 with Troop 52. The Scoutmaster was a WW II Veteran, Roland Wilbur. I still maintain contact with Mr. Wilbur from time to time. He now lives in assisted living in Shelburne Vermont. I was a Senior Patrol Leader and achieved the rank of Life Scout before moving on with other pursuits. I am also an Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow, and still have my OA sash and remember my Ordeal with fondness and pride (although I got two notches on my stick!!)

What are some of your favorite memories or experiences from Scouting? How long did you work at Mt. Norris? What leadership positions have you held in Scouts?

I attended Boy Scout camp at Mt. Norris for two years, and had an additional stint there as a Counselor in Training. My favorite memories from Scouting are numerous: great day and overnight hikes; Mr. Wilbur's steady and friendly words of wisdom; staying in tents at Mr. Norris; how cold Lake Eden always was for the obligatory swim test at the beginning of each week; the good natured raucous chow hall, and serving your fellow Scouts at the tables; building a lashed together bridge for pioneering merit badge; and the smell of creosote on the old building north of the Chow hall! I remember with fondness and a smile the campfire gatherings at the amphitheater at Mt. Norris, and singing various songs and chanting : O Wa Ta Go Ose I am! I was a Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 52 and attained the rank of Life Scout.

How did Scouting prepare you for your career?

I think that Scouting was instrumental in preparing me for a future professional life. It taught me a measure of group discipline and what groups can accomplish working together. Organizing hikes, campouts, learning logistical preparation, dealing with others, all of these are invaluable life lessons and introductions to skills useful later in life. At the same time, Scouting introduced me to individual achievement and reward: I was motivated to study and work on merit badges and rank advancement. As adults, we all need to have a measure of individualism and pride in our work and the motivation to advance in our chosen fields: Scouting really helped me in those areas!

How long have you been involved in the Green Mountain Club? What will your responsibilities be as the new president? A scout recently completed his Eagle project by building a new privy. How else can the Green Mountain Club and Green Mountain Council work together?

I have been involved with the Green Mountain Club since the early 1970's when I served as the Caretaker for Gorham Lodge near the summit of Camel's Hump. One of my first groups of hikers was a Boy Scout Troop from Connecticut. They camped out around the tiny shelter as there were too many of them to accommodate inside, and it snowed that night, June 6th, 1972!!!! They took it very good naturedly as befitting Scouts!

More recently, I have been active with the GMC since 1999 when I became the Adopter of Hazen's Notch camp on the Long Trail. In 2014 I began making trail signs for the Club and have made about 350 since starting. In 2015 I adopted Roundtop Shelter and the 3.5 miles of Long Trail over Bowen Mountain. I have been on the GMC Board for a number of years, was the Chair of its Trail Management Committee for three years, and am now President of the Club. As President I preside over the Board of Directors and Chair the Executive Committee.

The Boy Scouts are a natural fit for an ongoing relationship with the GMC! We welcome such Eagle Scout projects, but would also be delighted to coordinate on hikes, work trips and presentations to Scouts around Vermont.

Tell us more about you and your family.

I live in Hyde Park, Vermont with my wife, Doreen. I am retired from the Bench as of March of 2021 and enjoy hiking, hunting, kayaking and traveling.

