

# RidgeLines

Green Mountain Club  
Burlington Section



**W**inter is finally here! Welcome to our frosty, glittering, sparkling Winter issue of *RidgeLines*! The crunch of leaves underfoot is replaced by the scrape of microspikes and snowshoes on ice and rock — and don't we love it!

*In This Issue:*

- *The Camel's Hump Tragedy* p 2
- *Ask Shazen* p 4
- *The Joy of Ice* p 5
- *Upcoming Hikes* p 6
- *Dale's Trail Trivia* p 8

### *DON'T MISS!*

**GMC Burlington Section Annual Meeting**  
**Sat Jan 28, 2023**  
**5pm**

*Faith United Methodist Church,*  
*899 Dorset St, South Burlington, VT 05403*

Please join us to catch up with old friends and make new ones as we gather at **5pm**, with a **potluck at 5.45pm**.

The Annual Meeting will start at **6.30pm**, followed by a presentation of *No Other Lake* at **7.30pm**, a short film (40 minutes) by Jordan Rowell and Duane Peterson III. There will be a discussion of the film afterwards.

Motivated by a desire to better understand his home watershed, Rowell embarks on a two week kayaking trip along the 120-mile length of Lake Champlain, stopping to talk to a wide range of characters about the future of their shared basin.

Set 50 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, *No Other Lake* is both a celebration of the unique beauty of Lake Champlain and a confrontation with its greatest challenges.

This adventure-conservation documentary strives to inspire people to better connect with the

natural world around them, see issues from a different point of view, and get involved with stewardship efforts happening close to home.

Don't forget to bring your own plate, eating utensils, and mug. Lasagna and garlic bread will be served, plus potluck extras.

When planning your potluck dish, please bring enough for 3-4 people. Here are the potluck assignments, by first letter of last name:

A-G Dessert

H-S Salad

T-Z Beverage (NB: alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church property.)

*Please RSVP to:*

**events@gmcburlington.org**

Or tell us who and how many adults and children are coming, and enclose a check made out to '**GMC Burlington Section**' and mail to:

Brian Williams

6 Billings Ct

Burlington, VT 05408

\$5 for adults. Kids free. Guests welcome!

**Jonathan Breen**

**President, Burlington Section**

Winter hiking is a very different experience from hiking in any other season, and requires us to be prepared.

This issue is full of great advice for newbies — and timely reminders for those of us who might take our exhilarating winter landscape for granted!

Our trails have been painstakingly cleared to enable us to snowshoe and hike this winter, thanks to the hard work of our GMC volunteers. We love you all!



Burlington Section Work Party, October 2022  
L-R Ann Gotham, Diane Muhr, Sheri Larsen, Lea Juzek

See you on those snowy trails!

Tess Stimson

### The Camel's Hump Tragedy

As kids in the 1960s, we hiked Camels Hump seemingly every weekend. On some of those hikes, we foolishly scaled the south-facing cliff of the summit without the benefit of any ropes or common sense. We survived.

Three decades earlier, another young man attempted the same climb and plummeted to his death.

Eighteen-year-old Denton Wiss Taylor of Short Hills, NJ died hours after becoming the first known/recorded person rescued off Camel's Hump. Taylor was apparently the first person to die traumatically on the Long Trail. What happened?

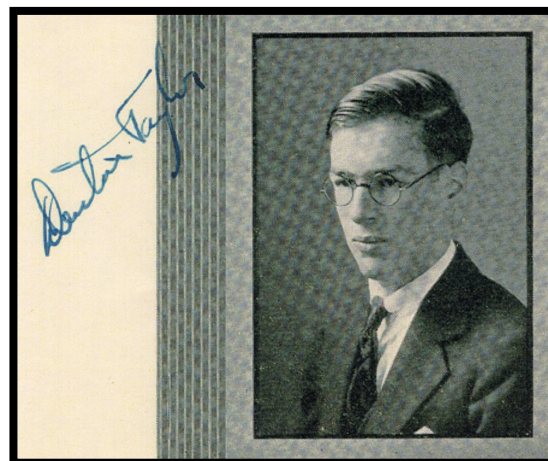
Contemporary newspaper reports, full of imagination and speculation, had Taylor injured on the summit at 3:00 p.m. then being carried down the mountain's most difficult trail by only two people

and arriving in the hospital within four hours - an impossible feat even in today's world.

The version written by the leader of the hiking group immediately after the event provides the true details. His report in the files of the Dartmouth Outing Club at Dartmouth College is the basis for this article.

Taylor was a freshman at Dartmouth College and a member of their Outing Club that routinely scheduled hikes and other outdoor adventures for students.

After passing the required physical exam, Taylor participated in many Outing Club events his freshman year. On Saturday, May 6, 1933, Taylor, with three club members, plus J. Edward Marceau as Leader, drove to the Duxbury Trailhead on Camels Hump arriving at 4:30 p.m. and departing for the summit within 30 minutes.



Denton Wiss Taylor yearbook photo:  
Courtesy of the Short Hills NJ Historical Society

Despite slogging through snow for the final 3/4 mile, they arrived at the cabins in Camels Hump Clearing at 7:00 p.m.

Up early on Sunday morning at 6:00 a.m., the group enjoyed a big breakfast before setting out to explore the summit.

Around 9:30 a.m., three of the group gathered back at the cabins to enjoy some sugar on snow. When Taylor and a friend didn't return to the cabins, the others began to holler for them. There was no response.

Marceau ascended the short distance to the summit to search and heard voices as he approached the top of the cliff. He hollered and the unseen boys told him to come around the west side

of the summit to reach their location down on the south face.

Marceau later wrote, "When I did so, I was quite surprised to see Taylor clinging to the face of the cliff, unable to move in any direction more than a few feet. He said that he had been there for some time (3/4 of an hour)."

By this time Taylor's friend had left to fetch rope from the cabins. Taylor shouted to Marceau that his hands were numb from clinging to the rock face and was going to try to descend a few feet to a point where he could rest. Marceau continued, "In doing this he lost his footing, and tumbled and rolled down the cliff and over the jagged rocks at the bottom, a distance of about a hundred feet."

Marceau had to force his way through the extremely dense scrub spruce trees that surrounded the base of the cliff. He found Taylor unconscious, with multiple fractures and a badly disfigured face. It was 10:30 a.m.

Marceau was forced to abandon the boy to hike back to the cabins to summon help from the rest of their group. He sent one student (Dean Lamson) to go to Professor Monroe's farm (site of the current Duxbury upper parking lot). Dr. E.H. Hopkins was summoned by telephone from his office in downtown Waterbury. Meanwhile, Marceau and the remaining two students made a "stretcher" from saplings and a blanket.

Marceau sent another student (Rod Ladd) down the trail to find help. Today, Search & Rescue teams use 20 to 25 trained and well-equipped rescuers to bring a person down from that location. On May 7, 1933, it was Marceau and the one remaining student (Dunham Kirkham) — by themselves.

They descended about 1.5 miles from the tree line down the exceptionally rugged terrain of the Long Trail until reaching Wind Gap. Today's rescuers find it exceptionally difficult to believe that two people were able to carry a critically injured patient down that route using an improvised stretcher — yet they did it.

At the ledges above Wind Gap, the first help had finally arrived in the form of Dr. Hopkin's chauffeur. He helped lower Taylor over the last few exposed ledges until they arrived at Wind Gap where Dr. Hopkins was waiting. After some basic first aid, they descended the (now) Dean Trail towards Duxbury.

Eventually, volunteers arrived to assist the exhausted rescuers for about the last mile. Upon arrival at Professor Monroe's farm, the rescuers placed Taylor in Dr. Hopkins car and was driven to the hospital in Burlington, arriving at 7:00 p.m.

Taylor's injuries were too severe — undoubtedly compounded by a very rough and jarring evacuation from the summit. He died the next morning at 9:00 a.m. as his parents drove towards Burlington from their home in New Jersey.

In the aftermath of Taylor's death, his father wrote a letter to the college expressing his belief there had been a failure by Dartmouth that allowed his son to attempt such a dangerous climb. He urged the Outing Club to take more care to screen students as to their abilities in similar situations. But he complimented both Marceau and the other students for doing everything in their power to save the oldest of his three sons.

Later in the month, Donald Allen of the Outing Club began inquiries about a plaque that could be mounted on the rocks of Camel's Hump (presumably near the summit) in memory of Taylor. The quote came in at \$20 but the effort seems to have mostly stopped at that point. It was probably later in 1933 when Outing Club members painted the red cross on the summit. It has been fading for nearly 90 years.



*Photo: courtesy Silver Special Collections  
University of Vermont.*

In addition to the Archives at Dartmouth, excellent assistance in research for this article came from Lynne Ranieri of the Millburn-Short Hills (NJ) Historical Society. She located Taylor's obituary and an excellent photo from his high school yearbook.

There have been 118 documented rescues (including four airplane crashes) on Camels Hump since Taylor's fall. The last 100 have all been since 2000.

***Brian Lindner is a local historian and Team Leader of the Waterbury Backcountry Rescue Team***

## ASK SHAZEN!

## The Gear



John Sharp & Phil Hazen have over a century of hiking experience between them! Email your questions to [RidgeLines@gmcburlington.org](mailto:RidgeLines@gmcburlington.org)

**Q: "I'm new to hiking, and with winter approaching, I'd love to try snowshoeing some trails. What equipment advice do you have for a total novice?"**

**A:** So you want to hike in the winter! There are many sites that will list everything you could possibly use for winter hiking — this is not going to be one them. We will stick with the basics and our experiences: we have climbed the ADK 46-ers, the New England One Hundred Highest and a few lesser (under 4000 feet) trail-less peaks in winter. And a few over 14,000 feet!

### The Basics

1. Keep your feet and hands warm.
2. Keep your core warm (but not hot and sweaty) by layering and de-layering as conditions change. We've used as many as seven layers in extreme conditions.
3. Start off slightly cold, so you are not going to stop and delayer in the first 500 feet. Experience will train you to do better each time.

Trivia Answers (from quiz on p8):  
C, C, D, C, A

1. **NO COTTON:** all synthetics or wool.
2. **Jacket and pants:** three-layer Gore-Tex shell if you are going to keep doing this. Otherwise start with something less expensive.
3. **Boots and gloves/mittens:** Gore-Tex or other waterproof breathable materials.
4. **Snowshoes:** Unless you are over 200 lbs. get the shortest, lightest versions, making sure the binding will hold up and is easy to use. No longer than 24" (you'll be carrying these on your backpack a lot of the time).
5. **Trail crampons** (also known as microspikes): These are a must for the East. The original Kotoola and Hillsound Trail Crampon will be the best fit to start with. There are many versions out there now with longer and shorter spikes. The shorter the spikes, the easier to walk on and run. The longer spike versions will have better traction on steep icy trails, but it'll be harder to walk on flat hard ice (or rock). *NB: Yaktrax are no good for this kind of terrain.*



GMC members (L-R): Marcus Keely, John Sharp, Tess Stimson, Ted Albers; Bamby Bates, Phil Hazen.

6. **Hiking poles:** Collapsible/adjustable length for varying conditions.
7. **Safety: PACK A LIGHTWEIGHT DOWN JACKET WITH HOOD.** And always have a headlamp/compass and maps.  
Happy Snowshoeing!!

## The Joy Of Ice!

We all know that ice on the ground can make winter travel difficult, though microspikes or snowshoes with good traction can help. But ice formations on the cliffs and rocks can also provide some amazing winter scenery.

My favorite spot is along the Long Trail on Laraway, before you reach Laraway lookout as you approach it from the south.

The cliffs in this area are slabs of rock that lean out from the mountain, and water flowing over them creates huge freestanding ice columns and walls.

Another spot with some nice ice is around two thirds of the way up Halfway House trail on Mt Mansfield. There is a rock wall there that can look



like a frozen cascade in winter. In some places organic material in water from which the ice forms can give it an interesting brown and amber coloring. There's a spot on the Long Trail a little south

of Burnt Rock where I've seen an ice flow over the rock that almost looks like a big brown beard.

The best time to view many of these is early spring, when the ice has had a chance to accumulate all winter. But be careful when hiking below these formations! The ice above often means ice below as well, so wear your microspikes!

And remember that eventually these big pieces of ice will come crashing down, and you don't want to be under them when they do. When the weather starts warming up and the ice starts falling, it's best to stay away until after mud season.



Laraway

For those interested in a guided hike to Laraway, I will be taking a group on Saturday March 4, 2023 (see *Upcoming Hikes*, p 6).

**David Hathaway**



GMC Members at Laraway, March 2020

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UPCOMING HIKES Winter 2023

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JANUARY

**1/1 (Sun) Butler Lodge.** Ring in the new year with a snowshoe to Butler Lodge. Moderate snowshoe. Moderate pace. 4.1 miles. 1600' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 12/30. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 802-899-9982.

**1/7 (Sat) Molly Stark's Balcony.** We will walk the Beane Trail (1.5 miles) to the Long Trail at the Birch Glen Camp and head south on the LT for about 1.3 miles over Bean Mt. to the Balcony, and return the same way. Molly Stark Mtn. (2,967') is a short distance farther south on the LT and the group can decide if we want to summit that too. Return the same way. For reference, this trail is in Camel's Hump State Park. The Beane Trail starts in Hanksville, which is south of Huntington Center and south of Huntington Gap (and north of the Appalachian Gap). Moderate snowshoe. <6 miles. 1500' elevation gain. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

**1/8 (Sun) Mt. Abraham (4006').** We'll take the Battell Trail and Long Trail north to Mt. Abraham summit and back. Beautiful alpine summit with excellent views. Microspikes and snowshoes required. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate to strong pace. 5.8 miles. 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Jill George, jillghiker@gmail.com.

**1/15 (Sun) Butternut Mountain (2715').** The route to this remote bump on the Long Trail north of Corliss Camp is mostly gentle with a steep section leading up to the ridge. No lines, no waiting, not much of a view. Moderate snowshoe. 5 miles. 1500' elevation gain. Mary Lou Recor, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net or 802-660-2834.

**1/21 (Sat) Bald Peak (ADKs, 3060').** We will carpool and take the Charlotte-Essex ferry across the lake then drive 35 minutes or so south on NY-RT. 9 to the "Rocky Ridge" trailhead. The hike is in the Giant Mountain Wilderness, south of Elizabethtown. Several nice views so hope for clear weather. This is the same trail to Giant Mountain but we won't be going that far west. Moderate to difficult snowshoe. 8 miles. 2600' elevation gain. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

**1/21 (Sat) Mt. Moosilauke (4802').** We will hike Mt. Moosilauke (4802') via the Gorge Brook Trail as an out and back. All participants should be experienced winter hikers with the appropriate gear. Poor weather will cancel the outing. Six a.m. departure from Richmond Park & Ride. Difficult

snowshoe. Moderate pace. 10 miles. 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Chris Luczynski, frogged@gmail.com.

**1/29 (Sun) Camels Hump Loop (4083').** We'll take Forest City Trail to Montclair Glen Lodge, then climb the Long Trail to the Camel's Hump summit and return along the Burrows Trail. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate pace. 6 miles. 2400'

elevation gain. Group limit 10. Dean Wiederin, deanwiederin8@gmail.com or 802-233-1398.

*Help Save the GMC Money!*

Printing and postage for *RidgeLines* swallows nearly *two-thirds* of our annual budget. Please consider saving us money and preventing paper waste by signing up to receive *RidgeLines* via email:  
[gmc@gmcburlington.org](mailto:gmc@gmcburlington.org)

FEBRUARY

**2/4 (Sat) Mansfield Ridge (4395').** From Underhill State Park we'll head up Sunset Ridge to the Mansfield Chin (summit), then follow the ridge to the Forehead and return via Maple Ridge and the CCC road. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate pace. 9 miles. 2600' elevation gain. Group limit 10. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 802-899-9982.

**2/5 (Sun) Full Moon on Mt. Philo (968').** We will follow the road to the summit of Mt. Philo to take in the full sweep of the Champlain Valley. Easy walk. 2 miles. Mary Lou Recor, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net or 802-660-2834.

**2/12 (Sun) Burnt Rock Mt. (3168').** We'll take the Hedgehog Brook Trail and Long Trail north to Burnt Rock summit and back. Beautiful open ledges and summit with excellent views. Difficult hike. Microspikes and snowshoes required. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate to strong pace. 5.2 miles. 2100' elevation gain. Jill George, [jillghiker@gmail.com](mailto:jillghiker@gmail.com).

**2/18 (Sat) Pierce (4310') & Eisenhower (4760').** We will ascend Mt. Pierce via the Crawford Path. We will then link up with the AT to summit Mt. Eisenhower before descending Edmands Path to Clinton Road and our final snowshoe back to the start point. All participants should be experienced winter hikers with the appropriate gear. Poor weather will cancel the outing. Six a.m. departure from Richmond Park & Ride. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate pace. 10 miles. 3200' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Chris Luczynski, [frogged@gmail.com](mailto:frogged@gmail.com).

**2/25 (Sat) Mansfield via Halfway House (4395').** Mansfield ridge line walk starting from Underhill State Park with an ascent up the Halfway house trail. Descend the Sunset Ridge trail after tagging the summit. Steep walk with fabulous views above the tree line. The winter wind on the ridge line can be chilling. This requires snowshoes with metal traction, microspikes, warm layers including a fleece AND puffy/ski jacket, and a solid hand system like mittens with hand-warmers that you start at the car. Car pooling due to limited trailhead parking. Difficult snowshoe. Strong pace. 6 miles. 2700' elevation gain. Group limit 8. Contact leader by 10 AM 2/24. Kevin Burke, [northerntundraexplorer@gmail.com](mailto:northerntundraexplorer@gmail.com).

## MARCH

**3/4 (Sat) Laraway Ice Tour.** From the Long Trail parking on Codding Hollow Road we'll follow the Long Trail up to see the ice formations on the rock wall below the Laraway summit, continue to the Laraway Lookout, and return. Microspikes absolutely required, as the ice below the cliffs can be extensive, and snowshoes required since the trail may not be well packed. Moderate snowshoe. Moderate pace. 4.5 miles. 1600' elevation gain. Contact leader by 3/2. David Hathaway, [david.hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:david.hathaway.78@gmail.com) or 802-899-9982.

**3/11 (Sat) Taylor Lodge.** A leisurely hike from the Stevensville Parking Lot to Taylor Lodge and return on the Clara Bow Trail. Although the hike is

generally easy, there are some short sections of difficult terrain along Clara Bow. Easy hike. Moderate pace. 4.5 miles. 700' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 3/9. David Hathaway, [david.hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:david.hathaway.78@gmail.com) or 802-899-9982.

**3/18 (Sat) Nippletop (4610') & Dial (4003').** We will depart from the Ausable Club parking lot where we'll follow Lake Road to the Gill Brook and Elk Pass trails to ascend Nippletop. From there we will descend the Leach Trail and make a stop at Dial Mt. before returning to Lake Road for our exit. All participants should be experienced winter hikers with the appropriate gear. Poor weather will cancel the outing. Six a.m. departure from Richmond Park & Ride. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate pace. 13 miles. 4200' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Chris Luczynski, [frogged@gmail.com](mailto:frogged@gmail.com).

**3/25 (Sat) Belvidere (3360').** The calendar says spring, but winter still lingers in northern Vermont. We will follow the Long Trail at a moderate grade to the summit fire tower and a panoramic view. Moderate snowshoe. 5 miles. 2250' elevation gain. Mary Lou Recor, [mlrecor@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mlrecor@myfairpoint.net) or 802-660-2834.

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*For more info on all hikes, please go to [gmc Burlington.org](http://gmc Burlington.org)*

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### *Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club*

#### *2022 Executive Committee*

##### *Officers*

President – Jonathan Breen  
Vice President – Nancy McClellan  
Secretary – Oliver Pierson  
Treasurer – Steve Titcomb

##### *Standing Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs*

Membership – Ellen Cohen  
*RidgeLines* – Tess Stimson  
Shelters – Dana Baron  
Annual Meeting – Brian & Janette Williams  
Marketing & Communications – Barbee Hauzinger  
Education & Taylor Series – Ken and Alice Boyd  
Section Historian – Ted Albers  
Outings – David Hathaway  
Young Adventurers Club – Michael Dillion  
Trails – Paul Beliveau & Scott Albertson  
Website – John Need  
Director – Susan Tobin (3 year term expiring 2025)

RidgeLines

GMC BURLINGTON SECTION

Green Mountain Club  
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road  
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DALE'S  
TRAIL  
TRIVIA!

1. What did Ralphie want for Christmas in the movie *A Christmas Story*?

- A. A hula-hoop
- B. A hippopotamus
- C. A Red Ryder BB gun
- D. A football

2. Which state produces the most Christmas trees?

- A. Vermont
- B. Wisconsin
- C. Oregon
- D. North Carolina

3. Who kisses Lucy in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*?

- A. Linus
- B. Pigpen
- C. Schroeder
- D. Snoopy

4. Who kept time with the Little Drummer Boy as he played his drum for Jesus?

- A. Camels and Donkeys
- B. Sheep and Cows
- C. Ox and Lamb
- D. Ducks and Chickens

5. How many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*?

- A. Four
- B. Six
- C. Three
- D. Two

(Answers on P. 4)