





Highlights...

	Ski Committee News.....	1
	Holiday Gift Ideas.....	1
	A Near Miss on Lion's Head in 1978.....	2
	2021/22 AMC NH Skiers Calendar.....	5
	Snow Trains.....	6
	Upcoming Online Program Dec. 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm.....	7
	This Space Available.....	7
	A Log of a Trip To The White Mountains June and July 1924.....	8
	Where In The Whites?.....	10
	Winter School AMC NH Chapter Winter School.....	12
	Photography: Winter Photography Tips.....	13



Ski Committee News

BY: VALERIO VITI

"Miei Carissimi e Carissime sciatori e sciatrici," or as Martino would say "mina kära skidåkare" ("My Dear Skiers"), it is with great pleasure that I am sharing with you the AMC NH Ski Committee calendar of events for the coming ski season.

Yes, despite the various Covid restrictions, including limiting group size, wearing masks when carpooling and our leaders needing to either be fully vaccinated or with a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the event, we are offering a full calendar with an amazing

range of events! From light backcountry skiing to Greeley Ponds, to downhills in the Whites, the Greens and the Adirondacks (thanks Dave!), from dawn patrols at ski resorts to family trips in the woods! Plus, all of the instructional events, starting from the two weekends of AMC NH Winter School at Cardigan Lodge and the avalanche awareness classes.

Trips are being posted on the AMC online trip page. Use, peruse and reuse the attached calendar! Feel free to reach out to the individual leaders with more questions! We will have to be flexible with planning given the Covid situation. But rest assured, we will be skiing!! Safely!

SKI COMMITTEE NEWS, TO PAGE 4 

Holiday Gift Ideas; Recommendations from New Hampshire Chapter Leaders/Take 2

In our November-December issue in 2019, we ran an article which featured holiday gift ideas for outdoor activities; *Holiday Gift Ideas; Recommendations from New Hampshire Chapter Leaders*. The recommendations in that article are still worthwhile although some like my old go-to cell phone app *Motion-X GPS* have gone the way of the dinosaurs. You can find the November-December 2019 *Mountain Passages* on the Chapter webpage (www.amcnh.org/newsletter/archive/)

The 2019 article was well received and we thought it was time for an update. Therefore, we asked NH Chapter leaders for their gift ideas.

Yun Swanson, Membership CoChair suggests: "For the cooler season, I always want a cup

of hot drink while hiking or working on trail. Maybe some lightweight thermal containers (for meal or drink) would be beneficial as a gift? A hot lunch during a trail work day would be satisfying. Also, ear-warmers and waterproof mittens are very useful, too, but everybody's hands are different, if buying the wrong size for someone, it may be a hassle to exchange."

Richie Holstein, Trails CoChair offered: "We (that is, mainly Suzi) just did up a gift basket for our library fundraiser. It was hiking oriented, and got the third largest number of bids. The main items were the fifth edition of the Southern NH Trail Guide, a Nalgene 1 liter bottle, a compass, and a small first aid kit."

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS, TO PAGE 3 

OUR MISSION

The Appalachian Mountain Club is the nation's oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization, and promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters and trails of the Appalachian region. AMC has more than 100,000 members, 16,000 volunteers, 450 full-time and seasonal staff. The New Hampshire Chapter is the second largest of the 12 Chapters within the Club.

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4

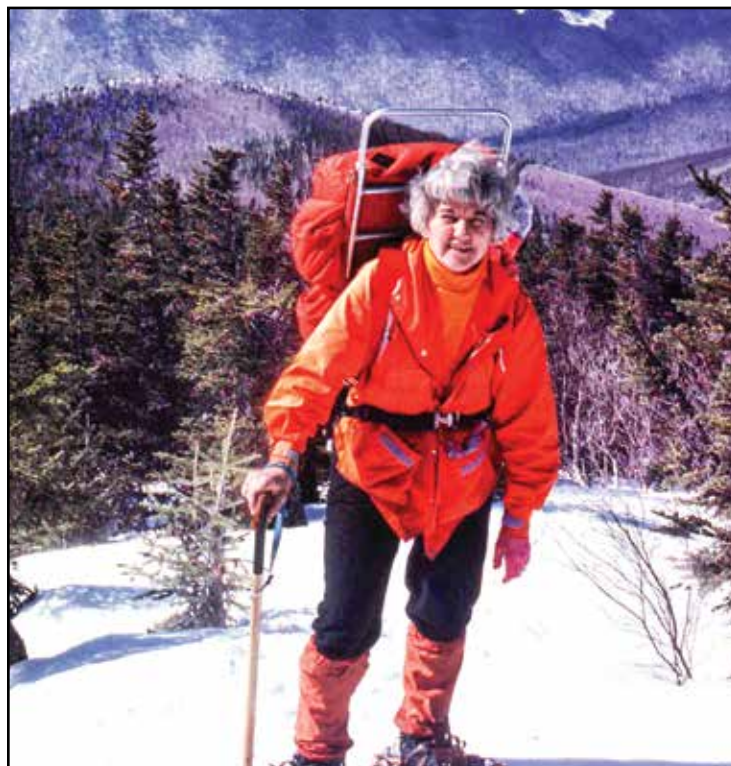
WINTER 2021

A Near Miss on Lion's Head in 1978

BY DALE KNAPSCHAEFER

At the summit of Mount Washington, the temperature was near zero, so calm a resident cat at the observatory was dozing in the sun, so clear we could see 130 miles to the Adirondacks. That was in mid-February 1978, following the catastrophic blizzard that paralyzed the region.

On that cloudless blue-sky day, my wife Kay, our AMC friend, Karl and I climbed Washington and Monroe. It was 15 degrees F at the start in Pinkham Notch, one of the coldest days of the year. When we reached about 3,000 feet on the Tuckerman Ravine Trail, the snow got so deep we had to stop to put on our snowshoes. These were 16-inch-wide by 30-inch-long wood and rawhide webbed snowshoes fitted with cheap military crampons we split in two and fastened to our insulated rubber Mickey Mouse boots with rawhide strips. The




It started out as a beautiful sunny day if cold.

combination of one crampon-modified snowshoe and boot weighed more than seven pounds, which required more strength with every step.

At 4:30 p.m. about 45 minutes before sunset, we began our descent to the Lakes of the Cloud Hut via the Crawford Path. Inspired by the surrounding beauty, we decided to walk an extra two miles to summit Mt. Monroe (5,372 feet) before picking up the Lion's Head Trail, north of Tuckerman Ravine as the sun was setting. Above tree line, we had a magnificent view of Boot Spur (5,500 feet) across the ravine. The vast expanses of white ice and crusty blown snow made us feel like we were walking across Antarctica.

But as the sky was darkening it was frightening to know that on that steep open slope, if a hiker stumbled, they would slide until hitting a tree or a rock. On our ascent, we could barely climb using crampons and ice axes all the way. Now we wondered how we would ever get down the extremely steep Lion's Head trail.

A NEAR MISS, TO PAGE 8 

MOUNTAIN PASSAGES

Volume 47, No. 4
Winter 2021

Mountain Passages is published four times a year by the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Submissions. Members may submit articles or photos (hi-res jpegs) to newsletter@amcnh.org. Articles may be edited at the discretion of the editor to meet space and style requirements. Publication is on a space-available basis. While Mountain Passages does not pay for submissions; a byline or photo credit is given. Contact Mountain Passages for reprint permission.

Advertising. The AMC NH Chapter members enjoy the outdoors year-round by hiking, paddling, skiing, backpacking, climbing and biking and more.

For information and the Ad Rate Sheet, send an email to newsletter@amcnh.org.

We reserve the right to refuse any submission, photo or advertising that is not consistent with the mission of the AMC.

Address Changes. Address changes or other changes to your membership must be made through AMC Member Services at 10 City Square, Boston, MA 02129; 800-372-1758; outdoors.org/membercenter

Please note: Member address updates cannot be handled by AMC-NH officers, committee chairs, or the newsletter editor.

Mountain Passages Online. If you're receiving Mountain Passages through the mail, please consider signing up to get the electronic version instead.

You'll get added resources not available to print subscribers: direct links to emails, forms and online information, color photos, online registration forms.

To sign up, go to www.outdoors.org/membercenter and set your AMC-NH Chapter newsletter preference to online.

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ISSUE	DEADLINE	AD SIZE	PRICE (per issue)
Spring	February 20	1/8 page	3.5" w x 2.5" h \$100
Summer	May 20	1/4 page	3.5" w x 5" h \$160
Fall	August 20	1/2 page	7.5" w x 5" h \$250
Winter	November 20	20% Discount for advertising in six consecutive issues, with prepayment	

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Please send ads as color PDF or jpeg high-resolution files, at correct size. Ads will appear in color in the on-line and print versions.

We reserve the right to refuse ads that are not related to the mission of AMC. We do not provide proofs and accept no liability for errors beyond the cost of the ad.

 HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS, FROM PAGE 1

Amanda Knight, Mountaineering CoChair suggested: "Here is a list of 10 stocking stuffers for [technical] climbers:

- "The Push" by Tommy Caldwell
- "Alone on the Wall" by Alex Honnald
- Friction Lab Gorilla Grip Climbing Chalk
- Chalk Bag
- Metolius Climbing Tape
- Gripmaster Climbing Hand Strengthener
- So iLL finger massager
- ClimbSkin Hand Cream
- Joshua Tree Organic Climbing Salve
- Mammut contact sling dyneema 60cm

Robin Diamond, Secretary and former CoChair Paddling, provided an extensive list of suggestions that would be welcome by any paddler:

- Rescue set - paddle float, pump order online or at Kittery Trading post, LLBean, EMS
- Paddling gloves
- Charts of favorite areas (waterproof): order from NOAA or look up on line, available for download as well
- Paddling Books from AMC or other Bookstores covering subjects such as sea kayak rescue, paddling strokes, group dynamics, paddling in rock gardens, paddling off shore, paddling estuaries or pretty much any other paddling subject
- Farmer's Almanac subscription--has all sorts of great information for planning trips regarding weather, tides etc.

- Dry Bags (Size 5 - 10 liter are popular) Kittery Trading Post, LLBean, look up online
- Deck Compass - Kittery Trading Post
- Hand compass (same as for hiking)
- Whistle
- Knife- attach to your Personal Floatation Device ("PFD")
- Strobe Light--attach to PFD
- Waterproof Camera with float--buy separately
- 360 Bow light--suction cup to attach to kayak bow for paddling in fog and at night; required by law if paddling at night
- Paddling Hat with chin strap

If you are looking for Big \$ items:

- Training--many locations for training including AMC Paddlers, look into Pool Sessions etc
- Werner paddles
- PFDs
- Kayak Kaddie
- New Boat
- Dry Suit, dry top, wind jackets, thermal under layers for dry suits on the colder days.
- Wet Suit

Our favorite places to shop are NRS (Northwest River Supplies), Werner, Kokatat, Stolquist, Aqua Bound, LLBean, Kittery Trading Post, EMS, and REI.



A Christmas Card created by Rod Woodard. See the article starting on page 8 of this issue with a journal of his first hike in the White Mountains in 1924.

 SKI COMMITTEE NEWS, FROM PAGE 1

All AMC Covid regulations can be found on [outdoor.org](https://www.outdoor.org).

A big thank you to all of the amazing volunteer ski leaders for making it happen, especially during Covid times!

Now, moving on to another important topic!

Casy Calver and Jillian Willard have stepped up to be the new AMC NH Ski Committee co-chairs for the coming year! Wohoooo! Great things await the skiing group in the future! Our favorite tele skier and co-chair Thor is stepping down and retiring to a life full of luxury on a private lush island somewhere in Micronesia to enjoy his ski committee retirement. Yes, the ski group offers that amazing retirement package. I am staying on as a third wheel co-chair, but really just to ensure continuity.

The two ladies that are taking on the ski group leadership are amazing trip leaders, great skiers, avalanche instructors and fun to be around!

So a super warm welcome to Casy and Jillian as the new ski committee leadership! Many of you already know them from skiing together, and for those of you who have not met them, there's a short bio below.

Hasta la nieve, siempre! ("Until the snow. Always!")

Casy Calver learned to ski when she was 7, but didn't discover her backcountry obsession until she moved to New England in 2009. Primarily an A/T skier, she also enjoys telemark, nordic, skimo racing, and everything in between. Casy leads the Ski Committee's avalanche awareness course and is a regular instructor in the NH Chapter's annual winter school programs at Mt Cardigan. She lives in Lebanon, NH where she is a volunteer instructor and patroller at Storrs Hill ski area.

Jillian Willard grew up skiing on the icy slopes of Western Massachusetts. About 7 years ago she realized she could ski the icy backcountry slopes of New England with just a small equipment upgrade to an A/T setup. Since then she had also taken up backcountry skiing on scales and skiing on the skinny skis in groomed terrain (because you can never have enough gear). Always in search of powder, but happy to just get outside, she and her family moved to NH recently so they could spend less time in the car and more time on the snow. Jillian's favorite AMC adventures include winter school, women led programs with SheJumps, and family cross country outings. She looks forward to helping Casy lead the NH Ski Committee this year!



Casy Calver



Jillian Willard



2021 / 22 AMC NH Skiers Calendar

Date/locations are tentative! Please check with leaders and online at: <https://activities.outdoors.org>
 Questions? casycalver@gmail.com

Date	Event	Where		Activity	Style	Level	Leader
Sun 11/7/2021	Cardigan Ski Trails	Alexandria	NH	Trail work	Trail Work	All	Richie, Valerio
Sat 11/13/2021	Cedar Brook Recon and Brushing	Kank	NH	Trail work	Trail Work	All	Marty, Tim
Wed 12/01/2021	Avalanche Beacon Practice	Farmington	CT	Clinic	Workshop	All	Chuck Boyd, Tim
Sat 12/11/2021	Tasse Telemark Ski Clinic	Loon	NH	Clinic	Workshop	Leaders	Casy, Paul
Sun 12/12/2021	Stever Alpine Ski Clinic	Loon	NH	Clinic	Workshop	Leaders	Casy, Paul
Sat 01/01/2022	New Year Sunrise Spectacular	Sunapee	NH	Epic	Resort skin & ski	All	Nik, Marty
Tues 01/04/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Daniella, Nik
Sat 01/08/2022	Tweens Sherbie Spectacular	Sherbourne	NH	Family	Downmountain	Family	Aaron, Tyson
Sun 01/09/2022	Littleton Rope Tow	Littleton	NH	Family	Downmountain	Family	Sarah, Emilie
Tues 01/11/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Daniella, Nik
Sat 01/15/2022	Hanover / Lebanon Backcountry	Lebanon	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Beg	Jaimee, Jed
Sat 01/15/2022	Franconia Brook	Lincoln	NH	Trip	XC	Beg	Scott, Tim
Sun 01/16/2022	Family Bretton Woods	Bretton Woods	NH	Trip	XC	Family	Grigory, Sarah
Tues 01/18/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Daniella, Nik
Sat 01/22/2022	Womens Resort Skin and Ski	Magic Mtn	VT	trip	Downmountain	all	Daniella/Casy/Jillian/Margaret
Sun 01/23/2022	Family: Strafford XC	Strafford	VT	trip	XC	Family	Matt, Erik
Sun 1/24/2021	Banff Film Festival	Lebanon	NH	Social			Jillian
Tues 01/25/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Daniella, Nik
Fri 01/28/2022							
Sat 01/29/2022	Winter School I	Alexandria	NH	Clinic	Light BC, BC	Beg to	Scott
Sun 01/30/2022					Downmountain	Adv	
Sat 01/29/2022	TBD						
Sun 01/30/2022	Abenaki ski area	Wolfeboro	NH	Trip	XC	Family	Grigory, Emilie
Sun 01/30/2022	TBD						
Tues 02/01/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Daniella, Nik
Sat 02/05/2022	Womens Intro to BC/Alpine	Cardigan	NH	Trip	downmountain	All	Jillian/Casy/Margaret/Christina/Jamie
Sat 02/05/2022	Greely Ponds	Kank	NH	Trip	XC	int	Scott, Sean
Sun 2/6/2022	Pike Glade	Haverhill, NH	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Int/adv	Matt, Nik
Tues 02/08/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Daniella, Nik
Sat 2/12/2022	Avalanche awareness class	Jackson	NH	Clinic	Avalanche safety	All	Casy/Margaret, Matt/Marty
Sat 2/12/2022	Baldface	Jackson	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Adv	Brian, Nik
Sat 2/12/2022	Upper Valley of NV/VT	Lebanon	NH	Trip	downmountain	All	Sarah, Jed
Sun 02/13/2022	Family: Green Woodlands	Dorchester	NH	Trip	XC	Family	Erik, Grigory
Sun 2/13/2022	Lower Nanamocomuck	Kankamagus	NH	trip	XC	All	Sean, TBD
Tues 02/15/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Nik
Sat 02/19/2022	Cedar Brook	Whites	NH	Trip	XC	Adv	Marty, Tim
Sat 02/19/2022	Hayes Copp	Gorham	NH	Trip	XC	Int	TBD, Al
Sun 02/20/2022	Moose Mountain Traverse	Lebanon	NH	Trip	XC	Int	Erik, Valerio
Sun 02/20/2022	Doublehead	Jackson	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Int	Tim, Al
Sun 02/20/2022	GBA Super Weekend	Mnt Washington	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Adv	JR, Nik, Daniella
Mon 2/21/2022		Valley					
Tues 02/22/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Nik
Wed 2/23/2022	Laps of Fun: Mt Eustis Rope Tow	Littleton	NH	Social	Downmountain	All	Sarah
Fri 02/25/2022							
Sat 02/26/2022	Winter School II	Alexandria	NH	Clinic	Light BC, BC	Beg to	Scott
Sun 02/27/2022					Downmountain	Adv	
Sat 2/26/2022	Adirondaks: Mt Marcy	Lake Placid	NY	Trip	Downmountain	Adv	Dave, Christina, Daniella
Sat 02/26/2022	Mt Washington BC Ski Festival	Jackson	NH				
Sat 02/26/2022	Family Maple Villa	Intervale	NH	Family Trip	Downmountain	Beg/Int	Tyson, Brian
Sun 2/27/2022	TBD						
Tues 03/1/2022	Whaleback Dawn Patrol	Whaleback	NH	Trip	Resort skin & ski	All	Nik
Sat 03/05/2022	Womens Intermediate	Cardigan	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Int	Jillian/Casy, Margaret/Christina
Sat 03/05/2022	Avalanche Brook	Pinkham Notch	NH	Trip	Light BC	Int / Adv	Al, Sean
Sat 3/5/2022	Teardrop / Mansfield	Mt. Mansfield	VT	Trip	Downmountain	Adv	Nik, Dave
Sun 03/06/2022	Waterville intermediate BC	Waterville Area	NH	Trip	Light BC and Bc	Int	Joel, Sean
Sun 03/06/2022	Connie's Way	Pinkham Notch	NH	Trip	Light BC	Int	Al, Tim
Sat 03/12/2022	Children in Chariots- Family	TBD (Upper Valley	NH	Family Trip	Groomed XC	all	Jillian, Erik, Brian
Sat 03/12/2022	Bretton Woods Lift Served Nordic	Crawford Notch	NH	Trip	BC / Down Mountain	all	Ted, Tim
Sat 03/12/2022	Family Black Mountain	Washington Valley	NH	Family Trip	Down Mountain	all	Aaron, Sarah
Sat 03/12/2022	Pisgah - Kilburn Loop	Pisgah State Park	NH	Trip	XC	all	Joel,
Sun 03/13/2022	Bear Notch X/C	Crawford Notch	NH	Trip	XC	all	Ted, Tim
Sun 03/13/2022	Family Greely Ponds	Kanc	NH	Family Trip	XC	Int	Emilie, Tyson
Sat 03/19/2022	Brandon Gap	Brandon	VT	Trip	Glades /	Int/Adv	Dave, Casy
Sun 03/20/2022	TBD						
Sat 03/26/2022	Oakes Gulf	Mt. Washington	NH	Trip	Downmountain	Adv	Brian, Tyson
Sun 03/27/2022	TBD						
Sat 04/02/2022	Big Jay	Jay	VT	Trip	Downmountain		David, JR
Sat 04/02/2022	GBA's Wild Corn	Jackson	NH	Social			
Sun 04/03/2022	TBD						
Sat 4/9/2022							
Sun 4/10/2022							
Sat 4/16/2022	End of year leader shindig	TBD					Casy, Jillian, Valerio



Casy, Jillian, Valerio, November 2021

❄️ Snow Trains

BY: BOB MCLAUGHLIN

When I was reviewing the Chapter records dating back to the creation of our Chapter, I was struck by references to the “Snow Trains.” For example, a February 7, 1932 entry reported that a scheduled hike to Suncook Valley was postponed “as most of the members joined the ‘Snow Train Special’ to Lincoln where an interesting variety of winter sports was prepared for all who came.” By 1935, Snow Train excursions were being reported as a regular activity in the Chapter records. See the Summer 2021 issue of *Mountain Passages* for the article reporting my review of the first 50 years of Chapter records.

I was intrigued. What were the Snow Trains?

The Snow Trains were actually originally suggested by the Appalachian Mountain Club. Having experienced rail transportation to ski and snowshoeing resorts in Europe, an AMC member, John Holden, suggested the concept to Park Carpenter, who was Chair of the AMC Committee on Ski Excursions. Their proposal was then submitted to the Boston & Maine Railroad the “B&M” which liked it. The B&M was interested in finding ways to attract ridership during the normally slow winter months.

The Snow Trains were born!

The first Snow Train left Boston’s North Station on January 11, 1931. Initially dubbed the Winter Sports Sunday Train, the name was soon shortened to Snow Train. The first train carried 196 passengers primarily members of the AMC and the Dartmouth Outdoor Club. Another 11 Snow Trains were run during 1931 with a total ridership of 8371.

The Snow Trains followed a unique approach to scheduling. Every week during the winter season, a team of advisers met to review information about snow conditions in the White Mountains and anticipated weather conditions and select the best destination for the Snow Train. The decision was announced on Thursday and was publicized. This process encouraged passengers to book tickets

for the Snow Trains; they were given some expectation of good conditions at the destination and encouraged to consider the Snow Train a good choice for a Sunday outing.

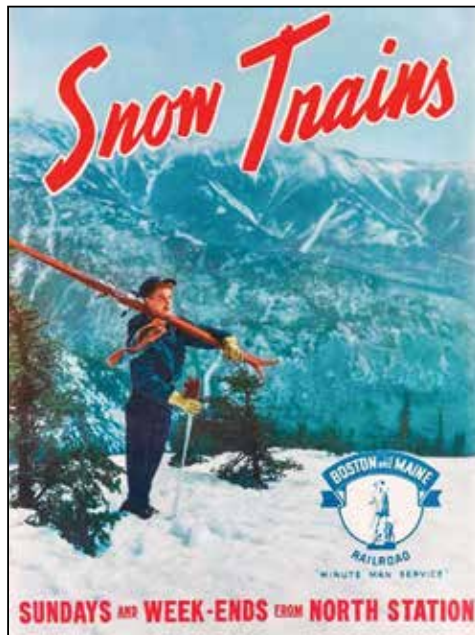
As time went on, full weekend or longer alternatives were introduced and Snow Trains began looking for passengers from as far away as New York City. Hotels, restaurants and taverns that had closed in the winter began experience new demand and stayed open.

While the Chapter records only mention Snow Trains to Lincoln, NH, many other destinations were offered. In 1931, Snow Trains ran to Warner, Goffstown, Canaan, Newport, Epsom, Greenfield, Wilton, East Jaffrey, and Laconia, as well as Lincoln. North Conway was added to the list of destinations in 1932, and subsequently another route through Franconia Notch was opened that stopped at Lincoln, Littleton and other destinations along the way. Feeder lines developed from New York City, Providence and Worcester. Snow Trains were becoming a big deal with some trains hauling 12 passenger cars or more!

Facilities to help the riders on the Snow Trains also developed. The Armstrong Company fitted out a baggage car as a full-service equipment sales and rental store for the riders on the Snow Trains. Soon other companies began competing for the dollars of the Snow Train riders. The B&M published annual Snow Train brochures describing the activities enjoyed by the participants and even published a how to book on downhill skiing.

As the Snow Trains developed regular riders formed friendships and the excursions became a time to socialize. As one young woman described it: “We started the first trip as strangers. Now we are all friends. Those who get here early save the seats for those who get here a little later.” Some riders even came with no intention of engaging in sport. Instead, they enjoyed the scenery and the camaraderie. A dining car with an extensive menu was featured on many Snow Trains.

SNOW TRAINS, TO PAGE 7 ❄️



SNOW TRAINS, FROM PAGE 6

The B&M did its part to make sure things ran smoothly. Members of the Passenger Traffic Department wearing red badges that read “Boston and Maine—Passenger Representative—Snow Train” were assigned to the Snow Trains. Their assignment was to provide advice and recommendations to the passengers on snow conditions and attractions at each destination. Sometimes, the Passenger Representatives were required to save the day by coming up with alternative entertainments when the weather did not cooperate!

An effort was made to assure the trains were secured when the passengers were participating in winter activities. The Snow Trains were billed as “Your home for the day,” and passengers were encouraged to leave their belongings behind with confidence.

The Snow Trains began as transportation for dedicated outdoors folk. However, the advertising campaigns and human nature encouraged ridership more interested partying and good times rather than sport. The reaction of the local communities followed this progression. Where initially, the Snow Train passengers were reportedly enthusiastically welcomed by locals, with time and bad experiences this welcome cooled. The B&M tried to contain these problems with limited success. That said, most of the participants appeared to be really interested in experiencing winter outdoor activities.

Despite some problems, the Snow Trains had continued success until the out-break of World War II when rail capacity was redirected to the war effort. After the war was over, attempts to restart the Snow Trains met with limited success and except for occasional outings by railroad hobbyists, the last Snow Train ran in 1950. Ultimately, the development of a better road system and more reliable automobiles made the Snow Trains unsustainable.

Snow Trains lasted only about 20 years, but their impact on winter activities in the White Mountains cannot be overstated. A generation of outdoors enthusiasts were exposed to the attractions of winter activities and the beauty of the White Mountains. This exposure lead to the resources we enjoy in our skiing and snow-shoeing today.

The posters accompanying this article are a small sample of the many produced by the B&M to promote the Snow Trains. A new Snow Train poster was created each year. Hand drawn posters predominated until 1950 and then photographs were used. The B&M published yearly brochures that were 30 to 40 pages long and described winter sports that were available, the trains and schedules. In the early years the brochures provided advice on winter attire that would keep passengers warm but still stylish. Among other things, high heels shoes were discouraged. These efforts made riders of the Snow Trains more confident and better prepared to enjoy themselves.

Thank you Snow Trains!



Upcoming Online Program

December 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Conservation on an Astronomical Scale

Join Doug Arion, Executive Director of the Mountains of Stars public science education and outreach program, for an online discussion of light pollution: its surprisingly widespread effects, its impacts on people and the environment, how it compromises our ability to observe space from the surface of the earth, and how we can fix the problem and save money at the same time. This presentation will also describe light pollution reduction efforts in the AMC, including creating an International Dark Sky Park surrounding the AMC lands in the Maine Woods -- which preserved 75000 acres of the last dark sky area in the eastern 2/3 of the US, as well as lighting improvements being made at AMC facilities.

Registration is available at activities.outdoors.org.



This Space Available

Mountain Passages is the quarterly newsletter of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. It is not the newsletter of the Executive Commit-tee or the newsletter staff.

We are always looking for new ideas and new materials. In fact, two of the articles in this edition were submitted by readers in response to a similar appeal in the last issue.

While we do not run political pieces and do not run product reviews, we are open to virtually any other submission.

If you have an idea for an article and want to know if we would be interested don't hesitate to contact us. If you have an article you have written please send it to us for consideration. Think about:

- How-to articles;
- Profiles or remembrances of members;
- Historical articles linked to hiking or the woods;

- Equipment recommendations;
- Recipes (especially outdoor eats or pre- and post-activity eats and drinks); and
- Articles about special places in New Hampshire.

In fact, if you can think of any other articles related to the Chapter or the goals and programs of the AMC, they will be welcome.

If your time is limited, don't hesitate to send a rough draft. I will be more than happy to work with you.

We publish on a quarterly schedule and try to match the articles in each issue to its season. Our next issue is winter, but we are interested in articles related to other seasons even though we may hold them until they will be timely.

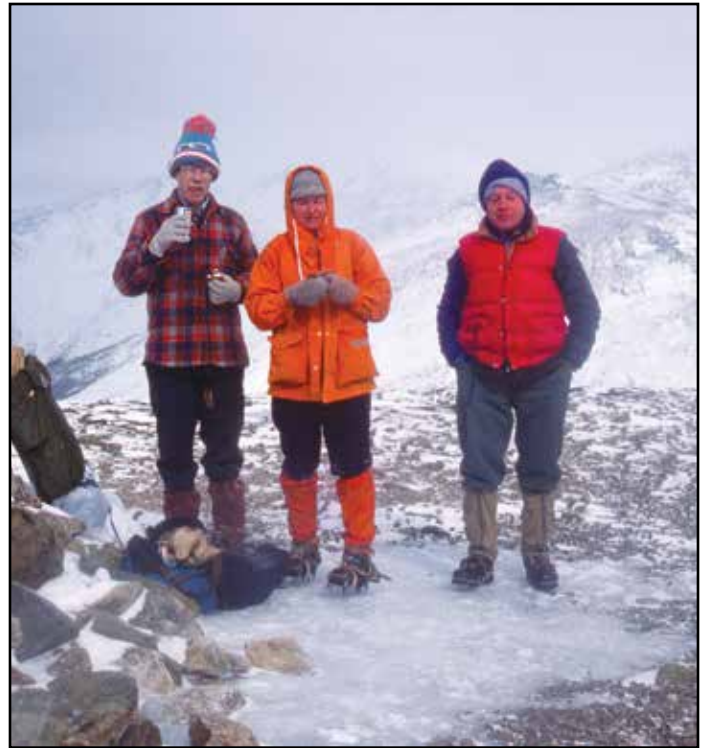
You can reach us at newsletter@amcnh.org.

A NEAR MISS, FROM PAGE 2

With Karl in the lead, we inched our way down a half mile to tree line, crunching on crusty ice and snow with every step, and were relieved we made it. Here the trail was even steeper: a 10-foot-wide slide about 500 feet long. We wore headlamps, which in those days had long wires attached to batteries we tucked into our pants pockets.

Suddenly without warning in the pitch darkness, Karl's crampon slipped to the side. We were terrified as we helplessly watched the light attached to his head shoot down the trail getting dimmer and dimmer. It took us fifteen minutes to descend to where he had slid to a stop after hitting a patch of small trees. We feared he had broken bones or a concussion, but Karl was fortunate to have only a bloody nose, cuts on his face and was missing his ice axe and glasses. By luck, we found his glasses when I nearly stepped on them another hundred feet along the trail. The ice axe, however, was lost and may still be somewhere on the side of the mountain. We were thankful he had only hit trees and not the rocks of the Tuckerman Ravine below, which have killed or injured many.

Before arriving back at the lodge five hours after dark, my wife Kay said, "They'll be out looking for us." To her surprise, nobody even raised an eyebrow. Late arriving hikers are a common occurrence at Pinkham Notch. It was a valuable lesson to us on the risks we were taking and the need for precautions to protect ourselves.



We sometimes felt as we were in the Antarctic!

A Log of a Trip To The White Mountains June and July 1924

BY: FRANCES (WOODARD) RICHARDSON

Rodney D. Woodard was one of the pioneers of the AMC. He worked at the Huts under Joe Dodge and was Hut Master at Madison Spring Hut from 1928 to 1931 and was Assistant Manager to Joe Dodge at the Pinkham Notch Headquarters until 1937.

Rod was born in Brockton, Massachusetts and grew up Campello, Massachusetts. Rod was introduced to the Whites in 1924 when he made his first trip the mountains with his friends Ned Whitmore and Bob Jackson. Rod kept a log of the trip in a pocket journal book which lists the mountains they climbed, describes some of their experiences along the way, the condition of the camps and the food they ate. The journal provides an interesting account of their trek through the White Mountains almost a hundred years ago.

Rod Woodard's Log

Written by Rod Woodard and transcribed by his daughter, Frances Richardson

First Trip to the White Mountains June 30, 1924

Rod Woodard, Bob Jackson and Ned Whitmore

We started at Ferncroft Hotel about 9 o'clock and hiked up Whiteface Mountain getting there about 2 o'clock, 4,557 feet. We made camp on top in a little hut.

July 1, 1924

At 5 o'clock in the morning we got breakfast and started for a hike over the range to the next camp which was Paugus



The Three Trekkers: Rod Woodard, Bob Jackson & Ned Whitmore.

Mountain. It was a very hard hike up hill for about 10 miles.

While going up Mt. Whiteface., we met 5 partridges with their little ones and how wonderful they take care of their little ones. We also saw little deer mice and signs of fox and porcupine. Our supper was a good one: French toast, rice pudding, prunes and chocolate. We made a Balsam bed and slept with the most comfort. Breakfast we had fried bacon, eggs and prunes.

 A LOG OF A TRIP, FROM PAGE 8

July 1: We hiked over the most of the Sandwich Range, Whiteface, Passaconway and some small ones, about 6 summits, Paugus was the last, and I about fell in. It was a good 10 miles and most of it being up and down grade. The pack was heavy and it weighed about 100 pounds on our back and about 30 on the scales. The camp on Paugus was about 200 feet from the top which is 3,000 feet.

I find that all the trails are well marked with spot marks, some painted with blue and the rest with yellow. At the summit of each mountain there is a little air tight can with a register book and you are supposed to put your name in them. We found in some places that we were the first to go over since December, and other places about the 10th or less. Also these cans have a few matches for in case it was wet. All the camps have in them a fry pan and a little can of dried stuff in which to use in case you get out. At Paugus we found everything to do with, even a First Aid Kit and a looking glass and a comb.

July 3, 1924

July 2 at night we landed in Bartlett, NH, a little town in which we stayed. After the long walk from Paugus, we had dinner and when we got to Bartlett we were rather late so we got a milk shake, and a box of Shredded Wheat and 2 quarts of milk which we had for breakfast the next morning. We slept by the Saco River and slept under the stars for the first time. In the morning it was rather cool, but when we got breakfast we were all right. All of July 3 we stayed in town to rest. Washed out clothes and looked around. I found two blisters on my heels and my feet were mostly tired.

While we came down to Bartlett, we came into an old lumber camp about 4 miles from town. I was looking in the barn and saw a hedgehog climb up the top of the rafters. I called Ned and Bob and we got an old ax and a log jack hook and knife and climbed up and knocked him down. Then we took the ax and beheaded him. Then I cut his feet and Bob took salt and fixed it up. Then we got a few quills and threw him into the woods. Then we started on with all the pep again.

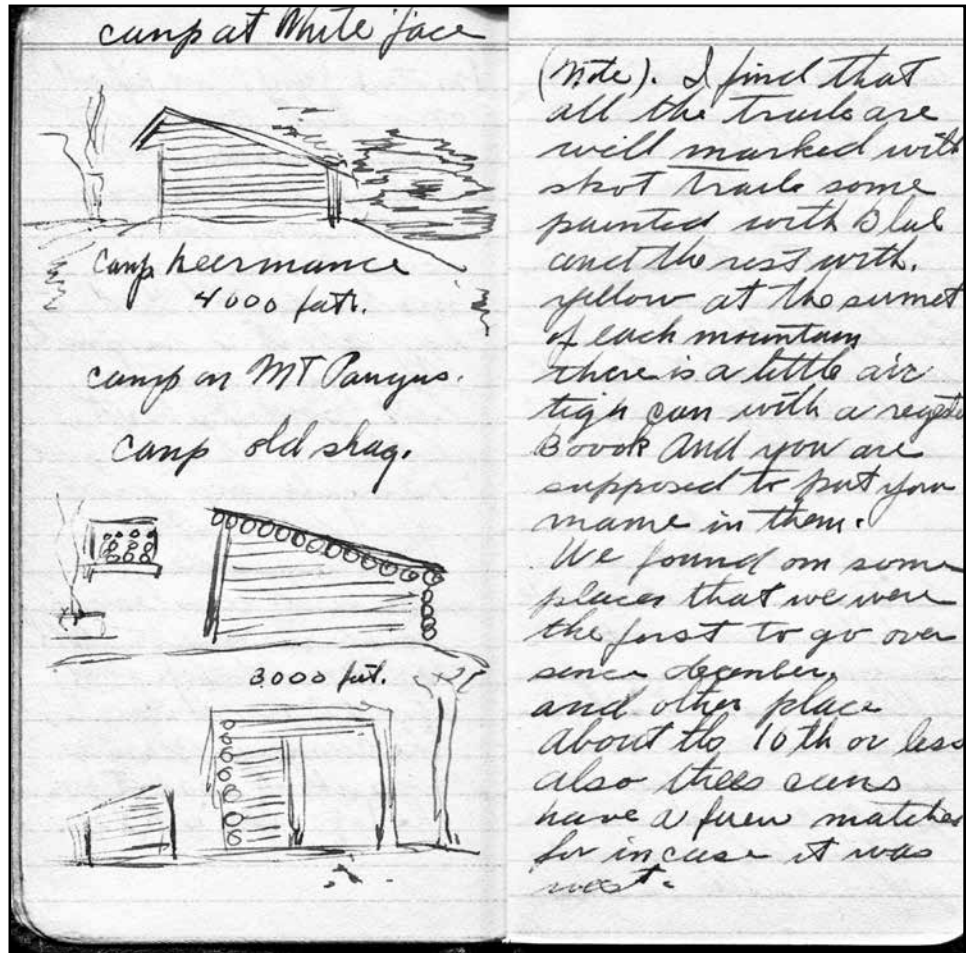
Bartlett and then Bemis which is not a town, but a railroad station. From there we got a ride up to the Willey House. Some lift. You bet I was about all in before we started and I didn't have to walk but 3 miles at the Willey House.

We got so tired that we decided to stay until Sunday. We have been doing some good turns and the first being a traffic cop. We came upon a steep hill while coming home from the camp and found a Ford car that couldn't make it, so I got out my whistle and helped out until Ned and Bob could get them started up the hill again.

Later in the day when we got back we found that two girls

and a man had gotten lost on Mt. Webster so we started up there about 6:15 and tried to find them. We went and went until dark and whistled but no trace was to be made. We kept coming down and it was coming on to dark and we had to use a flash [light] to find the trail. But after we had found it we came out on the road and went up to the Crawford Hotel where we were asking for the party.

As we paraded up the walk, everyone was looking at us. As we came up the steps we met the proprietor and he told us to go in the lobby. -OH BOY! I never went into a place like that before. We went in and found all the men in Tux[es] and the ladies were all in evening gowns and we walked right in and plunked right through the lobby. All the dudes were looking at us and we walked by with hat in hand .and heart in mouth but I thought I would never get



A page from Rod Woodard's Journal.

out. All I will say is what a swell place. I was glad to get out.

When we got back to camp, we bought 3 quarts of milk and had supper about 11 o'clock. We are staying over until Sunday.

Sunday morning we started for the mountains as soon as we got some grub. We went up the Crawford Trail and went up and up until we got above tree line. Then from there we sat down to lunch. After keeping on the trail for 6 miles more until we came to the camp of the Lake of the Clouds where we put our packs and got our bed, then washed up and got ready for supper. We had some supper, too. They fill you so full of grub that you can hardly get up. Cream chicken and cheese, mashed potatoes, Tea, Bread

Where In The Whites?

**Where was this photo taken and what are the major mountain?
Be as specific as possible!**



This issue's Mystery Photo was provided by Paul Hopkins. Where was Paul when it was taken and what mountains are in the view?

In the Spring 2020 Edition of *Mountain Passages* we introduced a new photo identification contest, *Where in the Whites?*. We asked readers to guess where the photo was taken and what mountains were in the photo. We promised to print the names of the first 10 respondents with the correct answer.

Last month's photo is reprinted here. It is a view from Mount Potash and starting at Green Cliff and proceeding left shows Vose Spur, Carrigain, The Captain, the Hancocks and

Huntington. We received six correct answers from:

- Justin Muccio;
- Charlotte Ryan;
- Ian Ayer;
- Selene Berube;
- Lee Wilder; and
- Kathy Roseen.

Congratulations! You know your White Mountain Views!

Ian is on a roll. He provided the correct answer for the *Where in the Whites?* photo in the previous three issues as well!

This month's photo was provided by Paul Hopkins. Thank you, Paul! Identify the mountains in the photo and where it was taken. Be as specific as possible! Take a guess and submit your answers to Wit-Wamcnh@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing your submissions.



 A LOG OF A TRIP, FROM PAGE 9

and Butter and Rice Pudding. Bunks were given out and we had some gin in the camp before going to bed. There were about 15 there that night.

Breakfast was ready at 7:00 and we filled up once more and had cereal, eggs, bacon, cornmeal bread and tea. We then set off to have a 2 mile hike to Mount Washington where we sent a lot of post cards and took a few pictures. It was very hot. About 50 degrees. We looked around and then started down. It was a long 6 miles to the next camp but the scenery was great. We went over Clay, Jefferson, Adams and Mt. Madison. We hiked up Mt. Madison after we had supper at the Hut. Madison Spring Hut is some. Place, too. They can put up about 80 at a time. We slept overnight and had supper and breakfast there.

Leaving the Madison Spring Hut we went down the mountains in the clouds. When we started we were above the clouds. After getting down half way it began to be wet and still kept on until it was raining. We kept going to the Valley Trail until we came to some falls, and then kept going until we came out in Randolph.

We left our packs at the hotel while we walked up to Uncle Gus's house and looked it over then went up to the Post Office. Then we got our packs again and started back down the road to head for Twin Mountain. When we got down to Bowman it began to rain again so went in the Railroad Station and stayed there until we thought it had stopped raining, then we started off to Jefferson. We got a ride into Jefferson and kept getting rides until we got into the railroad station at Cherry Mountain. There we walked up into the woods until we came to a farm house where we stayed all night and got up the next morning and started for Twin Mountain again. We got another lift into the Profile House and from there we looked around and got some grub and went up the Ass trail to Lonesome Lake where we stayed in a little log hut that night.

The next morning we went from Lonesome Lake down over Cannon Mountain and back down to the Old Man and stayed that night. We went up Mt. Lafayette all day and that night we came up to the Indian Head Camp where there were autos all parked around. When we landed in the camp we built a fire and began cooking French toast. We met a lot of very good people there and found one man who took us to North Woodstock. [This was] Thomas E. McLaughlin [who worked in the] Advertising Department of Curtis Publishing Co. Boston.

From there we got a lift to Plymouth, NH and then someone

came along in an auto that had in it Bob's mother and father and from there we were taken home. We took the train to Boston and then went across the city to South-Station where we went-to Campello.

A scan of the original log book together with photographs of the outing is available on the New Hampshire Chapter's website on the *Mountain Passages* page:

[www. http://amcnh.org/newsletter/](http://amcnh.org/newsletter/)



Camping in a leanto near the summit of Whiteface.



Rod Woodard reaches the highest point!

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Winter School AMC NH Chapter Winter School

Session #1: January 28-30, 2022

Session #2: February 25-27, 2022

Winter is no reason to stay inside.

The Winter outing season is all around us, are you prepared?

Once again this winter, the NH Chapter will sponsor two training workshops. They are designed to teach you what you need to know for safe travel in the winter mountains; what to wear, what to take, how to use it, how to get there, how to get back, and how to plan for the unplanned. Both workshops will offer the same curriculum, except as noted below. All sections include extensive time outdoors.

These workshops offers instruction in safe winter mountain travel to experienced 3-season hikers. Among the many available classes, almost every aspect of winter backcountry travel will be covered. The weekend will be filled with instruction, field exercises, lectures, and discussions. And when you are not learning, there will be plenty of great food to fuel you back up!

The weekends are loaded with learning, fun and great food from Friday night until Sunday afternoon and are conducted at the Cardigan Lodge.

A variety of instructional groups are offered that cover almost every aspect of winter backcountry travel and safety. The weekend is filled with instruction, field exercises, lectures, and group discussions. Your time will be divided between your individual class and activities for the entire workshop.

Choose From One of the Following Winter School Workshops:

Introduction to Winter Wilderness Travel

Instruction in general mountain safety, clothing, and equipment, nutrition, risk management and trip planning. Instruction includes an introduction to snowshoeing as well as map and compass. This workshop section is intended for individuals with limited experience in the New England outdoors who would like to start winter activities safely. Anticipate hiking on snowshoes as much as three miles at a slow pace with occasional uphill grades.

Intermediate Snow Shoeing

Instruction in snowshoeing, route finding (map and compass) as well as general mountain safety, clothing and equipment, nutrition, risk management and trip planning. This workshop section is intended for individuals with extensive 3-season experience in the New England outdoors, but limited winter experience, who would like to get into more winter activities safely. Anticipate hiking/snowshoeing up to five miles at a moderate/slow pace with sustained uphill grades.

Advanced Winter Wilderness Travel

Instruction offered in winter travel on steep terrain and above treeline. Subjects covered include snowshoeing on mountain terrain, use of crampons, dressing for extreme weather conditions, off-trail navigation and risk management. Intended for individuals with winter experience in the outdoors interested in climbing NE mountains safely. Anticipate hiking 6+ miles at moderate/fast pace, steep terrain, and significant exposure to wind.

Leadership and Mountain Skills

This section is for those who have mastered the basics of winter hiking. Exercises in planning, organizing, and expediting a

trip with an emphasis on leadership techniques and group dynamics. A review of the basics, accident scene management, medical considerations and off-trail navigation. This section is also for people with potential and desire to become trip leaders for the NH Chapter Excursions Committee. NOTE: proficiency wearing snowshoes is a prerequisite.

Introduction to Winter Camping (Winter School Session # 1 only)

For those that have mastered the basics of 3-season backpacking skills. Instruction (will cover as many of these topics as possible) in general winter mountain safety, snowshoeing, equipment, proper campsite selection, how to erect a tent in winter, how and what to cook, trail finding, map and compass, off-trail navigation, weather, trip planning, nutrition, and emergency situations.

Warning: All participants must have proper winter clothing, a winter sleeping bag that has a rating of 20 degrees or lower, a winter foam pad and a winter back-packing tent. Please bring a 3 or 4 season tent with you as these are not provided. This group will participate in indoor lectures and evening programs, sleeping outside Friday and Saturday nights, and prepare 1 meal outdoors.

Intermediate Winter Backpacking (Winter School Session # 2 only)

This session is similar to the Introduction to Winter Camping session but this group is intended for more experienced participants and will be spending most of their time outdoors, will sleep outside both Friday and Saturday nights, and will prepare 2 meals outdoors.

Winter School Ski Workshops

Cardigan Mountain Ski School has now become an official PSIA school. Most of our ski instructors hold PSIA certifications and now official PSIA events can be held at the school.

Back Country Ski Touring 101

Want to expand your horizons beyond the golf courses and touring centers? Come learn how to explore the winter backwoods on skis. We will cover how to travel efficiently on the ungroomed trails over rolling terrain and how to control speed by turning and stopping on modest hills. And we will address general backcountry safety. Expect to be outdoors playing in the snow on skis for 3-4 hours each day and ski 2-4 miles. Be prepared to ski with a day pack.

Intermediate Back Country Ski Touring

Ready to explore the wilderness for the day and go where you want with confidence? Spend the day in the woods to improve your skills including turning, stopping, climbing, trip planning and navigation. We'll be outdoors for about 5 hours each day skiing and learning on various terrain with your full day pack.

Down Mountain Backcountry Skiing

Tired of the crowded lift-served areas? Leave them behind and explore the solitude of the backcountry. This course is intended (designed) for the down mountain skier who wants to jump the gap from the lift-served area and side-country to the backcountry. This is not a learn to telemark clinic but how to apply your front-country/lift-served skiing skills to the backcountry on down-mountain trails. Strategies for skiing on backcountry

terrain in New England “Powdah” (less than optimum snow conditions) will be reviewed. Be prepared to spend 4 to 6 hours per day outside, on skis and to ski with a pack on down mountain trails. This is not just for telemark skiers, backcountry skills and strategies for the AT skier will also be reviewed.

If you are not sure which class is right for you, just give us a call and ask one of our Workshop Directors. If you are looking at a skiing class, check out the Ski Committee recommendations in the Ski Committee’s pages on www.amcnh.org.

The workshops will begin promptly at 7:30 P.M. Friday evening and end Sunday afternoon at approximately 4:30 P.M.

This is a school for everyone who wants to learn and have a great time.

Due to Covid-19, special protocols will be in place. As part of registration you will be asked to affirm that you have been vaccinated against Covid-19 or that you have had a negative PCR Covid-19 test within three days of the workshop.

Cost

\$250.00 / members

\$275.00 / nonmembers

Price includes lodging, excellent meals, materials, and instruction! You must be 18 years or older to attend.

Online Application

Please apply via our online application to ensure the accuracy and priority of your application.

Winter Workshop 1 Jan 28-30 2022

<https://amcnhexcursions.regfox.com/2022-winter-workshop-1>

Winter Workshop 2 Feb 25-27 2022

<https://amcnhexcursions.regfox.com/2022-winter-workshop-2>

Photography: Winter Photography Tips

BY: BOB MCLAUGHLIN

Photography presents special challenges during the winter months in New Hampshire, but that is no reason to hang up your camera until the spring. Winter is an excellent time of the year to find great images.

In this article, we suggest some tips and ideas to get the best photos you can in the winter months if you know how.

*Take Care of Your Equipment
Batteries in the Cold*

Digital cameras, including cell phones, run on batteries and batteries are not well adapted for cold temperatures. Batteries that will last through days of shooting in the summer may be dead in 15 minutes or even less in winter conditions. I remember when I first discovered this problem. I was new to digital photography and visiting the Adirondacks. I was standing in a frozen wetland and I saw a perfect image of Whiteface over the cattails and distant trees. After only five images had been captured, the camera went dark. Very frustrating but it led me to explore how to prevent a recurrence.

What are the solutions?

- First, make sure your batteries are fully charged before you head into the field.
- Second, try to keep your batteries as warm as possible until you need to use them. In the winter, I remove the battery from my camera when I am carrying it and carry the battery close to my body or use a hand warmer to keep it warm.
- Third, carry spare batteries and keep them warm. Carrying two or more batteries does pose a problem. How do you distinguish the battery that has been used from the fresh battery(ies). I use a felt tip marker to label each battery with its own number. I only have to remember which batteries have been used which can be harder than it should be!
- Fourth, carefully plan your shots. In the summer you can take lots of photos, but in the winter you have to use your available shots carefully. I started with film cameras and used them for over 30 years before switching to digital, and just as I had to

carefully shepherd my limited frames of film, I shepherd my limited winter shots with my digital camera.

- Finally, when I remove a dead battery from my camera, I put it in a warm spot and it frequently does recover some of its charge. It is never anywhere near a full charge but it can be enough for a few more photos.

Protect your equipment

It is always a good idea to protect your camera but it is particularly important in the winter. Unless you are using it, it is best to keep your camera in its case and your case in your pack. Think long and hard before you decide to change a lens in the field. A flake of snow or whiff of your breath in the camera can do damage. I set up my camera before I leave home and don't do anything but change batteries in the field in the winter.

When you are in the field, a towel can be handy to wipe off snow or other moisture. If it is snowing heavily a rain cover or an umbrella can be a life saver. In all circumstances, avoid breathing on your camera.

Finally, if your gear bags get wet, don't put your camera in the wet bag. Rather, when you get home, take everything out of the bag and let it dry separately.

Be Careful with Transitions

In the winter, cameras are subject to wide swings in temperature that can cause problems. When they are in your house they are in the high 60s to 70 degrees and then are taken out into the cold outdoors which can be 50 or more degrees colder. Then at the end of the day, the temperature swing is reversed. This is a recipe for problems unless you take precautions. The primary problem is the risk of the development of condensate in or on the camera.

Condensation is the bane of electronics. Water in an electrical circuit can cause no end of problems, but condensation could even result in the growth of mildew on the optics or the sensor ruining the camera.

Whenever you bring a cold camera into a warm location such as your car, your house or a hotel room, water will condense on all the surfaces of the camera and work its way into the interior of the camera unless you prevent it. But, how can you prevent it?

📷 WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS, FROM PAGE 13

Zip-Lock Bags: The method I use is to put my camera in a gallon size zip lock freezer bag when I am still in the cold. I then force out as much air as possible and seal the bag before I bring it into the warm. After the camera has warmed to room temperature (I give it a couple of hours), it is safe to open up the bag.

Towels or Drying Clothes: Another alternative is to wrap your cold equipment tightly in a towel or other absorbent cloth and allow the camera to come up to room temperature. Most of the moisture from condensation should be deposited in the towel or cloth. I feel more confident in the physical barrier of the plastic bag but know photographers who swear by the towel alternative.

Dress for the Weather

While it is important to protect your equipment in the winter, it just as important to protect yourself. Readers of *Mountain Passages* should have a good idea of how to dress for winter conditions. Follow the same rules as you would for winter day hike. Dress in layers, have good winter boots and snow shoes if required. The goal is to be comfortable and stay warm. You will probably be moving slower and may want to kneel or even lie in the snow to get the angle you want. Consider all of this when dressing for the photo shoot. See the Winter 2020 *Mountain Passages* for more suggestions.

I always carry a pack to hold my equipment and changes of clothing. Also, your pack should contain the 10 Essentials. Check out the articles in the Winter 2020 and the Summer 2020 issues of *Mountain Passages* for specific recommendations.

Finally, think about your gloves. Try using your camera with your gloves on before you go out in the field. Bulky gloves can make your camera unusable and taking your gloves on and off can be a nuisance. I generally use liner gloves inside a heavier pair. Hooking the gloves to your jacket with a leash can make it easier to change gloves in the field. There are lots of solutions, including gloves that work with touch screens. But, it is worth finding the approach that will work best for you.

Composition Ideas

Winter landscapes can be awe inspiring, but capturing that awe in a photograph is a challenge.

Look for Interesting Structures: In a sea of white, it is the photographer's task to find an interesting subject that gives focus and context to the scene. It can be an interesting rock formation, a dried up fern or pine seedling emerging from a blanket of snow, or an isolated tree silhouetted against the sky. Without a center of interest, the viewer will be lost in the photograph and it will not be appealing.

Water is a great focus. An open stretch in a pond can work as can the open stretches in a stream or river running into the background. Reflections in water or close ups of the edge of ice can be interesting. Water adds an added dimension to a winter photograph.

People provide another focus for winter photos. While winter portraits can be great, I am really thinking of landscapes. Skiers or snowshoers in the distance can add a spot of color that provides a great center of interest that will make a photo work.

The goal is to add something to your photo that will provide a place for your viewer's eye to start. The critical element is finding contrast in what can be a monochrome field of view. Look for

objects with color or tonal contrast and make them the center of interest of the image.

Manually Set Exposure and White Balance

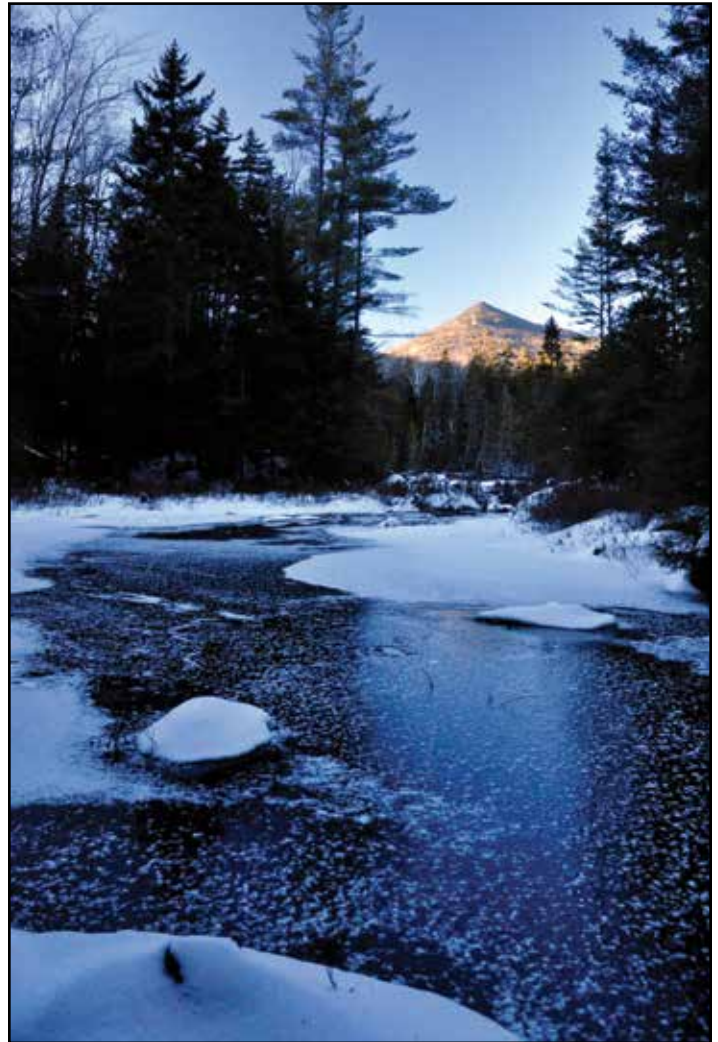
Exposure and white balance are also factors to always consider in winter photography.

The vast fields of white can really fool your light meter which is designed for a more balanced image. While there is some dispute about the best way to deal with this problem, some response is needed to prevent washed out photos. Winter is not the time to rely on your camera's automatic exposure!

If your camera's meter is reading the light from the snow it is easy to underexpose your photographs. One solution is the deliberately over-expose the scene by adjusting either shutter speed or lens opening or both. I try to bracket the exposure in all seasons by deliberately under and overexposing the image. In the winter I usually favor the under exposures. Another alternative is to restrict the meter to the darker objects in the scenes, such as trees or rock formations. This can be trickier, but can provide spectacular results.

Winter is a good time to become familiar with the histogram function in your camera. If you see that you are clipping the lighter highlights, it is time to adjust the exposure!

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS, TO PAGE 15 📷



Choosing your light can make all the difference in a winter landscape photo. Never forget to look for the contrasting color!
Photo by: Bob McLaughlin.



Sometimes a simple composition will be the best. If you look for open areas you can find peaceful images.
Photo by: Bob McLaughin.

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS, FROM PAGE 14

The other issue to consider is adjusting your white balance. Frequently, the camera will choose a white balance that results in a photograph having a muddy, gray or overly blue cast. Experiment with your white balance to find the level that you prefer. Another alternative is to photograph in RAW format and adjust the white balance in your photo editing software.

Exposure and white balance work together. If you pay attention to them, your photographs will benefit any time of year, but particularly in winter.

Timing, Timing, Timing

While timing is important in photography in all circumstances, perhaps winter photography makes the greatest demands.

As an example, consider the difference between a freshly fallen field of snow and a field covered by snow that fell days earlier. While both can be photogenic, there is no disputing they are different. There is also the difference between the appearance of evergreens covered with snow and the same trees silhouetted against a white background after they have shed their snow.

You as the photographer, have to determine the images you are seeking and get out into the field when you can capture them.

One of the more appealing things about winter photography is that you can take good and interesting photos pretty much any time of day. Many photographers argue winter photographs can work best in the hours of dusk before dawn and after sunset when you can emphasize the available sources of light and take advantage



Look for the way the sun plays on a winter landscape.
Photo by: Bob McLaughin.

of the colors painting the clouds. Others are drawn to the hours just after sunrise or before sunset with the warm color of light and the long shadows. But, there great photos taken at night featuring silhouettes against a star filled sky or shadows cast by bright moonlight. One of the advantage of the monochromatic character of winter landscapes is how the limited color palette emphasizes any point of color in the image.

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS, TO PAGE 16 



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From hiking to biking, AMC's New Hampshire chapter has it all. Visit our website at amcnh.org and read more about us and our many year-round events.

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS, FROM PAGE 15

Finally, consider the images you may be able to capture in the midst of a winter storm. While photographing storms is not without challenges, dramatic skies or the effect of curtains of snow can result in compelling images.

Think Ahead

Finally, winter photography presents one additional challenge that photography at any other time of year does not. An example will suffice. You have snowshoed through a snow covered field wandering here and there looking for photo ideas, and then you turn around and see a perfect image, perhaps a summit rising behind an interesting tree line or rock formation, and you realize you have ruined the foreground by tracking up a pristine snow field by scarring it with your tracks. You can record the location and come back another day, but it is still frustrating. While this frustration cannot be completely avoided, you can reduce its likelihood by thinking ahead about the photographs you may want to capture and how to approach the location of the photograph without destroying its potential.

Finally, before you press the shutter, check the viewfinder to make sure you are not photographing your shadow. While this can be a problem any time of year, in the winter your shadow on snow cannot be ignored.

Winter photography can be rewarding, but it will only be frustrating if you are not prepared. I hope this article provides some helpful information to help you prepare.

Get out there and find your perfect photographs!



*Untrampled fields of snow provide the perfect foreground for a wide view.
Photo by: Bob McLaughlin.*