

## RMC News

As this update is being written, warm temperatures are finally melting spring snows that are lingering well past their appointed date on RMC's paths. The giant Northeaster of April 14-17 left several feet of snow in Randolph: at the end of Randolph Hill Road, Bill and Barbara Arnold recorded 26 inches, while Gray Knob had 42 inches of snow from that storm alone. Soon enough, though, the trails will be dry, patrolled and ready for your boots!

This will be a special summer for RMC, as we celebrate the opening of Stearns Lodge on the weekend of July 14 and 15. A festive series of events have been planned by an energetic committee. For details, see the article by Judy Hudson elsewhere in this edition of the *Mountainview*. Like the Crag Camp dedication a generation ago, we hope this event will bring together RMC friends from across the eras. Do plan to attend, tour the beautiful and practical new Lodge, visit with old friends, and perhaps join in on a softball game or other activity. Special, limited edition RMC Stearns Lodge shirts, featuring a beautiful Tim Sappington illustration, will be available for sale, too!

If you cannot attend the dedication, we will allow guests to visit the building on the first and third Sundays of every month. This will be by appointment only. Please call Stearns Lodge Committee head Storm Schott at (603) 723-0402. Remember that when visiting our caretakers and trail crew, they are easily subdued with baked goods and dinners.

Up at the camps, our summer caretakers will be Chris Carlson and Gretchen Grebe. Both are currently in school at Bates College, in Lewiston, Maine. A number of projects are planned for this summer, including replacement of a several damaged windows at Crag Camp, new batteries for the solar-powered radio charger at Gray Knob, and grates for our stairs at Crag to help keep those pesky crampons off the wooden floors. As usual, composting will be a big part of the summer caretakers duties- this summer should see a first batch at our new composting toilet at the Log cabin that was installed two years ago.

RMC's trail crews have a full summer planned. The first three weeks of June will consist of patrolling, when the crew will clear blowdowns and clean drainages. They will have a lot on their plate, as the late Northeaster damaged a band of evergreens at approximately 2,500 feet. Many tree-tops are scattered across the trail. Following patrolling, the crews will brush trails, perform erosion control work on upper Amphibrach, EZ

Way, Wood Path, Diagonal and Four Soldiers Path near Pond of Safety. A contract with the US Forest Service and a grant from the State of New Hampshire's Recreation Trails Program will provide over 50% of the funding for our trails erosion work this summer.

A quick trail advisory for those who like walking the Brookbank: last fall, RMC's fall crew relocated the lower section. The path now uses the Presidential Range Rail-Trail bridge over Snyder Brook, then turns south to rejoin the old trail in about 100 yards. Posts and "Path" markers note the relocation, which eliminates a tricky river crossing.

This summer, RMC would like to work to bring our trail crews and caretakers more closely into the Randolph community. One way of doing this is by sharing an evening together over a meal. We hope you'll consider cooking a dinner for the crew, on a Friday night at Stearns Lodge. It's a fun way to meet everyone one-on-one—plus, you'll get to use the amazing, new Stearns Lodge kitchen! If you're interested, contact Trails Co-Chair Doug Mayer at 466-5395 or via [dmayer@cartalk.com](mailto:dmayer@cartalk.com).

A list of our summer work trips is below. The 2007 RMC work trip season, headed by Mike Micucci and Matt Schomburg, looks like it will have a high energy level! A dedicated group of enthusiastic leaders has been recruiting co-workers, friends and other interested volunteers. At this point it is recommended that volunteers should sign on to take part in the work trip and to tour the Stearns Lodge afterwards, meet the crew and enjoy the post trip barbeque at Stearns Lodge. Food will be provided -- just show up!

Interested volunteers should contact Mike Micucci to sign up or to get more information. Mike can be reached at [mikemoriah@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemoriah@yahoo.com) or via 466-5050.

In addition to our Stearns Lodge Dedication, RMC has the usual array of social events planned this summer, courtesy of Social Director Marie Beringer. The details are below, and further news will be in the *Randolph Weekly*. We hope you can attend one or more events, and visit with fellow RMC friends.

Finally, RMC's summer hikes are being planned as the *Mountainview* went to press. If you're interested in leading a hike this summer, please contact Blake Strayhorn via email at [blake.strayhorn@yahoo.com](mailto:blake.strayhorn@yahoo.com), or Jack Stewart, via (603) 466-2793 after mid-June. Hike details will be published in the *Randolph Weekly*