



Green Mountain Club  
Bennington Section  
Winter 2009-2010  
Outings and Events

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**OUTINGS**

Out of courtesy to the leader and the other participants, please always call or email ahead to sign up for a trip. This is a big help to the trip leaders. Meet at the Bennington Recreation Center parking lot (Rec Center), 655 Gage St., for all outings unless otherwise noted.

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**Saturday, December 26.**  
**"Boxing Day"**  
**Ski or hike.**

Leader's choice, depending on snow cover. Call Lorna Cheriton for meeting place and time at 447-1383, or [chertop@comcast.net](mailto:chertop@comcast.net).

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**Sunday, December 27.**  
**XC ski trip.**

Leader's choice, based on snow availability. Easy to moderate outing, good for less experienced skiers and/or families with young skiers. Meet at the Rec Center at 1 pm. Expect to be on the skis until about 4 pm. Contact Reed Goossen at 802-447-3578 after Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. Before Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, [reed\\_goossen@georgeschool.org](mailto:reed_goossen@georgeschool.org). If no one calls or emails, there will be no leader.

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**Friday, January 1. New Year's Day**  
**Ski into Aiken Wilderness.**

Start the year with an old friend. We'll likely do some skiing over frozen beaver ponds and marshes. Moderate outing, about 4 hours. Contact leader Martha Stitelman for meeting place and time at 442-0864, [mstitel@sover.net](mailto:mstitel@sover.net).

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**Saturday, January 23**  
**Backcountry ski from Pine Valley to Rake Branch.**

This is a strenuous, bushwhacking ski trip somewhat like the Aiken Wilderness tour. The goal is to ski from Pine Valley northeast to the confluence of Little Pond and Redfield Brooks, then down the frozen Rake Branch to Somerset Road, but the route may change with the conditions. Bring extra layers, extra socks, lunch, wear gators, and avoid cotton. Call a day ahead to arrange for car spotting. Contact leader Tim Marr for meeting time and place, 802-442-3469, [hauptmarr@comcast.net](mailto:hauptmarr@comcast.net). Do not show up unless you contact the leader first.

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**Saturday, January 30**  
**Catamount trail ski trip**

This is an official Catamount trail ski trip, from Somerset dam to Route 9, a moderate ski of 7.5 miles. Estimate about a four hour ski. See [www.catamounttrail.org](http://www.catamounttrail.org) for more information on the Catamount trail. Contact leader Tim Marr, 442-3469, [hauptmarr@comcast.net](mailto:hauptmarr@comcast.net).

## OUTINGS, CONTINUED

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**Saturday, January 30**  
**Full Moon Ski**

Should we have snow and moon light, we will ski one of the following: Stone Hill in Williamstown, Mountain Meadow in Pownal, or Woodford State Park in Woodford, depending on conditions. Call Margie March for place and time. (413) 458-3162.

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**Saturday, February 6**  
**Ski**

Meet at Rec Center at 10 for a moderate ski of 3 to 4 hours, locality to be determined. Bring lunch. Call leader Stuart Bradford a day in advance (802) 447-7065 or sbwhips4@sover.net

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**Saturday, February 13**  
**Ski in the Berkshires**

We will do a through ski along the Bellows Pipe Trail and Bellows Pipe Trail Extension on Mt. Greylock's east side, passing the Thunderbolt Trail, site of the 75th Anniversary Thunderbolt Ski Race which is to be held the following Saturday. Intermediate skiing, about 4 miles. Meet at the Rec Center for departure at 9:30 am. You must call leader Margie March if you plan to go. (413) 458-3162.

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**February overnight, TBA**

Contact Stuart and Harda Bradford to plan a midweek overnight in February at a Merck Forest cabin, a Moosalamoo lodge, or in the Adirondacks. 802-447-7065 or sbwhips4@sover.net

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**Saturday March 6**  
**Cross-country ski, Woodford to Heartwellville through the Aiken Wilderness.**

This is a challenging, sometimes difficult, trip of at least 8 miles over unbroken trail, some over frozen rivers and ponds. Exact route is subject to change at whim of leader. Bring warm clothing (no cotton) with change of socks, lunch and drink (possibly hot). Contact leader Hamilton Topping by Thursday March 4 so transportation can be arranged 447-1383; chertop@comcast.net

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**Sunday, March 21**  
**Spring ski trip to the Burning.**

All day trip with moderate pace. Exact route depends on conditions, but with luck we'll be able to ski on Redfield Brook and lunch in the sun at the Boiler. Meet at Rec Center at 9:30 am. Contact leader Martha Stitelman at 442-0864, [mstitel@sover.net](mailto:mstitel@sover.net).

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### Miscellaneous Get-togethers/Events

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**Friday evening game nights-** Starting January 8<sup>th</sup> and continuing on Friday evenings, Jenny Hogan will host game/social nights at her house. Contact Jenny at 442-3840, [jjenhogan@yahoo.com](mailto:jjenhogan@yahoo.com), for information and directions.

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**Saturday, January 6  
Movie Night**

At the Ebert home, 131 Hill Shadow Farm Road, Bennington. Dorest open at 7 pm and the curtain goes up at 8 pm. Robert Ebert, 802-753-7405.

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**Saturday, February 6  
Dinner at Carmody's,  
;Bennington.**

Anyone interested should meet at the bar at 6 pm. For more information, contact Linda Lyons, llyons@myfairpoint.net.

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**Saturday February 20  
Thunderbolt Ski Race**

In 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps carved "The Thunderbolt", a Class A Downhill ski racing trail on the eastern flank of Mt. Greylock in Adams MA. Long disused, it has now become a backcountry hot-spot. To celebrate its 75th Anniversary, the Thunderbolt Ski Runners are holding "The 75th Anniversary Thunderbolt Ski Race", on Saturday Feb 20, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Categories include Vintage Ski Equipment, Telemark, Alpine, Snowboarding. Sorry, all 120 race slots are full, but spectators and volunteers are welcome.

Greylock Glen, the staging area for the race, offers varied terrain for walking, snowshoeing and skiing. See <http://www.thunderboltskirun.com/> or <http://www.thunderboltskirunners.org/> for more information. Or call race volunteer Terri Armata 442-4538. (At our recent potluck we collected \$25 and sent it as a donation to the race committee.) This is a once in a lifetime event. Consider being a part of it

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**Sunday, Feb. 21  
GMC Bennington section annual  
meeting and potluck**

UU Meetinghouse, 108 School St., Bennington

Doors open at 5:30, with potluck dinner at 6pm, followed by our annual meeting. Bring a dish to share. We will probably have a program of some kind following the meeting, but this is TBA(look for future email update). All are welcome, members and non-members. For more information, contact Martha Stitelman at 442-0864, mstitel@sover.net

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**Winter access, good spots**

For those without four-wheel drive vehicles looking for reliable parking spots for skis and snowshoe hikes, section members suggest the following sites:

- Petersburg Pass on Route 2 in Williamstown, MA at the height of land going over the Taconics, for access to the Taconic Crest both north and south
  - On Route 2 in Williamstown, MA, about halfway to Petersbrug Pass, use the parking area on the south side of the highway for access to the Sarah Tenney Trails.
  - Prospect Mountain, Route 9 Woodford, charges \$5 to access that area.
  - Little Pond parking lot, Route 9 Woodford.
  - Pine Valley parking lot, Route 9 Woodford.
  - Adams parking lot, Route 9 Woodford, opposite Woodford State Park. (This parking area can be hard for a two-wheel drive vehicle to navigate some days.)
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*Do you want to receive GMC Bennington section email updates on outings or events? If yes, please email Tim Marr at [hauptmarr@comcast.net](mailto:hauptmarr@comcast.net). Would you prefer this newsletter in digital format? Let Shelly Stiles know at [bccd@sover.net](mailto:bccd@sover.net).*

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### Trip report

Seventeen people showed up for the Sunday October 4 full moon potluck and overnight ant Woodford State Park. Saturday's cold and rain gave way to sun and warmer temperatures Sunday. Folks arriving Sunday afternoon hiked and paddled amidst sun and autumn foliage. Nine stayed overnight. Thanks to Alan and John, co-rangers of Woodford State Park, who reserved us a couple of lean-tos, welcomed a steady influx of Bennington GMCers, and provided free canoes for our use. Thanks to Stuart Bradford who organized most of the preparations, and brought pots, firewood, and breakfast supplies. Harda Bradford brought a yummy plum dessert for everyone. Hamilton brought extra firewood. Others brought ingredients for a hearty "stone" soup and accompanying appetizers and breads for supper as well as breakfast supplies. (Bennington Section members who did volunteer work at Woodford this year include Hamilton Topping, Linda Lyons, Nancy Jean Steffen, Stuart Bradford, and Lorna Cheriton.)

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### Bennington Section Officers and Helpers

Martha Stitelman, President  
Stuart Bradford, Vice President  
Hamilton Topping, Trails and Shelters  
NJ Steffen, Membership/Treasurer  
Bill Lyons, GMC Treasurer  
and our voice in GMC HQ  
Tim Marr, Outings Coordinator  
Jonah Spivak, Website development  
Shelly Stiles, Newsletter

442-0864; mstitel@sover.net  
447-7065  
447-1383; chertop@verizon.net  
802-442-4795; grev@sover.net  
blyonsvt@verizon.net  
442-3469 or hauptmarr@comcast.net.  
jonah@sover.net  
518 686-5868; bccd@sover.net