

Stark Mountain News



A periodic newsletter of the Stark Mountain Foundation, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 2

From the President's Desk

SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 STARK MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA AND AUCTION

The Stark Mountain Foundation will celebrate its 10th Anniversary on Sunday, February 14 at 6:30 pm with an encore of its ever-popular Gala and Auction. To go along with this year's Valentine's Day theme, the evening will feature the music of Montpelier's Rusty Romance as well as fabulous food and famous Mad River conviviality. Bring your date, mate or just yourself and plan on having a fantastic time!

A featured item in the Live Auction will be the LAST 14k gold Single Chair Pendant! Other auction items will include Mad River memorabilia, jewelry, crafts, dinners, gear and many exceptional "one-of-a kind

experiences".

In the past, this event has raised as much as \$20,000 to make it possible for the Foundation to continue its mission to "Preserve and Protect" Stark Mountain. We look forward to another successful event this year!

For further information, visit www.starkmountain.org. If you would like to volunteer or make a donation to the auction, please contact the Foundation at starkmt@aol.com or call Penny Parson at 802-496-8922. Tickets to the Gala (\$30 each) can be purchased through SMF Board members, the Mad River ticket office and online (with \$1.50 processing fee) through the SMF site or the Gala site (<http://starkmtngala.wordpress.com/>).

Inside this issue:

<i>Who was General Stark?</i>	2
<i>Cost-free ways to donate!</i>	2
<i>Hill Climb</i>	3
<i>Giving to SMF</i>	3
<i>Preserving the Long Trail</i>	3

Kent Thomas Nature Center Receives a Facelift and More...

The *KTNC* is located on the *Easy Way* trail at the base of Mad River Glen's *Slalom Hill*, and is a popular stop for hikers, snowshoe folks, and skiers. The SMF receives support from *The Tauck Foundation of Tauck Tours* for maintenance, displays and programs. This summer, the SMF had a new, insulated floor installed



which will make the hut more comfortable on cold winter days.

The SMF also provided funding for several new animal mounts. Stop in and check out the new Porcupine, Red Fox, Barred Owl, and Raccoon. The SMF holds several open houses at the *KTNC* each year where you can speak to a Naturalist and meet several of the SMF Directors. Tours and nature hikes are available for your groups through the



Naturalist Program at MRG. Contact sean@madriverglen.com 802-496-3551.



Moose on the mountain!

So Who was General Stark?

John Stark's family lived in NH, where he was raised as a true frontiersman.

As a boy, Stark was captured, then adopted by Abenaki Indians from St. Francis.

He joined Roger's Rangers during the French and Indian War, rose to second in command, but refused to join in the infamous raid on St. Francis, and returned home instead. The Rangers later annihilated the Indians of St. Francis.

Legend has it that when word of the skirmish at Lexington and Concord reached Manchester, John Stark donned his uniform, saddled his horse and was on his way to Boston within ten minutes, leaving instructions for his neighbors to join him at Medford, Massachusetts where twelve hundred New Hampshire men joined him.

Stark led the NH Militia during the Battle for Bunker Hill, and successfully fought off a very strong British attack of the left flank, along the beach, resulting in 70% casualties for the British who were forced to retreat, turning the tide of that battle.

Stark refused to send his troops to winter at Valley Forge, and sent them all home instead. However, Stark himself crossed the Delaware with Washington, resulting in

the successful attacks on Trenton, and later Princeton. He soon resigned from the Army to protest being passed over for promotion by several officers who were less successful, but who were from "proper" families.

When requested to rejoin the War by General Lincoln, one of the "proper" generals, Stark informed him that he served New Hampshire and not Congress and refused. However, Stark proceeded to lead the 1750 man VT-NH Militia against Burgoyne at the Battle of Bennington. The Militia effectively halted the 10,000 man British invasion from the North, inflicting over 1000 casualties including captured soldiers (vs. 70 for the Militia).

General Stark moved his force to Fort Edward, thereby blocking any attempt by Burgoyne to retreat to Fort Ticonderoga and safety. As a result, Burgoyne was forced to surrender on October 17th, 1777.

General Stark remained active for the rest of the war. Congress had finally recognized his services and promoted him to Major General on September 30th, 1783. He

resigned on November 3rd, 1783, when the war was officially over.

After the War he retired to his Manchester home and private life, living to age 94. He was the last surviving Revolutionary War general.

Despite being uneducated, Stark did have a way with words, and he is renowned for his many picturesque phrases: "Dearborn, one fresh man in action is worth ten fatigued ones." "There they are, men! We'll beat them before night or Molly Stark's a widow." Perhaps his most famous phrase is one that became the motto of the state of New Hampshire that he coined in 1809: "Live free or die- Death is not the worst of evils." A fitting epitaph, perhaps, to the man who may have made it all possible for so many people to do just that.



Our General Stark Mountain was sometime later named after him. The next mountain to the north is named after his wife, Molly, and the knob in between is named Baby Stark. John and Molly had 11 children.

Two good links for the complete story:

<http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/stark.html>

<http://improbable.org/era/stark/stark.html#5>

Give 'til it (doesn't) Hurt!

Here are two easy ways to donate to SMF that cost you nothing...

Shaw's Free Community Rewards Program Supports SMF.

Do you shop at Shaw's or Star Market? If so, please join their Community Rewards program - it's free, and it's a great way for you to support our Foundation. Here's how it works. All you need to do is link your Shaw's or Star Market card to the Stark Mountain Foundation, and Shaw's will donate 1% of your eligible purchases made on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays to the SMF. No cost to you, yet the SMF gets your support! Just go to www.shaws.com/

[communityrewards](#) and register your Shaw's card using the SMF Organization ID which is: 49001022492. You will need your Shaw's card number and your phone number to logon securely. Please join now while it's on your mind.

Do You Search the Web? Make it Pay Off for the SMF!

Most of us use Yahoo, Google, or Bing many times a day as we search the Web, but have you heard of "Goodsearch"? If you add "Goodsearch" as your search engine and designate the SMF as your Charity, the SMF will get paid every time you search the Web, and quite often each time you make a purchase. Goodsearch is powered by

Yahoo, and has been featured on ABC News. Give it a try right now, and the SMF will start receiving benefits immediately. Just go to www.goodsearch.com and sign us up. Search for Stark Mountain Foundation, and then click on the option to download the Goodsearch Toolbar. If you don't want another Toolbar, you can turn it off in your browser and just add Goodsearch to your list of search providers, and hopefully make it your default provider. Goodsearch also has more than 1000 preferred shopping sites such as Amazon, Overstock and ebay. If you link to these sites from Goodsearch, up to 30% of your purchases may be donated to the SMF. It also lists any available coupon codes.

Bob Rogers

11th Annual Stark Mountain Hill Climb Another Success! 10/3/2009

Despite a drizzly soggy race day, 33 hardy souls completed the rugged ascent to the top of Stark Mountain in the 11th running of the Stark Mountain Foundation's Stark Mountain Hill Climb. This year's proceeds benefitted the Green Mountain Club towards SMF's endowment towards maintenance and repair of sections of the Long Trail located on Stark Mountain. Neither defending champion appeared and the course record was up for grabs given that Dave Dunham was sidelined with an injury. His training buddy Eric Morse of Berlin, Vermont was there to try and



upset Dunham's record but with the slippery conditions it was not to be.

Morse did finish first in a time of 25:28. Dunham's record set in 2007 is 23:51. The first woman finisher was Kelly Steadman of

Waitsfield, Vermont in 30:58, just 49 seconds off the woman's course record held by Harriott Shea of East Montpelier. The wet and slippery conditions were not favorable to fast times, nor was the dense fog that had settled in over the top of the mountain cutting out all visibility. Mad River Glen's public relations director Eric Friedman of Fayston took first place in the master's division in 34:47 while first senior was Mad River's Brian Holtan of Waitsfield in 31:48. Rounding out the top women were Georgina Milligan (31:45) of Middlebury, Audrey Huffman (33:31) of Waitsfield, Tara Geraghty-Moats (37:37) and Betsy Geraghty (38:28) of Fairlee, and Kate Williams (40:28) of Waitsfield. Tara Geraghty-Moats finished first junior woman while her Mom Betsy Geraghty scored first senior woman. Dick Burt of Charlestown, Mass finished first in the over 60 veteran category and was the oldest finisher.

The next day, Sunday, October 4, 2009, eight of these hardy souls cycled the annual Allen Clark Memorial (Bike) Hill Climb to the top of Appalachian Gap thereby completing the annual Green n Gold Hill Climb Duathlon. The top duathlete was Clayton Jones (31) from Hanover, New Hampshire in a combined

time of 60:51.25 with Peter Wadsworth (30) from Winooski finishing second in 66:36.30. First local finisher was Marc Hammond (43) of Waitsfield in 73:44.90, followed by top senior John Himmelsbach (51) of Waitsfield in 74:25.09, Myles Webster (36) of Norwich in 76:22.14, Chris Cote (46) of Duxbury in 76:26.42, and George Gonnella (50) of Pepperell, Massachusetts in a time of 77:11.15. No women competed in the duathlon this year but a new Junior champion emerged. Marcus Russ (14) of Westport, Connecticut completed the run in the top ten overall and then the shortened Junior bike course in a combined time of 55:51. The duathlon course records set in 2006 are held by Thorin Markinson (53:25) and Sara Walker (68:43).

Complete run results can be found on the SMF website, www.starkmountain.org

Complete results for the Allen Clark Memorial (Bike) Hill Climb are at www.achillclimb.org

A special thanks to our sponsors, Mad River Glen Cooperative, Onion River Sports of Montpelier, Canus Goats Milk, Green Mountain Roasters and Small Dog Electronics of Waitsfield.

Preserving the Long Trail

Years ago, the Mad River Cooperative granted a trail easement to the Green Mountain Club where the Long Trail passes over Co-op property from the App Gap to the Antelope. The Stark Mountain Foundation has pledged to raise funds for maintenance of

this length of the Long Trail on Stark Mountain, for present work as well as for an endowment for future needs.

The ongoing projects include significant trail work on the Stark's Wall with replacement of the rotten wooden ladders

with steel rungs which will blend into existing rock and are guaranteed to last a lifetime. New puncheons will be installed in the muddy areas higher up.

The Stark Mountain Foundation, Inc., has partnered with the Green Mountain Club to preserve this section of the Long Trail. The two charitable corporations share a natural and symbiotic relationship in their initiatives to preserve the forests and ecosystem of Stark Mountain while providing recreational access and preserving the area's unique character.

Giving to the Stark Mountain Foundation Inc.

To make a charitable, tax-deductible donation to the Stark Mountain Foundation:

- Visit our website for secure on-line giving, www.starkmountain.org
- Send a check payable to Stark Mountain Foundation, Inc. to PO Box 1221, Waitsfield, VT, 05673.
- Contact our treasurer, Ken Frey, for information about gifts of stock, kfrey@madriver.com.

In all cases, you can specify a particular project you'd like to give to, otherwise we will allocate unrestricted donations to our most needy and time-sensitive programs.

Volunteer work crews are always welcome. For more information visit the GMC web site at www.greenmountainclub.org, You can contribute to this project by designating your donation at www.starkmountain.org.

Stark Mountain Foundation, Inc.



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Help Wanted - Put the SMF on your Resumé

Volunteerism is alive and well, but sometimes hard to find, and the Foundation depends on volunteers to execute its mission and programs. The SMF needs up to four persons to become new members of its Board of Directors this year. If you think you can offer a few hours of your time each week to help preserve the environment and recreational potential of Stark Mountain and its environs, please contact us at 802-496-8922, or starkmt@aol.com, or speak with any of our Officers and Directors.

Besides looking good on your resumé, you'll have an opportunity to meet members of the local community, work with some of our partners, such as The Mad River Glen Cooperative and the Green Mountain Club, help decide where our programs and funding should be best applied, and participate in our community activities. The Foundation has many programs it wishes to address - the only thing missing is a few more people willing to help execute our mission. New people bring new ideas, and the SMF wants both.

Full Disclosure - Check out our Tax returns

Public charities are required to make their tax returns available to the public. SMF tax returns are available for viewing on our web site, and we encourage you to check them out. Why are we saying this? It's because we are proud of the fact that such a large percentage of your generous donations are put to work on our programs. We have no paid employees or board members, very little overhead, and minimal administrative expenses. Our latest tax return, which will be filed and available for viewing on February 15th for our tax year ending September 30, 2009, shows that our expenses last year were only a little over 2% of our revenue. We're proud of our low expense ratios, and you should be also, knowing that your generous donations are put to work as efficiently as possible. For those of you who are familiar with "Charity Navigator" and other services that rate how well public charities are doing - we are too small to be included in their ratings. That's why we encourage you to check out our tax returns.

Opt-In/Out

The SMF respects your privacy and will not release your e-mail address to third parties. It will only send correspondence a few times a year. If you are not yet receiving e-mail delivery and wish to join and eliminate hardcopy mailings, please click on the following link: [Sign up for electronic delivery](#). Please feel free to add additional family members by adding their names and e-mail addresses in the body of the note. If you do not wish to receive e-mail correspondence from the

The Stark Mountain Foundation
presents their
10th Anniversary
Valentine's
Gala
Sunday, February 14, 2010
6:30pm to 10:30pm at Mad River Glen
Dinner from American Fluffbeard
& Dancing featuring live music from Rusky Romanec
Live & Silent Auctions
Tickets \$30 Available Online or in the MRG office
for more information:    
www.starkmtgala.wordpress.com

Stark Mountain Day February 20, 2010

SMF will celebrate Stark Mountain Day on February 20. Please join us for free hot chocolate and cookies in the Kent Thomas Nature Center from 10:30 until noon, and/or ride the historic Single Chair to the summit of Stark Mountain where we will be dedicating the new Stark's Nest Vista Board at 1 pm. This board, which was designed by Jeannie Sargent, identifies significant features of the landscape from Camel's Hump to Mt. Mooselauke and east to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Sean Lawson, Director of MRG's Naturalist Program was the driving force behind both

vista boards; the Foundation can't thank him enough for his encouragement and assistance. Read the latest news on our Stark's Nest bulletin board and stop by our temporary display in the Basebox.