

FLEA CALLER

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness we report the passing on Aug. 2nd of Peter "Pete" Ramsdell, our Club Historian, husband of our Club Treasurer, Dot Ramsdell, and a VAST Trailblazer.



A long time CT educator, Pete brought his many talents to the Club, volunteering for over 25 years. He began as part of the trail clean-up crew purchasing his own brush hog to use on the trails. Teaming up with his long-time friend, John Bellino, he soon graduated to trail signage. At some point he and Dot turned their talents to the Cook Shack becoming one of several couples who took turns cooking and serving food on the weekends. Joining forces with their friends, the Bellinos, Pete and Dot helped the Club enter the Technology Age when they worked with a web designer to create our first website. They supplied photos and ideas, as well as writing the copy - most of which is still on the site. Pete's website claim to fame is the validation of the existence of the 'snow flea', locating a photo and the scientific description of the bug. An easy job for Pete. He was a science teacher before retiring! Check our website to see where our name came from.

An accomplished woodworker, Pete donated many of his beautiful pieces to the Club to use in our fundraising efforts. Last year he created a wooden gavel and stand for the Club President's use to get people's attention during meetings. For the past seven years Pete has served as the Club Historian, helping with trail locations, sharing history on the Club's past, and identifying the correct names for some of the more historic places on the trails - including Karen Marini's favorite 'Shit House Corners'. His wit and wisdom will be greatly missed!

Pete is survived by Dot, their three sons, and six grandchildren. A future newsletter will contain information on the Club's plans to honor Pete's memory.

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OPEN OFFICER POSITION

With Pete's passing, Dot has indicated this will be her last year as Treasurer. We are looking for an individual to work with Dot this season and then take over the position for next season. The individual is responsible for keeping the Club's financial records - checking, etc. and reporting the information at Club meetings. This position is eligible for a Volunteer TMA.

We want to see the Club continue to grow. To do that, we need new people with new ideas to become involved. Please contact Joe Marini for more details on this position.

VT Snowmobile Registration Renewals were mailed earlier this month. If you have not received yours, check online at VT DMV. VAST TMA pricing is based on where the snowmobile is registered - not where the owner lives.

VAST PHOTO CONTEST

Entries for the annual VAST Photo Contest are due in the VAST office by Sept. 1st. The top 6 photos will be featured in the VAST magazine during the season. The winner of the Best Photo Award will receive a 2021 TMA and the photo will be featured on the cover of the Fall issue of the magazine. More information and the submission form can be found on the VAST website.

VAST ANNUAL MEETING

This year's VAST Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held on Sat., Sept. 12th at Farr's Field in Waterbury. Masks and social distancing will be required. Attendees over the 150 person limit can remain in their cars and listen to the meeting on their car radio. A bagged lunch and drinks will be provided. There is a possibility that this may end up as a virtual meeting.

Updates and more info on the meeting can be found on the VAST website.

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ARE YOU READY FOR FALL?

Cooler weather will be here before we know it! The Club has sweatshirts and adult long sleeve t-shirts in stock, with micro-fleece ½-zip pullover shirts, fleece vests, and fleece full-zip jackets available by order.



The Crew Neck Sweatshirts are Gildan Heavy Blend (50% cotton/50% polyester). Sizes S-XL are \$28; 2X & 3X are \$30.



The long sleeve t-shirts are Gildan Ultra Cotton (90% cotton/10% polyester) with 'Snow Fleas' down the sleeve and the same back graphic as the sweatshirt. Sizes M-XL are \$26; 2X & 3X are \$28.



We will be sending an order for fleece to our supplier in mid-September for delivery in early October. The fleece order form can be found on our website.

Club clothing makes great holiday gifts!

Contact Karen Marini with questions. Shipping is available. Proceeds from the sale of all clothing go to our barn building fund.

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Normally we would begin our monthly Club meetings next month. Like everyone else, our plans are up in the air for meetings and trail clean-up work due to COVID.

We are exploring several options for our monthly meetings, including the possibility of virtual meetings. Virtual meetings would also allow more members to 'join in' with ideas and suggestions.

Thankfully we do not have any bridge repairs at this point. Trail clean-up will be easier to adhere to Vermont's mask and social distancing guidelines. We are tentatively looking at September and October work dates. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and on our Facebook page.

