

The Subsig Trips Director Bulletin

2023-4Q

The objective of Subsig is to encourage and to help all, especially young people, and those of limited means to a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, to develop their self-reliance and independence, and to promote their physical health and education by spending more time in the open air through participation in skiing, snowshoeing hiking, canoeing, camping, bicycling, mountaineering and allied activities.

MESSAGE FROM THE TRIPS DIRECTOR

Many SSOC members are also active in other outdoor organizations such as AMC, RMC, WODC, and social media groups. So what makes SSOC unique from these other organizations? You decide for yourself, but here's what some others from the past and present share.

Members embrace the thrift and convenience of using the SSOC cabin. The cabin is the reason that many members join SSOC.

Members embrace the objective and values of the SSOC. The contributions from generations of volunteers created the SSOC, acquired property, and built a cabin so that everyone can access the region to pursue outdoor activities, especially those with limited means.

The cabin can be described as “glamping”. Most members find it to be a warm, comfortable, and relaxed place to “base camp” for day trips and backpacking. It has electricity, gas cooking, heat, a furnished common area with a fireplace, a dining area, and fully equipped kitchen.

Trips are run on a pleasantly informal level. SSOC relies on members to use their best judgement. No one is told to do tasks. Rarely is someone not pitching in. The best guide is the feeling at the end of a trip that you did your fair share, or perhaps even a little more.

Each trip is a unique experience. Trip leaders have a lot of freedom to coordinate their own activities. Members are welcome to join or do their own thing.

Not everything that makes SSOC unique has appeal to everyone. Sleeping is upstairs dormitory-style in your own sleeping bag or bedding on club mattresses. The cabin has no running water, internet, or cell service. While clean, lighted, and warm, outhouses are outhouses.

SSOC is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteer members that operates solely for members and by members. Along with that come some challenges and trade-offs. Volunteering requires a big investment of time. Members of diverse backgrounds and viewpoints must come to an agreement on how to operate and sustain the SSOC.

The SSOC has overcome these challenges and others for more 70+ years because of members like yourself. To all, happy and safe holidays. Hope to see you at the cabin at some point.

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SPECIAL NOTICES

Everyone:

You can expect snow and icy condition around the cabin. You will likely have to clear paths between the parking area, the cabin, and the outhouse. Consider having a shovel and sand/ice melt in the trunk. No precautions can completely prevent people from spreading, contracting, or transmitting contagious diseases. Please don't go to the cabin if you feel unwell or have a contagious disease that can spread to others in a group setting. Contact the trip leader with questions, comments, or concerns.

SSOC activities are inherently dangerous. Know the risks of the activities before participating. The weather and conditions at the cabin and in the region are notoriously unpredictable and can be dangerous. In remote regions with limited or no cell service, slips and falls, vehicle crashes, injuries, frostbite, hypo/hyperthermia, are serious and ever-present risks. Contact the trip leader for questions, concerns, or suggestions.

The club's purpose is to encourage and help you develop your self-reliance and independence. SSOC trip leaders and event coordinators can help participants, but you must assume responsibility for your own safety and be self-reliant for any activities in which you participate.

Participating in SSOC activities promotes education and develops skills, but you are responsible for having the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in SSOC activities. SSOC does not offer formal educational programs, certified instructors, or guided activities. SSOC does not train nor certify trip leaders as instructors, hike leaders, or guides. SSOC partner organizations can offer this and use the cabin as a base camp. If you have not hiked or skied the Whites in the winter, please consider them. Contact the Trips Director for more information.

Hikers/Back Country/Ice climbers:

Leave a hike plan with the cabin host, especially if you are going solo. Consider or renew a hike/safe card. They expire 12/31/2023.

Trip Leaders:

Have a reaction plan. Know what to do if someone gets injured. Know what to do if someone doesn't come back or check in within a couple hours after sunset. Make sure participants can get back into the cabin when you are not around. Contact the Trips Director with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

The cabin can take a couple hours to warm up. And don't forget to flip the heating switch before going home.

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SUMMARY OF TRIP LISTINGS (AS OF DECEMBER 10, 2023)


The trip listings calendar for the winter hiking season is starting to fill up. SSOC. We'll try to find a Trip Leader/Cabin Host (or help you become one) if you are interested in a weekend that is not currently posted. Contact the Trips Director through bod.member@subsig.org.

Please go to trip listings page of www.subsig.org for the latest postings. Contact the cabin host(s) for questions and to register. Contact the Trips Director for concerns and complaints.

Date(1)	Theme/Title	Cabin Host(s)
Dec 15 – 17, 2023	Volunteer Audubon Bird Count Weekend	Brian Glenn brianjglenn@gmail.com
Dec 22 – 24, 2023	Winter Hiking Season begins.	Dave Rozene djrozene@gmail.com 508- 736- 7001
Dec 29, 2023 – Jan 1, 2024	New Year's weekend at the cabin	Denise Bouchard and Girish Rao Denisegirish@yahoo.com 978- 470- 0243
Jan 5 – 7, 2024		No one yet
Jan 12 – 13, 2024	MLK Weekend Winter Hiking AMC Winter Hiking Program will share the cabin	Keith Watling kwatling@verizon.net 508- 330- 8295
Jan 19 – 21, 2024		No one yet
Jan 26 – 28, 2024	Mark Levine Memorial Weekend	Nancy Neyhard neyhard_@verizon.net 617- 547- 2799
Feb 2 – 5, 2024		No one yet
Feb 9 – 11, 2024	Winter Hiking AMC Winter Hiking Program will share the cabin	Keith Watling kwatling@verizon.net 508- 330- 8295
Feb 16 – 19, 2024 President's Weekend		No one yet
Feb 23 – 25, 2024	Winter Hiking	Kathleen Barrett kathleen.barrett.314@gmail.com , or Samia Hesni samhesni@gmail.com
Mar 1 – 3, 2024		No one yet

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Date(1)	Theme/Title	Cabin Host(s)
Mar 8 – 10, 2024  DST Begins	Winter Hiking AMC Winter Hiking Program will share the cabin.	Keith Watling kwatling @verizon .net 508- 330- 8295
Mar 15 – 17, 2024	Last Weekend of Winter Hiking Season	No one yet

- (1) All club members are welcome to register for any trip if space is available.
- (2) Participants are welcome to do their own thing or join other club members. Note: AMC led hikes will require additional registration through AMC.
- (3) Please register with the trip leader no later than the Wednesday prior to the trip.

ACCOLADES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bob Asch, Past President

The SSOC Past-President Bob Asch continues to lead by example.

With the support of his delightful wife Kathy, another SSOC member, Bob has devoted many years to leading trips, supporting trip leaders, welcoming new members, participating in SSOC events, and guiding a volunteer organization to achieve its objective. His wry sense of humor makes slogs up steep pitches a delight. He is a 4-season AMC hike leader. He has hiked the 48 4k's a couple of times. The photos are from the last year and include a Jul 4th hike up to Crag camp, a hike up Mt. Washington to support the Observatory's 23rd Seek the Peak annual event, a hike with other SSOC members to Zealand, and when Bob safely guided a fellow club member up Moosilauke to finish their 4K list.



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Chris Curtiss

Chris spent several years collecting and organizing the Club History for the benefit of all members. It was a ton of work. Her passion for the purpose and value of the SSOC shows.

For the cabin history here's the link.

<https://www.subsig.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/History.htm>

Brian Glenn

Brian hiked Mt. Cannon Sunday, July 2, 2023, to become #154 to complete the Grid! That's a significant accomplishment. The Grid is hiking the 48 4K's every month of the year. Brian is an

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experienced all-season hiker and rock climber. He also safely guided a fellow club member up their first winter 4k. Congratulations Brian!

For aspiring gridders, here's the link: <http://48x12.com/home.shtml>.

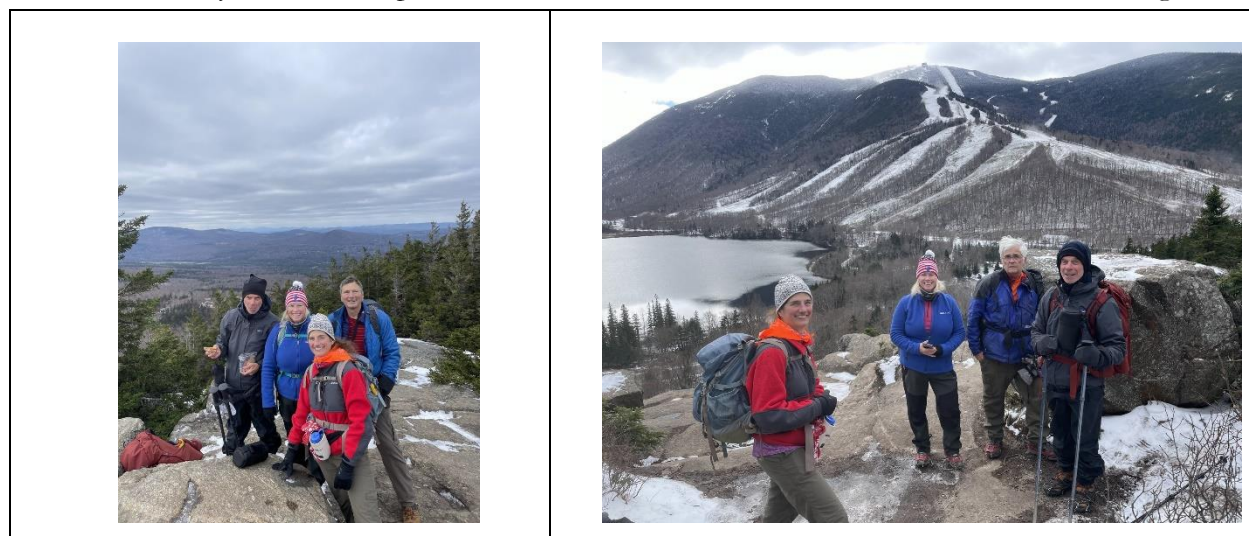
SOME NEWS FROM PAST TRIPS

Trip leaders:

If you or participants want to include news from past trips, please send in a write-up to the Trips Director (until further notice). You can include .jpeg photos. Just make sure the participants are ok with that.

Nov 10 – 12, 2023, Veteran's Day Weekend

Dave Rozene hiked North Kearsarge with the New England Over 50 Hiking Group on Saturday. Who did he meet at the top? Kathy Dingman and Jean Curley! Dave Roy did some trail maintenance and Brian Witkoff did a day hike. Everyone rendezvous'd for dinner (world-famous chicken stew) in the cabin. Sunday we all went up Mt. Crawford, then back over to Artist's Bluff before heading home.



Oct 27 – 29, 2023, Ad Hoc Trip to introduce to New Members to the cabin.

Denise Bouchard and Girish Rao put together a last-minute trip for the purpose of introducing a couple new members to Sub Sig and who wanted to explore the area. Welcome Rebecca and Lisa!

It was a great day to hike Mt. Crawford. Denise, Girish, Rebecca, and Lisa enjoyed a beautiful light show as the clouds began to overtake the sky. After hiking Mt. Isolation on Friday, Amy also stayed the weekend at the cabin. She hiked Wildcat on Saturday to complete a couple more of the 48 4k's.

Everyone got to do their own thing and enjoyed each other's company in the evenings. The conversations included fun topics limited only by imagination. Denise and Girish were able to muster up delicious dinners and breakfasts for everyone.

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Oct 20 – 22, 2023 People – Mountains – Food

This was Krishna Ganne's first trip as a leader! His adventures follow the theme people, mountains, and food. The weekend was stormy and rainy, but Krishna and Ben Cantrell showed true grit. Ben spent the day in the woods and earned his Redline Guiding Wilderness Navigation Certificate. Congratulations Ben! Krishna hiked Mt. Crawford. After having some tea in gale winds and freezing rain, he made the prudent decision to descend rather than continue onto Mt. Resolution and Mt. Stairs. If you have never tried one of Krishna's meals at the cabin or while hiking, you are missing a special treat!

SSOC sincerely apologizes to Ben and Krishna for not providing the current lock box key code. SSOC appreciates the way they handled the situation. The advisory council will address this issue to avoid a recurrence.

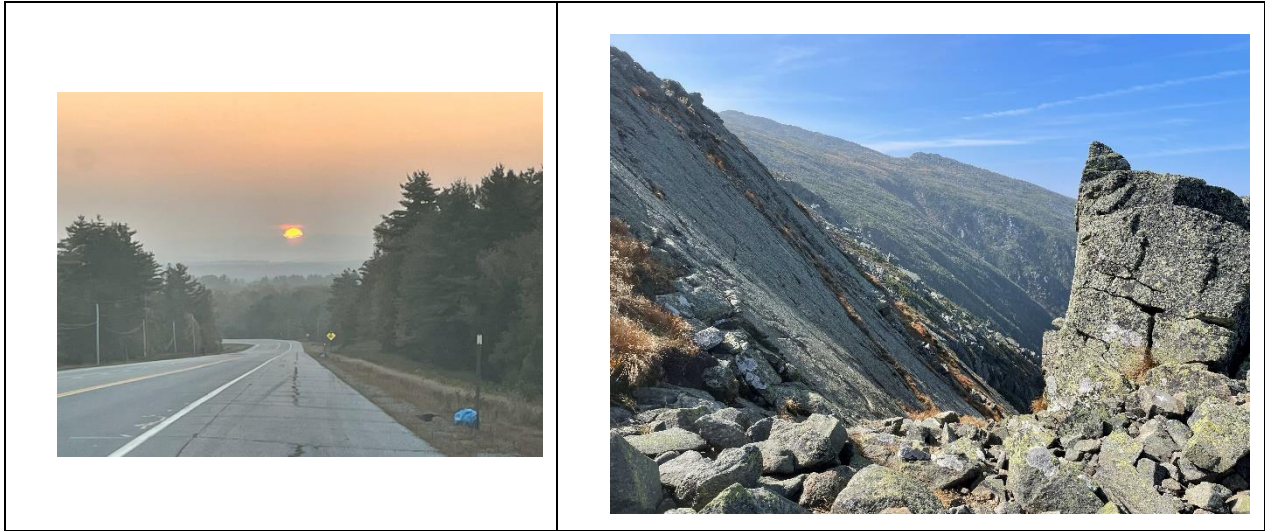


Sep 29 – Nov 1, 2023

On Saturday, Wendy coordinated a 3k hike with glorious view. Dave solo-hiked Mt. Adams via King Ravine. Wendy's homemade apple pie rivaled Keith Watlings famous carrot cake. One of the photos that was taken at sunset shows the haze generated from Canadian forest fires. The other is a view down the gully of the Ravine.

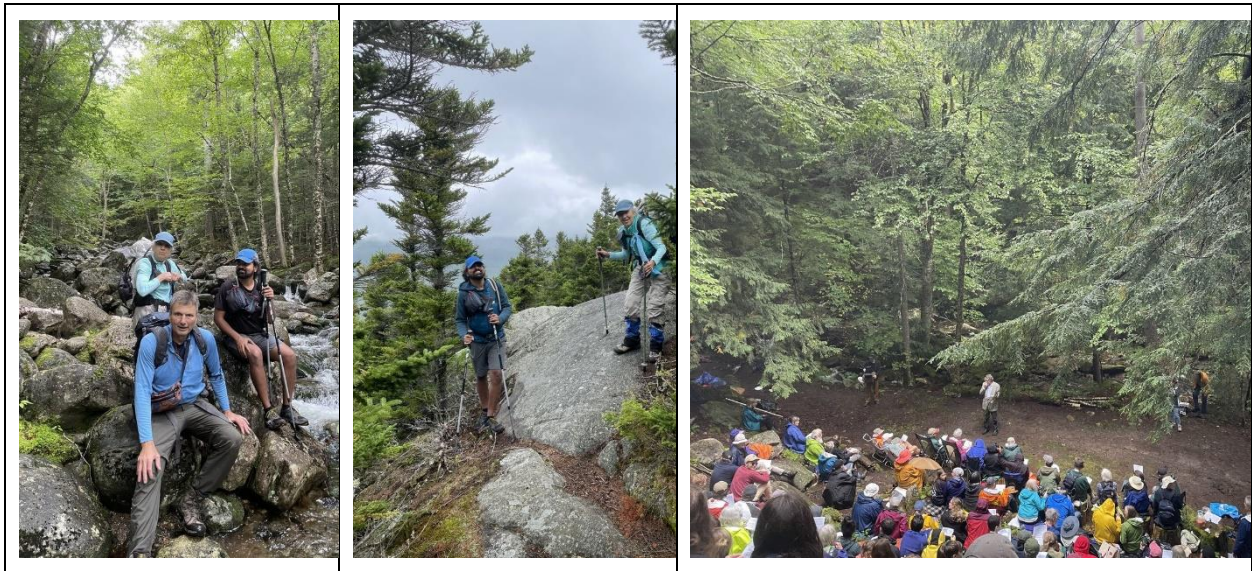
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Aug 18 – 20, Summer Fun in the Outdoors

Catherine, the two Dave's, and Krishna hiked the Catherine Cantrell Dome Rock Loop Trail, a Sub Sig Special. Afterwards, Dave Rozene and Krishna stopped by the RMC annual picnic to join in the signing and festivities. Some locals showed Krishna and Dave a wonderful place to swim at Lake Durand.



Jul 21, 2023, Pawtuckaway State Park (day trip)

Dave Roy, Bob Asch, Tari, Jack, and Dave Rozene spent the day exploring the park and enjoying each other's company. The park has it all, including great views, cliffs, giant boulders, North and South peaks, hummingbirds, wild mushrooms and 2 great ponds. Tari picked some wild mushrooms and

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brought them over to Diane Levine's home where they cooked them up. Dave Rozene headed up to the cabin for the night and hiked Chocorua with a meetup group.



Jul 2 – 4, 2023. SSOC Work Weekend at the Cabin

Steve and Marylin Hayes, Brandon Brown, Krishna Ganne, Bob Asch, Dave Roy, and Dave Rozene. Classic work trips include typical cleanup, yard work, general maintenance, and a larger project. The cabin fees are waived. The work trip leaders (Steve and Marylin) provide meals. When work is done, we go swimming or hiking. One participant headed up to Crag Camp for the night.

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SSOC Trips Advisory Council

The trips committee is now an advisory council. The original agendas focused on the role of the Trips Director, but quickly engaged other roles and member concerns. The council will adapt agendas to meet the needs of SSOC and its members. The seven participants represent a cross section of members. They are volunteering lot of time and making remarkable progress.

The first round on the topic of Trip Rules and Guidelines is done for now. The team is currently addressing a communication plan for SSOC.

Other topics that have arisen and may be addressed as time and resources permit include:

- What members should know about the cabin.
- What members should know about SSOC.
- Trip Leader's Development plan and handbook

If you are interested in participating in the discussions on any of the topics, please contact the trips director.

Lost and Found

The following items were at the cabin. If it's yours, please contact the Trips Director. If you lose or find something on the trails, try checking on the Facebook Group "Lost and Found in the White Mountains NH".

