

Mountain View



A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation.



Top left: Andy and Judie Cross in Randolph's Sesquicentennial Parade of 1974; Top right: A photo of charades past - from left to right, Bunny, Guy Sr., and Guy Jr in their elaborate costumes - Photo provided by the Stever family; Center: Circle Dancers from the RMC; Bottom: Three Blooms by Carol Ryder Horton

Articles, poems, notices, inquiries, and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Send materials for the **Mountain View** to Lucy Sandin, lucy.sandin@gmail.com (207)831-7127, by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Publication is quarterly: September, December, April, and June. **The Blizzard** is published the first of each month, with the exception of July and August. Send winter event notices to Linda Dupont, linda.dupont90@yahoo.com by the 20th of the preceding month. **The Randolph Weekly** is published in July and August only.

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Lucy Sandin, Editor and Design; Jennifer DeMarco, Mailing List

Mountain View Publications, Randolph Foundation, PO Box 283 Gorham N.H. 03518

AMBULANCE	911	LIBRARY Librarian, Yvonne Jenkins	(603)466-5408
FIRE DEPARTMENT Chief, Dana Horne	911	Mon. & Weds. 1-6pm; Sat. 9am to 1pm	
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN Co-Chairs, Michele Cormier and Paul Jadis;		Rowan Meets 7pm 1st Thurs. at Town Hall	selectmen@randolph.nh.gov
Selectman Rick Fournier	(603)466-5771	RANDOLPH CHURCH Sunday services July & August, 10:30am. Moderator,	(603)723-0847
Assistant, Linda Dupont		John Weatherly	info@randolphchurchnh.org
Meets 7pm 2nd & 4th Mon., Town Hall		RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST	
BUILDING PERMITS See Board of Selectmen	(603)466-5771	Meets 7pm 1st Weds.,	(603)466-5771
CEMETERY TRUSTEES	(603)466-5771	Town Hall	info@randolphforest.org
CONSERVATION COMMISSION		RANDOLPH FOUNDATION President,	
Chair, Gary Newfield		Redza Dempster	redza@rfnh.org
DOG LICENSES Obtain/Renew end April, Town Clerk	(603)466-5771	RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB	
GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD SAU 20 Meets 6:30pm 3rd Tues., Location Varies	(603)466-3632	President, John Phinney	president@randolphmountainclub.org
		ROAD AGENT Paul Kenison	
		TAX COLLECTOR Anne Kenison, by appointment.	(603)466-5771
		TOWN CLERK Anne Kenison	(603)466-5771
		Mon. 9-11am, Weds. 7-9pm	(603)466-5771

John Scarinza Memorial Blood Drive

Donate Blood In Memory of LT. John Scarinza

The NH State Police Troop F is honored to collaborate with the Community and the American Red Cross to Honor the life and sacrifice of Retired State Police Lieutenant John Scarinza with a memorial blood drive. LT Scarinza lost his life way too young after succumbing to cancer on April 22, 2023. During his courageous battle with Multiple Myeloma. LT Scarinza was a recipient of a great deal of donated blood. We look forward to the support of all of you to come and donate blood in his memory to help save lives like the donors of the blood that helped to extend LT Scarinza's life.



Sponsored by the NH State Police Troop F - the First John Scarinza Memorial blood drive took place at the Town & Country Inn on Monday, April 15th 2024. The event was a success and a lovely tribute.

Celebration 2024 - It's Here!

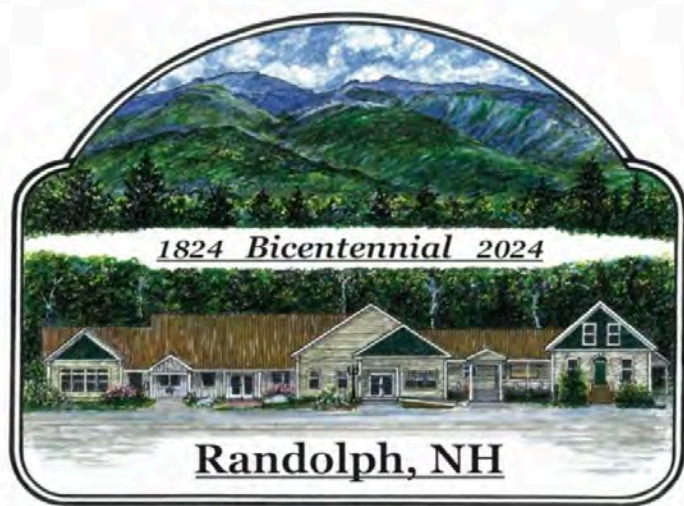
From the Bicentennial Chairs

personalize wooden hiker signs which will then be displayed at the Ravine House Site.

The August 2nd – 4th Celebration Weekend will include community dinners, music, a parade, games and activities, dancing, a tennis tournament, a Durand Lake 60th birthday party, various presentations, a church concert, and a 50/50 raffle.

There will be fabulous Bicentennial items for all! For sale will be a commemorative medal, the hiker signs, and Bicentennial hats and shirts. Steve Teczar's beautiful logo will be available in two formats, and there are still magnets, golf shirts, and calendars for sale.

With great anticipation,
Sarah Gallop and Guy Stever (Bicentennial co-chairs)
Sas Mather (Bicentennial weekend chair)



After three years of planning, it's finally here — Celebration 2024 — Randolph's 200th birthday! The actual date of the birthday is June 16th, as that is the day that Randolph's Charter was signed and the town was incorporated. In fact, the Friends of the Randolph Public Library are hosting an Incorporation Day event at Town Hall on 6/16/24.

By now all of you should have received your Bicentennial calendar and many of you are beginning to pick up your free copy (one per house) of Judy Hudson's Randolph, NH Celebrates 200 Years which continues the history begun by George Cross and added to by Mary Edgerly for the Sesquicentennial in 1974.

The Celebration Committee extends its profound thanks to the Town of Randolph and The Randolph Foundation for generously sponsoring the Bicentennial festivities. There will be events beginning this spring and extending through August with a Celebration Weekend on August 2nd – 4th. Over 100 wonderful volunteers are involved in bringing all of this to you. We hope to see you at many of the activities!

We have created a Randolph NH 2024 Bicentennial Facebook page that you can look up and follow to learn more about the details of the Celebration. That page will serve as a central information source for the 2024 celebration, along with the Mountain View, the Randolph Weekly, and <https://www.randolphevents.org/>. Questions about the Bicentennial can also be directed to randolphat200@gmail.com.

During May – August 2024, Bicentennial events will include a Woodspringstock concert over the Memorial Day Weekend, the Incorporation Day event, three bicentennial exhibit days, community quilt displays, a Bicentennial film, and a return of the Rendezvous. Other features will be a Bicentennial postmark, the presentation of a LIDAR project, and a competition for households to

Celebration Weekend Dinners

Tickets for the two Celebration Weekend dinners must be purchased by July 12th so we can give the caterers a count — tickets will not be available after that date or at the door. The August 2nd dinner is being provided by Rek'lis and August 3rd is a buffet dinner provided by The Chalet. Both are being offered at less than half the actual cost courtesy of The Town of Randolph and The Randolph Foundation.

Order dinner tickets at:
<https://the-randolph-foundation.square.site/>.
This QR code will also take you to that site:



You can also order tickets at the various Bicentennial events prior to July 12th. Please remember that won't be able to sell dinner tickets at the door or after that date!

Calendar of Events for Celebration 2024

From the Bicentennial Chairs

- May 25th Woodspringstock — a music celebration featuring the Al Hospers Band with Country Comfort as the pre-show group — will be held at the Bradley's farm. Bicentennial merchandise and Celebration Weekend dinner tickets will be for sale.
- June 16th Incorporation Day Party — a celebration of the actual 200th anniversary of the Town of Randolph's incorporation. Hosted by the Friends of the Randolph Public Library at Town Hall, the event includes a presentation by Judith Hudson on her new book Randolph, N.H. Celebrates 200 Years. Bicentennial merchandise and Celebration Weekend dinner tickets will be for sale.
- Jun/Jul/Aug Bicentennial Exhibits — community-sourced displays of memorabilia at Town Hall. The dates are June 29th, July 18th, and August 23rd.
- July 4th Bicentennial merchandise and Celebration Weekend dinner tickets will be for sale at the Fourth of July Tea at the Kelley's barn.
- July 12th Last day to purchase Celebration Weekend dinner tickets. They will not be available at the door as the caterers need an advance headcount.
- July 20th Rendezvous/RMC Gourmet Hike — picnic lunch at Castleview Rock on Mt. Crescent.
- July 29th Community tennis tournament starts — Ravine House courts.
- Aug 2nd-4th Bicentennial Celebration Weekend!
- **Friday:** Durand Lake 60th Anniversary event, dinner provided by Rek'lis followed by contra dancing to Better Late than Never — all at the Ravine House site
 - **Saturday:** Parade, games & activities, buffet dinner provided by the White Mountain Chalet followed by the film premiere and dancing with DJ Zac Colby — all at the Ravine House site
 - **Sunday:** Randolph Church service with organist Christopher Anderson, community softball game, 19th Century concert at the Randolph Church, and a hymn sing
- Aug 24th Closing concert featuring three acoustic guitar recording artists at Town Hall.

Bicentennial Calendars are still available!

The Randolph Bicentennial Committee still has additional copies of the wonderfully illustrated 2024 Calendar available for sale!

The calendars are \$7.00 each (includes postage). We are accepting checks only, and checks should be made out to: The Randolph Foundation Bicentennial 2024

In addition to your mailing address, please include your contact information in case there is a question about your order. Checks should be mailed to: Scott Meiklejohn, 59 Wallace Shore Road, Harpswell, ME 04079

Reflecting The Pathways Blazed In Our Memories Bicentennial Art and Memorabilia Exhibition

Submitted by Gail Bryan, Kathleen Kelley, and Steve Teczar

As part of the Randolph Bicentennial Celebration, the Art and Memorabilia Exhibition at the Randolph Town Hall will take place on three separate days this summer:

Saturday June 29th (10am-5pm)

Thursday July 18th (3pm-8pm)

Friday August 23rd (10am-5pm)

“The aim of art (and artifacts) is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance” (Aristotle). The committee hopes to lead the visitors of the exhibits through the colorful pathways blazed in our memories.

The committee members, Gail Bryan, Kathleen Kelley, and Steve Teczar, seek to curate exhibits that highlight the cultural, technological, economic, and social changes in Randolph during the past two hundred years. This project’s success is dependent on you, so please look through your collections and consider exhibiting art or artifacts that will help tell the full story of Randolph and its people.

All those interested in exhibiting up to three items should send a description and photo, as soon as possible, no later than May 1, to Kathleen Kelley at 603-723-9734 or kukelley@me.com.

Items may include artifacts, paintings, drawings, prints, books, mixed media works, sculptures, and photographs. If you have questions, please call or email Kathleen.



Photo top from Kathleen Kelley, below from Steve Teczar

The Randolph Art Show 2024

Steve Teczar

The annual Randolph Art Show will be held in the Cross Memorial Meeting Room of the Town Hall from July 21 - August 21, with the Opening Reception scheduled for July 21 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM. The Show is non-juried and open to all current and previous full- and part-time Randolph residents. Content is open, and artists may submit one or two works. If two works are submitted, every attempt will be made to include both, although this depends on the total number of works submitted and available wall and floor space. While the priority is to have a successful Show, a second priority is to include at least one work by every artist who submits. The Show traditionally consists of two-dimensional works such as paintings, drawings, photographs, collages, printed dig-

ital images, mixed media works, quilts, and traditional prints. However, the Show may also include fine crafts and sculpture. Artists interested in submitting three-dimensional works will need to consult with the Art Committee about the feasibility of showing their work. While tables are available, there are no pedestals or vitrines. A Show prospectus will be sent by email to artists who've participated in Shows the previous two years. Also, the prospectus will be available by contacting Steve Teczar at swteczar128@gmail.com. Submitting work will indicate the artist's agreement to the terms of the prospectus. The Art Committee planning the Show consists of Pauline Galiana, Ingrid Graff, and Steve Teczar.

Updates from the Friends of the Randolph Public Library

Written by the Friends Board

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Randolph, NH's Incorporation Day 200th Year Celebration



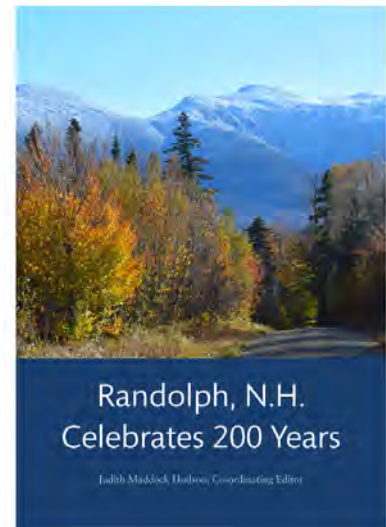
JUNE 16TH
3-5 PM

TOWN HALL
130 DURAND ROAD

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

- HONORARY BOOK LAUNCH OF *RANDOLPH, NH CELEBRATES 200 YEARS* & REMARKS FROM **JUDY HUDSON**, COORDINATING EDITOR
- BRIEF COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS
- SOCIAL GATHERING WITH CAKE & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE RANDOLPH PUBLIC LIBRARY &
THE RANDOLPH BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



Happy Spring, everyone! We want to share (1) updates on our 2024 membership and (2) exciting events we have scheduled this summer!

First: our membership. We are thrilled to report that, at the time of writing, we have received 50 membership renewals for the 2024 calendar year. We are grateful to our renewed members for their continued support of our mission, and we welcome others to sign-up for (or renew) their tax-deductible membership today! There are three easy ways:

1. Fill out this online form (with separate link to PayPal): <http://bit.ly/FriendsRPL>
2. Pick up a printed form at the Library
3. Print out the form from the Library website

Second: our summer events! Aside from our ongoing support of Library programming, we are pleased to host the following:

- **June 8th at 12 noon:** Our annual Friends gathering at the Library – come join us in celebrating our organization! Invite open to all past, current, and future Friends.
- **June 16th at 3pm:** We – in conjunction with the Randolph Bicentennial Committee – present the 200th Year Celebration of Randolph's Incorporation Day. Additional details shared in the accompanying image. Invite open to all community members.
- **August 7th at 6pm:** Our Annual Meeting. Invite open to all 2024 Friends members.

We look forward to engaging with you at these events and at all Library programs this summer!

For any questions or more information, please send us an email: friends@randolphnhpubliclibrary.org

RMC Events

Ginny Umiker

The RMC's Trail Sign and Memorabilia Online Auction in November was most successful, raising funds to support the mission of the club and upcoming activities. We had great participation with people bidding often and enthusiastically.

In March, the club held a wonderful, very well attended and invigorating Cabin Fever Reliever Square Dance. Paul Cormier's band, Better Late Than Never was fantastic, with Big Day Brewing graciously supplying beverages and volunteers contributing snacks and goodies.

Plans for the summer events calendar are underway. This year, in lieu of our annual dinner, we are hosting an unforgettable evening of craft brews, delectable appetizers, raffle baskets and a silent auction at the renowned Big Day Brewing! Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 23rd for this inaugural and entertaining event. The annual 4th of July Tea will be held at Kathleen and Mark Kelley's barn and gardens on Randolph Hill. Join us for traditional punch and delicious baked

goods, catch up with the latest club news, meet the trail crew, stock up on RMC merchandise, sign up to lead a hike and connect with friends, old and new. In tandem with the Bicentennial Committee, we will be holding the Gourmet Hike and bringing back the Rendezvous on July 20th. A potluck lunch will be shared near the ledge at Castleview Rock on Mt. Crescent, beginning at noon. Hikers are welcomed to arrive via various routes of their choice. The annual RMC Meeting will be held on August 10th, followed by Songs for a Summer Evening on 15th. Pack your dancing shoes because the "Randolph Boogie" will return again this year on the evening of Friday August 16th in the town hall. The RMC Annual Picnic, Charades and Rounds will be held at Mossy Glen on the 17th and with another dancing affair: the Square Dance at the Beringer's barn in the evening.

Get ready for a summer of exciting, celebratory events!



Photo center page from the RMC "Hands in the Air!"; Photo bottom left of Paul Cormier playing the fiddle; Photo bottom right of Ethan dancing all courtesy of thRMC

From the Selectmen's office

Town Selectmen

At Town Meeting 2024, we bid a grateful and very fond farewell to John Turner, who served on the Board of Selectmen since 1993. Since the Turner's live on Raycrest Drive, it was only appropriate that we elect a replacement who also hails from Raycrest. We welcome Rick Fournier onto the Board and know he will serve us well.

Also at Town Meeting, a parcel of land donated by John & Mary Brown was added to the Randolph Community Forest. Thank you for your generosity and thanks to the Town Forest Commission for all their work to make this happen.

A petitioned resolution passed overwhelming at Town Meeting this year to ensure the Town of Randolph is a welcoming community to all people regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual identity, expression and orientation. We are committed to promoting a secure, welcome and safe environment, and we are committed to modeling respectful dialogue.

With the assistance of the Randolph Energy Efficiency Committee, the Town has replaced all the streetlights with LED's. This will start saving energy costs immediately and the pay back is less than 3 years. A contract has been signed to install solar panels behind the Town Hall, and we expect that project to take place in the summer 2024. And we have installed heat pumps in the Cross Meeting Room to take the place of an aging furnace. These will provide cooling as well as heating to help relieve the use of the hall in the summer. Thank you to the committee for their tireless efforts in improving energy use in the Town.

The Police Committee has been doing its work and has come to the Selectmen with several recommendations. We would like to bring these recommendations to the public for input and your direction moving forward. In order to capture a larger audience we are considering holding a public meeting in early July. The date is not yet set, but we will communicate to you via future publications and e mail blast.

The Bicentennial Committee has been busy planning for events for the summer of 2024 marking 200 years of the Town of Randolph. We hope you plan to attend many of these events and can schedule your visit to Randolph around them. If you would like to volunteer to help out in any way, contact Sarah Gallop seg@mit.edu or Guy Stever gstever@ne.rr.com.

We are in the midst of reviewing and updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Planning involves many volunteers to attend 5-6 meetings during which we perform the analysis and provide the information to a professional plan developer who will complete the final document. A plan is required if the Town seeks FEMA funding. Our first meeting was in Dec, and the third Monday of each month following. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the town office.

If you have any questions about the operations of the town, please contact the selectmen or attend one of our regular meetings which are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 pm. Rick at 466-1125 , Paul at 915-9195 and Michele at 466-5841.

Election Results

From the Town Clerk

For the Special Election for State Representative from Coos County District 6 held on January 23, 2024

Randolph voters awarded 53 votes to Michael P. Murphy (R) and 141 votes to Edith Tucker (D). Murphy went on to win the general election in the county. Representative elect Murphy was sworn into office by the Governor and Executive Council on January 31, 2024.

The Presidential Primary

The Democratic primary in Randolph saw 103 ballots cast. The following is a tally of for whom those votes were cast:

Dean Phillips: 12 votes; Donald Picard: 1 vote; Paperboy Love Prince 1 vote; Vermin Supreme: 1 vote; Raymond Michael Moroz: 1 vote; Derek Nadeau: 2 votes; Connel West (write in): 1 vote; Nikki Haley (write in): 1 vote; Joe Biden (write in): 85 votes.

The Republican primary in Randolph saw 89 ballots cast. The following is a tally of for whom those votes were cast:

Donald J. Trump: 36 votes; Chris Christie: 1 vote; Nikki Haley: 50 votes; Mike Pence: 1 vote; Joe Biden (write in): 1 vote.

Connecting Fiber

Kathleen Kelley

As of this publication, the (Consolidated Communications) Fidium Fiber network has been connected to the exterior of most homes in Randolph.

If an underground conduit from another cable company was installed previously to your home, the fiber network connection is more complicated. Consolidated Communication owns the old copper telephone land line to your home. The technician will try and use the existing conduit for this wire. The other cable company’s conduit cannot be used. A Fidium Fiber technician said, “Our first choice is to utilize the existing conduit assuming we can locate it and it’s in good shape. If the existing conduit is unusable, we will place a conduit under following conditions, the distance is approximately 500 feet or less and a clear path from the serving terminal to the customer’s home.” Obviously this will be done when the ground is no longer covered in snow and frozen.”

Regardless of whether the line is in a conduit, at the house Fidium technicians will place a new “gray box” which looks identical to the one you currently have because the existing gray box contains different technology. New siding or other circumstances requires you to work with the technician to place the box.

On the May day of scheduled interior install, a technician comes to the house and extends the fiber into the house and onto the ONT (Optical Network Device). An ONT, the size of a hockey puck, is placed in the basement next to the breaker box and DOES REQUIRE A POWER SOURCE. The ONT has two ports on top; one port has a phone jack, and the other has an ethernet port. The technician will either use existing house wiring or run new CAT wire from the ONT to a location upstairs or in the house where a router gets placed. The router creates the WIFI signal for the whole house. The technician will verify the house does have good WIFI and will install

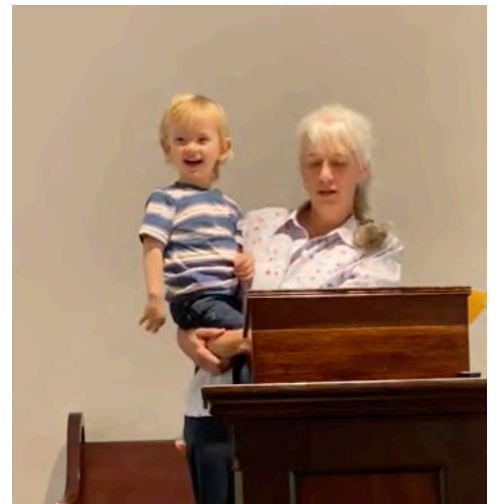
WIFI extenders if the house was very large.

If you have a building away from your main house and desire access to the fiber network, you may need a network “extender.” Because the router has multiple Ethernet ports, a CAT wire could be run from the router to the additional building to place another router. This is something the customer will have to arrange through Fidium. The homeowner will pay a charge, including hourly labor cost and the additional router, for this additional service.

For additional information about the install please email GREG POVEY | Sr. Manager Fiber NNE at gregory.povey@consolidated.com or Kathleen Kelley ku-kelley@me.com



Photo above courtesy of Kathleen Kelley



Randolph Mossbacks from the 2023 Story Slam

Alan Eusden.

My Brother Dyk told me the other day that he was up at the Mount Carberry landfill in Berlin, and Tim, the operator, said “Hey, aren’t you a Mossback? A Randolph Mossback?” It brought back a flood of memories for me, and took me back to the Gorham Softball League Championship game in 1979. There were two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and we were tied with perennial Champion Gorham Hardware. My heart was pounding as Davis Woodruff, one of our least accomplished hitters, stepped up to the plate..

Many of you may know that Randolph was home to the Mossbacks, the finest softball team ever to come out of this valley. This is my version of the legend of these Mossbacks – my version because the 18 people I talked with to recreate the story all remember different version of the events from 45 years ago! Here is that 1979 team. That’s Ron Coulombe, me, Dick Bean, Peter Rowan, Dyk, Jim Tyler and Davis Woodruff. Bottom row is Will Woodruff, Rob King, Dwight Bradley, Petr Weiss, and Jeff Bean.

In the 1960s and 1970s, most of my young friends and their families would spend every summer Sunday afternoon playing Sunday Softball at the Horton’s field in the valley. There was no better way of getting out all the pent up energy from being held captive at morning church services. And there was no better reason for Grey Knob and Crag Camp caretakers to run down the mountain then to play softball and get back up in time for dinner.

As we got into our teens and early 20s, we were proud of our ability to occasionally hit balls into the woods, and handle the crazy hops of a fast ground ball off the bumps (and rocks) of the Horton field. Dwight and Will decided that a bunch of us were ready for the next level...the Gorham Softball League! The Gorham league was a big step up, although not quite at the level of the Berlin Softball league, where we were all in awe that Dwight’s brother, Jim, played for the Snowshoe Club. We formed a team with me, Dwight, Will, Davis, Dyk, Dick, Jeff, Rob, Peter, Bill Rising, John Scarinza, Rob Bolash, Rob King and Chris Lovell, sometimes supplemented with free agents including Ted May and Mike Wysesession.

Dwight choose the name “Mossbacks”, a nicely quirky name as distinctive as Randolph itself, gently tweaking all the naysayers. He enjoyed the reference to the extremely slow moving old sea turtles with moss growing on them, although found it a little unfortunate that the

term also references the draft dodgers in the confederate army.

Our first exhibition game in Gorham was 1976. We were completely blown off the field, unable to handle the modified fastball pitching and the powerful hitting of these grown men. Chris Lovell remembers standing in deep left field when one of our opponents hit a ball that went 30 feet over his head and out to the kiosk in the middle of the park. The guy was sitting on the bench drinking some water by the time Chris got the ball back in. We were...encouraged...by that game, and joined the league the following year, immediately losing all of our first 12 games.

We were terrible. We were the Mostly Miserable Mossbacks. This was serious. We sat down, opened a bunch of beers and analyzed our performance for hours. We decided the only things we lacked were:

1. Uniforms
2. Fans
3. And...post game parties.

Dwight reached out to Vivian Scarinza at the Grand View and asked if she’d like to sponsor the best softball team in Randolph. Shockingly, she said yes...and we received these gorgeous uniforms. Here’s Pete Rowan’s.

We also found there was a lot of enthusiasm for the team, especially from some of the younger women in Randolph. There was an informal group of Mossback fanatics who would attend most games. Many were younger sisters of the players, along with some of their friends. Sarah, Lisa, Charlotte, and Susan Scarinza were core members. Jeff Scarinza, John’s little brother, loved the games, and was always a little mad that, at age 7, we didn’t let him play. There are completely unverified rumors that some of this group of fanatics would occasionally get ready for the games (after their work as lifeguards) with showers in the Ravine house pool dam overflow, followed by re-application of make-up using a broken off rear view mirror that was passed around in Charlotte’s car, “Duke”. We do know that a few fanatics are currently married to former Mossbacks. Charoltte?

The post game parties were legendary. Alcohol filled watermelons and the Rhubarb golf ball betting game in the Bradley’s yard (when someone would tee the golf ball up, hit it deep in the woods, and Dwight’s dog, Rhubarb, would, unbelievably, always find it), cleanliness focused late evening skinny dipping and occasional blow pong in the Lovell’s Castle across from the Waumbeck golf course in Jefferson.

The Mossbacks continued...

Our problem solving worked! By 1978, we started to beat some of the teams in Gorham. The team changed a lot during this time, mostly with the uncertainty of whether all the Mossback players in college were actually coming back! Rob Bolash concluded there might not be a Mossbacks team, and started another softball dynasty, Red's Auto Body...taking John Scarinza and Rick King with him. After we figured out we had almost enough to field a team, we reached out to friends in Berlin and in Maine to fill the team, adding Ron Coulombe, Jim Tyler and Peter Weis.

Being part of the Mossbacks was living the dream, but it took real commitments to live that dream. Lynn and I were driving down to Virginia for vacation, with a first stop in Ogunquit. Lynn was very supportive when I explained we had to go back to Gorham just for a couple hour game before continuing on our journey. Dyk drove three days from Lake Louis in Canada to get to the opening game one year. Dwight came back from Colorado to play a few games. Later, Dyk had knee surgery and was called back into action, hitting a bases loaded grand slam...and barely being able to limp into second base. The opposing team that was the most difficult to beat was perennial champion Gorham Hardware. They had speedball throwing Nelson LaPierre and 55 year old Mutt Allaine pitching, and were anchored on the offense by NH Fish and Game legend Buzz Bickford.

1979 was an amazing year. We made it to the Championship game...and had to face the dreaded Gorham Hardware. Once again, we had to change the dynamic! We talked Gordon Lowe into loaning us the Randolph school bus, and we think we had Alan Lowe driving. We warmed up on the cemetery field and jumped in the bus filled with Mossbacks and Mossbacks fanatics. Both Gorham Hardware and the umpires thought that Gorham Hardware was about to win by forfeit, since there were no Mossbacks until a couple minutes before the game. The bus arrived, our fans were screaming, we had Joan Rising and Barbara Wyssession playing instruments on the sidelines, and we ran out on the field, circling the pitching mound doing jumping jacks. The umpires immediately told us there was no time for warm-ups and that we had to play ball.

It was a classic back and forth game one run game, and included what we think was the first ever intentional walk of a player. Buzz Bickford was so mad at being walked that he started swinging at pitches 6 feet away from him just hoping we would make a mistake. As I said, we had two outs in the ninth inning. Dwight was on second base, and Davis, not known as our strongest hitter...delivered the tie breaking single, allowing

Dwight to score.

We broke the curse and won the game! Gorham Recreational League Champions!! The next year, Red's Auto Body broke through and also beat Gorham Hardware in the championship game. We kept playing for several more years, but by 1985, so many teams had been disbanded that the Rec League ended and the Gorham Common field moved to high school use.

Most of the Mossbacks are still in the area, although a few (Davis Woodruff, Dick Bean and John Scarinza) have sadly moved on to a place where they've regained their youthful speed and their powerful bats. We occasionally see some of our opponents.

Dyk says that when Tim, the Mount Carberry Landfill operator, asked about being a Mossback, Dyk was certain he was about to get a compliment on the team's capabilities...but it turned out that all Tim wanted to talk about was the amazing post game parties on the hill and those amazing Mossback Fanatics.



Photos Page 9: from the 2023 Story Slam (left to right Judy Hudson, Guy Stever, and Jen and Ethan Scarinza); Photo above Alan Eusden all from the 2023 Story Slam YouTube video

Top Secret

Bob Kruszyna

It was 1962 and the Cold War was at its peak. Nevertheless, the USA and the Soviet Union were quietly discussing the possibility of a nuclear test ban treaty. At that time, the testing of nuclear weapons had moved underground to limit the amount of radioactive debris exploded into the atmosphere and to make the test harder to detect. Underground testing made verification difficult, so the discussions focused on inspection – how to determine at surface level that a nuclear explosion had occurred at a certain underground site.

The research company I worked for received a contract, purportedly from the Defense Department, to investigate whether a common geophysical prospecting method for detecting bodies of petroleum or natural gas or minerals could be modified to detect an underground explosion. The idea came from a consultant to the company, an MIT faculty member, who just happened to be a rock-climbing protégé of mine. Given that personal connection and that I was educated as a nuclear physicist, I was assigned to try the method in the field, specifically at the Nevada Test Site where underground tests were happening with some frequency.

Without being too technical, let me describe the method. Under normal conditions, there is low-level, random electrical activity in the earth that can be detected by electrodes on the surface. But where there is a deposit of, say oil, there will be a more regular electrical pattern instead. So, where we knew there would be an underground test, we arrayed electrodes on the ground above to measure the electrical field before and after the detonation.

So off to Las Vegas and a rental car to take me the 100 miles north to the Test Site (and back to Vegas on my days off!). I was housed in the Bachelor Officers' Quarters and ate in the Officers' Mess, as civilian scientists were treated as officers. (Good though they were, I soon tired of the prime beef steaks, the only thing they seem to know how to cook in the Wild West.) The equipment for the experiments had previously arrived. I was given a trailer to house the monitoring equipment and a jeep to drive from the base to my work area, and which I used to poke around the Test Site and pry. On one such occasion, I stumbled on the remote Top Secret laboratory where they were working on nuclear fusion but luckily I didn't get caught.

Once I was at the location where an underground test was scheduled a week or so hence, a crew of three black workers arrived to install a utility pole for my electrical connections. They stood around for a while, hemming and hawing. Then one of them announced, "Ah's the boss of this 'ere hole!" and instructed the other two to

dig a hole and install the pole. (Note 2022: I suppose that remark would nowadays be considered racist.)

I deployed electrodes in a grid over the area of "ground zero" and periodically took readings to provide a baseline. Finally the day arrived when the test would be conducted. My trailer and monitoring equipment, as well as that of many other research groups, was more than a mile from the point where the nuclear device was ignited. Coming toward us was a ground wave in the desert sand that resembled the surf on a California beach – except it wasn't water, it was the ground! When it reached us, it almost knocked us off our feet. At that moment, I became an "anti-nuke" although I am still in favor of nuclear power plants for generating electricity. In any case, my instruments showed a pattern that wasn't there before.

I moved my stuff to another site to try to confirm the initial promising results.

Communications at the test site were supposed to be in code, but more often than not, they were in the clear. Circling the boundaries was a van festooned with all sorts of antennae, so the Russians were tuning in. It was perfectly legal as the van had Nevada registration and the inhabitants were Americans. So much for Top Secret.

An aside. While I was setting up my equipment at the next site, I managed to get VIP clearance to attend the above-ground test of a nuclear "hand grenade", a weapon to be used in ground combat. The device was stationed in a tower not unlike that used in the first atomic bomb test in 1945, and the test was to be at night. We were issued glasses with thick cobalt lenses and instructed to turn away just before the explosion. The desert night is exceptionally dark but suddenly it was bright daylight! Frightening!

During the interregnum before the next test, I flew to Washington to talk to the agency that was sponsoring my work. I spent a whole day going from pillar to post in the Pentagon (I am fond of alliteration) without encountering anyone who knew about the project. However, after I returned to the Test Site, a representative of the sponsoring agency appeared to see how the project was progressing. Dan Hogan, a typically affable man of Irish heritage, was about my age and we quickly became friends (I too have Irish genes). In addition to living it up in the Las Vegas casinos in our down time, we also climbed Mt. Jefferson (11, 950 ft) in the Toiyabe Range. It was Dan's first mountain climb so he found it challenging. The top 4000 feet were snow covered making it an adventurous and energetic hike. Is the reader aware that there are sev-

Top Secret continued...

eral mountains in the Nevada desert that hold permanent snow?

It was becoming clear to me that Dan Hogan was more than just a watchdog for the agency sponsoring my work. For example, he gained permission for us to visit the site hollowed out of a butte for the test of a new model of a nuclear weapon. It was amazing. The Corps of Engineers had carved out a huge chamber in the insides of the butte, a cavern the size of a football stadium. He talked about the Russians doing the same sort of thing at some god-forsaken site in Siberia.

Since my project was aimed at detecting and verifying a clandestine nuclear test as part of a test ban

treaty, he asked, "If we and the Russians agree on a test ban treaty, would you be interested in leading an on-site verification team?"

As I contemplated my response, visions of James Bond passed through my mind. I was young and single. It sounded like a great adventure! Then, "Would you be willing to spy for the United States?"

First draft 1963/multiple revisions/final 2023

Note: Seeing the film *Oppenheimer* brought this long-ago experience to mind.

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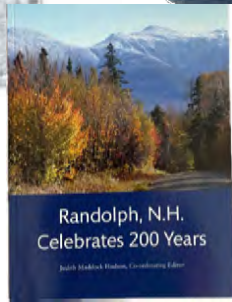
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