

THE MIDDLESEX NEWSPAPER

A Community Newspaper For
MIDDLESEX, VERMONT



Artwork By: Chris Sands

Settled by Thomas Mead, first non-native settler in Washington County; Chartered 8 June, 1763. Population 1,800; 25,984 acres; 38 square miles

Volume 22 Number 8

Established 1989

AUGUST 2012

"I Hear the Train a Comin' .. It's Rollin' Round the Bend.."

(Opening lyrics of song Folsom Prison by Johnny Cash)



Photo by Jeannette Wulff



Above photo taken of freight train 'Rollin' Round the Bend' just passing HISTORIC TRAIN STATION in MIDDLESEX located on Rt. 2 in the village.

Charles Hunter, AVP Government Affairs, New England Central RR said, "This would be NECR Train 323 that originated in Palmer, MA and is destined for St. Albans, VT. It is on newly installed continuous welded rail, ties and ballast that were installed in 2011 as part of the Vermonter High Speed Rail Project.

When asked about Tropical Storm Irene damages just one year ago this month, Hunter said, "damages were pretty much universal, washed out roadbed being the major issue. The New England Central RR was fully recovered from Irene and freight and passenger train traffic has been "back to normal" for over 10 months." ALL ABOARD!



Photos above: Cyrus Scribner, Manager of Settlement Farm, tests corn for sweetness (quality control) before picking daily corn crop to sell at the popular farm stand located on Route 2 in Middlesex.

This year's crop was particularly sweet and delicious! Pumpkins are next!

Volume 22 No.# 7

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A Message from:

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Tell your friends and family that they can access our paper and read your stories at:

Read paper on-line at
www.middlesexnewspaper.org

Voting for the Primary Election is at the Town Hall from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on August 28th. If you want to request an absentee ballot, please e-mail (middlesxtreas@comcast), call (223-5915) or stop in (5 Church Street) for a ballot.

There are still many dogs in Middlesex without their annual licenses. The State of Vermont mandates that all dog owners register their dogs on an annual basis. Part of the fees are used to maintain the State Rabies and Spay/Neuter Programs. The Select Board has the authority to issue tickets to anyone who has an unregistered dog, up to \$500 per day! If you no longer own the dog you had registered last year, please notify us and we will update the records. Final notices will be mailed on August 15th as a reminder to stop in and register your dog. For more information about town issues go to town's website at:

<http://middlesexvermont.org/>

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE **PRIMARIES** AUGUST 28, 2012

Voting for the Primary Election in Middlesex Town Hall from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm



MIDDLESEX
TOWN HALL



Get your vote on....



RE-ELECT Bill Sorrell Attorney General

"With a responsibility to seek justice for all, the integrity, energy and competence of the Attorney General is key to the security of our citizens and their confidence in the fairness of the enforcement of our laws.

The Attorney General wears two hats: to represent the interests of the government in a wide range of court proceedings and to represent the general welfare of all the people. When these two interests are in conflict, the Attorney General must strive to see that both interests are protected and well-represented."

Above photo: On July 31st, Attorney General Bill Sorrell and key staff made a one-hour personal visit to the offices of the Middlesex Newspaper to discuss his campaign for re-election including his long-term commitment to Middlesex and all of Vermont.

Ed Note: THANK YOU for showing the Middlesex community respect by visiting the Middlesex Newspaper.

NEWS FROM THE

MIDDLESEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Sarah Seidman, VP/Sec.

The Middlesex Historical Society will hold its fall meeting Sept. 20, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, and we invite everyone to come, share old photos or stories and delve into our town history. Plans are underway for a repeat performance of Dave Newhall's popular talking tour of Rt. 2 and the village area; this bus tour will take place Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. leaving from Town Hall (pending transportation confirmation). Please call Patty Wiley at 272-8074 to reserve your spot on the bus.

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VERMONT VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Photos Right:

Lt. Governor Phil Scott, Co-owner Dubois Construction of Middlesex, is 'Leader of the Pack' on I-89, driving his motorcycle on August 4th, to help celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the building of Vermont's Historic Vietnam Veteran's Memorial located at the Sharon, I-89 North Welcome Center.



Right: Lt. Gov. Phil Scott was one of many State leaders who came to pay respects and express their gratitude to Vietnam Veterans and their families

Vietnam Veterans travelled from all over New England to attend the ceremonies.



Photos by Jeannete Wulff

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A DAY OF FUN WITH THE MIDDLESEX VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Middlesex Fire Department and Fast Squad are hosting its 2nd Annual Safety Day on September 8th from 11am - 3pm at the new Middlesex Fire Station.

There will be lots of hands on activities for kids and adults. A dunk tank, fire hose games, ladder truck from Waterbury Fire Dept., food and bake sale will be on hand.

An appearance from Lt. Governor Phil Scott and much more! Come and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of events!

All proceeds will benefit our very own fire and rescue squads.

For more information or to purchase a raffle ticket, please contact a Middlesex Volunteer Fire Dept. member, call 223-5525, or email midsxvd@myfairpoint.net THANK YOU!



L-R: Firefighters Emily Gross and Jamie Catchpaw hope to see you 9/8/12.



Fundraising Events

WE ARE RAFFLING THIS



Win this 1993 Ford 150 4x4

Raffle Tickets are \$25 each, no more than 100 tickets will be sold!

SO WE CAN MAKE THIS



First Annual Middlesex VFD Mini Golf Tournament
Aug 18th 10a-3p
Lots of Balls
Rt 100 Duxbury
Entry Fee for a Team of 2 is \$20
Prizes for best teams of 2
Teams of 6 compete for Additional Prizes!
Pre-registration is appreciated
223-5525 OR midsxvd@myfairpoint.net
OR register on site Aug 18th

LOOK LIKE THIS!



Raffle Drawing held at Middlesex Safety Day Village Fire Station Saturday, Sept 8 11a-3p
Fire Safety Demo's, Come enjoy a burger with Neighbors!

ALL Proceeds to benefit the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Dept, Including Outfitting and Painting of our New Utility Truck 14. Contact any member for Raffle tickets or Information

MIDDLESEX, AN UNUSUAL PLACE

by Doug Hall



My mother Hilda had cousins Eugene and Priscilla Fox who lived in Middlesex Village on the Winooski River. They were legally blind, both of them and they raised goats for milk and meat. My brother Marc and I were asked to care for their goat farm and house in 1951 while they were transported on a trip up to Stanstead, Quebec Canada to visit relatives. They planned to be gone a few days. I was ten and brother Marc nine and mother must have come to stay with us overnight. But days we were on our own, I believe.

There were three unusual things I observed while there in Middlesex being only ten years old. Here they are.

First I had never seen a river flow north. The Winooski River flowed from Hardwick, through Montpelier through Middlesex and onward to Lake Champlain, most of the river flowing north. Down in Windsor County where we lived, all rivers flowed east and south and into the Connecticut River flowing down through Massachusetts and Connecticut into the Atlantic Ocean.

Second, I had never seen a seagull. I thought what is a white seagull doing in Middlesex? The Winooski River didn't seem like the right place to see a seagull. And there were several seagulls there by the river.

Third, over to the store with gas station pumps just up the street, with filling station gas pumps, I got my first ever birch beer soda. Now having a birch beer was like grownups having a beer. And I liked it so this really made my day.

Milking goats was sort of new to Marc and me but at home in Pomfret, I milked four cows by hand morning and night so the goats were somewhat easier to milk than cows. Plus they couldn't kick as hard. Marc held their stubby tails while I milked them. I don't recall what we did with the milk, I just know it tasted different than cow's milk. And the Fox Farm had many hens too.

The Fox house was very tidy as everything had its special place because of their blindness. And they were very thankful for our help and we were thankful to do it to escape the farm in Pomfret for a few days.

I'll always remember the new observations about unusual Middlesex, Vermont in 1951. For much of my life Middlesex was the next door town and when travelling through Middlesex Village on Rte. 2 - I always looked up at the Fox's Farm on the edge of Middlesex Village and quickly remembered my first visit there. I don't think I've had a taste of birch beer since.

Ed. Note: Doug Hall is a retired Certified Public Accountant currently living in Worcester, VT. He also enjoys teaching people how to write down their life stories and/or special memories.

Thank you Doug for sharing one of your special memories of life in Middlesex with us.

SHADY RILL PICNIC AREA SETTING FOR ANNUAL WORCESTER GRANGE & UNITED METHODIST CHURCH POTLUCK AUGUST 5th



Above Photo L-R:

Jerry Breen, Worcester United Methodist Church Pastor, visits with Ruth Hovey, long time Grange and church member. Ruth supplied the hot dogs and hamburgers for the potluck picnic. Jerry Breen is also Pastor for the Elmore United Methodist Church.

Above Right: L-R:

Elden Brown plays a mean Harmonica as wife Helen enjoys listening to an old time favorite tune "Good Night Irene" with Richard Atkinson on the Mandolin.

Right: Great friends, Great food, Great music, Great location equals a GREAT TIME!

Photos by Jeannette Wulff



MUSINGS FROM NORTH BEAR SWAMP

by Tim Hayward



Hunger Mtn. Challenge team at top of the mountain.

Keeping it Together

As I write this in early August I'm sitting in our screened porch, perched a bit as a bowsprit on our house overlooking our small pond, rock strewn fields and Hunger Mountain and its companion ridgeline and hills to the south. How very fortunate we are.

But wait, one of those rocks is moving, and then others as our visiting sheep surround Christina Hayward as she makes her way across the field swinging a bucket of grain. The sheep are so insistent I momentarily worry for Christina, but then remember there is no question who is in charge; and it's not the sheep. How pastoral.

Not so two weeks ago. That Sunday "we" held the more or less annual Hunger Mountain Challenge (HMC). Sue and I host this event for mostly former Governor Douglas staff and some unwitting cabinet members. It really is a late afternoon cookout following, for those so inclined, a leisurely hike up Hunger. For some, the "hike" down is not quite so leisurely; it is the challenge, it is the race.

It is four miles from Hunger's summit to our back deck. On that deck is one cool beer. Whoever gets the beer wins! Now, the beer is the obvious bait, but fame and glory, and an "obelisk" trophy the real prize. Yes, our former boss, Governor Douglas winds his way to the top, and at the appointed time fires his starter's pistol (he actually gasps the 10, 9, 8... count down and reaches "go" as his breath depletes!).

And they're, including me, off and, yes, running. This small group of Douglas graduates has a fair number of real athletes, none of whom believes in coming in second. Fortunately this year, the three-year-in-a-row winner, and former captain of the Middlebury College ski team with shock absorbers for legs was traveling the west, so a new winner was guaranteed.

There are no rules, other than no horses or wheeled vehicles. Now, I'm more or less twice the age of these folks, men and women. So, I had to use my knowledge of the local geography for an advantage. That meant that about a half mile from our house, and the beer, taking a "short cut" through Zak and Christina's property. But this time I was being followed closely enough by a competitor that he saw my turn-off, and followed.

This is where we ran into the not so pastoral sheep. Their electric fencing was strung across my trail, as were they. Sheep scattering, and a runner's foot coming down on the top of the webbed fencing to try to avoid the "electric" part of the fence, and off for the final quarter mile across the "three pine field", by the pond and to the deck.

I'm pleased to report that those sheep and their fence were enough to delay my competitor to the rear, and I finished in 56 minutes.

The winning time, 37 minutes and a few odd seconds! Amazing in itself, but a minute slower than our winner last year.

Needless to say, there was more than one beer for the runners, hikers, and all the other good folks. It is great to maintain the friendships forged on the anvil of government and governor's service. And some of us later this month will make up "Team Douglas" in the 100 miles on Route 100 relay race (100 x 100), Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe to the Okemo Base Lodge in Ludlow. And, our team driver again this year is former Governor Jim Douglas.

You don't suppose there are easier ways to bond? Nah!

Editor's Note:

Tim Hayward and his wife Susan have lived in Middlesex, with a twelve year hiatus in Montpelier, since 1969. He is a graduate of Middlebury College, served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and has worked for then Congressman Jim Jeffords, Governor Dick Snelling and most recently served as chief of staff for Governor Jim Douglas. He represented Middlesex in the Vermont House of Representatives for one term in the 1970s. He was for many years the president of the Vermont Bankers Association. He has served on numerous boards and commissions, currently the Middlesex Budget Committee and the State Transportation Board. He is an avid hiker and enjoys "working in the woods." He and Susan have three grown children and seven grandchildren all living in Vermont.



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Proud Days for August Burns of Middlesex, Executive Director, Grounds for Health, a Vermont Non-Profit, Tapped for World Health Organization (WHO) Advisory Panel



Photo Left:

August Burns in Center, with other proud members of the Technical Advisory Group.



Above: Bags of Coffee Beans



WOMEN'S LIVES ARE BEING SAVED IN EVERY DAY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA THANKS TO THE CONTINUED SUPPORT AND DEDICATION OF "GROUNDS FOR HEALTH" AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)!

The executive director of the Waterbury-based international non-profit Grounds for Health has been asked to join a Technical Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO). The invitation is to participate in updating "The Pink Book" which outlines international guidelines for cervical cancer prevention. August Burns, MPH, CM, PA was invited by the WHO to join a panel of world experts based on Grounds for Health's 16 years of experience creating cervical cancer prevention, screening and training programs in coffee-growing communities.

Cervical cancer affects almost half a million women a year, claiming close to 300,000 lives, 85% of these in the developing world. Though it is preventable, treatable and curable, cervical cancer remains the #1 cause of cancer death for women throughout the developing world, due simply to a lack of access to preventive care. It is estimated that as many as 95% of women in developing countries do not have access to cervical cancer screening.

In addition to participating in weeklong session of meetings at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Burns was asked to author a chapter in the Pink Book. The chapter on health outreach, education and counseling will draw on Grounds for Health's proven strengths in incorporating community mobilization as an essential element in creating the kind of prevention programs that continue with community leadership long after development agencies are no longer on the ground.

Dr. Eduardo Franco, Chair of the Department of Oncology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, one of the invited experts advising WHO on the new guidelines and a new Grounds for Health Board member said, "August spoke eloquently about the single visit approach to prevent cervical cancer in rural communities in countries with a high burden of cervical cancer. At the outset of the WHO meeting, the impression by the experts was that screen-and-treat approaches had been restricted to deluxe research studies conducted in low-income countries by clinicians and epidemiologists from developed countries. The testimonial by August on her organization's ability to deploy the single-visit strategy in real-world conditions and using local community leadership was a turning point in the discussion. It then became clear to the experts that training healthcare providers and empowering communities in Latin America and Africa is a great example of a sustainable model to prevent cervical cancer in the poorest countries of the world."

Created in 1996, Grounds for Health has established community-driven, locally sustainable cervical cancer prevention programs in rural coffee-growing areas. Its success has been made possible thanks to the support from over 200 coffee companies and individuals who seek to end the economic and social burden of losing women in their prime to a preventable disease. The organization's current focus is on training local healthcare professionals in an affordable, replicable and sustainable cervical cancer screening and treatment method called the Single Visit Approach. To date, Grounds for Health has trained more than 250 local doctors and nurses in this same-day screening model, as well as 400 community health promoters. Grounds for Health programs have screened over 37,000 women – close to half of these by locally trained providers who have acquired the skills to carry on this important work in their communities, reaching tens of thousands of women in the future.

Of her WHO appointment, Burns said, "The invitation from the World Health Organization validates the notion that even a small organization can have a big impact. Our coffee supporters have made it possible for Grounds for Health to continually improve its program and now the organization is in a position to share its approach with the global public health community. As a result, remote rural communities are gaining the skills to care for their own and women's lives are being saved."



The 16th Annual Used Musical Instrument Sale August 24-25, 2012

The 16th Annual Used Musical Instrument Sale is being produced by Central Vermont Share the Music, Inc. (CVSM). CVSM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Sellers receive 80% of the selling price and CVSM retains a 20% commission. All profits of the sale will be used to provide music scholarship assistance to individuals. The sale is scheduled for August 24-25, 2012 at the Bethany Church, 115 Main Street in Montpelier. Instruments for sale should be dropped off on Friday between 4 and 7 PM, sale hours are Saturday from 9 AM until 2 PM. For more information visit our website at SharetheMusicVT.org, email CVSM@comcast.net or contact the sale sponsors Kevin at [GuitarSam 229.0295](tel:229.0295) or Jeff at [Vermont Musical Instrument Repair 229.4416](tel:229.4416).



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Illustration of baby elephants cooling off in the river from children's book circa 1898.

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Photo above: - L-R- Sisters Fran Duckworth, and Monica Martinet with store's namesake Sally holding store's signature purple brochure. Clothing, furniture, art, jewelry, household items, music, books and more!

Located across from the Camp Meade Complex on Rt 2 in Middlesex. You never know what you'll find!



Middlesex Land Maintenance



Bill May at Work

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Where: Montpelier, Department of Labor Lot

When: September 22, 9am - 1pm

The collection is open to residents of all CVSWMD member towns.

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**July Weather on Center Road
by Dick Alderman, Center Rd., Middlesex**

July delivered Center Road above average temperatures just like 12 of the past 14 months. Hot temperatures were the norm not only on Center Road but all across the country. In fact, July 2012 turned out to be not only the hottest July but the hottest month in the contiguous U.S. since records began in 1895. Hottest month EVER. 77.6° the average! None of the states experienced below normal temperatures last month. And how much and where did the highest July 2012 temperature occur? Not surprisingly: 128° in Death Valley, CA. The highest here was 92° on the 14th, our highest July reading since 1994. July 2012 also brought us the fewest cloudy days(10) since 1999 and the fewest rainy days (9) since 1996. Total rainfall measured 3.68", 1.3" below normal with 2.77" of that falling during a deluge on July 23 which lasted into the 24th. A well reportedly dried up on Macey Road. The rain deficit so far this year is 3.1". Looks like August may end up putting a dent in that reading, however.



August 29, 2011- August 29, 2012

One year Ago this Month Tropical Storm Irene Swept Through New England leaving tremendous damage, yet, Vermont Strong Determination in it's Path.

photos Jeannette Wulff

Hurricane Irene, the fifth costliest United States hurricane, was a large and very destructive tropical cyclone, which affected much of the Caribbean and East Coast of the United States during the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season.



Above: Rosie Ainsworth's much loved dolls were rescued from the flooded basement of the Ainsworth's home located on the 3 Mile Bridge Road in Middlesex.



Above: After being flooded by Winooski River, 3 Mile Bridge Rd. families shared meals and fellowship for days following the storm at Pastor Newlund's home.

Re-Elect Tony Klein

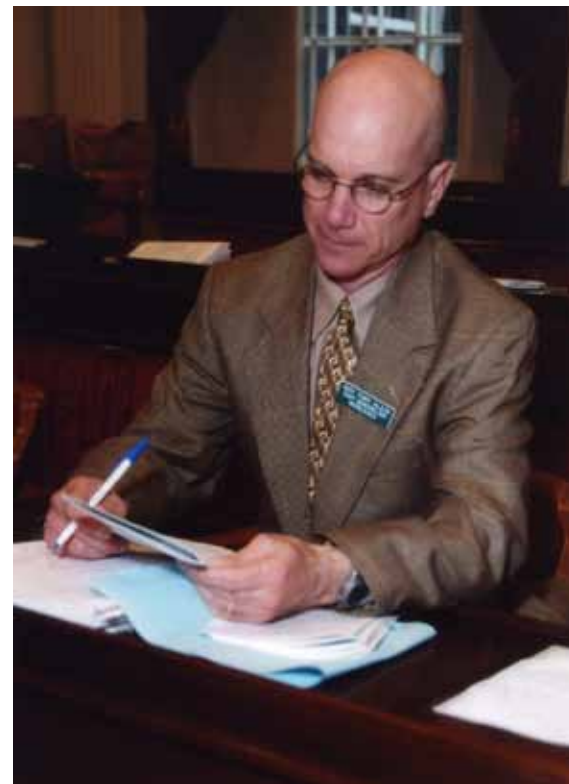
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Thank you for your continued support

Paid for by Friends for Tony Klein - Jennifer Boyer, Treasurer



Above: Gov. Peter Shumlin, Sen. Patrick Leahy, and General Dubie of Vermont National Guard, arrive at Knapp airport in Berlin, VT. for press conference following tour of the hardest hit areas of Vermont. Thank you to our State Leaders for helping Vermont.

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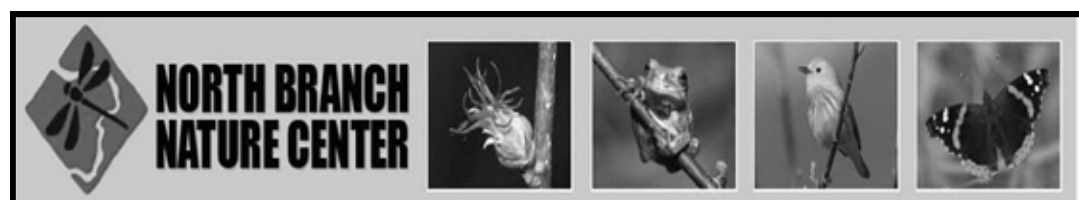
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Upcoming Schedule



August Programs at the North Branch Nature Center

Nature at Night: Coneheads & Katydid
Wednesday, August 22, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Fee: \$5 members, \$10 nonmember, \$3 child
 We're used to identifying birds by their songs, but did you know that you can identify some types of "singing" insects. We'll look, listen for, and learn about "singing" Sword-bearing Coneheads, Texas Bush Katydid, Allard's Ground Crickets and more.

Monarch Butterfly Tagging
Wednesdays, starting August 22, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Fee: free members, \$5 nonmembers, \$3 child
 Drop by any time between from 3:30 on to catch, tag and release some migrating monarchs. We have nets to share, but bring a net if you have one.

Chip Darmstadt
 Executive Director
 North Branch Nature Center
 713 Elm Street
 Montpelier, VT 05602
 802-229-6206

August 25, Saturday. Hike/Backpack/Overnight in NH with GMC. Difficult. White Mtns., NH. Backpack "The Bonds": West Bond, Mt. Bond, and Bondcliff. Backpack from Zealand Parking Lot to Buyot Campsite (8 miles). Day hike to Bonds and return to campsite (5 miles). Backpack back to parking lot second day (8 miles). Please contact leader Steve Lightholder at 479-2304 or steve.lightholder@yahoo.com prior to August 16 to plan logistics.

August 28, Tuesday. Hike with GMC. Plainfield. Spruce Mountain. Moderate. 4.5 miles, 1,180 elevation gain. Relaxed end-of-summer hike and lunch. Call leaders Andrew and Reidun Nuquist at 223-3550 for meeting time and place.

September 2, Sunday. Hike NH with Green Mountain Club. Difficult. Waumbek, NH. Difficult though one of the easier NH 4,000 footers. 7.8 miles round trip. Largely below tree line on Starr King Trail via the summit of Mt. Starr King. Call Leader: Michael Chernick, 249-0520 or chernick5@comcast.net for meeting time and place.

September 8, Saturday. Paddle with Green Mountain Club. Moderate. Morristown. Green River Reservoir. PFD required. Bring lunch. If applicable, bring your Green Mt. Passport. Call leader Joan Heller at 223-1874 for meeting time and place.

September 15, Saturday. Hike with Green Mountain Club. Moderate. Johnson. Belvidere Mountain via LT north and enjoy the summits 360 degree vista. 5.6 mile hike round trip with 2,040' elevation change. Bring lunch. Contact Cynthia Martin or George Longenecker at 229-9787 or marlong@myfairpoint.net for meeting time and place.

★ **Next Holiday** ★

Labor Day

Monday

Sept. 3, 2012



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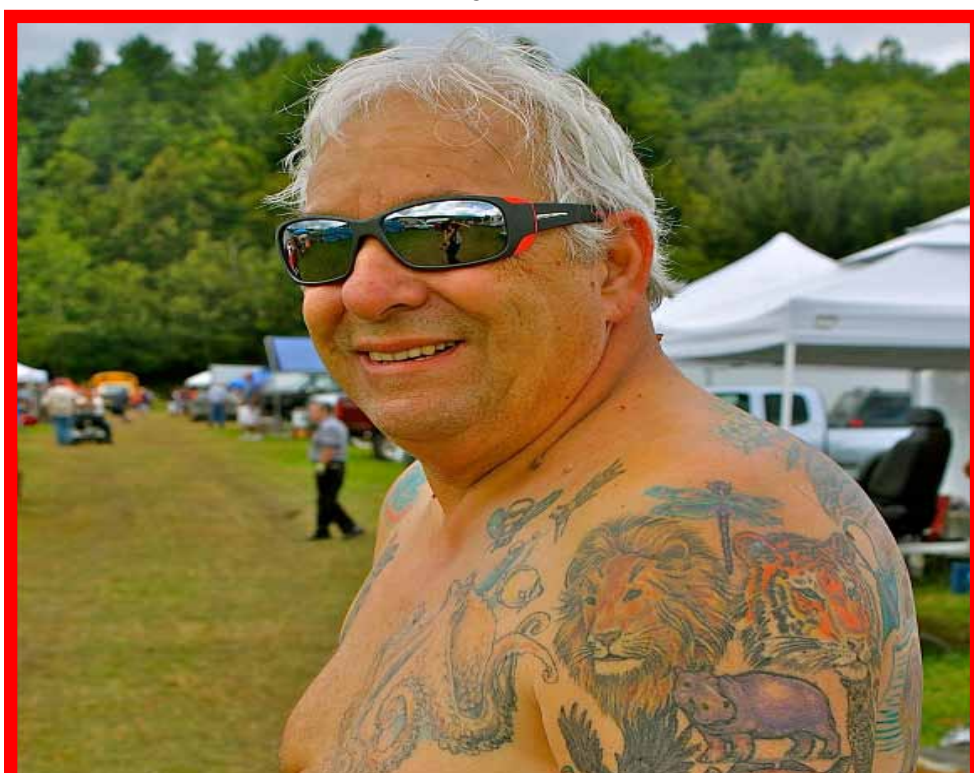
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Let the Good Times Roll at the 55th Annual Stowe Antique & Classic Car Show

Photos by Jeannette Wulff



Above Photo: Donald Pierce owner of Middlesex Electric stands with his beautifully restored 1955 Dodge Town Panel Truck. When Don isn't working, (which is rare) he can often be found singing in a Barber Shop Quartet, seen driving his truck in local parades or showing at car shows!



Above Photo: Don Mayer, CEO of Small Dog Electronics, Inc. caught our eye while we were walking around the car show. His colorful custom tattoos of African lion, Bengal Tiger and Hippopotamus drawn by artist at Yankee Tattoo of Burlington were truly WILD!



Above photo R-L: Chris Barbieri, an organizer and spokesperson for the Stowe Antique Car Meet with college roommate, Ken Canfield, who had travelled from Massachusetts to attend the weekend event.



Extremely rare 1917 White's Firetruck on display at the show.



Wishing Patrick & Marcellé Leahy of Middlesex, Vermont a Beautiful & Loving 50th Wedding Anniversary August 25, 2012

A White House Favorite Dessert during the Kennedy Administration



Baked Blackberry Dessert

You will need: 2 cups fresh or (frozen/drained) blackberries, to start.

Ingredients: 1 1/4 cup sugar. 1 3/4 cups sifted flour. 2 1/4 teaspoons baking powder. 1/3 teaspoon salt. 1/2 cup butter. 1 egg. 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. 1/2 cup milk.

To prepare: Drain thoroughly. Mix with 1/2 cup sugar in a medium bowl. In another bowl, sift together flour, baking powder and salt.

Cream the butter until fluffy, gradually adding remaining sugar and beat in the egg and vanilla. Add the flour mixture alternately with the milk, mixing thoroughly.

Place the blackberries in the bottom of a buttered baking dish. Pour the batter over the fruit and bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees for 50 minutes. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.



www.kellogghubbard.org

Lilac Pruning Workshop
Thursday, August 23, 5:30 pm to 7pm

Thursday, Aug 23 @10:30AM - 11:15AM
"Stuck in Montpelier" Story Time Join us for a special story time full of music, stories and crafts for those who just can't wait until fall story time begins! Please note this is on a Thursday.

Thursday, Aug 23 @ 6:30PM - 07:30PM
Renaissance Faire Planning Meeting We are hosting our first Renaissance Faire on Saturday, October 13 if we can find a good number of volunteers to help us out. Join us for our first planning meeting in the children's department.

Richard A. Bidnick is the New Library Director - WELCOME!!



The Board of Trustees of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard A. Bidnick as its new Library Director. Mr. Bidnick was the library director at the Brielle Public Library in New Jersey for 15 years and had also served as the director at Hopewell Public Library before looking for an opportunity to move to a Vermont Library.



Above photo: Back row - Codi Wendel, U-32, Front row, Left to Right: Sierra Henderson, Champ and Troy Bolduc of Rumney School in Middlesex. Photo By Kim Buldoc

At the Lake Monsters Game in Burlington on August 3rd, 3 middlesex students were honored as outstanding students by the Burlington Free Press. Pre-game they were given certificates of achievement and announced by name in an on field ceremony. After a group photo with Champ, they were given a chance to meet the players and receive autographs. A full list with a group photo is in the August 8th Burlington Free Press. Our local recipients are Troy Bolduc and Sierra Henderson from Rumney Memorial, and Codi Wendel from U-32. Congratulations to these students and many thanks to the teachers and community for doing such a great job to support our youth!

Jeannette H.L. Wulff

P. Neely Washington



Dear Readers:

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It's the Little and Big Things that Turn Days into LIFE



OUR SOUTHERN & WESTERN STATES NEED HELP....ALL LIFE FORMS NEED WATER TO SUSTAIN AND GROW LIFE - PERHAPS, IT'S TIME FOR A COMMUNITY RAIN DANCE

Simple Rain Dance Technique

1. Never do a rain dance on a hill.
2. Make sure you have a lot of room so you don't run into anything.
3. Spin around in clockwise circles.
4. Make up your own rain chant. It should be rythmical and easy to say fast.
5. Yell your rain chant while spinning around in circles.
6. If you are trying to get rid of rain, spin in counterclockwise circles and say your chant backwards.



The Rain Dance is preformed by cultures all around the world, but in the United States, when it is extremely dry, like it is now, especially in the Southwestern United States, Native American tribes still perform the ritual today, and it can be seen on several reservations in the United States. Men and women gather together for a rain dance and often wear special headdresses and clothing. The jewels used in the clothing, such as turquoise, had special significance, as well as the patterns on the clothing and the use of goat hair in the headdresses. These special clothes were worn every year for the rain dance, and usually were stored the entire year for this purpose

The steps of the rain dance itself are quite intricate, and unlike circle dances, which are seen in many Native American ceremonies, the men and women stood in separate lines and made zigzagging patterns. It is significant that, while many Native American rituals involved only men, or at least, were more concerned with their influence, the rain dance involved both men and women, showing the importance of rain to the entire community. This rain dance was meant to bring rain for the entire year or for a specific season.

The rain dance was more common to Native American tribes who lived in dry, Southwestern regions which received little rain. The Pueblos, for instance, have a particularly intricate rain dance, since the little rain they do receive is essential for survival. Evidence on how each rain dance was performed is passed down through oral tradition, and the fact that some Native Americans keep these rituals alive today. Although many rain dance costumes appear in museums, some are actually worn by modern day tribes' people during ceremonies or are kept as family heirlooms. The rain dance is still an important part of Native American consciousness, just as we are concerned with the amount of rainfall even in the modern world. Excerpted from American Indian Heritage Foundation

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