



Class of 1965
Second Annual Winter Trip To The 1965 Cabin at Mount Moosilauke
February 12-14, 2018

1965 Classmates Hank Amon, Rich Beams, Dave Beattie, and Mike Gonnerman spent February 12 – 14 at the Class of 1965 Cabin at Mount Moosilauke. We were joined by Dan Nelson, formerly head of the DOC, and Bill Young, Hanover resident, MD, friend of the Class, and AT hiker.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12

Before leaving Hanover, several of us met with Mike Silverman at the DOC house on Occom Pond. Mike gave us the gear we would need, including NEOS overshoes (New England Over Shoe Company), micro spikes, snow shoes, ski poles, backpacks and sleeping bags.

We drove to Warren and parked at the entrance to the Ravine Lodge Road. Although the road was closed it was being sanded to keep it passable for emergency vehicles. As we hiked up to the cabin we passed 5 other hikers returning who had just gone up the mountain. They said they made the ascent on tamped down trails using micro spikes. Their comments gave us the idea that we might try it.

After hiking the 1.5 miles to the Cabin, we were thrilled to see that Dan and Dave had already arrived and had hot soup waiting for us. After lunch we cross country skied or hiked with snow shoes the Al Merrill Loop Trail to the John Rand Cabin. We also went on the Ridge trail. The snow was several feet deep and a little crusty, as it had rained several nights before our trip. Not ideal for cross country skiing, and good for micro spikes once tamped down by other hikers, cross country skis or snow shoes..



Hank, Mike and Dave on the Al Merrill Loop Trail.



The Lodge on Monday evening.



The 1965 Cabin on Monday evening

That evening Dan treated us to a multi berry pie (blackberry, blueberry, raspberry and peaches) from Pearls Pies of Perfection, a new bakery in Ascutney, VT. A la mode!!!! We were so enthused by the dessert that we decided to head for the summit on Tuesday. During the 2017 winter trip to the 1965 Cabin we hiked up the Gorge Brook Trail, but only got half way up the mountain – this year, **ALL THE WAY!**



Bill, Rich, Hank, Dan and Dave at breakfast before the hike.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13

When we woke Tuesday morning, the weather was perfect for hiking – 10-15 degrees with clear blue skies. At breakfast, Dan gave us instructions:

- Do not wear cotton
- Start out dressed a little cool, not warm
- When we stop to rest at the summit just before the tree line, put on an extra outer layer to hold the heat, balaclavas and goggles.
- Keep your water bottle warm --- Dan brought a thermos of hot tea
- Travel in 3's – if someone is injured, you will want one person to stay with the injured and the third to go for help
- Do not set your mittens down, -- they might slide or blow away
- Eat and drink at each stop along the way
- Eat lunch after you reach the summit and have gone back below the tree line



Bill Young, Mike, Rich, Dave and Hank ready to head up to the summit.

We went directly to the summit using the Gorge Brook trail. The weather conditions at the summit were ideal – mid teens, 20-30 mph breeze and clear blue sky. We stopped at the tree line to put on our outer coats, goggles, and balaclavas.



Dan, Rich and Hank at the tree line.



Three of us making the final ascent.

There was quite a bit of ice above the tree line, but the micro spikes worked fine on the ice. As we approached the summit several of us began to get emails on our cell phones. Of course, there was no cell phone coverage once we began our descent.

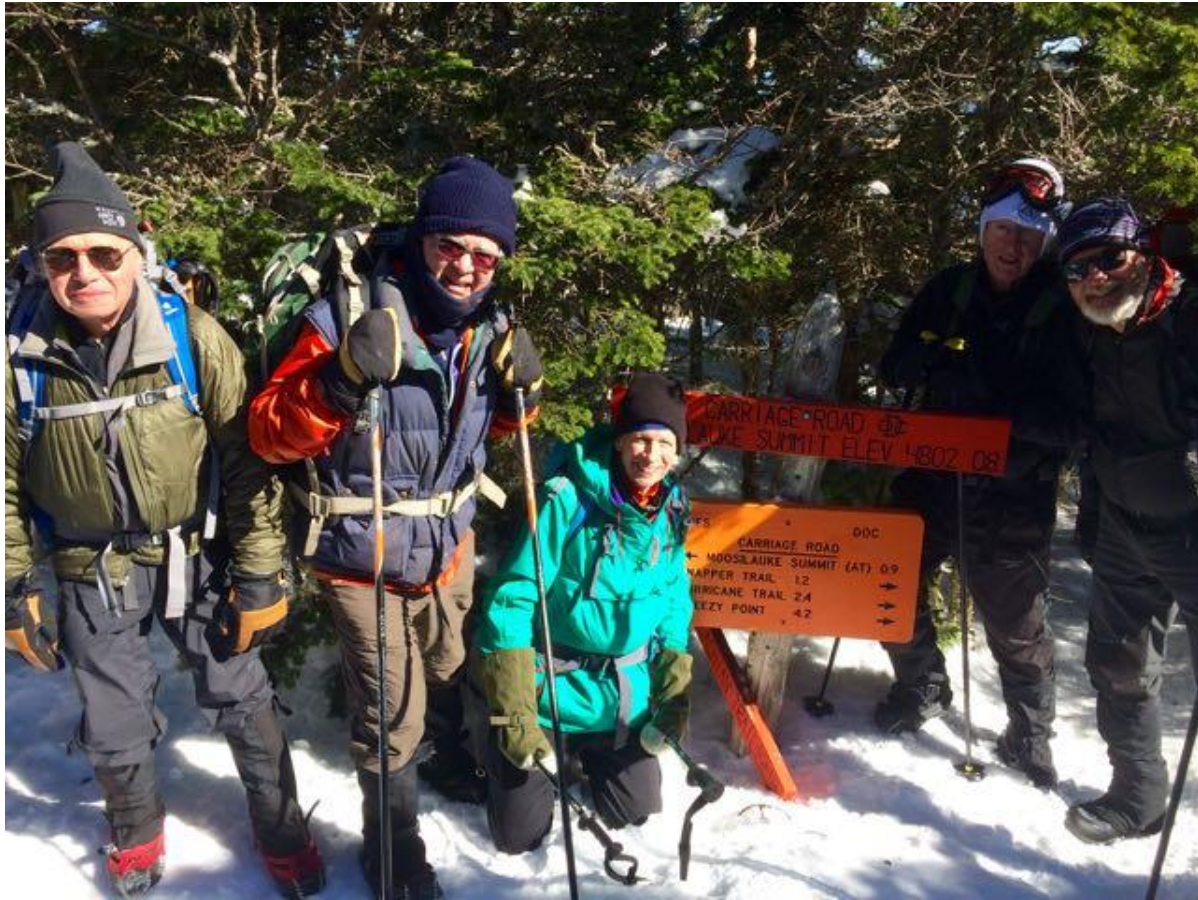


Mike, Dave, Hank and Rich at the summit.



Rich, Mike, Hank and Dave at the summit.

We descended on the Carriage Road, to the Snapper trail back to the Gorge Brook Trail. 7.5 miles, about 3.7m each way. Both the ascent and descent took about 3 hours.



Dave, Rich, Hank, Mike and Dan on the Snapper Trail.



Dan on the Snapper Trail – 1.7m from the Lodge and cabin

We capped off the night with another great dinner, and another pie. Then, a killer Scrabble game.



Hank, Rich and Mike playing Scrabble.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14



Bill, Hank, Rich, Mike and Dave



Quite a spread!



Rich ready for more hiking.

We left mid morning on Wednesday, but not before several of us went out on the Hurricane trail for a final 1.2 mile hike.



Using sleds to take supplies etc. back to the cars.



Mike, Hank, Rich and Dave getting coffee before the ride home.