

## Upcoming Events

**October 15th, Saturday, 12 PM - 7 PM.** Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike. Meet at noon at City Hall in Petoskey (216 Park Ave) and then we will shuttle cars. We will hike from Bayfront Park to Kipp Rd. About 8 miles. The October theme is Halloween. Dress up or not (and be made fun of). A shorter option may be possible for those going to the dinner. If you have questions, contact Eugene at 989-217-8001 or [eugene.branigan@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.branigan@gmail.com)

**October 15th, Saturday, 6:30 PM.** JV45° Adopter Appreciation Dinner at Resort Township Hall, 2232 Resort Pike Rd. Petoskey, MI 49770. An earlier notice was sent out about the dinner. Contact Dove if you have questions.

**November 12th, Saturday, 7 AM - 5 PM.** Last Chance Hike (before fire-arm hunting season). We will hike the entire 20-mile loop. Meet at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery. Contact Eugene if you have questions.

**November 12th, Saturday, 9 AM.** Help rebuild the Skyline Camp shelter. Lunch provided. Meet at the Krause Road Skyline Trail parking lot. See story on p. #.

**November Chapter meeting.** November ##, Details to follow.

**The JV45° Newsletter is published six times per year, every other month**



## Message from JV45° President Duane Lawton [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

I'm proud to be part of such a worthwhile and active group. Sometimes it seems like things go altogether too slowly, but I'm just impatient. We have a lot of good people doing good work, and progress is being made. Thank you for all you do.

In this newsletter we'll tell you about what has been going on—Fargo, Hike100, project planning—and what's coming up—our annual Adopters Appreciation. ...and other news and stories. Enjoy! Duane

## Other Updates from Duane

Joe Farley's Eagle Scout project to rebuild the Skyline Camp shelter is progressing. He has BSA approval, is into fundraising ([gofundme.com/2nkcuc](http://gofundme.com/2nkcuc)) and has a concept sketch soon to be plans. I'm meeting with him and landowners Doug and Pam Boor the first week of October to approve the plan and to chart next steps. We will have a "barn-raising" on November 12..

We have another Eagle Scout project by Chase Rawson, who will be developing the small spring that will be the (non-potable) water source for Skyline Camp. This is just getting started. You go, Chase!

The Petoskey Bear River pedestrian bridge project timetable is stretching out. The next opportunity for an MNRTF Grant application is now April, 2017, and Petoskey is not in a position to do it then. I will be appealing to the DNR/Iron Belle Trail for support. Meanwhile we're not pressed for the ~\$45K matching funds we'll have to find somewhere. The engineering plans call for an aluminum 80' clear span 6' wide with boardwalk approaches. Other pieces of the Skyline-to-NCMC reroute are similarly delayed.

The feelers put out by Kieran Fleming at the Little Traverse Conservancy to landowners who could participate in potential Conway-Kipp & Kuzmik-Slashing reroutes have borne no fruit. This will need follow-up.

The issue of a railroad crossing in the Dobleski-Giem reroute is being pursued with MDOT Rail Safety by Kenny Wawczyk our NCTA Michigan Regional Trail Coordinator. There is hope. See the Skyline Camp Shelter sketch below.



## SKYLINE SHELTER BUILDING EVENT

Saturday, November 12th, 9:00 am., meet at the Krause Road Skyline Trail parking lot. We need some eager workers to help Joe Farley complete his Eagle Scout Project, erecting the Skyline Shelter! We need you to bring whatever tools you can, especially cordless, power and pneumatic. If you have a generator and/or a compressor, that would be great too!

We hope to get the shelter up in one day. The Scouts will be providing a scrumptious dutch oven lunch. Please RSVP to Dove Day no later than November 5th, so we have a count for lunch, know what tools you are bringing, and can get any updates to you.

## Inside this Issue:

<b>August &amp; September Hikes 1</b>	<b>... 2</b>
<b>Historical Note</b>	<b>... 2</b>
<b>Register Box Buzz</b>	<b>... 3</b>
<b>NCTA Annual Meeting</b>	<b>... 4-5</b>
<b>Trail Coordinators' Report</b>	<b>... 5</b>
<b>September Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>... 6</b>
<b>Where I Hiked</b>	<b>... 7-9</b>

The JV45° Chapter is on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45-636045479799699/>

## JV45° August Hike 100

**O**n August 20, four hikers hiked from King Rd. to Springvale Rd., 10.4 miles. Hikers were Bob Courtois, Eugene and Linus Branigan, and Duane Lawton. Dove Day didn't hike because of the threat of lightning. Instead she planted the six new marker posts: Springvale (2), Harmon, Taylor, King (2). She also picked and delivered some berries for us. Wow—Eugene's hike theme was "sandwiches", but we needed them. It did rain some in the afternoon.



August hikers and Dove

Below: we have planted 18 new road crossing marker posts this year. Here are some.



Black raspberries picked by Dove



Bob at Cherry Valley overlook,



## Celebrating North Country National Scenic Trail Day

**O**n September 24th, seventeen of us started hiking at King Rd, southeast of Petoskey. Six finished at shorter points and 11 continued on to finish 10.7 miles at Little Traverse Bay after passing through the Petoskey Skyline Trail, the NCMC Natural Area, and the Petoskey Bear River Recreation Area. A varied and scenic section of the NCT, even the road walk. Five Scouts got in a 10 mile hike with us for their Hiking merit badge! After the hike we went to the new Top of Michigan Trails Council headquarters for our September chapter meeting (see draft minutes on p. #)



September hikers at King Rd



New headquarters building for the Top of Michigan Trails Council and the meeting site for our September Chapter Meeting.

**T**o see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: <[http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page\\_id=58](http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58)>. To report conditions e-mail Dove and John Day at [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) or call 231-373-0090 or 231-838-6445

## Submit Stories and Pictures for the JV45° Newsletter

**D**on't forget that this is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues, and that includes stories for the "Where I Hiked" column. Bob Haack <[haack@msu.edu](mailto:haack@msu.edu)>.

## 25 Years Ago: 1991: North Country National Scenic Trail moving closer

The North Country National Scenic Trail, a 3,200-mile hiking trail under construction, is moving closer to Petoskey. Local volunteers recently worked with trail builders from around the state and as far away as Maine and Pennsylvania to complete the sections of the trail between Kalkaska and Mancelona. "I just think it's kind of a nifty thing, and I'd like to see it get done," said volunteer Richard Seibert of Charlevoix. Congress created the National Trails System in 1968, and in 1980 created the North Country National Scenic Trail (NST). The trail starts at Lake Champlain, New York, and will cross seven Northeastern and upper Midwestern states on its way to the trail's end at Lake Sakakawea on the Missouri River in central North Dakota. Now about half complete, the trail will be the country's longest scenic trail. In North Dakota, it will join the Lewis and Clark Trail, which extends to the Pacific.

Source: Petoskey News-Review, 31 August 2016. Link:

[http://www.petoskeynews.com/featured-pnr/reviewing-the-news/article\\_0dcfeec2-beb1-513f-aaa4-d6c-4c4e4916c.html](http://www.petoskeynews.com/featured-pnr/reviewing-the-news/article_0dcfeec2-beb1-513f-aaa4-d6c-4c4e4916c.html)



## Register Box Buzz



### 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel Crossing on Jordan River Pathway Loop

**Robert A. Haack**, haack@msu.edu

**M**embers of the JV45° placed a register box along the NCT in the Jordan Valley where it crosses the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel on 26 September 2015. Chapter members refer to this as Section EE and it is between Cascade Road and Pinney Bridge. This section of the NCT is very popular because it is part of the 18-mile-long loop trail known as the Jordan River Pathway and has a campground near Pinney Bridge.

Over the past year (9/26/15 – 9/28/16) there were at least 255 separate entries in the log book. At times it was difficult to determine how to count the entries because sometimes every member of a group entered their name, while others entered a single name for an entire group (like an entire Boy Scout Troop!). I tried to group people together as best I could to be somewhat consistent. The frequency of entries in the log book gives an idea of trail usage throughout the year. For the above period

there were 2 entries in Jan, 1 in Feb, 9 in Mar, 15 in April, 37 in May, 24 in June, 33 in July, 27 in Aug, 44 in Sep, 42 in Oct, 9 in Nov, and 6 in Dec.

When the door of the register box is open it can serve as a platform for a camera so that hikers can take photos of themselves in front of the sign that reads “4600 miles long but only crosses the 45<sup>th</sup> once.” There is also a growing cairn near the register box, started by JV45 VP Eugene Branigan. If you know you’ll be passing by, bring in a stone to add to the pile.

There were many interesting and amusing entries in the log book. The vast majority of hikers were from Michigan, but a few listed their home as being in California, Florida, and Massachusetts. There was even a couple from Thailand (7 Aug 2016). Here are a few of the entries:

- 2 Jan 2016 – Happy New Year! 1<sup>st</sup> snowshoe of the season. Bud & Kelly
- 19 Mar 2016 – JV45 Hike 100 Challenge Hike. 39 degrees. Bright blue day. Nine members signed in.
- 11 May 2016 – Beautiful Day! Trilliums abounding! Pam & William.
- 27 May 2016 – Finished our Hike 100 Challenge at the 45<sup>th</sup>! Dove and John
- 25 June 2016 - 45° yeah right! Try 87°F. It’s a hot one. Zack
- 9 July 2016 – Live, love, laugh. Lovin’ the hike. First timers. Hiking brings peace into your heart. Stacey & Patty.
- 6 Aug 2016 – Very nice trail register. Probably best I’ve seen. Doing the loop. Hoping for good star viewing tonight. “Chocolate Monkey”
- 6 Aug 2016 – My first backpacking trip. Kat (San Diego)
- 20 Aug 2016 – Walking the full loop today since 75 miles on the NCT in the UP this week wasn’t quite enough. Mary & John
- 4 September 2016 – I haven’t died yet. Nick. Me either. Jeremy



- 4 September 2016 – First time on this section. 16 miles to go to complete the 100 Mile Challenge. Adam
- 28 Sep 2016 – JRP full loop #14 this season. Perfect hiking weather. Susan M.
- 12 Oct 2015 – Love the photo shelf and newly painted trail markers. Lisa & Steve
- 19 Oct 2015 – Colors are amazing! “Red Fury”
- 4 Nov 2015 – Colors are gone, the trees are bare. Seren & Max
- 5 Dec 2015 – Horseback ride in December. Awesome! (no name)
- 5 Dec 2015 – Stepped in horse poop! Thanks. Gorgeous day to hike with friends. Rich, Pam, Elliot & Neil
- 5 Dec 2015 – Still hiking. #23 around the JRP this season. Susan M.

### Sign up Your Register Box for a Future Issue of the JV45° Newsletter!

**F**or those members that have a register box in your section, please contact me to sign up for your story in a future newsletter. Include statistics from each logbook, such as the number of entries since a specified date, the log entry from furthest away, any other interesting items and a few of the most interesting or inspiring log entries. We need a story for December. Contact Bob Haack to sign up <haack@msu.edu>.



The door of the register box serves as a platform for a camera to take photos of hikers in front of the sign. The small but growing cairn is visible in the photo on the right.





One of the many day hikes

## NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ANNUAL CELEBRATION

**Duane Lawton**

delawton@torchlake.com

**F**ive JV45 chapter members attended the celebration in Fargo, ND, September 15-17: Connie and Jerry Allen, Dove and John Day, and myself. There was a record attendance, nearly 250. We had a great time, including discovering that Dove had set up Jerry and I for unexpected recognition. Sneaky. During the days, we hiked. At night, there were events.

The days: We participated in three very disparate hikes, all fascinating and beautiful. Thursday 8 miles along the Red River of the North, through Fargo (not NCT), we crossed several pedestrian bridges between ND and MN, one of which is raised by winches during frequent floods! Friday we hiked 5 miles in the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in MN. The NCT crosses the refuge 21 miles. There is perhaps the largest flock of endangered trumpeter swans here. It rained all the way there, all the way back, and not a drop on the hike. Saturday we hiked 6 miles in the Sheyenne National Grassland in ND with 100 of our closest friends, including Ruth and Dan Dorrough who thus FINISHED their 17 year, 4800 mile hike of the NCT.



Red River lift bridge,



The five JV45 members that attended the Fargo Meeting

The nights: Wednesday night the NPS team (Mark Weaver, Chris Loudenslager, Luke Jordan) hosted a roundtable discussion of their roles and activities. Thursday night there was a “chalk talk” about the history of the Red River Valley (of the North)—we did not attend. Friday was NPS and NCTA recognition night (see John Day’s article), followed by an auction of trail-related donated treasures. Saturday night was hiker recognition, and several attendees received their “Hike 100” patches. Joan Young recognized long distance hikers, including the Dorroughs. Then the Dorroughs made a presentation on their hike, which was very inspiring, interesting, and even amusing: “An Unexpected Adventure: Hiking the Entire North Country Trail”.

We camped at Buffalo River MN State Park, about 30 minutes from the celebration. This was a much less expensive option than staying at the Cambria Suites, and an experience.

Meanwhile, the NCTA Board of Directors were busy in deliberations, and they elected Ruth Dorrough the new Board



Bruce Matthews toasts the Dorroughs

President. They also discussed a “chapter engagement” proposal, shift to donor-based membership, new method of chapter funding, upcoming training, upcoming website plans, etc. More about this when I hear...

Next year the NCTA annual celebration will be in Marquette, July 25-30 at NMU!! Plan now to attend.

In 2019 it is Lower Michigan’s turn to host the annual celebration. So far I have not heard from any other chapter about their eagerness to lead this. If you’re interested in helping out on this, or have ideas, please let me know.



Trumpeter swans



## Trail Coordinators' Report Dove and John Day



**W**e hope you all had a wonderful summer and want to thank everyone who got out this year to do spring and summer trail maintenance. With recent storms and lots of rainfall it seems we have our work cut out for us this fall. There seem to be many more trees down and lots of overgrowth on the trail. Many adopters have already been out to clear recent blow downs and others have been out lopping at trees and brush. We can't thank you enough for all your efforts!

When there is new interest in adopting trail, we may double up the number of adopters on particular sections that need more maintenance than others. This allows more people to have a chance to adopt a trail and care for a section. Coordination between the adopters is not expected, but it certainly can be helpful. The main goal to doing this is to increase the chances of the trail staying clearer, longer.

This year our chapter started out 100% adopted, but still, two new adopters joined our team. Bob Courtois is helping with section C and Jim DeKett has been added to help with section A. A huge thanks to both for volunteering to care for trail!



**Jim & Denise  
DeKett**



**Bob Courtois.**

## NPS and NCTA Awards in Fargo, North Dakota

### John Day

johnanddove@gmail.com

**T**he 2016 NCTA Celebration in Fargo included an awards presentation for certain volunteers that deserved special recognition. From hours of volunteer service to a lifetime of commitment to the trail, all adopters and volunteers deserve applause for keeping the tread clear, communicating with landowners and dedicating their time and effort for something that all can enjoy.

This year, two Jordan Valley 45 members received awards for the volunteer hours recorded to the National Park Service. Yours truly, John Day, received a 100 hour award, which consists of a certificate and colorful volunteer pin, along with a 200 hour award of a NCT Nalgene water bottle. Dove Day received her 200 and 400 hour awards, the water bottle along with a khaki NPS volunteer shirt personalized with her name.

The NCTA award winners from our group start from the inception of the chapter, and end with the current leadership.

Jerry Allen received the "Distinguished Service Award" in recognition of exceptional volunteer service in a capacity of at least eight years. He has made a significant commitment to the dream of the North Country Trail which includes our section in Michigan. In 1998, he started the Tittabawassee Chapter with a handful of hikers from downstate. He has been an NCT member for about 20 years. He developed the Jordan River Pathway Ridge Runner program to help hikers and answer questions, and has been involved with the Boy Scouts for over 50 years. He even married his wife, Connie, at Landslide Overlook on the North Country Trail!

Gary Johnson received the "Sweep Award" for tireless work and achievements behind the scenes on behalf of the Trail or the NCTA for over three years. Gary served as our second Chapter President for 6 years, increasing membership from the local area of the trail, and ultimately transferring leadership of the chapter to local members. He helps in several capacities including displays at Quiet Water Symposium, Jays Sporting

Goods, and other local celebrations. He once broke his leg while scouting the trail, crawled out and drove himself to the hospital! Gary seeks no recognition, but we wanted to make sure he is known to our chapter for all he has done.

Duane Lawton, our current President, received the Leadership Award for his exceptional leadership over a period of at least three years. This has led to significant local achievements (Petoskey's Trail Town status) and other highly successful events. His positive attitude towards new ideas for our local area invigorates us to help with register boxes, signs and hikes. His experience with local government and the DNR allow better communications for forward development of the trail. His dedication to getting more miles off the roads and into the woods makes for a better, quieter, and more serene experience on our trail. And what's not to love about a well guided Chapter meeting or Trial Town Celebration? Mmm... hot dogs in summer?

Congrats to all who have received awards! This year was special to our chapter because three of our leaders received some pretty prestigious awards. When you see them, congratulate them!

All volunteers have the opportunity to log their hours with the National Park Service and receive incremental awards for the hours that they put in, and these hours translate to dollars for the NCTA. Every hour recorded leads to increased funding for the Trail, so just picking up that stick helps! Hours must be recorded to receive these benefits, so if you have any questions on how to report your hours, contact John Day at [johnanddove@gmail.com](mailto:johnanddove@gmail.com). For more information on the Volunteer in Parks program, visit <https://www.nps.gov/noco/getinvolved/supportyourpark/vip-job-descriptions.htm>.

# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter- North Country Trail Chapter Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

September 24, 2016 7:10p

Top of Michigan Trail Council (Petoskey)

## Meeting preceded by group hike.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Following the group hike, the meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with 10 members and others in attendance.

### 2. Agenda Review and Approval

The agenda was verbally reviewed, the order adjusted and approved as modified.

### 3. Top of Michigan Trail Council Overview

Jeff Winegard, Executive Director of the Top of Michigan Trail Council (TOMTC), provided an overview of the TOMTC, and indicated that the organization initially started (in 1995) focused primarily on bike trails/rail trails. He described the network of existing pedestrian/bike trails in the region and provided an update of some that are in progress. After moving to their new location on the trail and M-119, TOMTC experienced a tremendous increase in drop-in traffic seeking information on all types of trails. Jeff suggested there are opportunities for closer collaboration between the local NCT chapters (both JV45° and Harbor Springs) and the TOMTC. Some ideas discussed included the periodic presence of a NCT member at the TOMTC center; the possibility of holding an event at the TOMTC center to share information with the public about the NCT; having NCT participate in TOMTC annual meetings to raise awareness and support, and the possibility of incorporating a NCT display panel sign as part of the new landscape area being planned at the TOMTC. The local NCT brochures are made available at the TOMTC center. Top of Michigan Trail Council currently promotes trails for both health and economic development benefits.

### 4. Minutes Review and Approval

The minutes from the July 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved as published. Motion by John Day, seconded by Sheridan Haack, Motion Carried.

### 5. Financial Report

Duane provided printed copies of the Chapter monthly financial report as of August 31, 2016, which shows a starting account balance of 3,545.60 and ending balance of 3,797.80. The account changes and associated activities were reviewed, and include the following:

- A. Membership dues received in August.
- B. Donations received in August.
- C. Expenses associated with 6 NCT magnetic signs for vehicles.

### 6. Skyline Camp Rebuild- Boy Scout project

- A. The rebuild of the Skyline Camp shelter is proposed to be done as a local Eagle Scout project.
- B. Tentative work days to assist with the Skyline Camp were discussed for October 8 & 22.

### 7. Trail Adopter Dinner

Trail Adopter Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2016 following the Hike 100 group hike. [Location finalized after meeting: Resort Township Hall starting at 6:30pm].

### 8. NCT Celebration –Fargo, ND Presentation by Duane

Duane provided a slide show with a summary of the events associated with the NCT Celebration in Fargo. The event was attended by Chapter members Duane Lawton, Jerry and Connie Allen, & John and Dove Day.

The tremendous efforts of the 3 members of the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter were acknowledged and appreciated as the following members were honored at the Celebration Awards event:

Duane Lawton received the Leadership Award for his exceptional leadership over a period of greater than 3 years

Jerry Allen received the Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of exceptional volunteer service in a capacity of at least eight years.

Gary Johnson received the Sweep Award, for tireless work and achievements behind the scenes on behalf of the trail and the NCTA.

Thank you to these three and all our members who contribute their time and efforts for the improvement and maintenance of the JV45° segment of the NCT for enjoyment by all.

**9. Adjourned Motion** by Sheridan Haack, seconded by Dove Day, to adjourn Chapter meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Campbell

## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – President  
delawton@torchlake.com

Eugene Branigan – Vice President  
eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator  
joshberlo@gmail.com

Mary Campbell – Secretary  
marymcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com

Todd Winnell - Treasurer  
Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator  
jen@charter.net

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator  
haack@msu.edu

Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators  
doveday70@gmail.com  
johnanddove@gmail.com

# Where I Hiked

## Isle Royale: Part 2 of 2

Eugene Branigan

Email: eugene.branigan@gmail.com

### DAY 3

I woke up at 8:30 AM, slept in and when I rolled out of the sack I was happy to see clear skies. Inspected the bathroom and verified that it was, in fact, in existence and in working order. Walked down to the dock and laid out socks and boots to dry. While down there we ran into a grumpy guy who said nothing when greeted with a customary "top o' the morning to you." He was flanked by an older gentleman who appeared to be prepared to go on safari with perfectly pressed clothing lacking only a pith helmet. Found shelter '#4' to be open and its area had a clearer view of the sky than our current shelter '#8'. I dropped my knife, map and whatever I had in my pockets in the shelter and went back to the crew in our shelter to let them know we had an opportunity to move.

While walking the gear back to shelter 4, I ran into a lady ranger. She introduced herself as Ranger Emily. She was seeking the two hikers the ranger the day before had mentioned, I mentioned we thought we had seen hikers of this description at Daisy Farm and they were on their way to Chicken Bone. She asked about our tag and Duane indicated that we did not have a tag. She asked if we went

to the talk on the Ranger III and we told her that we did not get the talk on the boat or when we got off but we had checked to make sure we were all set with our reservations. She hand wrote us a permit that we used to tag our shelter and would use for the rest of the hike. While we were talking she indicated that Isle Royale is generally seen as a place for new hikers to start out. I was surprised by this as I had held a picture in my mind of the rugged remoteness signifying a singular challenge that would preclude new hikers from making an attempt till more weathered and experienced. Ranger Emily told us that the reason for this is because Isle Royale has no ticks, bears or raccoons. Also no poison ivy. And if inclement weather is present then there are shelters available.

Our entire group began moving equipment to Shelter 4 and we strung up a clothesline that was soon layered in clothing. We chowed on the rest of the red beans and rice and then went down to the dock to hang out a bit and warm up in the sun. Ranger Emily returned with her quarry, two young men that were so sought after. I helped her cast off her boat and we watched her power out of McCar-goe Cove.

Making good on my boast I prepared to jump in the water. Duane readied my camera to take a picture and at the last moment Linus joined me. We jumped in but Duane completely missed our jump in the water. He held the shutter button down but only captured the first few frames before the camera's cache was filled and he missed the rest. We had to jump in again, this would be the reason that Duane would next get the pink bandanna. Duane was able to sort of get a shot of us the second time, warming up in the sun we watched fish jumping all over in the bay.

After sitting at the dock for a bit we walked back up to camp and then decided to walk up to the nearby mine. Walking up the trail towards the mine we observed the open pit and while Jason, Logan, Linus and Ethan explored I followed the trail around the back and was able to enter the mine from the lower section. I peered up at the group and walked across the old narrow gauge rail and we all noticed how much cooler it was just a few feet below the surface. Duane joined me from the alternative entrance and we walked back out and looked at some of the old mine



equipment and tailings. We walked back to camp and on the way explored a rock outcropping that we were told had a great western view. We enjoyed the exploration but didn't make it too far before turning back.

Arriving back at camp we noticed a large group had populated the dock area. Nearly all of the gentler sex, which of course inspired the young men (and an old goat) to go down and watch as they started jumping into the freezing cold water. While laughing and watching the festivities we noticed a turtle swimming near the dock and followed it as it swam past the dock and then a little later actually observed a snake as it swam across the bay, none of us had seen such a thing before and it was entertaining. Back at camp the boys found that a nearby rock was a gathering place for several garter snakes. They spent the next couple of hours harassing the snakes but enjoying themselves. I saw and pointed out one snake that was climbing a tree and it disappeared into a crack which allowed me to chalk up one more new experience for the day.

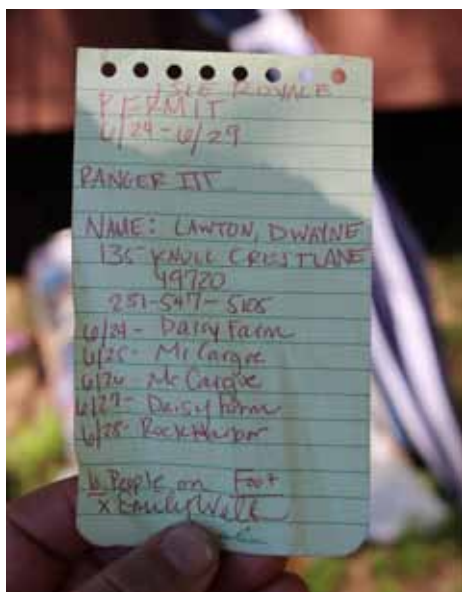
Turned in at about 10:30 PM to loon calls.

### DAY 4

Birds calling when waking. Loons again, chickadees and others. Struck camp and departed for Daisy Farm along the shortest route. Was



Walking into the mine



Our tag





**Giving first aid to Duane**

a fairly easy walk till near Chicken Bone Lake and there was a very long board-walk that caused me some vertigo but otherwise easy. Saw some Moose Prints. Clouds began to appear but no rain and as I walked into Chicken Bone, I had 2 Cliff bars and made it to Daisy Farm well ahead of the rest of the party but behind Linus at 2:58PM. I began looking for him and asking other campers but ran into him at shelter 8. When the rest of the party showed up, we setup and began cooking. Needing more water Linus and I went to the dock and began working on filtering with my sawyer squeeze-bottle system. I noticed after the 4th time that I had refilled my squeeze bottle (a 20oz soda bottle) the seal was not holding. Looking down from the dock I could see a nice new white o-ring sitting on the bottom of the lake under 4' of water. Linus located a long stick and we were able to fish the o-ring out and continue filtering while watching to make sure that the o-ring wasn't lost again.



Duane and I walked down to the dock after dinner to go for a walk and the message board near the dock had a note indicating that Ranger Emily was stationed at the dock! We walked down the trail marked toward the ranger shelter. It was a long but well-worn path and spied the cabin but not wanting to intrude we retreated back to camp. Turned in at about 9:30 PM.

### **Day 5**

Linus was up at 3:12AM and slammed the door when he went out presumably to water the foliage. Awoke at 6:55 AM. 52 degrees, prepped for departure and left at 7:48 AM. Walked up to Mt. Ojibway and experienced the greenstone. Linus commented "why didn't we spend the whole trip up here along the ridge" I told him that Mr. Duane was at fault and I agreed with him. We enjoyed the beautiful view overlooking the terrain at the top of the fire tower.

Shortly after Ojibway, I noticed a trail leading up another crag and saw a moose antler on a cliff outcrop overlooking a western view. Snapped a few shots and then waited at the trail for the rest of the group.

We moved on to Mt Franklin and enroute Duane fell and injured his arm. He asked me to look at it and as he was not bleeding profusely asked him to continue until we were out of the swamp so we continued to Franklin. I gloved up and went through the National Ski Patrol protocol,

*The Scene was safe*

*I introduced myself*

*I asked for permission to render care*

*Donned protective gear and went to work*

I was hoping for an amputation but no such luck. A bandage and a cravat took care of the immediate issue. At this point Duane, Jason, Ethan, and Logan decided to go to Hidden Lake which required them to make the trip by 3:30. Linus wanted to go the shorter route to Rock Harbor following along Tobin Harbor, our aim being to make Rock Harbor as soon as possible in order to secure a shelter. The route was nice, and we had a beautiful view of the harbor for quite some time. Finally we arrived at Rock Harbor. I weighed in and my pack was 40#...still Linus was at 20# and we were able to secure one of the few remaining Shelters. The rest of the crew



**Our final Island Dinner!**

arrived a few hours later and they were able to see a moose.

We decided to walk down to the store and thought we ought to supplement dinner and found the store had a nice supply of ramen noodles. Priced at 50 cents per package which wasn't bad for an island price. We also chose to supplement with tallboys for the adults and sodas for the boys. Duane began measuring the exact water requirements for the ramen. I told him to just let me cook them. I dumped all of the noodles that would fit in the pot along with all the noodles that would fit because we were not making soup. We cooked drained and chowed to our hearts content as we had purchased 10 packages or ramen.

After eating till we were unable to move we crashed.

### **Day 6+1**

We rode the ranger III. Duane pointed out a giant slide just outside of the harbor as part of a giant play park. We arrived in port and Jason and Duane dropped the boys and myself off at the park which Ethan, Logan, and Linus enjoyed very much. Jason and Duane brought McDonalds back and we all had a quick bite to eat but only wanted to stem our appetites as we were going to Togos in Marquette. In Marquette we enjoyed their sandwiches and leaving Marquette we stopped by Lakeland to look at the marvelous metal sculptures then we headed south.

Arriving home late and unfortunately back to the "real" world.





# Where I Hiked

## Sections of the NCT in the UP

Susan Miller of Petoskey  
smiller150@gmail.com

**A**fter I had completed the Hike 100 Challenge on our local NCT trail network this year, I decided I would like to try to add 100+ miles of NEW trail further west in the Michigan UP in . The following is a description of this year's "new" miles, from Munising Falls to Mulligan Flats (NW of Marquette), listed in order hiked.

**Day 1 (July 11, 2016):** 14.7 miles. Parked at the Jeske Flooding Boat Launch off of Sand River Rd. Met up with Lorana Jinkerson (of the NCT Hikers Chapter out of Marquette) for a "spot" or shuttle to the Michigan Welcome Center on US 41. Hike mostly on an old railroad grade that serves as a snowmobile trail in the winter. Mostly flat, with gravel and rocks. Short jaunt through network of CC Ski trails.

**Day 2 (July 12):** 20 miles. Parked at Munising Falls. Met up with Tim Hass of the Superior Shoreline Chapter for a ride to Rock River Rd. On the way we picked up Barb, another SSC member. They were head-



**The Hiawatha vinyl blue blazes (Day 2)**

ed to scout out another portion of the trail where some Eagle Scouts were potentially constructing a bridge. SSC is a small, but mighty and active chapter. During the drive, Tim gave an interesting and informative commentary about their chapter and its work, things I would see in the area such as a big male bear that claims the territory (No



**Top of Hogback Mtn (Day 3)**

such sighting! Whew!), and the remains of a camp for German POWs during WW II (who would've guessed?!). Plenty of tall trees, and a series of ponds. Diamond-shaped vinyl blue markers through the Hiawatha Nat'l Forest. Another CC ski area. A road walk along busy Hwy 94 and through Munising.

**Day 3 (August 22):** 12.7 miles. Parked at north side of Marquette Tourist Park at Noquemanon railhead for a ride up to Echo Lake Rd. Hike along shores of Lake Superior. Lots of scenery shots and photo ops! A trail characterized by roots and rocks. Slow going due to need to watch one's footing. Through Little Presque Isle State Park (with rock formations on a miniature scale similar to Pictured Rocks), past Wetmore Landing (beach area) and Sugarloaf Mtn spur., across a very rocky area (can we say "boulders"?), a short jaunt up the spur trail to top of Hogback Mountain (What a view!) Another area of CC ski trails. Sun reflections over Tourist Park Reservoir.

**Day 4 (August 23):** 21 miles. Parked at Jeske Flooding Boat Launch and shuttled east to Rock River Rd. One of the more challenging sections. Once again roots and rocks, but more buried under a thin layer of ground. Reminded me of the



**Laughing Whitefish River (Day 4) Corduroy segment (Day 4)**

texture of corduroy. Also challenging due to the way the trail intertwines with multiple two-tracks and logging roads, along with swamps to skirt and streams to ford. Grateful for the "trail segment" descrip-

tions on the NCT Hikers' chapter website! Came across a few surprise waterfalls. Crossed Laughing Whitefish River...more of a canyon-like approach with steep banks on both sides.



**Tributary to Little Garlic River (Day 5)**

**Day 5 (September 9):** 13.1 miles. Parked at Echo Lake Rd. and shuttled to Co Rd 510. First portion a relatively new section carved out by a "Volunteer Adventure" workgroup. A few years old, but tread still fairly fresh. Followed Little Garlic River and its tributaries. Included an unpublished road walk, following a map courtesy of Lorana.



**Mulligan Flats (Day 6)**

**Day 6 (September 10):** 12.5 miles. Parked at Co Rd. 510 and shuttled to west edge of Mulligan Flats. Rainy day, but not a total wash, as rain added morning mists to the ridges, and a number of "basins". Spongy wet road, though, and one of the "longest" 12+ miles I've hiked in a long time.

**Day 7 (September 24):** 7.3 miles. Parked at Michigan Welcome Center and hiked to Tourist Park and back (14.6 total for the day) Mostly along a bike path. Multiple city parks and several historical sites and museums. Ran across an informational tent manned by the NCT Hikers chapter, spreading the word about the NCT to city trail users.

I really enjoyed the variety of scenery, and have a new appreciation for the NCT network of volunteers that makes it all possible! Happy Trails!



**Marquette Harbor Lighthouse (Day 7)**