

Country Squires of New London, NH
Minutes for the Meeting on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at Eastman

***Call to Order:** President Tom Nowell called the meeting to order at noon welcoming members, guests, and our guest speaker Ms. Julie Boardman

***Invocation:** President Nowell gave the Invocation:

Let us, by holding perfection as our standard, enrich our affections, govern our actions, inspire our thoughts, establish peace in our hearts. Thus fed and nourished, we shall surely meet the needs of all those whose lives we touch.

***Squires Memorial:** Ted Jones announced the recent passing of Squire Millard Hunter. A moment of silence was observed.

***Luncheon:** We then enjoyed our luncheon of salad, pork with peas and mashed potatoes, and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

***Guests and New Members:** At 1:00 O'clock President Nowell moved forward on membership to welcome members' guests and new members:

Art Bobruff introduced Paul Gorman; and,
Phelps Plott introduced Allan Darrow.

Attendees welcomed Jim DeNatale back after a long absence from meetings.

No new member votes were taken today.

***Speaker and Presentation:** President Nowell asked Art Rosen to introduce our guest speaker Ms. Julie Boardman. Ms. Boardman is an accomplished hiker and climber. She successfully climbed all 65 mountains of New England that are at least 4,000 feet tall. Subsequent remeasurement of several mountains revealed that there are now 67 4,000 footers in New England, but that does not diminish from Ms. Boardman's accomplishments.

Ms. Boardman spoke of how she came to write "Death in the White Mountains: Hiker Fatalities and How to Avoid Being One." She told us of her walk along the northern rim of the Grand Canyon at Bright Angel Point. They walked close to the edge of a very long drop and she wondered if there had been any fatalities during such hikes. Her question was answered when they returned to the Visitors Center and saw the book "Over the Edge" which described fatalities in the Grand Canyon. She thought a similar book about the White Mountains would be of interest, but she wanted to expand on the idea by analyzing why the deaths occurred and what could be learned from such incidents.

Julie reviewed all back issues of the Appalachian Mountain Club's newsletter "Appalachia," NH Fish and Game records, and newspaper accounts from the Internet. She compiled a list of 219 deaths among hikers, rock climbers, and back-country skiers. Numbers included Falls (74), Natural Causes (57), Hypothermia (46), Avalanches (14), Drownings (12), Lightening and Other Freak Accidents (8), Lost Hikers Never Found (4), Heat Stroke (2) and Murder (2).

Julie then focused on deaths due to hypothermia. One or more of three reasons were common to these deaths. The first was inadequate clothing or preparation (34/46 deaths). A second reason was failing to turn back when hikers ran into bad weather (29/46 deaths). The third factor was hiking alone (19/46 deaths). Included in this last group were people separated from the group with which they were hiking.

Julie then spoke briefly about several stories in which people survived. Her overall conclusion was taken from the book "Over the Edge": There are no new accidents, only new people having the same old accidents.

***Post-talk Presentation:** Following Ms. Boardman's talk, President Tom Nowell presented her with the often imitated, always envied, and most prestigious Squires Mug. Ms. Boardman was very pleased with this token of our appreciation.

***New Business:** President Tom Nowell reminded attendees that it is time for dues to be paid. The \$10 membership dues can be paid to the New London Country Squires or can be added to the usual meeting fee of \$18 upon arriving to the August or September meeting.

***Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held on Thursday August 9. Dr. Donald Catino will be speaking to us about "Aging: What to Expect and How to Slow It Down."

Tom also reminded the attendees that there will be a meeting of the Past Presidents following the August meeting.

*** A Motion to Adjourn was called for and seconded thus ending the meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Etkind, Secretary
13 July 2018