

Randonnotes

Randonnée Aventure - Montreal's Friendly Outdoor Club

Summer/Fall 2009

ABOUT RANDONNÉE AVENTURE

Randonnée Aventure, founded in 1986, is a non-profit, volunteer-run outdoor club for adults with about 300 members. We offer:

- Saturday and some Sunday bus trips to prime cycling, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing destinations within two hours of Montreal.
- Trips scouted to suit all levels from beginner to expert.
- Weekend getaways in scenic areas.
- Social events (parties, pub nights, etc.)
- Clinics and instructional classes for the different outdoor activities.

RANDONNÉE AVENTURE
PO BOX 26541 RPO QUEEN MARY
MONTREAL QC H3X 4B1

514-489-0339
info@randonnee.ca
www.randonnee.ca

Membership Information

The annual membership fee is \$25. Membership and activity fees must be paid with separate cheques, as regulations require trip and administrative expenses be paid from separate accounts. Your help is appreciated.

Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer or just want to know more about helping the Club, contact us via voice mail or e-mail. These positions are currently vacant:

President - Bob Yarnold is stepping down after three years. The main requirements are energy and enthusiasm to ensure the Club's continued success. Compensation is the warm glow from giving back to a Club that has afforded so much enjoyment and companionship. Also, working with the Management Committee, who do all the hard work while you take the credit! Email Bob at: yarnold@videotron.ca for details.

For more information, or to help with weekend activities, call the Club voicemail at 514-489-0339 and leave a message.

Labour Day Hiking & Cycling Weekend

Lincoln, New Hampshire
Friday, Sept. 4 - Monday, Sept. 7

Lincoln, New Hampshire has long been a favourite destination of RA. Ideally situated at the south end of Franconia Notch and the west end of the Kancamagus Highway, spectacular scenery is in every direction, with hiking options to challenge all levels. To the west lies Mt Moosilauke; the east; Mt Chocorua; to the north are Mts Liberty and Flume, and to the south is Mt Trip pyramid.

For something other than hiking or biking, the towns of Lincoln and Woodstock offer a variety of pubs and restaurants including a Lahouts for the outdoor shopping enthusiast. Perhaps just as appealing is horseback riding or a scenic gondola ride to the Summit of Loon Mountain.

Accommodations: In The Village of Loon Mountain, across the Kancamagus Highway from Loon Mountain, each deluxe one or two-bedroom condo with loft has a fully-equipped kitchen with microwave and a large living room with cable TV. Enjoy full access to the Village Swim, Tennis and Fitness Club, equipped with both indoor and outdoor pools, four spas (one outdoors), 12 tennis courts, and a complete exercise facility, all within sight of beautiful mountain vistas. So bring along your bathing suit, running shoes and enjoy!

Cost: \$185, non-members must write a separate membership cheque for \$25. All cheques are payable to Randonnée Aventure.

Includes: Three nights accommodation and a welcoming party.

Food: Three breakfasts and two dinners, organized by your condo coordinator with costs and preparation shared by all. You are responsible for your own lunches.

Transportation: By carpool, cost is \$45 per passenger to be paid to the driver. Driving time is approximately 3 1/2 hours.

Transportation to trailheads: By carpool, fee of \$2 U.S. per passenger each way paid to the driver before departing to trailheads.

Registration Deadline: Must be received by July 31. There are 36-38 places available.

Thanksgiving Hiking Weekend

Waterville Valley, New Hampshire
Friday, October 9 - Monday, October 12

This year we're back at Waterville Valley, nestled among breathtaking mountains in the White Mountain National Forest. The area's finest hiking is a 5 - 10 minute drive away.

Seven peaks, including 4,340 ft. Mt. Osceola, the highest in the region, Mt. Tecumseh at 4003 ft. and Mt. Trip pyramid with its three rugged peaks, offer outstanding views. For the less adventurous, Welch and Dickey Loop Trail give excellent vistas with minimal effort. The gentle trail to Greeley Ponds provides spectacular fall foliage with the tranquility of the ponds. There are also short walks on local trails in the Valley itself.

Accommodations: The Town Square Condos are right in the village, near shops, cafes, delis, pubs, and entertainment. The deluxe three-bedroom condos have 2 bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, cable TV and VCR. The two or three-level units can comfortably accommodate 6 adults. More details are at: www.waterville.com/info/summer/townsquare.asp

For something other than hiking, you have access to the nearby White Mountain Athletic Club, with indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpools, steam rooms, saunas, weight rooms and outdoor tennis courts. Bring your bathing suit, running shoes and enjoy!

Cost: \$190, non-members must write a separate membership cheque for \$25. All cheques are payable to Randonnée Aventure.

Includes: Three nights accommodation and a welcoming party.

Food: Three breakfasts and two dinners, organized by your condo coordinator with costs and preparation shared by all. You are responsible for your own lunches.

Transportation: By carpool, cost is \$50 per passenger to be paid to the driver. Driving time is approximately 4 hours.

Transportation to trailheads: By carpool, with \$2 U.S. per passenger each way paid to the driver before departing to trailheads.

Registration Deadline: Must be received by September 1. There are 35 places available.

CYCLING 2009

Trip Departure Points & Times

Note the earlier times for the August 22 Cycle/Hike bus trip. Please be ready to load your bike at the specified time.

Décarie Square (Décarie and Vézina)

Loading: 6:50 am for 7:05 departure.

Atwater and Tupper

Loading: 7:15 am for 7:25 departure.

Carpool Trips: Meet at Atwater & Tupper at 8:00 am for an 8:30 departure. Bring your car and bike rack if you have one. Those needing a lift will be assigned a ride.

Meet & Ride Trips: Meet at the specified location at 8:00 am for an 8:30 departure.

Cycling Trip Prices

Regular bus trips: \$45

Meet and ride: \$5 for maps.

Carpool trips: \$5 for maps, \$8 for the driver.

Invitational Ride, Sunday, July 12. The only Sunday ride, \$5 for maps. We'll finish at a café or pub for a drink and a bite.

All rides offer short, medium and long routes.

Shawinigan overnight trip: \$80/person, including maps. Meals are not included. Registration deadline is July 7, though only a few places are still available.

Newport overnight trip: \$75/person, includes continental breakfast. Registration deadline is July 6. Limited to 20 people.

The carpool fee for overnight trips is \$25.

Cycling Trip Volunteers

If anyone is interested in leading, assisting, or scouting a cycle trip, contact Andrew Burlone. His e-mail is asb@visionnaires.com, or call the Club number to leave a message.

Cycling Trips

BusTrip#	Date	Type	Destination
	2 May Saturday	Meet & Ride	West Island Meet at Atwater Market (south end by the footbridge) Ride along the Lachine canal towards Pointe Claire. A gentle warm up for the season! Routes are 22, 50 and 75 km.
	9 May Saturday	Carpool	Quinn Farm, Ile Perrot, QC Cycle around the island or scoot up to Hudson and/or along the Soulanges canal. Scenic routes with a few gentle hills.
	23 May Saturday	Carpool	Bedford, QC Cycle Bedford for the scenery and beauty of the townships. As always, our routes offer a variety of distances and degrees of difficulty so that everyone will be pleased with their ride at the end of the day.
1	30 May Saturday	Bus Trip	Lennoxville, QC A return to a favourite area. We'll enjoy challenging hills of the Eastern Townships and relaxing, charming towns en route. There'll be something for everyone: routes of 60, 97 or 123 km.
	6 June Saturday	Carpool	Oka, QC Oka is close to the city, and the ride offers splendid scenery, beaches, and ferries!
	13 June Saturday	Carpool	Old Beloeil, QC Offers a variety of routes, some along the Richelieu river. After the ride we'll relax at a café or pub.
	4 July Saturday	Carpool	St. Hyacinthe, QC St. Hyacinthe is a charming old city. The ride offers quiet routes along the Yamaska River. A bike path is available for some routes
	12 July Sunday	Invitational Meet & Ride	Varenes, QC Meet at Atwater Market (south end by the footbridge) Across the Victoria Bridge, along the South Shore bike paths to Varenes, and back. Finish the day with a drink at around 4 pm at Magnan's, 2602 St Patrick, 514-935-9647. Open to all, so bring along a friend to try some cycling with us!
	18-19 July Sat./Sun.	Overnight Carpool	Shawinigan, QC New destination! Situated near the entrance of Parc de la Mauricie, the rides wander over rolling hills, through green forests, along rivers, and between numerous inviting lakes.
	25 July Saturday	Carpool	Ormstown, QC Great cycling along quiet roads by the Chateauguay River with scenic views of the Adirondacks. At this time of year, the fields will be greening with fruits and vegetables along the routes, all on fairly flat terrain.
	1 August Saturday	Meet & Ride	Chambly, QC Meet at the Seaway Park in St. Lambert (430 Riverside Dr.). We'll cycle to Chambly for a picnic in the park. Most of the route is on cycle paths. For those wanting a longer ride, there are several routes in the countryside beyond Chambly.
	8-9 August Sat./Sun.	Overnight Carpool	Newport, VT A popular area, Newport is situated at the shore of Lake Memphremagog with beautiful rides in Orleans County. Great vistas from the peaceful rolling hills of Vermont. Bring ID for the border (see last page).
	15 August Saturday	Carpool	Hemmingford, QC/Lake Champlain, NY This popular destination has routes on quiet roads that cross into upper New York state. Bring ID for the border (see last page).
2	22 August Saturday	Bike or Hike Bus Trip	Parc Mont Orford, QC A new destination, and a new format! Come for biking, or come for hiking, or come for some trail riding through the park. Take time to meet some hikers, and relax and swim at Lac Stukely.
	29 August Saturday	Carpool	Mooers, NY Mooers offers spectacular scenery and very quiet roads. We'll meet in a Hemmingford pub on the way home. Bring ID for the border (see last page).
	12 Sept Saturday	Carpool End of season party	Covey Hill, QC Begin and end at the Rockburn Pub in Rockburn. Paralleling but not crossing the US border, the quiet rolling roads offer lovely views of the Adirondacks. After lunch proceed through farmlands and gentler hills, returning to the pleasures of the pub to toast the end of the cycling season.
	19 Sept Saturday	Carpool	Noyan, QC/Champlain Islands, VT Cycle over the border into Vermont. This favorite destination offers lakeside rides for all levels. Beaches, picnic areas, and a winery are worth a stop! Be sure to have border ID (see last page).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Griffintown Café
Thursday, August 6
1378 Notre Dame West
From 5:30 pm

One of RA's favourite haunts has come back to life, with a new decor and menu. Come and enjoy the music and good cheer. Belinda Preziosi will host; look for the RA flag to find us. The nearest metro is Lucien L'Allier. www.cafegriffintown.com

Brutopia
Friday, September 11
1219 Crescent St.
From 5:30 pm

This big brewpub is spread over three floors, and has some exotic ales, along with a wide selection of tapas, finger food and sandwiches. Look for the RA flag, we might be out on one of the terrasses. Jack Melnick will be hosting. Located just below Ste-Catherine, near metro Guy-Concordia. www.brutopia.net

Hurley's Irish Pub
Friday, October 16
1225 Crescent St.
From 5:30 pm

A genuine Irish pub, offering not only a great selection of beers, but many scotches and Irish whiskeys too. The varied menu and frequent live entertainment makes Hurley's a unique Montreal institution. Tim Skene will host. www.hurleysirishpub.com

Halloween Party and Signup
Saturday, October 31
8 pm – 1 am
Westmount Armory
4625 Ste-Catherine West

\$12 for members and non-members

Get ready for RA's annual costume party and winter signup night, always full of good spirits. Costumes are optional, but to have a chance at first prize in the costume contest, you'll need to be creative. From the Atwater metro, take the 90 bus along Ste-Catherine St. **Note: the signup desk is open until 9:30 pm.**

BUYING AND SELLING TRIPS

Trip Registration

Register before May 15 and take advantage of the \$10 early booking discount for bus day-trips. Early registration helps the Club. Trips with too few registered participants may have to be cancelled.

A registration form is sent with the Randonnotes, or may be downloaded from the Club web site. Check the Club voice mail or web site for up-to-date information on trip availability. Complete the registration form and waiver, and mail them with your cheque(s) for payment at least two weeks prior to your first trip. Once a day trip is full, there is no waiting list. If you have requested a sold-out trip, you will be contacted to select an alternative or to arrange an adjustment. ***Once you have been registered for a trip, the fee is not refundable.***

Club Buy/Sell Procedure

To Buy a Day Trip

If a trip is full or if it is too late to register by mail, you may try to buy a place by calling the Club voice mail between Monday am and Wednesday 9 pm on the week of the trip. Leave your name, phone number and the destination you wish to buy. Requests are on a first-come first-served basis, with priority for members.

The Club will not call back. You must call the Club voice mail the Friday before the trip and listen to the list of confirmed buyers. If listed, you must show up for the trip with a cheque or the exact fee in cash. We do not carry change on the bus.

Important: Confirmed buyers have committed to pay for the trip. If you cannot make the trip, you must still pay for it. You will not be allowed on any other trips until payment is received.

To Sell A Day Trip

If unable to make a trip for which you are registered, you may sell your place to anyone you wish, such as a friend or relative, or you may ask the Club to try to sell your trip for you. Once you have done so, you must not attempt to sell the trip yourself - this could cause duplicate sales. In such a case, priority will be given to the trip bought directly from the Club.

To ask the Club to sell your trip, leave a clear message on the Club voice mail between Monday am and Wednesday 9 pm in the week of the trip. If a buyer is found, a cheque will be mailed to you at the end of the season. The Club cannot guarantee the sale of your place since the trip may not be full, or the number of sellers may exceed the number of buyers.

Walk-On Procedure

If you have not been able to reserve a place, you may still be able to go on the trip as a walk-on. Invariably there are last minute no-shows, so you will have a good chance of getting on the bus. Go to the last pick-up point. Priority will be given to members, starting with those who tried to buy by phone. Non-members may take one trial day trip before buying a membership.

Buying/Selling Weekend Trips

If you have registered for a weekend trip and are unable to go, leave a message on the Club voice mail as soon as possible, and at least 7 days before the trip. Because of room-sharing constraints, all sales must be done through the weekend coordinator, who will contact you if a buyer is found. The Club does not guarantee the sale of your place on the trip.

Waiting List: Once a weekend trip is full, there is a waiting list for prospective buyers. To be placed on the waiting list, mail a cheque for the full amount to the Club. If a place becomes available, you will be contacted and given the option to purchase the trip. Your cheque will be returned if a place is not found for you.

Border Crossing

For US trips, you are solely responsible for ensuring that you have the identification documentation required to enter the US. As of June 1, 2009, a passport will be required, irrespective of the mode of transport. Holders of passports from countries other than Canada or the US may require a visa. Some may even need to be fingerprinted and photographed. If you do not have adequate documentation, we may have to leave you at the border.

Social event details are subject to change. Always check the Club voice message, web site or weekly email for the latest information.

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