

The main goal is simply to enjoy life and share our love of the outdoors with others. I live in New Hampshire and, using the infrastructure of Chiltern, made many new friends within the state. Chiltern will work in Vermont just like it did in New Hampshire. I encourage your readers to join the other eighty Vermonters and become members. I am positive they will not be disappointed. To get a sample newsletter call 1-617-859-2843 or write Chiltern Newsletter, PO Box 1063, Watertown MA 02272-1063.

Sincerely,  
Michael Boisvert  
Manchester, NH ▼

Dear OITM,

On Sunday, May 26, VT C.A.R.E.S. held their 2nd annual Talent Show at Pearl's. As M.C. for the event, I have an apology to make to the audience. For past fundraising events at Pearl's that I have been involved with, the cover charge (usually \$5) has gone to VT C.A.R.E.S. I was under the assumption that this was the case for the most recent event and informed the crowd of such. However, after the fact, I was informed that Pearl's new policy is to take half of the cover charge for fundraisers. Before the organizers of the event were aware of the new bar policy, they had already announced that cash prizes to the top three winners would total \$150. This means that of the \$360 gathered at the door (Pearl's chose to only charge \$3), \$180 went to bar owners, \$150 went to the winning contestants and \$30 went to VT C.A.R.E.S.

Not all of the 120 people present that night were there just to support VT C.A.R.E.S., but I'm sure a lot of them were. And to them I apologize if I led them to believe all of their cover charge was going to a just cause.

Bob Bolyard ▼

To the Editor:

I wish to respond to a letter in a recent issue from Al Santerre concerning the Chiltern Mountain Club. As a native of Burlington, currently living in Boston, I am concerned about the negative impression of Chiltern created by Mr. Santerre's letter. Gay and lesbian Vermonters should know that the club is much different from the way Mr. Santerre described it.

I have been a member of Chiltern for the past six years and am currently serving on its Executive Committee. My experiences with this group have been very positive and I have been impressed by many of the people that I have met through it. For gays and lesbians in Vermont who love the outdoors, Chiltern is a great way to meet other like minded people throughout the rest of New England. It is definitely a worthwhile organization to belong to; I urge gay and lesbian Vermonters to consider joining.

Sincerely,  
James Brown  
Jamaica Plain, MA ▼

Dear *Out in the Mountains* Editor,

As the chair of the Chiltern Mountain Club's executive committee I find it necessary to respond to the dishonest attack unleashed on Chiltern Mountain Club by Al Santerre in the June Letters to the Editor section. Chiltern exists for the purpose of sponsoring outdoor sports and recreational activities for gays, lesbians, and our friends. Early in the spring of 1990 the executive committee, by majority vote, found a trip listing submitted by Al Santerre and another member unacceptable for publication in our newsletter because the event was described as a maple sugar party and seemed purely of a social nature. When I called Al to discuss the issue I was hung up on. I then wrote to explain that their event per se was not necessarily inappropriate but that their description needed to better reflect the active outdoor nature of the event if this indeed was the case. My letter was ignored. Since that time Al and his partner have made it a point to bash Chiltern through the newsletters of other gay and lesbian organizations. To call us an exclusive, sexist organization with a declining membership is a blatant lie. Our membership has been steadily growing and is now over 1,000. As for the charge that the club is sexist, this is ludicrous as the executive committee is currently made up of six men and four women. Men are in the majority of the general membership, but thanks to the active involvement of many new women leaders the percentage of women members is growing. To be labeled sexist by two men who refused to deal with me as a woman in a position of authority is a hollow cry. To be smeared by those who are fellow members of the same community is certainly a disheartening experience. After all, Chiltern Mountain Club is here simply to offer op-

portunities for gays and lesbians to enjoy outdoor recreational activities in the company of one another.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Jatul  
Chair, Chiltern Mountain Club  
Executive Committee ▼

Letter to the Editor:

She's suddenly here, all the time. With the dog, her dog, and her in my arms, in my bed, with a ring on my finger, matching one on hers. She says she's never leaving, like we've always been together, like we're always going to be together. We shop, we clean, we cook, we laugh, we wear our baseball caps backwards. She plays catch with my sons while I write. I'm relaxed. I love it. I love her deeper and deeper every turn of the way, like a leaf floating down the river current, having gained all its life and letting go and going anew. We embark on something new and something familiar all at once.

While others march on Gay Pride Day all over the country, I ride in her truck, holding her hand, hugging her, loving her, loving her, from my heart, so my children swell up and feel it with me. Others carry banners, shout slogans, while we shop in the Grand Union deciding on supper, like a family, like lovers, with our children. While others dance and sweat and celebrate their freedom to love, we sit together and share an evening meal.

It's all about acceptance. We have accepted ourselves. We have accepted who we are. We delight in our love and lust and right to be together. I adore her as she enters my bed all soft and warm and ready to hold me. I laugh with her as we awake anew in the early morning. I lean on her as we work our way through the long day. She is my companion, and today on Gay Pride Day, I think not of us being different, but it is in our sameness that I revel in. It is in the ease with which our laughter blends, the way our minds share a vision, in the ease of being ourselves together.

I am glad for those out marching, out talking, out singing, helping to shatter myths that restrict. We in our simple course challenge disbelief.

Maira-  
Waterbury, Vt ▼