

An update on NEIGC in the wake of Hurricane Irene

I have received a number of phone calls and e-mails from potential NEIGC participants asking about whether all the road closings in Vermont will have an impact on NEIGC. The answer to that question is an emphatic “No.” While many areas in the central and southern portions of the state have been severely affected by flooding, all the trips will run as originally scheduled.

In looking over the road logs of all 14 field trips being offered, most trip leaders will not need to make any modifications to their trips. Several trip leaders will need to make some changes to their routes and stop locations, but all of these leaders are more than capable of making the necessary adjustments. I believe in some cases (e.g., Trip B-5 on the geomorphology of the Middlebury River) trips will be even more educational in the wake of the Hurricane Irene damage.

As I write this note (Sept. 8th) NEIGC is over 3 weeks away and many of the damaged roads have already been re-opened - - and we anticipate many more will be passable by late September. Having said that, before making the trip to west-central Vermont for NEIGC later in the month, I would encourage you to check the Vermont Department of Transportation website (<http://www.aot.state.vt.us/>) for the latest information on road closings that might impact your travel route. Again, I would expect by that time, most routes will be passable, but I would definitely check before hitting the road. If you have any questions on this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I have also received several e-mails from folks who have been having difficulty finding lower cost hotel accommodations in the Middlebury area for the NEIGC weekend. I would encourage participants to check into the numerous hotels in the Burlington (less than an hour's drive north of Middlebury) and Rutland (less than an hour's drive south of Middlebury) areas. Depending on the starting points of the trips you will be attending, these locations might actually be closer to the field trip starting points than Middlebury (e.g., the Burlington area is closer to trip A2, A4, B1, and C3 starting points; and the Rutland area is closer to trip A3, C1, C2 starting points). Of course the welcoming party, banquet and several other field trip starting points will be in the Middlebury area - but staying at hotels in the Burlington or Rutland areas will not leave you too far away.

Again, I want to reiterate that while the state of Vermont is certainly still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Irene, NEIGC will not be affected. We have a very strong line-up of fourteen field trips scheduled over the 3 days of the meeting (Friday, Sept. 30th – Sunday, Oct. 2nd) and a hearty welcoming party (Friday night) and banquet (Saturday night) planned on the Middlebury College campus. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns about the meeting – and please send in your registration materials as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you all at NEIGC in late September – early October.

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NEIGC website: <http://w3.salemstate.edu/~lhanson/NEIGC/>