



Annual Report

December 9, 1995

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



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APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB CONNECTICUT CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

Through our broad range of activities and programs, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that successful conservation depends on this experience. The Connecticut Chapter Club promotes the protection, enjoyment and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut as well as of the other trails, rivers and byways within the state in cooperation with other maintenance organizations. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the state. The members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect these areas and educate others as to their use.

Adopted May 1993

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

1995 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dave Cullen Chapter Chair Paula Burton Vice Chair Mary-Jane Gately Secretary Anne Perkins Treasurer Ellen Newton Bicycling Committee Chair Mary Adams Conservation Committee Chair Jeff Hogan Education Cyndy Mangini Excursions Committee Co-Chairs Bill Russell Fairfield County Committee Chair Membership Committee Chair Dave Jenkins Dwight Curry Mountaineering Committee Chair Northwest Camp Committee Chair Roy Hoffmann Chuck Luce Newsletter Editor Helene Goulet Program Committee Chair Birge Dayton Trail Committee Chair Whitewater Committee Chair Tom Tyburski Whitewater Liaison to Executive Committee Jan Larkin Member-at-Large Paul Duclos Ad Hoc Computer Committee Chair Paul Duclos Ad Hoc East of the River Committee Betty Robinson Regional Director Paul Meleski

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that a year has gone by since the last Annual Meeting where I was installed as Chapter Chair. When I was first approached about this position, I contacted some past Chairs. I was told that if you had good committee chairs and active committees, the work load wasn't that bad. I have been blessed with such a group. For example Birge Dayton and the Trails Committee do a spectacular job in maintaining the Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail. Ellen Newton and the Bicycling Committee have continued to provide excellent activities after the death of the former Bicycling Chair, Harry Duren, last year. Helene Goulet and her faithful crew continue to organize events such as the Annual Meeting and the pot-luck suppers. There are more, but in the interest of saving paper, I'll just say that I appreciate all the efforts of my fellow Executive Committee members and neither I nor the chapter could function without them.

I am proud of the number and quality of activities that the Chapter offers. In the coming year I hope this continues. I'd like to see more emphasis on carpooling. I've led too many hikes where the vast majority of participants arrive with one person per car.

I consider one of the highlights of the year the establishment of the Duren Scholarships. This year we used Chapter funds to send a teenager to one of the Teen Wilderness Adventures run by the club-wide AMC out of Pinkham Notch in New Hampshire. The young person selected had a wonderful experience. We hope scholarships and fund them mostly with donations. Chapter Treasurer, will happily accept contributions.

One of my duties is to attend meetings of the club-wide Chapter's Committee, which consists of the chairs and vice-chairs of all eleven chapters. In June we had a retreat at Lonesome Lake hut. The theme was combining conservation and recreation, the two main functions of the club. There were many good ideas that I hope we can establish in the Chapter. One of these was to emphasize family activities, particularly the educational aspects. This has been one of my primary interests since I got active in the club. I'm delighted that Jeff Hogan, outgoing Education Chair, is going to revitalize the family activities.

There have been some thorny issues raised as well. One of the stickiest problems has been the whole concept of risk management in our

activities. In the litigious society in which we find ourselves, this is a real concern. There are issues of leader training or, in come cases, retraining that need to be addressed. Paula Burton, the Chapter Vice-Chair, is a representative to the club-wide committee on this issue and is also chairing a Chapter committee on the subject.

One exciting development in the chapter is the recognition of the East of the (Connecticut) River group as a Chapter committee. Betty Robinson and her colleagues have done a great job of building this committee up from nothing. It joins our long established Fairfield County Committee as a group dedicated to increasing activities in a specific geographical region in the state.

Next year is a big year for the Chapter. It is our 75th anniversary. The chapter was originally chartered in a ceremony held on West Peak in Meriden. There was a celebration of the 60th anniversary in 1981 at the same place. We are planning to celebrate the 75th anniversary in conjunction with New Member's Day in September. There will be hikes and bike rides with a late afternoon ceremony on West Peak, followed by a supper nearby. There will be a special tee-shirt available to commemorate the occasion. Watch the AMC Outdoors and the Chapter newsletter, AMC in Connecticut, for details.

Remember that the chapter is a strictly volunteer organization. When somebody says that "they should do this or that" in referring to the Chapter, they really are saying "we should do this or that." If everybody thinks it is somebody else's job to do something, then nobody does anything. Consider getting involved as an activity leader, a member of a committee, doing trail work or just doing a one-time job. The Connecticut Chapter is viewed as one of the better chapters in the club, and I intend to keep it that way, but the Chapter is only as good as its volunteers.

Dave Cullen - Chapter Chair

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 1994

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 19, 1994, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Chapter Chair Mary Dorpalen welcomed members and guests and announced that this Annual Meeting is dedicated to the memory of the late Harry Duren, who passed away in October. Harry gave of himself unselfishly for many years as an avid and loyal activities leader, a highly professional keeper of the budget, and, most recently, Chair of the Bicycling Committee. Mary invited Education Chair Paula Burton to speak about Harry, and Paula brought out Harry's great involvement in Inner City Outings in New Haven and the Sierra Club with activities for disadvantaged children, as well as his active participation in the hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing activities. Harry will be greatly missed by everyone.

Mary expressed thanks to Helene Goulet, Sandi Tanzi, and to the Program Committee for all their efforts in organizing the Annual Meeting. Mary also offered special thanks to Richard Bartes, who has ably served as Registrar for many Annual Meetings, to Mary-Jane Gately, Connecticut Chapter Secretary, for preparing the Annual Report; and to Newsletter Editor Matt Donachie, for publicizing the event. Appreciation was also expressed to all of the committees for organizing and conducting the excellent programs and workshops in the afternoon.

Special announcements included awards to winners of the Membership and Education Committee raffles. Helene introduced Michael Gordocki from the Special Olympics, which are to be held in Connecticut this summer. He expressed the hope that AMC members would help to fill the need for over 45, 000 volunteers necessary for the

Mary recognized some of the special guests attending this evening, including: John Herr, Past Chair of the Connecticut Chapter, who started the Red Hat Ceremony in 1951 as a way of making officers known to the membership (who then numbered 500). Also recognized were Suzanne Scolamiero, Past Chair of the Southeast Massachusetts Chapter, John Helenek, program presenter for the evening, and Anne Bailey, our Regional Director, who is retiring from the position this year. Mary noted that the Chapter will greatly miss Anne's "creative ideas

and wise suggestions" and expressed thanks to Anne for her time and efforts through the years as a hike and trip leader, Excursions Chair, Chapter Chair, and Regional Director. Mary invited Anne to share some thoughts with us. In her comments, Anne paid tribute to the Connecticut thoughts with us. In her comments, Anne paid tribute to the Connecticut Chapter as an outstanding group. She noted that membership has doubled Chapter as an outstanding group. She noted that membership has doubled since she joined the Board five years ago, and financial stability has been sachieved. She cited the AMC as an organization having a lot of impact, guided by a high caliber professional staff. A unique aspect of the organization, she noted, is its "hands on" approach to fun and volunteer activity, a challenge as the organization grows will be to continue the sense of belonging and fun. Mary presented Anne with a gift in recognition of her service.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Connecticut Chapter members deceased in 1994. They include:

Albert Bescancon Gertrude Stone Tom Trump Harry Duren Dolly Stone Joseph Ulman, Jr.

Mary then called on Excursions Chair Cyndy Mangini to present awards to the most active trip leaders. Cyndy read the names of 61 leaders who will receive the honorary patches; each of the leaders has led five or more activities this year. Those leaders and the number of leads are as follows:

Joellen Anderson (6) Janet Blaha (5) Paula Burton (7) Dave Cullen (16) Jan DiMattia (5) Henry Edmonds (5) Art Hoogenboom (5) Judy Kunkel (3) Chuck MacMath (10) Dave Milhalek (7) Ellen Newton (10) Janice Parker (6) Betty Robinson (10)	Bob Baldwin (11) Steve Braciak (11) Harry Caldwell (5) John Cunningham (5) Ed Dresner (7) Marjorie Hackbarth (7) Christine Kaatz (7) Bonnie Leary (5) Jim Malumphy (7) Rob Munro (10) Bill Novoa (5) Anne Rehm (5) Carl Rosenthal (12)	Bill Blaha (5) Elizabeth Buckley (8) Ledge Clayton (13) Birge Dayton (11) Paul Duclos (10) Dale Hackett (9) Elaine Kosa (5) Rich Ferraina (6) Cyndy Mangini (11) Ron Naylor (7) Pauline Onyx (5) John Rek (6) Jo Russell (5)
Betty Robinson (10) Hal Sandals (6) *	Bill Schumacher (17)	Mike Stino (18)

Meri Swanson (9) * Barbara Tortora (7) *
Matthew Wynne (6) * Claude Zeller (7) *

WHITEWATER LEADERS

Ed Bossom (11) Kris Gasque (6) * Kent Heidenis (9) * Bruce Kindseth (5) * Tom Tyburski (7)	Ed Chase (9) Ted Groom (6) Becky Hendricks (6) * Dick Ploski (5)	Cord Gasque (6) Kevin Hannon (5) * Paul Hendricks (6) * Mark Schappert (5) Wendy Tyburski (7)
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* Designates leader with prior years' awards

Cyndy also announced the names of the newest members of the "Connecticut 400 Club," which is composed of persons who have hiked all of the more than 400 miles of Blue Trails in Connecticut. New members are:

Pam Bateman Joan Noyes Lorraine Hughes Peter Noyes Francoise Yvon

Mary expressed appreciation to the Excursions Committee and all the activity leaders for their participation.

Membership Chair Betty Robinson was called on to give special recognition to our newest 50 year member, Mr. J.H. Bartholomew of Simsbury, Connecticut. His pin will be sent to him because he was unable to attend the meeting.

Before opening the official meeting, Mary paid tribute to the 1994 Executive Committee members for their "creativity and dedication" and to the "tradition of excellence" which they have continued. Mary presented gifts to those members who are leaving the Executive Committee: Carl Rosenthal and Rich Rahmig, outgoing Excursions Co-Chairs; Chuck MacMath, Fairfield Committee Chair; and Marilyn Harper and Betty Robinson, Membership Co-Chairs. Mary noted that Betty has given years to our organization and will continue to be active with the new "East of the River" group which she helped organize. Additional members who are retiring from the Committee include Rick Orsini, Mountaineering Chair, Cord Gasque, Whitewater Chair, and Henry Edmunds, Trails Chair.

Mary also recognized and presented gifts to Executive Committee members who are leaving their present Committee posts but have been nominated for other positions for 1995: Paula Burton, Education Chair, Dave Jenkins, Treasurer, and Dave Cullen, Vice-Chair.

Special tribute was paid to outgoing Newsletter Editor, Matt Donachie, and his wife Martha, who has assisted him. Matt has produced the Connecticut Chapter Newsletter for the past six years.

Mary then called to order the 74th annual business meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The Secretary's report was moved, seconded, and accepted as presented in the 1994 Annual Report. The Treasurer's Report, printed in the same document, was also moved, seconded and accepted.

Dave Cullen, Chair of the ad hoc Bylaws Revision Committee, requested approval of the 1994 revision of the Bylaws as published in the fall Newsletter. The approval of the revised Bylaws was moved and seconded. Mary expressed appreciation to the revision committee, headed by Dave, and members Matt Donachie and Harry Duren.

The Nominating Committee then were asked for their report. Mary noted that the Committee had a difficult job this year because terms were ending for many of the Executive Committee members. Mary called for applause in recognition of the efforts of Nominating Committee members Marjorie Herzenberg, Trish Niece, Bill Schumacher, Anne Rehm, and Chair Ken Richardson. In the absence of Ken, Anne presented the slate of nominees for 1995 and asked each to come forward. The slate is as follows:

Dave Cullen - Chapter Chair Mary-Jane Gately - Secretary Unfilled - Bicycling Ellen Newton - Education Bill Russell - Fairfield County Dwight Curry - Mountaineering Chuck Luce - Newsletter Editor Unfilled - Trails Paul Duclos - Member-at-Large Paula Burton - Vice Chair Anne Perkins - Treasurer Mary Adams - Conservation Cyndy Mangini - Excursions Dave Jenkins - Membership Roy Hoffmann - Northwest Camp Helene Goulet - Program Tom Tyburski - Whitewater Mary Dorpalen - Past Chair

The motion was offered to direct the Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented, and it was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Red Hat Ceremony concluded the meeting. As previously mentioned, this tradition was initiated in 1951 to give continuing recognition to those people who have guided our Chapter over the years

Mary asked Past Chairs to put on their red hats and come forward when their names were called. Past Chairs in attendance, and the years in which they served, were: John Herr, 1951-52, Gardner Moulton, 1963-64, Bill Schmidt, 1973-74; Ledge Clayton, 1975-76; Gerry Hardy, 1979-80; Sue Hardy, 1981-82; Anne Bailey, 1985-86; Trish Niece, 1987-88; Glen Parchmann, 1989-90. Mary called for Chair-elect Dave Cullen to come forward and awarded him his red hat, along with the official Connecticut Chapter gavel, and a copy of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

At 8:05 p.m. the motion was offered, seconded and passed to adjourn the business meeting.

Helene Goulet, Program Chair, then introduced John Helenek who presented his spectacular slides and personal account of his ascent of Mt. Everest.

Respectfully submitted, Mary-Jane Gately - Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1994

Cash at January 1, 1995:		
	\$9,094	
of an anut Hank - Checking	993	
Shawmut Bank - Savings	12,129	
Shawmut Bank - CDs	1,304	
Cash held by Whitewater committee		\$23,520
Total cash at beginning of year	-	923,320
Revenue collected:	29,239	
	16,333	
AMC dues collected Programs, merchandise sales and camp use	1,206	
County received	557	
Interest income and other	33.7	
Total revenue collected	-	\$47,335
Expenditures made:		
Cost of program activities	11,177	
Cost of merchandise sales	2,165	
Grants expended	5,741	
Contributions made	1,148	
Committee operating expenses:		
Administration	5,819	
Bicycling	1,136	
Conservation	18	
Education	1,765	
Excursions	2,326	
Fairfield County	2,176	
Membership	3,416	
Mountaineering	683	
Newsletter	7,130	
Northwest Camp	1,035	
Program	463	
Trails	1,953	
Total expenditures	_	\$48,151
a 1 - D bar 21 1994		
Cash at December 31, 1994		
Cash held by Treasurer Shawmut Bank - Checking	7,951	
Shawmut Bank - Caleking Shawmut Bank - Savings	1,011	
Shawmut Bank - Savings Shawmut Bank - CDs	12.438	
Cash held by Whitewater committee	1,304	
Casa acid by whitewater committee	2,504	\$22,704
	=	324,104

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1995

Cash at January 1, 1995		
Cash held by Treasurer		
Shawmut Bank - Checking	\$7,951	
Shawmut Bank - Savings	1,011	
Shawmut Bank - CDs	12,438	
Cash held by Whitewater committee	1,304	
Total cash at beginning of year	-	\$22,704
Revenue collected:	10 (22	
AMC dues collected	19,623	
Programs, merchandise sales and camp use	5,039	
Grants and restricted funds received	7,988	
Interest income and other	465	
Contributions received	3,172	
Total revenue collected	-	\$36,287
Expenditures made		
Cost of program activities	3,221	
Grants and restricted funds expended	3,959	
Committee operating expenses	27242	
Administration	4,656	
Bicycling	1,200	
Computer and support	441	
Conservation	153	
East of River	655	
Education	593	
Excursions	1,259	
Fairfield County	668	
Membership	2,331	
Mountaineering	495	
Newsletter	6,318	
Northwest Camp	407	
Program	221	
Trails	2,606	
Total expenditures	-	\$29,183
Cash at October 31, 1995		
Cash held by Treasurer		
Shawmut Bank - Checking	14,771	
Shawmut Bank - Savings	1,020	
Shawmut Bank - CDs	12,713	
Cash held by Whitewater committee	1,304	
Cash at October 31, 1995	_	\$29,808

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

Americans are turning to bicycling in record numbers for recreation, exercise and transportation. This trend was certainly reflected in our membership during the 1995 season. Thanks to our many dedicated leaders, we offered more than 125 rides this year. In addition, more than three hundred people participated in the seventeen fantastic weekend bicycling trips we offered to all states in New England as well as New York and Washington, D.C. We had a wide variety of accommodations including camp sites, bed and breakfasts, motels, hotels, hostels, and self to raise money to provide subsidies for our leaders who take courses in leadership training, first aid, and CPR.

We aim to promote and encourage interest of all bicyclists in all aspects of bicycling, including recreational and leisure touring, mountain biking, road racing, tandem and family riding. We would like to offer clinics for learning to ride safely in all conditions of roads and traffic, and basic bicycle repair and to encourage a bicycle-friendly environment within our community and state. To this end, Roger and Emily Hall have worked to establish a data base of the bicycling membership, this information will allow us to survey our members to define their wants and needs. We may then expand our programs to suit their needs and promote growth within our organization.

It has been a year since the death of *Harry Duren*. He was a long time member of AMC and one of its most dedicated leaders and he left his heritage of achievements that will be long remembered. Harry was AMC Connecticut Chapter Bicycling chair for several years prior to his death. During this time he single-handedly revived a nearly defunct bicycle club. We are grateful for his commitment to bicycling and we recognize the positive impact he has had on bicycling within AMC, our local communities and our state. Connecticut Chapter members have rallied together to continue to support the work that was so important to him through our activities and by means of the establishment of the *Duren Scholarship Fund*, which each year will provide a grant to a deserving young person to enable him/her to participate in an AMC program.

To all members of the bicycling committee, thank you for your outstanding job. Your dedication and commitment made it possible for us

to initiate programs that produced revenue, promoted growth, and provided a safer bicycling environment. I am proud of our accomplishments. Thank you for your selfless and generous contributions.

A very special thank you to *Jo Ann Oberg*, who designed and produced our weekend brochure, created our newsletter, and held the position as secretary. Thanks, Onnie, for a super job.

My own excitement about the AMC and cycling continues to grow. It is a privilege to serve the membership, and a pleasure to work with the members of the bicycling committee. Our role in bicycling grows in importance each and every day. Hopefully, we will all be a part of the effort to promote the life sport of bicycling as a wholesome leisure activity, as well as an environmentally friendly alternative to the automobile.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

Deborah Casey Emilie Hall Tom Latham Jo Ann Oberg Michael Stino Russell Curtiss Roger Hall Doug McKain Deborah Rea Richard Ferraina Judy Kunkel Richard Merritt Jeri Smith Barbara Tortora

Ellen Newton - Chair

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee acquired new members and expanded its activities in 1995. New members were added by mailing meeting notices to chapter members who had expressed an interest in conservation. A new meeting place in Kensington was also tried. The telephone tree was used briefly early in the year and materials about the Endangered Species Act were distributed. During the summer, one committee member collected approximately 200 signatures on a petition about the Northern Forest. The Conservation committee joined other organizations in the September 30, 1995 clean-up of the Housatonic River coordinated by the Housatonic Valley Association. Seventeen people collected six large bags of trash, a bicycle, and miscellaneous metal along the section of the river from Bull's Bridge to Ten Mile River. On Labor Day Weekend there was a joint Connecticut-Berkshire Chapter

Conservation Committee weekend trip, greatly facilitated by the fact that the Berkshire Chapter Conservation Chair lives in Connecticut.

The theme for Conservation Day was the 100th Anniversary of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA). Dick Bauerfeld, a member of the CFPA board, presented a very informative talk and slide show on "100 Years of Conservation" to an appreciative audience. It had earlier been decided that due to poor attendance at previous Conservation Day potlucks, next year Conservation and Trails Days will be combined. A Conservation Committee meeting in early November will decide the fate of the Committee, which at this time lacks a Chair for 1996.

My thanks to the committee members listed below and other AMC members who attended activities, wrote letters, made phone calls, or otherwise supported conservation in the past year.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Chervl	Bennett
	Gardner-Smith
Fred R	iotte
Tom S	enuta

Bob Dickinson Jim Hall Joe Roberts Judy Snyder Tom Sullivan Ginny Dowd Don Patterson Greg Schoemor Lisa Spencer

Mary Adams - Chair

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee experienced some reorganization this year. Despite this, we have continued our focus upon leadership training and expanded our role somewhat into other areas of education.

Education sponsored a very successful SOLO course in the spring. We will offer another SOLO course in 1996 and will attempt to expand our role to other areas of risk management training for leaders.

The committee sponsored a Regional Leadership Training weekend in early December, we continued our RAP hike program for new leaders, and we sponsored three workshops at the annual meeting including a CPR course.

The committee has a number of new enthusiastic members and is endeavoring to contact all chapter leaders to ensure that they are up to date on the latest information related to trip management, risk management and first aid.

Education hopes to expand the successful Junior Naturalist program for next year as well.

Thanks to all the members of the Education Committee, new and old for their support and efforts in this transitional year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Una Barry
Linda Houser
Marcia McGowan
Trish Niece
Stacey Sciacchitane

Paula Burton Angus Lamont Clint Morse Debra Rea Shirley Snow Rick Taylor

John Donovan Cyndy Mangini Ellen Newton Anne Rehm Ken Sutton

Jeffrey Hogan - Chair

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

The Excursions Committee coordinates Chapter activities in the following areas: Day Hiking, Backpacking, Family Activities, Flatwater Canoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, and Weekend trips. The committee continues to encourage and qualify new activity leaders through a close partnership with the Education Committee. Leadership development activity includes the co-leader program for Hike leaders, and rosters of both activity leaders and leadership candidates.

There are many opportunities for volunteers in the Excursions committee. Our members include ten monthly Hike Coordinators, five Special Activity coordinators, Bulletin Editor, Trip Report Coordinator, and Computer Coordinator. We are actively recruiting Hike Coordinators, Blue Trails Series Coordinator, and Computer Coordinator.

Message from the Excursions Chair

This past year had been a challenge for me in fulfilling my role as Excursions chair since my work commitments have had me based in Excursions chair since in the based in Phoenix, Arizona, full time since January, 1995. I would like to take this Phoenix, Arizona, into the Executive Committee, and the opportunity to express my thanks to the Executive Committee, and the opportunity to express an entire Excursions Committee for their help, and willingness to take on entire excursions continued in my absence. Special thanks to Paul Duclos additional responsibilities and technical support, Christine Kaatz for her for his assistance with a several Executive Committee meetings, and efforts in auctioning and Mary Jane Gately for her help in coordinating communication between Mary Jane Guery to Many of our Hike leaders, who have been able Arizona and Connection and the second able to "fill in" for hike leaders unable to lead their event also deserve a mention: Ken Anderson, Marilyn Harper, Justine Hart, Paul Hermenau, Jim Larsen, James Malumphy, Chuck McMath, Bill Novoa. Jim Larsen, June Mark Swanson, and John Rek. Thank you all. Although the backcountry here in Arizona is breathtaking, the views that feel most like "home" will always be New England.

TRIP STATISTICS - OCTOBER 1, 1994 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1995

All Activities	1995	1994	1993	1992
Trips	435	470	379	336
Participants	6,079	4241+	4,942	4,993
Average Turnout	14	N/A	13.0	14.9
Day Hikes	1995	1994	1993	1992
Trips	378	429	352	302
Participants	5,717	3,794+	4,583	4,524
Average Turnout	15	N/A	13.0	15.0

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Weekend Trips Coordinator: Marjorie Herzenberg

Thirteen Weekend trips were offered to Connecticut chapter members last year. One trip was canceled due to lack of registrations. Trips ranged from a Family weekend through B class hiking to more strenuous joys of A class hikes and snowshoeting. Two weekend trips featured Connecticut and Massachusetts, and the balance were evenly divided between Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. The chapter benefits from weekend trips sponsored by our seasoned weekend leaders, and would like to encourage day events leaders to consider qualifying to lead weekends.

Weekends	1995	1994	1993	1992
Trips	12	18	10	6
Participants	200	N/A	218	130
Average Turnout	16.6	20	21.8	21.7

Backpacking Coordinators: Bonnie Leary and Neal Leary

A series of trips were planned to cover the AT in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and the two annual summer events in the White Mountains were led by Neal Leary and Bonnie Leary, and Trish Niece and Mike Sheehan.

	Months	Leaders		
Massachusetts AT South Connecticut AT Wild River, White Mountains White Mountains, NH Carter-Moriah (AT) Backpacking Leader Workshop at the Northwest Cabin	May June August September October	John Grasso Bonnie Leary Bonnie Leary Paul Duclos Paul Duclos Paula Burton	Neal Leary Neal Leary	

Flatwater Canoeing Coordinator: Paul Magnuson

Activities	1995	1994	1993	1992
Trips	8	23	N/A	21
Participants	58	87+	N/A	247
Average Turnout	7	N/A	11.8	5.6

Cross-Country Skiing Coordinator: Marty Griffin

Last winter was known for its lack of snow. Of the twenty-four day trips planned, only six were able to take place. There were seven weekend trips, some groups were able to take advantage of excellent snow, especially near the end of the season, while other trips enjoyed alternate activities such as hiking.

Ski Trips	1995	1994	1993	1992
Trips	31	15	17	6
Participants	104	80	141	86
Average Turnout	3.4	5.3	8.3	14.3

Blue Trail Series Coordinator: Open

The Excursions committee is actively recruiting one or more Hike Leaders interested in leading Blue Trail Hikes, and a Coordinator. The purpose of these hikes is to support members in completing the Connecticut 400 (hiking the approximately 500 miles of Blue Trails in the state.)

Connecticut 400 Club: Daryll Borst

Daryll continues to monitor the roster of the Connecticut 400 Club for AMC members who attain this goal. During the past year Jonathan Howes has qualified for his Connecticut 400 Award. Congratulations!!! This brings to 58 the total number of hikers who have earned the Award since 1973 when the tally was begun.

Monthly Hike Coordinators

Each month day hikes are coordinated by a different AMC member who solicits hikes by mail, follow-up by phone, and meets the goal of the Connecticut Chapter to offer varied distance, terrain, and location hiking opportunities to all AMC members and guests. The excursions committee is actively recruiting several coordinators for the 1996 season.

MONTHLY HIKE COORDINATORS:

Donna Arbas	
Paul Duclos	
Janice Parker	
Fred Riotte	

Steve Braciak Justine Hart Roberta Peron Carl Rosenthal Jan DiMattia Christine Kaatz Anne Rehm Chiara Taylor

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Daryll Borst Sandra Godin Joy Guite Mary Dorpalen Sue Graham Marty Griffin Mariorie Herzenberg Paul Magnuson Bonnie Leary Neal Leary

Connecticut 400 Club Monitor AMC Outdoors Coordinator Family Activities Coordinator AMC Outdoors Coordinator Hike Trip Reports Coordinator Cross-County Skiing Coordinator Weekends Coordinator Flatwater Canoeing Coordinator Backpacking Coordinator Backpacking Coordinator

Cyndy Mangini Ruth Sternburg Computer Coordinator AMC Outdoors Coordinator

Cyndy Mangini - Chair

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMITTEE

1995 has been a transition year for us. The Fairfield County Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club has finally reached a point where the regular bi-monthly meetings have outgrown the facilities where meetings have been held for the past years.

Membership has increased to over 1,400 members requiring an enlarged meeting hall. A search currently is underway with a target date of January 1996 to occupy new meeting facilities. The regular bi-monthly spaghetti dinner and slide presentation will continue. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of alternate months.

Because of budget restrictions, regular mail delivery of THE HIKER has been discontinued. Distribution is now effected only through local sports and outing stores and libraries.

Regular weekend events in Fairfield County including hiking, sailing, skiing, and biking continue to be well attended.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMITTEE:

John Barry - Membership Coordinator Ann Crane - Refreshments Dave Cronin - Member-at-Large Diane Davenport - Secretary

Chuck McMath - Member-at-Large Frank Santacana - Treasurer

Dave Cullen - CT Chapter Chairman Peter Heyel - Activities Coordinator Fred Ignotti - Publications Coordinator Jeff Lundberg - Programs Coordinator Rob Munro - Member-at-Large Chiara Taylor - Hikes Coordinator

Mary McNamara - Public Relations Coordinator

Bill Russell - Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As of September 30, 1995 there were 7,837 AMC members affiliated with the Connecticut Chapter. This represented approximately 12% of the Club's 63,695 total members. The Chapter has grown by approximately 310 members since last September. In the past year we welcomed approximately 1,345 new members; however 1,035 existing members chose not to renew their memberships. In summary, the past year can be viewed as a success in terms of membership growth; however it is the number "dropouts" that disappoints us most of all. It is this number that is our Chapter performance measurement - it is a barometer of what we do right or don't do right.

At the Club level much is done to mitigate non-renewals. Special invitations to renew are mailed and telephone campaigns are waged towards first anniversary members and lapsed renewals in an effort to persuade people to stay. At the Chapter level, we mail tailored welcome packages to each new member, and we contact new members by phone to welcome them and attempt to match their interests with our various activities. We host special events including our annual New Members Day and Annual Meeting in order to provide members ways to participate and avenues in which to pursue their own interests. But we have come to learn both anecdotally, as well as through surveys, that the most powerful guarantee of renewal is the bonds and friendships developed when a newer member finds personal common interests with other members. It is in this way that existing members can help reduce the number of dropouts or non-renewals. During your next hike, ski trip, or attendance at potluck, make an effort to welcome new members, or, just as importantly, long-time members just beginning to participate. The Club and the Chapter can promote and support membership growth, but it is the responsibility of each of us as individual members to make all members feel welcome.

One experiment we will begin next year is the revival of mid-week, at-home potlucks. These dinners used to be the staple of the Chapter when the membership base was smaller. On a selected evening there will be 3-5 potluck dinners occurring at members' homes throughout the Chapter. The benefit of such activities is that they smaller, more intimate, and require less extensive planning. By offering these dinners, we hope to attract members who don't enjoy or can't make the larger, more formal potluck socials.

During the past year the Committee has reorganized somewhat. These changes reflect volunteer turnover, matching of volunteer skills to Committee needs, and an attempt to more specifically define our roles and responsibilities. Volunteers on our Committee and their area of responsibility are:

New member day planning, Caller
New member day planning, Caller
Committee recruiter, Caller
East of River Chair
New member packet co-ordinator
Membership database co-ordinator
New member phone number look-up
New member listing distribution
New member questionnaire co-ordinator
Prospective member inquiries
Area membership contact (Hartford)
Area membership contact (Fairfield)
Area membership contact (New Haven)
Member-at-Large, Caller
Member-at-Large

Chris Simeone
Carolyn Olsen
John Cunningham
Betty Robinson
Betty Robinson
Dave Cullen
Davn Gagliardi
Trish Niece
Gerry Hardy
Ledge Clayton
Daryl Borst
Dot Davis
Lisa Spencer

In addition to the above, the Committee has a number of member volunteers who call and welcome new members to our Chapter:

Roberta Ambrosino Jon Burr
Virginia Fisher Karen Fisher
Emily Hall Inger Hellstrom
Nola Jordan John Lynch
Nancy Meitzler May Nevius
Madelaine Revere Joan Seeds
Howard Treat

Bill Emerson Helen Flood John Hicks Diane Mischke Cecilia Stoll Trish Treat

Our calling team volunteers play an important role in the membership process. With the growing number of new members added each month, our goals next year include recruiting more calling volunteers and scheduling a caller workshop dinner. We currently have 23 callers; however a team of 30-35 would be preferable.

Our New Member Day this year was a great success. The potluck dinner attracted approximately 120 members, split evenly between new members and existing members. The day time activities were also well attended. The after dinner presentation included an introduction to the Biking committee as well as slides from recent Chapter biking trips.

As members, you are all "customers" of the Chapter. Part of this Committee's responsibility is to be sure its customers needs are being met. If any of you have any observations, comments or complaints anytime during the year please call me directly at either of my phone numbers listed in AMC Outdoors.

Finally, I'd like to thank *Betty Robinson*, former Membership Chair, for having handed over to me an enthusiastic and well-organized committee. Without her help during the transition and continued participation on the Committee, my job would be much more difficult.

David Jenkins - Chair

MOUNTAINEERING

This has been an active year for the AMC Mountaineering committee. The group has nearly doubled in the number of active members, with new climbers joining us from all skill levels. Last winter, various members of the group went on ice climbing and winter hiking trips to the White Mountains, Lake Willowbee, The Adirondacks, and Smugglers Notch. Dwight Curry, Paul Maresca, John Rek, and Dan Sullivan skied into Mount Katadin for a week of climbing in March.

The spring and summer were no less active. Besides the weekly local climbing outings to the local Connecticut crags, we traveled to the Adirondacks, the Gunks and various climbing havens in New Hampshire. Mark Vandenberg led a trip to Maine, which included sea cliff climbing, sea kayaking and hiking in Baxter State Park. There were two expeditions to Yosemite Valley this summer and on the on the fourth of July weekend we traveled to New River Gorge for a weekend of hard sport climbing and hiking. Next year will be just as exciting. There will be a beginners rock climbing course in the spring for new members.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

Janet Larry Steve Wall Paul Maresca

Rick Orsini Bill Walters

Dwight Curry - Chair

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

Northwest Camp has become more popular over the last several months. Besides the onslaught of regular habitual users, there has been an influx of "HAPPY CAMPERS" who have recently discovered our great Connecticut hide-a-way. Not only is the cabin occupied every weekend of the year, but it is also being utilized on many weekdays as well. Since usage has increased and costly renovations are pending, a modest boost in cabin rental fees went into effect in the year for \$16.00 Friday and Saturday and \$10.00 Sunday through Thursday. Non-members may use the cabin April 1 through September 30 for \$20.00 Friday and Saturday and \$15.00 Sunday through Thursday. The Northwest Camp and Cabin have been used with care and respect by almost everyone who stays there. Non-registered use and vandalism have been thwarted by the increased presence of AMC members and ridgerunner inspections.

There were five events sponsored by the Northwest Camp committee during the year: The May and November work parties, a Winter weekend in January, a Summer barbecue in July, and New Members Day in September. During the November work party, five cords of wood were cut, split and stacked for use in the cabin wood stove. At the May work party, a new fire ring/cooking grill was installed, a large drainage ditch was dug to control erosion, wood stove fire bricks were replaced, the privy was relocated, a new loft ladder was installed and the cabin table was repaired. An emergency October work party was held to upgrade fire safety codes for the woodstove.

The Northwest Camp committee will replace the existing woodstove chimney with a new double wall stove pipe that will run directly up through the loft floor and roof. Making this change will help support the weight of the stove pipe, help increase draft, reduce creosote build-up

and improve fire safety. We also intend to replace the cabin floor before the start of next summer.

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE:

Jon Beckmann Paul Ives Keith Larson Pam Rackliffe Chuck Doll Marleen Kopcha Rod Parlee John Rek Dave Terni John Hicks Elain Kowalcky Lincoln Pease Lauren Skau

Roy Hoffmann - Chair

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

This past year, editorship of the newsletter passed from the very capable hands of *Matt Donachie*, who held the post for six years, to newcomers *Lisa Brownell* and *Chuck Luce*.

Three issues of the newsletter were produced in 1995, each totaling eight pages. Average distribution was 6400.

The largest obstacle faced by the newsletter this year was double-digit paper and postage price increases coupled with a budget that was slightly smaller than that of 1994. The committee coped with these additional costs by employing a format that maximized paper use and by engaging a mailhouse where automated equipment reduced mail-handling charges. Further savings can be realized when Joy Street, which provides the mailing list, is able to do so on computer disk.

Chuck Luce - Co-Chair Lisa Brownell - Co-Chair

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Our committee has continued to serve the Chapter by putting on five potluck suppers, the Spring Dinner, and the Annual Meeting. In addition, we hosted a potluck supper for the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association's Trails Day. We provided the program for the Mid-Winter Potluck when Bob and Marian Mellvin gave a slide presentation on "Photographic Programs of Distinction". At the Spring Dinner, Dr. Rita Mathews gave a presentation on "The Northwest Passage". At the 1994 Annual Meeting, John Helenek, from Haddam, Connecticut, gave a presentation on his experience of conquering Mt. Everest.

The Annual Meeting on November 19, 1994, at the Marriott in Rocky Hill, included a First Aid course in the morning, many workshops led by Chapter committees in the afternoon, a happy hour, and an evening banquet and program. A total of 227 people joined us for dinner, and 120 came for just the afternoon workshops.

We are fortunate to have been able to use the Church of Christ, Congregational, in Goshen, space at the Northeast Utilities in Berlin, and the United Methodist Church in Vernon for the potlucks. The Spring Dinner was held at Northeast Utilities. We are always on the lookout for suitable facilities for our events.

We welcome additional members to our committee, even to help out at just one or two events. Our Committee members have been responsible for the smooth operation of our activities. The Committee met several times during the year to plan our programs. We also acknowledge the help of many others who pitch in from time to time.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Luella Bartes Edgar Dresner Wilda Wise Richard Bartes Fay Dresner Wilford Parker Louise Carroll Harold Carpenter Irving Mills Cecilia Stoll

Helene Goulet - Chair

TRAILS COMMITTEE

We completed the video and other parts of the joint Trails and Education project on the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. We started our season with a leadership and First Aid Workshop, and then a Monitoring Workshop. We later had a two-day Maintainers Workshop, a Chainsaw Workshop, and two Guides and Ridgerunners Workshops.

We cleared the view from Bear Mountain, improved drainage in a number of locations, put in a switchback south of Route 341, and relocated the trail off the road at the north end of the Stanley Tract, and restored the river walk.

We had weekends away on two weekends at Camp Mohican, one at Camp Dodge in New Hampshire, and one on the Long Trail in Vermont.

We started building a shelter at Ten Mile River in August, and it should be completed by the time you read this report.

A major project was Public Lands Appreciation Day on September 30, sponsored by Times Mirror Publications. We had 78 volunteers on 10 projects, and accomplished work that would otherwise have required 10 weekends to complete.

TRAILS COMMITTEE:

Georg	e Andrews
	Cobrain
Henry	Edmonds
Carol	o Marra

Dick Blake Ted Cowles Harlan Jessup Doug Christie Walt Daniels Tom Kaelin Richard Rouse

Birge Dayton - Chair

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE

This year we used a new method to produce a whitewater schedule that offered 134 paddling trips. Instead of conducting a lengthy and expensive phone search to recruit trip leaders, we created a leaderless target schedule which we mailed out to all of our past leaders. This allowed the leaders to select the trips they wanted and assigned a priority to their selections to enable the scheduler to resolve any conflicts. The response from our leaders was excellent and many of them commented that they never realized how much work went into creating a schedule. As a result, many leaders signed up for more trips than they had led in prior years. Unfortunately, the drought caused many trip cancellations as the Farmington River reached record low levels for several weeks and at least two reservoir draw-down releases have been canceled due to a lack of water.

Our roster was trimmed in 1995 to include only paddlers who have participated on a club trip during the preceding two years. This has left us with a roster of approximately 250 paddlers which will make it easier for us to reach our active membership.

In June, we had our open boat training along with the Berkshire Chapter on the Deerfield River in Massachusetts. This training session was better attended this year than the last two years as we had 12 participants in 1995 compared to 2 in 1994 and 5 in 1993. Hopefully this increased interest will continue next year. We held our annual rolling sessions this year in January and February at the Suffield Academy. However, we were unable to find anyone willing to run a training session on the river for beginning kayakers.

In September, we published what may be our best newsletter to date. It contained 14 pages of articles and 4 advertisements that paid for more than 50% of our printing and mailing costs. Next year we may try to publish two editions.

In 1996, we hope to recruit more new people to help us with committee functions, training, and trip leading. We also plan to continue to refine the processes which we use to produce a schedule that will offer something for paddlers of all abilities.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE:

Ed Bossom Naomi Freedman Paul Hendricks Bruce Kindseth Dolores Sandman Ed Chase Kevin Hannon Dave Jamison Jay Larkin Leo Sandman

Joel Freedman Becky Hendricks Shelley Jamison Ray Larkin Wendy Tyburski

Tom Tyburski - Chair

AD HOC COMPUTER COMMITTEE

The Computer Committee supports the various PC based activities of the chapter committees, primarily supporting the Bicycling, Excursion and Membership Committees. Each uses a specific database attached to membership information. The Bicycle Committee tracks leaders and participants in bicycling events. The Excursion Committee maintains information about hike leaders. The Membership Committee maintains information about member preferences. Activities include data entry of new member questionnaire responses, special activity inquiries, and support of the existing databases. Future activities include updating the existing club database documentation, developing a desk top publishing library of Education Committee information, and determining the appropriate method for transfer data between the chapter computers.

The Club owns three PC's and a number of committees use computers owned by members. The club uses Word for Windows for document processing and Access for database processing. In addition some committees use other products such as PFS, dBase, Lotus 1-2-3 and WordPerfect and would appreciate any support they can receive.

If you would like to become a part of the Committee, please call Paul Duclos at (203) 932-9868.

AD HOC COMPUTER COMMITTEE:

Tracy Ford Kathy Lindbeck Don Garber Daniel Michael Abby Doolittle White Doug Hayden Alex Nagy

Paul Duclos - Chair

AD HOC EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

The East of the River committee was formed to better serve the residents of the portion of the membership living east of the Connecticut river, and to improve communication among those members. It first started in 1992 with a simple typed mailing to a very few members. It now has a mailing list of nearly 400, due largely to a start-up grant from the AMC Membership Committee which enabled a mailing to 1500 members in June. Since that time a working committee of about 15 members have been involved in planning and carrying out activities.

Three local programs were held in 1995—A Dessert Slide Show in Vernon, with multi-media shows by Curly Perzel and Ted Tenerowicz, a summer picnic at Hopeville State Park, and a Potluck supper followed by a slide show by Frank Kaczmarek in Waterford. In November 1994 a potluck supper planned by the Chapter Program committee attracted 125 who enjoyed a program by Ruth Pfeifer, presenting slides of her Appalachian Trail through hike. Hikes preceding the evening's program were coordinated by Dave Cullen. In 1996 this activity will become the responsibility of the East of River committee.

The Tuesday Hiking Group is sponsored by the committee, but open to all. It is flexible in scheduling, but listed in *Outdoors*, with all hikes led by Chapter leaders. It seems to be meeting its purpose of providing mid-week opportunities convenient to our membership and encouraging exploration of varied trails systems. *John Cunningham, Linda Houser, Carolyn Olsen* and *Betty Robinson* are coordinators.

Members of the committee sponsor trail work on selected trails, particularly in local state parks. We are looking into the state-wide Friends of State Parks for direction. Individuals are active in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor's walking weekend.

Special thanks to *Ruth Pfeifer*, who with her professional background, maintains our mailing lists and transforms the rough copy we get to her into the final copy ready for printing (and does it fast!).

Thank also to Curly Perzel, and Ted Tenerowicz, Karen Fisher, Tom Wendland and Chris Kaatz for program assistance.

At this year of transition ends, we are pleased that the Chapter voted at their October meeting to grant Committee status to our group.

AD HOC EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

John Cunningham Carolyn Olsen Phyllis Freeman

Linda Cunningham Ed Dresner Dot Davis Fay Dresner Robert Slover

Betty Robinson - Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 1995 Nominating Committee is grateful to all those Executive Committee members who chose to continue in office. We welcome the new members who said "yes" when we called you to serve.

My hearty thanks to the following for their hours of telephone work and coordination.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Steve Braciak

Jan DiMattia Christine Simeone Fred Riotte

Anne Rehm - Chair

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates:

Chapter Chair Vice Chair Secretary Treasurer Bicycling Conservation Education

Education
Excursions Co-Chairs

Fairfield County Membership Member-at-Large Mountaineering Newsletter Co-Chairs

Northwest Camp

Program Trails Whitewater Dave Cullen
Paula Burton
Doug McKain
Anne Perkins
Ellen Newton
Linfilled

Ellen Newton Unfilled Mary Jane Gately Merri Swanson Paul Duclos Bill Russell

Dave Jenkins
Justine Hart
Dwight Curry
Chuck Luce
Lisa Brownell
Roy Hoffmann
Helene Goulet
Birge Dayton
Tom Tyburski

50-YEAR MEMBER

Congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Catherine E. Blanchard, of Branford, Connecticut, who we are honoring for her 50 years of membership in The Appalachian Mountain Club! She has been invited to attend the Annual Meeting and banquet as a guest of the Chapter.