



Annual Report

December 7, 1996

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 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
1996 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Dave Cullen</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Paula Burton</i>
Secretary	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Anne Perkins</i>
Bicycling Committee Chair	<i>Ellen Newton</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Kirby Holcombe</i> <i>Elaine Kowalcky</i>
East of the River Committee Chair	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Mary-Jane Gately</i>
Excursions Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Paul Duclos</i> <i>Merri Swanson</i>
Fairfield County Committee Chair	<i>Bill Russell</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>Dave Jenkins</i>
Mountaineering Committee Chair	<i>Dwight Curry</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>Helene Goulet</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Chuck Luce</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Roy Hoffman (Jan.-Aug.)</i> <i>Trent Link (Sep.-Dec.)</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
Whitewater Committee Chair	<i>Tom Tyburski</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Justine Hart</i>
Ad Hoc Computer Committee Chair	<i>Paul Duclos</i>
Regional Director	<i>Paul Meleski</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

My song is almost sung. My two year run as chair of the Connecticut Chapter is almost over. I inherited a strong chapter from Mary Dorpalen, my predecessor, and I think I'm turning over one just as strong to my successor, Paula Burton. This past year has been an exciting one for the Chapter. The event which dominated much of the year was the 75th Anniversary celebration which was held in conjunction with New Members' Day on September 21st. This required a lot of planning, but all aspects worked out beautifully. This included the spectacular commemorative issue of the chapter newsletter, *AMC in Connecticut* that was produced by Chuck Luce and Lisa Brownell, our newsletter co-editors. The ceremony at Castle Crag went well (thanks to Mother Nature for the great weather) and the spaghetti dinner that evening was well attended.

This was the second year of the Duren Scholarships, offered to teenagers to attend one of the *AMC Teen Wilderness Adventures* in New Hampshire. This is a program worth continuing. It is supported by donations from the Chapter membership. Anne Perkins, the current chapter treasurer, is always happy to accept contributions. See *AMC Outdoors* for her address.

I remain proud of our schedule of outdoor activities. We offer a wide variety of things. Yet there are concerns. We always need new leaders. Our Education Committee deserves thanks for sponsoring various leadership training events throughout the year. Due to the publishing deadline of *AMC Outdoors*, leaders must commit to scheduling an activity two to three months ahead of time. This is difficult for many of them. This and other concerns are being discussed by a new Hiking Committee which will be under the auspices of the Excursions Committee. They recently had a very successful meeting with active leaders. Another concern of mine regarding activities is the lack of carpooling. I'm disappointed nothing was done about this on my watch, but perhaps this new committee can come up with a solution. The Education Committee this year also sponsored a SOLO wilderness first-aid workshop for hike leaders. I attended this and found it to be a valuable experience.

This year we have two new dedicated co-chairs of our Conservation Committee, Kirby Holcombe and Elaine Kowalcky. This committee has been involved in some hands-on activities such as a clean-up on a section of the Housatonic River. In the near future, they are going to get involved in something that will affect the state of Connecticut for the next 30 to 50 years. This is the relicensing of the dams on the

Housatonic River. Many people depend on this river, including those who use it for recreation. There are going to be some critical negotiations in the next few years and the Chapter should be involved in them.

One of the hidden treasures of the Chapter is Northwest Cabin in Salisbury. This has become very popular. I am impressed by the way the Northwest Camp Committee has managed the property. They are very concerned about the environmental impact. They are preparing a brochure that emphasizes proper conservation practices for people staying there. This was supported in part by a special dues allocation from the Club.

Our Trails Committee has done its usual great job of maintaining the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. Their big project this year was replacing the bridge over Macedonia Brook in Kent. This required a great deal of engineering and a large number of people hours, but a new bridge is in. There are dozens of people whose contributions I should note, but space doesn't permit. I've said it before and I'll say it again. This chapter is all volunteer and would be nothing without their efforts. One final note to the reader of this piece. We can use YOUR help. How about it?

For the last two years I have had a series of Chapter Chair's hikes. Next year I'm going to have a series of PTCN hikes. That stands for Paula's the Chair Now. See you on the trail.

Dave Cullen - Chapter Chair

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 1995

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on December 9, 1995, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Chapter Chair Dave Cullen welcomed everyone who turned out on this snowy day. Dave reminisced about the mother of a boyhood friend years ago who had expressed relief that Dave and his friend had "outgrown all that hiking and camping stuff," but, contrary to what she believed, Dave said, "It hasn't happened yet," and he welcomed everyone at the meeting who "hasn't outgrown that hiking stuff, that camping stuff, that biking stuff, or that paddling stuff. May we never grow up!"

After that rousing welcome, Dave expressed thanks to Helene Goulet and her Program Committee members who worked so hard to plan and schedule all the events of this day, and to all other committee chairs and members who presented workshops, demonstrations and activities.

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of Connecticut Chapter members deceased in 1995. They include:

<i>Raymond Bunker</i>	<i>Harry Duren</i>
<i>John B. Fahey, Sr.</i>	<i>Benjamin Florezak</i>
<i>Robert Jackson</i>	<i>Harry R. Lloyd</i>
<i>Louise Maltby</i>	<i>Laureen Porto</i>
<i>Edgar Schneider</i>	<i>'Mad Jack' Sullivan</i>
<i>Tom Trump</i>	<i>Donald T. Warner</i>
<i>Lois Williams</i>	

In the absence of Excursions Chair Cyndy Mangini, Dave recognized the activity leaders who led the most trips throughout the year. Dave read the names and noted that they will be presented with special patches or rockers. The leaders receiving the awards and the number of activities they led are as follows:

<i>Chris Auth(6)</i>	<i>Anne Bailey(5)</i>	<i>Bob Baldwin(18)</i> *
<i>Bill Blaha(6)</i>	<i>Janet Blaha(6)</i>	<i>Ed Bossom(11)</i> *
<i>Steve Braciak(9)</i> *	<i>Paula Burton(12)</i> *	<i>Harry Caldwell(5)</i> *
<i>Ledge Clayton(10)</i> *	<i>David Cullen(15)</i> *	<i>John Cunningham(30)</i> *
<i>Ted Cowles(5)</i>	<i>Birge Dayton(18)</i> *	<i>Walt Daniels(5)</i>
<i>Jan DiMattia(5)</i> *	<i>Ed Dresner(7)</i> *	<i>Paul Duclos(14)</i> *
<i>Henry Edmonds(8)</i> *	<i>Bill Engstrom(9)</i>	<i>Richard Ferrana(6)</i> *
<i>Ted Groom(6)</i> *	<i>Dale Hackett(6)</i> *	<i>Emile Hall(6)</i>
<i>Roger Hall(8)</i>	<i>Kevin Hannon(7)</i> *	<i>Becky Hendricks(5)</i> *

Paul Hendricks(5)*	Christine Kaatz(5)*	Bruce Kinseth(6)*
Judy Kunkel(7)	Chuck MacMath(14)	James Malumphy(7)
Marcia McGowan(5)	Douglas McKain(9)	Richard Merritt(23)
Dave Mihalek(6)	Pat Murray(6)	Ron Naylor(9)
Ellen Newton(26)	Stan Newton(20)	Bill Novos(11)
Carolyn Olsen(9)	Almuth Perzel(8)	Deborah Rea(5)
Anne Rehm(7)	Fred Riotte(5)	Betty Robinson(17)
Richard Rose(7)	Carl Rosenthal(9)	Steve Roth(5)
Bill Russell(21)	Jo Russell(17)	Mark Shappert(7)
Bill Schumacher(17)	John Scully(7)	Jeri Smith(7)
Phil Statlander(6)	Mike Stino(18)	Mark Swanson(18)
Chiara Taylor(6)	Barbara Tortora(12)	Tom Tyburski(9)
Claude Zeller(6)*		

* Designates leader with prior years' awards

Dave also announced the name of the newest member 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. The new member of this elite group is Jonathan Howes.

Dave then called on Membership Chair Dave Jenkins to announce some special guests. Dave cited Cay Blanchard, who has been a member of the Connecticut AMC Chapter since 1945. Ms. Blanchard had planned to attend the meeting, but was unable to do so, and her award will be sent to her. Dave also recognized Ruth Lloyd who was in attendance and has been a member for 61 years. A considerable number of people were recognized when Dave called on all who have been members for at least 25 years to stand. AMC President Sam Pryor and Regional Director Paul Meleski had each planned to attend the Meeting, but were unable to do so because of ill health. Dave thanked Steve Grant, our speaker for the evening.

Before opening the business meeting, Dave Cullen expressed appreciation to those Executive Committee members who will either be leaving the Committee or assuming a different position. Dave recognized and presented 75th anniversary patches to Mary-Jane Gately, who has been Secretary for three years and who has been nominated to be Chair of the Education Committee; and to Mary Adams, who has been Conservation Committee Chair for two years. Dave emphasized how important the area of conservation is in a club like ours and noted that presently there is no Chair for that Committee; he urged anyone interested in this post to contact him. Dave also recognized Education Chair Jeff Hogan, who will be assuming the jobs of Family Activities Coordinator and also Coordinator of North Country Trips; outgoing Excursions Chair

Cyndy Mangini, who has done a remarkable job of running the committee from Arizona, where a career transfer took her, Paul Duclos, Member-at-Large and Chair of the ad hoc Computer Committee, who has been nominated to be Co-Chair of Excursions; and Mary Dorpalen, who has been on the Executive Committee this year as Past Chair. Dave noted also that Mary was the person who originally encouraged him to become a hike leader and get involved in family activities and in Chapter governance.

Dave then called to order the 75th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The Secretary's Report was moved, seconded, and accepted as presented in the 1995 Annual Report. The Treasurer's Report, printed in the same document, was also moved, seconded and accepted.

Dave recognized the members of the Nominating Committee for their work in drawing up the slate for next year. Applauded were Anne Rehm, Chair, and members Steve Braciak, Jan DiMattia, Fred Riotte, and Christine Simeone. In the absence of Anne, Christine presented the following slate of nominees for 1996:

Dave Cullen - Chapter Chair	Paula Burton - Vice Chair
Doug McKain - Secretary	Anne Perkins - Treasurer
Ellen Newton - Bicycling	Unfilled - Conservation
Mary-Jane Gately - Education	Paul Duclos - Excursions
Merri Swanson - Excursions	Bill Russell - Fairfield County
Dave Jenkins - Membership	Justine Hart - Member-at-Large
Dwight Curry - Mountaineering	Chuck Luce - Newsletter
Lisa Brownell - Newsletter	Roy Hoffman - Northwest Camp
Helene Goulet - Program	Birge Dayton - Trails
Tom Tyburski - Whitewater	

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

At 8:00 P.M. it was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the business meeting.

Program Chair Helene Goulet then introduced the program speaker, Steve Grant from *The Hartford Courant*. Mr. Grant was among a group of reporters from a number of newspapers who hiked the Appalachian Trail in portions this past summer and wrote articles about their adventures. Mr. Grant presented a very entertaining slide talk about his experiences on the trail.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Jane Gately, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 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:	<u>1,304</u>		
Total cash at beginning of year		\$22,704	
Revenue Collected:			
AMC dues collected	\$30,257		
Programs, merchandise sales and camp use	13,634		
Grants and restricted funds received	9,238		
Interest income and other	979		
Contributions received	<u>3,196</u>		
Total revenue collected		\$57,304	
Expenditures made:			
Cost of program activities	\$11,459		
Grants and restricted funds expended	8,030		
Committee operating expenses:			
Administration	6,095		
Bicycling	1,272		
Computer	779		
Conservation	164		
East of the River	672		
Education	923		
Excursions	1,621		
Fairfield County	1,474		
Membership	2,774		
Mountaineering	627		
Newsletter	6,318		
Northwest Camp	899		
Program	288		
Trails	<u>3,893</u>		
Total expenditures		<u>\$47,288</u>	
Cash at December 31, 1995			<u>\$32,720</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE TEN MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1996

Cash at January 1, 1996:			
Cash held by Treasurer:			
Shawmut Bank - Checking	\$17,629		
Shawmut Bank - Savings	1,024		
Shawmut Bank - CDs	12,763		
Cash held by Whitewater Committee:	<u>1,304</u>		
Total cash at beginning of year		\$32,720	
Revenue Collected:			
AMC dues collected	\$23,509		
Programs, merchandise sales and camp use	6,966		
Grants and restricted funds received	10,631		
Interest income and other	659		
Contributions received	<u>1,645</u>		
Total revenue collected		\$43,410	
Expenditures made:			
Cost of program activities	\$6,571		
Grants and restricted funds expended	9,527		
Committee operating expenses:			
Administration	4,732		
Bicycling	1,597		
Computer	424		
Conservation	30		
East of the River	900		
Education	1,670		
Excursions	1,115		
Fairfield County	260		
Membership	3,172		
Mountaineering	-		
Newsletter	8,954		
Northwest Camp	582		
Program	154		
Trails	<u>3,297</u>		
Total expenditures		<u>\$42,985</u>	
Cash at October 31, 1996			<u>\$33,145</u>

Anne Perkins - Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

This year has been a banner year for bicycling. We had a record number of rides and trips. Our leaders once again proved that cycling can be fun, and informative as well. We have had trips from Maine to Virginia. We experienced all kinds of weather and conditions, from bright, sunny days to monsoon rains. We've learned that you can dampen a cyclist, but you can't dampen a cyclist's spirit. The hurricane winds and rains on our Jefferson, New Hampshire trip stopped us from riding, but didn't stop us from cooking out and having a great time.

This has been Ellen Newton's second year as our chair and we have continued to expand and be a dynamic committee. We were all concerned about what would happen to the Bicycling Committee when Ellen took the chair. Under Ellen's tutelage and nurturing, we have personally grown, and not just in girth. Ellen, you have made the last two years fun, our Committee has moved into many new areas, and all of us on the Committee thank you for being our friend first and for providing us with the guidance that we needed. Our "Hats Off" to you! We will miss you.

The charge of the Bicycling Committee has been rides, rides, and more rides, but we have been active in new areas as well. We have continued to promote education and are proud of our new Effective Cycling Instructors: Ellen Newton, Bethel Paris and Barbara Tortora. They were trained by the League of American Bicyclists. Extensive pre-work, on-road and classroom training helped bring them their certification. I'm sure they will be offering us a class in Effective Cycling in the near future. Roger Hall attended the SOLO Wilderness First Aid class that the Connecticut Chapter sponsored.

Our participation in the Connecticut Chapter Executive Committee, advocacy and community affairs has helped keep bicycling in the forefront of our club members.

We are happy to report that the Bicycling Committee sponsored a racing team. A successful race was held in Barkhamsted this year. We were able to get sponsors for the race and have prizes without impacting our club's budget. Next year's race will get even more coverage and sponsors.

Traditionally, our club rides have been on roads. We have started offering mountain bike rides as well. We have had mountain bike weekends in Maine and Vermont.

At the end of this year, our baton passes to a new leader. Jeri Jaminet, one of our Committee members, has graciously taken the Chair. We look forward to new directions, ideas, and working with Jeri.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank our Committee for the tireless hours put in by everyone, helping meet deadlines, attending meetings, keeping spirits high, and doing newsletters, rides and weekends. Thanks to all of you for your help and support!

And, a very special thanks to all our ride leaders for all the rides that you have led. It is you that make bicycling so successful.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Hall. See you all on a ride next year!

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

Deborah Casey
Roger Hall
Tom Latham
Jo Ann Oberg

Richard Ferraina
Jeri Jaminet
Doug McKain
Barbara Tortora

Emilie Hall
Judy Kunkel
Richard Merritt

Ellen Newton - Chair

Conservation Committee

Two new Co-Chairs of the Conservation Committee were elected for 1996: Kirby Holcombe and Elaine Kowalcky. Mary Adams had been the past Chair, and she reviewed the activities and issues the Committee had been concerned with over the years. Despite her hard work and that of others, there seemed to be a lack of interest in the Conservation Committee. This apparently is an issue with most AMC chapter conservation committees. It was decided one of the major goals of the Committee would be to establish an active committee membership. Elaine Kowalcky also agreed to be our representative and attend the meetings of the Land Conservation Coalition.

Our first meeting was held in February. Ann Sherwood, AMC and New Hampshire Forest Service Trail Maintainer, discussed the status, issues and proposed legislation for The Northern Forest. At our second meeting in April, we discussed the impending FERC Housatonic River Dam Relicensing of Northeast Utilities. The Committee decided to pursue this relicensing process and host an informational meeting for all interested AMC members in the fall.

Two other topics of interest discussed at our meetings were the damage to our hemlock forests by the Woolly Adelgid and encouraging car pooling to AMC activities. We are investigating methods to distribute a list of commuter parking lots to the membership.

One of our goals for 1996 was to inform our membership about current conservation issues. For the Conservation Day/National Trails Day potluck, we presented an exhibit of information on The Northern Forest, FERC Housatonic Relicensing and other topics. We have also scheduled Tom Steinback, AMC Director of Conservation Programs, to speak at an afternoon session of our Annual Meeting. He will discuss the conservation programs and issues the AMC is currently involved with.

Another goal was to involve our membership in a hands-on project. On September 28th, we participated in the Housatonic Watershed *Source-to-Sound* clean-up. We cleaned a section of the Housatonic River and the Appalachian Trail between Bull's Bridge and Ten Mile Campsite.

On October 9th, the Committee hosted a meeting on the Housatonic River Dam Relicensing of Northeast Utilities. Peter Donaghue, AMC Rivers Specialist and Ruth Dinerman, Conservation Volunteer Coordinator presented an overview of the relicensing process. This was our initial meeting devoted to this process which will extend over the next five years and involve many issues important to AMC members.

Other issues we have dealt with in Committee have been the Maine Clear Cut Referendum and the AMC hut relicensing process. Ann Sherwood and Elaine Kowalcky also pushed The Northern Forest initiatives with a presentation at a local Eastern Mountain Sports store.

Although our meetings and work party were well attended, our active core committee membership is still small. Numerous letters of invitation to join the Committee have been sent to people who have

indicated an interest in AMC conservation programs, including responders to the AMC new member survey and lists of volunteers, supplied by Ruth Dinerman, on other club-wide conservation projects. These efforts have not received a response. Recruitment of active new members will be a major goal of the Committee again in 1997.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Birge Dayton
Fred Riotte

Bob Dickinson
Ann Sherwood

Justine Hart
Lisa Spencer

Kirby Holcombe - Co Chair
Elaine Kowalcky - Co Chair

East of the River Committee

In 1996, our first year with full committee standing, the East of the River Committee (ERC) set the following goals:

- Encourage members living in the eastern part of the state to participate in activities of the Chapter and the club.
- Provide an additional means of communication for them.
- Make the Chapter and club more aware of the large number of members who live at a distance from many activities.
- Encourage the Chapter to take distance into account when scheduling activities.

Our specific objectives were to:

- Publish the newsletter at least three times.
- Recruit activity leaders and committee members.
- Take responsibility for at least one Chapter-wide activity.
- Continue to sponsor Tuesday hikes.
- Identify a liaison to other Chapter committees.
- Plan programs which would be financially self-sufficient.

We have been able to send out three newsletters, with the mailing list now nearing 500. Bulk mail has reduced our costs. The listing is by request only, with all new members who live east of the river receiving an initial mailing.

The weekday hiking group continues to draw an average of fifteen members. It will continue throughout the winter with emphasis on

adaptation to weather conditions. A "rap hike" was also sponsored in an effort to recruit new hike leaders.

Understanding that members living so far distant find it hard to travel to the AT, our Committee has sponsored trail projects in cooperation with the Mansfield Hollow State Park. We have held work parties on the Old Mansfield Hollow Trail and are planning a hike to involve members in the rejuvenation of an existing ski trail in the park. The park supervisor, John Folsom, has obtained new trail signs.

On October 26th an "East of the River potluck" was held, with seven outdoor events, followed by a supper and program. It was held in Columbia this year in an effort to reach members who live in the more southern portion of the area and was attended by 55 members.

At the Chapter's Annual Meeting in December, the ERC hosted a program with presentations by members of the committee for establishing the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, the first such Connecticut project under the National Parks Service.

Many thanks go to members of the Committee and to all who have helped make our first year successful. A special word of thanks to my husband, Perley, who has put up with all the phone calls, the messy house, the paper work, etc. that goes into the Chair's job. He also has been straw boss for many of our work projects.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>John & Linda Cunningham</i>	<i>Dot Davis</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Ed & Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>
<i>Amy Mariotti</i>	<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>
<i>Ruth Pfeiffer</i>	<i>Sue Protheroe</i>	<i>Meg Seril</i>
<i>Robert Slover</i>		

Betty Robinson - Chair

Education Committee

The Education Committee continues to provide leadership training for the Chapter and offers outreach activities.

At the Annual meeting the Education Committee is presenting workshops on Winter Hiking by Jeff Hogan; Map and Compass and Cross Country Skiing by Rick Taylor; Backpacking by Roy Hoffman; and Trip Management by Paula Burton. A CPR certification course is also offered.

In November, the Committee sponsored the Leadership Training Weekend at the White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield. Topics which were addressed included Trip Planning and Management, Accident Scene Management, Liability and Trip Requirements, Leadership Styles, and Judgment and Decision Making.

Two new activities were started this year and were very well-received. Four "New Hiker Clinics" were held. The clinics, trailside workshops followed by a hike, are designed to provide novice hikers with information and answer questions on hiking. The clinics were lead by John Cunningham, Carolyne Olsen, Linda Houser, Marty Griffen and Anne Rehm.

"Day Hiking in the Winter" is another new offering and was the focus of two hiking workshops in the fall led by Linda Houser and John Cunningham.

Anne Rehm coordinated four "Rap Hikes." Rap Hikes are one aspect of leadership training and provide a meeting ground for the exchange of ideas between experienced and aspiring leaders.

The SOLO Wilderness Medicine course, coordinated by Jeff Hogan, was offered in April and was very well-received by the 24 participants. It will be offered again in the spring of 1997.

In the area of outreach activities, the Junior Naturalist program, coordinated by Shirley Sutton, continues to be much in demand. Requests for the booklets and patches come primarily from hike leaders and teachers.

John Cunningham coordinated and led several hikes this year with the Middletown Association for Retarded Citizens.

Paula Burton services and has continued to expand the video loan program. Videos on outdoor activities, the AT, backpacking and conservation are available on loan at no charge from the Connecticut Chapter through the Education Committee.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic, innovative and hard-working members of the Education Committee! I have especially appreciated their support and involvement in this transition year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

<i>Paula Burton</i>	<i>Paul Duclos</i>	<i>Jeff Hogan</i>
<i>Linda Houser, Secretary</i>	<i>Angus Lamont</i>	<i>Clint Morse</i>
<i>Trish Niece</i>	<i>Anne Rehm</i>	<i>Shirley Sutton</i>
<i>Rick Taylor</i>		

Mary-Jane Gately - 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 co-leader program for hike leaders and rosters of both activity leaders and leadership candidates.

Message from the Excursions Chair

This past year has been an exciting year. Paula Burton continues to lead the effort to develop risk management objectives for our chapter's activities. This committee, in conjunction with education committee, continues to encourage more members to become leaders through rap hikes and leadership training weekends. Merri Swanson organized hike leader meetings to better acquaint our leaders with each other and the issues leaders face.

During the year our 75th Anniversary was held, along with Marathon Day, Trails Day, New Members Day and East of the River Day. I want to take this time to thank all of the activity leaders for contributing so much of the time and love of the outdoors with other members.

Trip Statistics - October 1, 1995 - September 30, 1996

<u>All Activities</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Trips	422	435	470	379
Participants	4680	6079	4241+	4993
Average Turnout	11	14	N/A	13

<u>Day Hike</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Trips	376	378	429	352
Participants	4257	5717	3794+	4583
Average Turnout	12	15	N/A	13

Special Activities

Weekend Trips Coordinator: Marjorie Herzenberg

The number of weekend trips increased during 1996 due to good snow in the winter and an increase in the number of hike/bike weekends. Some of these are listed under skiing or in the Bicycle Committee's report. The hiking weekend trips ranged from a family weekend at Bascom Lodge to weekends hiking the AT in NY and NJ. There were trips to most of the states in the Northeast. The Chapter benefits from weekend trips sponsored by our seasoned weekend leaders and would like to encourage day event leaders to consider qualifying to lead weekend trips.

<u>Weekends</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Trips	12	12	18	10
Participants	171	200	N/A	218
Average Turnout	15.7	16.6	20	21.8

Backpacking Coordinator: Jeff Hogan

The demand for backpacking trips, especially in Connecticut is always high. The need for leaders for these types of activities is very high. If you would like to lead or co-lead a backpacking trip, please contact Jeff at (860) 677-5806 between 7 and 9 PM or Paul Duclos at (203) 932-9868 before 9 PM.

This year had several trips in northern New England with a week-long trip through the 100 mile wilderness at the northern end of the Appalachian Trail led by Jeff.

Flatwater Canoeing Coordinator: Paul Magnuson

	1996	1995	1994	1993
Activities	11	8	23	N/A
Trips	86	58	87+	N/A
Participants	8	7	N/A	11
Average Turnout				

Cross-Country Skiing Coordinator: Marty Griffin

Last winter was known for its abundance of snow. Twenty-five day trips were planned, of which five were canceled due to poor weather or conditions. There were thirteen trips within Connecticut and seven in the Berkshires. In addition, there were seven weekend trips to Vermont.

	1996	1995	1994	1993
Ski Trips	23	31	15	17
Trips	150	104	80	141
Participants	6.5	3.4	5.3	8.3
Average Turnout				

Blue Trail Series Coordinator: Open

The Excursions committee is actively recruiting a coordinator and one or more hike leaders interested in leading Blue Trail Hikes. 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).

CT 400 Club: Daryll Borst

Daryll continues to monitor the roster of the CT 400 Club for AMC members who attain this goal. During the past year Phyllis Freeman has qualified for her CT 400 Award. Congratulations!!! This brings to 59 the total number of AMC hikers have earned the award since 1973 when the tally was begun.

Monthly Hike Coordinators

For each issue of the AMC Outdoors, hikes are coordinated by a different AMC member who solicits hikes by mail, follows up by phone and meets the goal of the Connecticut Chapter to offer a variety of hikes based on distance, terrain, and location for all AMC members and guests to enjoy. The Excursions Committee is actively recruiting new coordinators for the 1997 season.

Monthly Hike Coordinators - 1996

<i>Carl Rosenthal</i> - Waterford	January/February
<i>Donna Arbus</i> - Meriden	March
<i>Fred Riotte</i> - Suffield	April
<i>Justine Hart</i> - Middletown	May
<i>Ann Rehm</i> - Bristol	June
<i>Paul Duclos</i> - West Haven	July/August
<i>Rob Munro</i> - Darien	September
<i>Christine Katz</i> - Norwich	October
<i>Janice Parker</i> - East Lyme	November
<i>Jan DiMattia</i> - Fairfield	December
<i>Thomas Carruthers</i> - Westport	FCC - Jan. - Jun.
<i>Trish Thompson</i> - Fairfield	FCC - Jul. -Sep.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

<i>Daryll Borst</i> - North Haven	CT 400 Club Monitor
<i>Sue Graham</i> - Old Greenwich	Hike Trip Reports
	Coordinator
<i>Marty Griffin</i> - Newington	Cross Country Skiing
	Coordinator
<i>Marjorie Herzenberg</i> - North Haven	Weekends Coordinator
<i>Jeff Hogan</i> - Farmington	Backpacking and Family
	Activities Coordinator
<i>Paul Magnuson</i> - Danbury	Flatwater Canoeing
	Coordinator
<i>Ruth Sternburg</i> - Old Greenwich	AMC Outdoors Coordinator
<i>Trish Thompson</i> - Fairfield	FCC Coordinator

Paul Duclos - Co-Chair
Merri Swanson - Co-Chair

Fairfield County Committee

In 1996 membership of the Fairfield County Committee (FCC) has continued to grow as hiking and general outdoor activity becomes more popular in this region. Membership is over 1600 and no end is in sight.

New, larger, more attractive meeting facilities were found for our bimonthly meetings at the Westport First Congregational Church where there is room for our expanded membership. Spaghetti dinners are featured at meetings along with slide shows on outdoor subjects.

The Hiker, our regular bimonthly publication, lists all events of the group including hikes, skiing and sailing. Distribution of *The Hiker* is through local outdoor stores and libraries.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMITTEE

<i>Katherine Antonio</i> , Member-at-Large	<i>John Barry</i> , Hiker Editor
<i>David Bicking</i> , Member-at-Large	<i>Tom Carruthers</i> , Activities
<i>Ann Crane</i> , Refreshments	<i>Dave Cullen</i> , Chapter Chair
<i>Dianne Davenport</i> , Secretary	<i>Gretchen Goethner</i> , Programs
<i>Peter Heyel</i> , Activities	<i>Chuck McMath</i> , Food Service
<i>Rob Munro</i> , Sailing	<i>Cathy Pinckney</i> , Member-at-Large
<i>Jeff Russek</i> , Treasurer	<i>Ann & Charles Spencer</i> , Distribution
<i>Eric Stones</i> , Public Relations	<i>Trish Thompson</i> , Hike Coordinator

Bill Russell - Chair

Membership Committee

As of September 30, 1996 there were 8,732 AMC members affiliated with the Connecticut Chapter. This represented approximately 12% of the Club's 71,163 total members. The Chapter experienced net growth of approximately 895 members since last September and retained 91% of its existing members (both figures improved from the prior year). Volunteers on our Committee and their primary area of responsibility are:

<i>Chris Simeone</i>	New Member Day planning, Caller
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	New Member Day planning, Caller
<i>Betty Robinson</i>	East of the River Chair
<i>Betty Robinson</i>	New member packet coordinator
<i>Betty Robinson</i>	Membership database coordinator
<i>Dave Cullen</i>	New member phone number look-up
<i>Dawn Gagliardi</i>	New member listing distribution
<i>Tori Stepanov</i>	New member listing distribution (new)
<i>Anne Hawkins</i>	Development of member survey (new)
<i>Trish Niece</i>	New member questionnaire coordinator
<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>	Prospective member inquiries
<i>Gerry Hardy</i>	Area membership contact (Hartford)
<i>Ledge Clayton</i>	Area membership contact (Fairfield)
<i>Mark Temkin</i>	Member-at-large (new)
<i>Dot Davis</i>	Member-at-large, Caller
<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	Member-at-large

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

<i>Roberta Ambrosino</i>	<i>Donna Arbour</i>	<i>Jon Burr</i>
<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>Bob Dickinson (new)</i>	<i>Bill Emerson (R)</i>
<i>Karen Fisher (R)</i>	<i>Virginia Fisher</i>	<i>Helen Flood</i>
<i>Dale Geislten (new)</i>	<i>Inger Hellstrom</i>	<i>John Hicks</i>
<i>Nola Jordan</i>	<i>John Lynch</i>	<i>Diane Mischke (R)</i>
<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	<i>May Nevius</i>	<i>Michael Palumbo (new)</i>
<i>Madelaine Revere (R)</i>	<i>Joan Seeds</i>	<i>Cecilia Stoll (R)</i>
<i>Howard Treat</i>	<i>Trish Treat</i>	

(R) - rotating off the calling team. Many thanks for their help welcoming new members!

In the past twelve months we welcomed 1,600 new members to the Chapter and as a result our New Members' Day this year was a great success. We combined this celebration with our 75th anniversary commemoration and pulled off a great day. The spaghetti dinner attracted approximately 230 members, split evenly between new members and existing members. The attendance was nearly double that of last year! This increase is attributable to the addition of the 75th anniversary, a greater number of new members over last year, and better promotion. The daytime activities were also well attended. The after dinner presentation included a terrific slideshow by Anne Parmenter of her recent successful ascent of Aconcagua (23,000 ft.), South America's highest summit.

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*.

I'd like to thank Trish Niece, John Cunningham and Dawn Gagliardi, three long-time Membership Committee members who are rotating off the Committee, but continue to help the Chapter in many other ways.

Dave Jenkins - Chair

Mountaineering Committee

The year 1996 has been a year for safety. The sport of rock climbing is becoming popular and with that has come an increase in accidents nationwide. In response to this, we have concentrated on training new climbing leaders and learning rescue techniques. We held a self rescue seminar that covered topics from how to deal with an unconscious partner to rope technique when you are stranded on a wall with no help. The response to these types of classes was enthusiastic and more will be scheduled for the spring.

The rest of the year was spent applying what we learned on many outings to the White Mountains, the "Dacks," and climbing here in Connecticut. The group has a wide range of skill levels from beginners to accomplished leaders. By pairing new people with the more experienced climbers, no one has been left behind.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

*Ed Budzig
John Rek
Bill Walters*

*Dave Danenburg
Spencer Sprecker*

*Paul Maresca
Mark Vandenberg*

Dwight Curry - Chair

Newsletter Committee

Four issues of the Chapter newsletter were published in 1996, three regular issues and a special 75th Anniversary issue. The special issue was printed in three colors on high-quality paper and was financed by a grant from the club-wide Chapters Committee and matching funds from the Connecticut Chapter. Its distribution in September was timed to precede the 75th Anniversary celebration at Castle Crag.

The cost of paper and postage rates stabilized in 1996. A computerized process of ink-jetting and bar-coding mailing address was tried this year. While slightly more expensive than using traditional labels, bar-coding for USPS automation helped the newsletter move through the mailstream more rapidly.

Lisa Brownell and Chuck Luce have completed two satisfying years as newsletter editors and are grateful to the many chapter members who contributed stories and pictures, especially Paula Burton and Dave Cullen. With the start of 1997, the editorial pen is passed to Trish Treat.

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

Northwest Camp Committee

The Northwest Cabin and Camp has had a very successful 45th year. Of significance and importance is the fact that the cabin is in great condition due to the efforts of the many volunteers that aid in the stewardship of the area.

This year's spring work party ensured there would be no further water damage to the cabin. This was accomplished by installing a forty-foot curtain drain (composed of P.V.C. perforated pipe with a silt sock around it to eliminate clogging, laid into a ditch and surrounded by crushed stone). This catches the run-off water and diverts it away from the cabin. Further work on that side of the cabin (uphill) was carried out by excavating years of erosion that buried the cabin on that side by one to two feet. After excavating, a full-length log retaining wall was constructed to prevent this from recurring. The unusually heavy rains of this spring, summer and early fall have tested the integrity of this work. I am pleased to report that it seems to be holding up very well.

Safety in the cabin was upgraded as well by replacing the loft window on the river side. It has been replaced with a large, fully removable window. This will facilitate an emergency exit. The privy has also been relocated. The accumulation of debris behind the cabin has also been removed because it was a potential fire hazard.

The cabin has been used with respect and regard for the natural surroundings by the majority of persons coming through the area. However, in June there was an incident of a beer party at the tent platform. The litter and debris were cleaned up within one day of the incident. There have been two incidents of cutting green, standing wood close to the cabin, and one stump has already been removed.

There have been random occasions of littering in the area by less thoughtful people. I do not believe this litter to be caused by cabin guests. The area has become a busy, day-hiker stop because of its close proximity to Mt. Riga Road.

The ridgerunners are a great asset to the Northwest Camp. Their presence in the area limits potential problems.

Cabin use has been steady throughout the 45th year, with 109 overnight stays through September. Fall and winter dates are filling quickly with approximately 25 reservations scheduled through December.

The 75th Anniversary/New Members' Day was held in September. Eight people attended the Saturday hike of the South Taconics. There were two overnight guests.

In the AMC tradition of conservation and education, the Northwest Camp Committee is developing a brochure that will focus on low impact camping skills, conservation and some natural history. This brochure will be available only to cabin guests. It is anticipated that the brochure will be in print by the end of the year.

The firewood this year will be purchased with cabin funds. It will be cut, split, and delivered. This will help minimize the further impact of gathering in the area. Also, it will be safer with respect to liability because of the absence of chain saw use.

One area that the Committee will tackle in the 46th year will address re-vegetation work on some of the heavily impacted areas.

A summer work party is anticipated to focus on scree walls or railings to keep trampling to a minimum and protect the re-vegetated areas.

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

<i>Suzanne Chinatti</i>	<i>Chuck Doll</i>	<i>Roy Hoffman</i>
<i>Paul Ives</i>	<i>Keith Larsen</i>	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
<i>John Rek</i>	<i>Jim St. Amand</i>	<i>Dave Terril</i>

Trent Link - Chair

Program Committee

Our Committee has continued to serve the Chapter by putting on four potluck suppers, the Spring Dinner, and the Annual Meeting. In addition, we hosted a potluck supper for the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association's Trail Day and the Chapter's 75th Anniversary/New Members' Day celebration. We provided the programs for the Mid-Winter Potluck, the Spring Dinner, and the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting on December 9, 1995, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, included a First Aid course, workshops led by Chapter committees, a social hour, and an evening banquet and program. Despite a storm that covered Connecticut with snow and ice, 214 people attended the dinner.

The Chapter's 75th Anniversary was celebrated with a service and refreshments at Meriden Mountain that was attended by over 100 people, followed by a social hour and spaghetti dinner at Northeast Utilities, attended by 244 people. To commemorate the anniversary, the Chapter offered 75th Anniversary tee-shirts, badges and history books.

We are fortunate to have been able to use the Church of Christ Congregational in Goshen and space at Northeast Utilities in Berlin for our potlucks and dinners.

We welcome additional members to our Committee, even to help out at just one or two events. 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

<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Richard Bartes</i>	<i>Harold Carpenter</i>
<i>Louise Carroll</i>	<i>Edgar Dresner</i>	<i>Fay Dresner</i>
<i>Irving Mills</i>	<i>Wilford Parker</i>	<i>Wilda Wise</i>

Helene Goulet - Chair

Trails Committee

The Trails Committee had a very productive year which included the following:

- Workshops for Leadership Training, Monitors, Maintainers, Power Tool Training, and Guides/Ridgerunners were conducted, and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association was assisted with a Maintenance Workshop.
- The current status of the Appalachian Trail acquisition program was reviewed and recommendations made to the National Park service.
- A new bridge at the Macedonia Brook in Kent was constructed (six gabions, three on each bank, were filled with approximately 30 tons of rock, four tons of rock rip rap were used for bank retention, and three 32' hemlock logs were put into place).
- A quarter-mile trail relocation at Rands View was completed.
- A shelter at Ten Mile Hill was completed.
- A signboard (kiosk) was built at the route 55 parking area.
- A 15-foot, 2-stringer hemlock bridge across a side stream in Sage's Ravine was built.
- An erosion control project at the St. John's Ledges view was finished.
- A successful "Introduction to Trail Work for Women" work party, that completed a short relocation, installed a rock water bar and cleared a vista, was held.
- Six privies and two chums were moved.
- Fifty-percent of vista review was completed.
- All mowing projects were completed.
- Three work parties participated on Connecticut Blue Trails on National Trails Day
- The annual Fall Work Weekend was well attended (33 on Saturday, 10 on Sunday) and installed a large stone step at Sage's Crossing, installed three rock water bars and ten rock steps north of Paradise Junction, and replaced three old water bars on the Undermountain Trail.
- Four service trips were scheduled, two to the Mohican Outdoor Center, one to Camp Dodge, and one to Vermont with the Connecticut Chapter of the Green Mountain Club.
- The trail brochure was redesigned.

- High priority projects on the south and north sides of Ten Mile Hill, at Riga Shelter, north of Caleb's Peak and south of Lions Head were worked on.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

*George Andrews
Hugh Cobrain
Henry Edmonds
Elaine Kowalcky
Ann Sherwood*

*Dick Blake
Ted Cowles
Harlan Jessup
Carole Mazza
Norm Sills*

*Doug Christie
Walt Daniels
Tom Kaelin
Richard Rouse
Chet Stover*

Birge Dayton - Chair

Whitewater Committee

The heavy snows from last winter provided a tremendous start to our 1996 whitewater season. Unlike the previous year, consistent rainfall throughout the entire season kept many rivers at enjoyable levels. Rolling sessions were held at Suffield Academy during January and February, and Ed Chase had to brave many snowy Friday evenings to enable us to offer this clinic for the 27th year in a row. A special thanks to Ed Chase for organizing all 27 of those clinics! Our schedule had over 100 days of paddling planned including two whitewater instructions. These trips are published in *AMC Outdoors* and are also available on a week-by-week basis on the AMC's Connecticut Whitewater hotline. To join a specific trip, call the listed trip leader for time and meeting place. The Whitewater Committee has rental equipment available for a nominal fee and it can be used for any Connecticut instructional or whitewater trip.

Safe paddling skills and fun are our primary objectives. Each river we run is rated on an international scale. Connecticut AMC trips run Class I Rivers (Beginners) to Class IV Rivers (Advanced). Each member on the Whitewater roster is assigned a specific rating based on his or her ability. This is determined through a rating committee and trip leaders who are active paddlers and have observed the individuals during the season. The AMC Interchapter Canoe Committee sets guidelines for ratings across the clubs, thus a Connecticut Chapter Class III paddler can participate in a similarly rated trip offered by another chapter. Trip leaders review the skill level and equipment necessary for safety as paddlers register.

Leaders also establish guidelines on the water, assigning lead and sweep boats and advising when to scout a certain rapid. For safety reasons, the trip leaders have the final decision on any Connecticut AMC Whitewater trip.

Finally, special thanks to the small group of volunteer Whitewater Committee members.

WHITewater COMMITTEE

<i>Ed Bossom</i>	<i>Ed Chase</i>	<i>Joel Freedman</i>
<i>Naomi Freedman</i>	<i>Kevin Hannon</i>	<i>Becky Hendricks</i>
<i>Paul Hendricks</i>	<i>Jonathan Katz</i>	<i>Bruce Kindseth</i>
<i>Jan Larkin</i>	<i>Roy Larkin</i>	<i>Dave Jameison</i>
<i>Shelly Jameison</i>	<i>Mark Schoppert</i>	<i>Wendy Tyburaki</i>

Tom Tyburaki - Chair

Nominating Committee

The 1996 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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<i>Roger Hall</i>	<i>Irene Patsky</i>	<i>Fred Riotte</i>
<i>Lisa Spencer</i>		

Carl Rosenthal - Chair

Nominations for the 1997 Executive Committee

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

<i>Chapter Chair</i>	<i>Paula Burton</i>
<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Doug McCain</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Judwiga Brackets</i>
<i>Bicycling Committee Chair</i>	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>
<i>Conservation Committee Co-Chairs</i>	<i>Kirby Holcombe</i>
	<i>Elaine Kowalick</i>
<i>East of the River Committee Chair</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Mary-Jane Gately</i>
<i>Excursions Committee Co-Chairs</i>	<i>Paul Duclou</i>
	<i>Merri Swanson</i>
<i>Fairfield County Committee Chair</i>	<i>Unfilled</i>
<i>Member-at-Large</i>	<i>Lisa Spencer</i>
<i>Membership Committee Chair</i>	<i>Dave Jenkins</i>
<i>Mountaineering Committee Chair</i>	<i>Dwight Curry</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Trish Treat</i>
<i>Northwest Camp Committee Chair</i>	<i>Trent Link</i>
<i>Program Committee Chair</i>	<i>Unfilled</i>
<i>Trails Committee Chair</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
<i>Whitewater Committee Chair</i>	<i>Bruce Kinseth</i>

50-YEAR MEMBERS

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club! They have been invited to attend the Annual Meeting and banquet as guests of the Chapter.

Ethel F. Bacon of Madison
Kornel Bailey of Somers
Mrs. John B. Gardner of Woodbridge
Marjorie C. Hartman of Bloomfield
Mildred B. Smith of Hartford
Mrs. A. M. Tait of New Haven