

**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN
CLUB**

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Annual Report

November 15, 1997

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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
1997 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Paula Burton</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Secretary	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jadwiga Rosenthal</i>
Bicycling Committee Chair	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Kirby Holcombe</i> <i>Elaine Labella</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 Group Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>Dave Jenkins</i>
Mountaineering Committee Chairs	<i>Dwight Curry (Jan.-Jun.)</i> <i>David Danenberg (Jul.-Dec.)</i> <i>Mark Vandenberg (Jul.-Dec.)</i>
Program Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Helene Goulet</i> <i>Mark Temkin</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Trish Treat</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Trent Link</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
Whitewater Committee Chair	<i>Bruce Kindseth</i>
Members-at-Large	<i>Charles Baker</i> <i>Lisa Spencer</i>
Regional Director	<i>Paul Meleski</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

Fall is rapidly approaching and as I type I watch the leaves swirling down, first slowly, one at a time, then more and more as a gust of wind whips through the yard, changing the weather and the season. Each leaf can represent an accomplishment of the volunteers of the Connecticut Chapter of AMC, from the beginner's rock climbing class, to digging privy holes on the Appalachian Trail, to visiting legislators, to making phone calls to new members.

And the multi-colors of the leaves can represent the wide variety of activities where conservation and recreation meet, whether it's a river clean-up by the white water boaters, or a trail workshop for women. We continue to be strong in our education efforts throughout the Chapter, offering New Hikers Clinics, Beginning Backpacking, Rolling Sessions, and SOLO Wilderness First Aid. The New Hikers Clinic and the SOLO courses are arranged by Mary-Jane Gately, Education Chair, and the knowledgeable Education Committee. Those fun loving bicyclists, led by Jeri Jaminet, have put a new emphasis on safety, sending several of their leaders to Effective Cycling, and promoting safety tips through their newsletter. The Trails Committee, led by Birge Dayton, continues to be a shining example of hands on conservation, offering numerous workshops from Trail Maintenance, to Guide and Ridgerunner Workshops, to Power Tool Use, while always promoting a low impact ethic. Elaine Labella organized a tour of the Falls Village power station as an introduction to issues surrounding the upcoming Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing of the Housatonic River dams.

A pile of leaves collects as the Chapter sends more deserving youth to a Teen Wilderness Camp through the Harry Duren Scholarship. This year we sent Tim Forbes and Rayshel Smokes to New Hampshire, as well as sponsoring one of Dan Casey's trail crews for a hut trip. Lisa Spencer, Member-at-Large, and Merri Swanson, Excursion Co-Chair, contributed to our diversity efforts by organizing a hike for disadvantaged youth. The Trails Committee worked with various youth groups, using the Appalachian Trail through the Ridgerunner and Guide programs.

Some leaves will hang on their branches throughout the year, a reminder of all the fun, safe, and exciting activities offered by the Chapter. To name just a few: bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, family activities, backpacking, white water, flat water, rock climbing, and two of our newest activities, mountain biking and sea kayaking. Mark Vandenberg and David Danenberg, haul those ropes out every nice Wednesday afternoon for any climbers. If you join them for pizza afterward, don't be shy about grabbing the slice of pizza you want. Paul Duclos, Excursions Co-Chair, coordinates the Chapter's schedules

for the Club magazine, *AMC Outdoors*, ensuring that the membership will have notice of all the activities. Paul also buys and maintains the Chapter's technology. I don't know where he finds the time between skiing and mountain biking. Because our Chapter is spread across the state, we have groups who sponsor local activities in Fairfield County and East of the River. I never knew where East of River was until Betty Robinson educated me about this beautiful and less developed portion of Connecticut. Not only has Betty educated me, but she has a knack for getting her name and the AMC in the local newspapers. There is even great hiking on the other side of the state! Eric Stones keeps us busy on e-mail and keeps plenty of events happening down in Fairfield County. He has energized his committee as well as contributing the Connecticut Chapter in many ways. He has helped organize a new rolling session which will begin in January at the Wilton YMCA.

Snow will cover the leaves as winter approaches and the swirl of leaves forgotten, but I hope the efforts of our tireless committee volunteers are never forgotten. One of the Executive Committee's goals this year was to improve volunteer leadership. The Chapter sent Trent Link, Northwest Camp Chair, to Mountain Leadership School. Bruce Kindseth, Whitewater Chair and Paul Magnusson, Flatwater Coordinator attended a River Leadership School. David Jenkins, Membership Chair, Trish Thompson of the Fairfield County Group, John Cunningham of East of the River, and Paula Burton, Chapter Chair, all attended the Chapters Retreat held at Three Mile Island Camp. Eric Stones, FCG Chair, and Kirby Holcombe, Conservation Chair are organizing a special retreat and training meeting for incoming committee chairs. To provide more recognition to our volunteers, the Executive Committee has developed its own Stewardship Society and will be awarding T-shirts to those volunteers who have made significant contributions to the Chapter. Carl Rosenthal, Vice Chair, has been instrumental in developing the Stewardship program (between bagging peaks!).

Also, some of our most important volunteers are the least visible. Jadwiga Rosenthal, Treasurer, and Doug McKain, Secretary, ensure the smooth functioning of the Chapter taking care of the most minute details and making sure proper procedures are followed. As Chapter Chair, I extend my most heartfelt gratitude. Couldn't do it with your help! The Program Committee, led by Helene Goulet and Mark Tenkin, are often hiding in the kitchen at potlucks and slide shows, busily preparing food and cleaning up. This devoted committee also puts on the Annual Meeting. And, they can always use some extra help with setting up and cleaning up. Our Newsletter Editor, Trish Treat, takes time out from

her interesting travels to publish our life line of communication to our members. She has brought a new creative slant, as our newsletter is evolving to meet the needs of our members. And, she is always looking for new ideas, articles, and photographs.

Two people who I especially wish to thank for their support and suggestions are David Cullen, Past Chair, and Paul Meleski, Regional Director. Thanks, and thanks again.

Most of the leaves are gone now, but the memories linger. If I didn't mention your accomplishment or name, I apologize. I will recognize you now, you the volunteer, who has made the Connecticut Chapter great. Our Chapter continues to face challenges such as membership growth, needing new leaders, communications, developing low impact and risk management ethics, increasing our diversity, and the need for ever increasing involvement of volunteers.

And now, since the weather's wonderful today, this Chapter Chair is going to go have some fun in the swirling leaves, taking a ride on her new mountain bike, and bringing her dog who hasn't had a decent walk all week.

Paula Burton - Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 1996

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on December 7, 1996, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Helene Goulet, Program Committee Chair, thanked the Marriott Staff, especially the chef, and the Program Committee. She then introduced Dave Cullen, Connecticut Chapter Chair.

Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dave told the story of how he became an AMC member and eventually the Connecticut Chapter Chair. Dave, a professor of chemistry at Connecticut College in New London, explained that in 1986 he was on leave doing research at Brown University in Providence. Commuting to Providence every day from his home in Norwich, he started noticing "these rectangular light blue blazes by the side of the road in Pachaug State Forest." Being vaguely aware of the Blue Trail System, his curiosity was piqued and he got a copy of the *Connecticut Walk Book*. From that point on, Dave said, "I was hooked on hiking in Connecticut." Dave then wanted to find a hiking group and the *Connecticut Walk Book* lead him to join "the Appalachian Mountain Club, headquartered in Boston on a street called Joy." Dave then acknowledged a number of people who became very important to him: "Glen Parchmann, Past Chair of the Chapter, who was the leader on family hikes where I became a leader," "Mary Dopalen who encouraged me to become a hike leader," "Trish Niece, Jan DiMattia and Betty Robinson who encouraged my involvement in the Membership Committee," Anne Bailey who finally got me to realize that what goes on in the rest of the Club was not irrelevant," and "people like Pat McCabe, and her predecessor Patti Roka, who provide the liaison between the chapters and the overall club staff." Dave stressed his point that "the AMC is primarily a volunteer organization. The Connecticut Chapter is entirely a volunteer organization. It is people like us that keep it going." Dave described some of the many ways members can be involved in the Chapter. He then proposed a toast "to the men and women of the Connecticut Chapter. It's you who keeps us going. And, on a personal note, here's to that little blue blaze."

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

Dave then called on Kirby Holcombe, Conservation Committee Co-Chair, who explained a proposed excise tax on outdoor gear and

supplies that would support the Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding initiative called "Teaming With Wildlife." Kirby explained that the AMC has been asked to support this initiative. The AMC is now asking its members indicate whether or not the Club should endorse this initiative. Kirby asked everyone to complete the ballot placed at their table.

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of Connecticut Chapter members deceased in 1996. They include:

<i>Kornell Bailey</i>	<i>Jeremiah H. Bartholomey, Jr.</i>
<i>Edward G. Barton</i>	<i>Ruth M. Berlin</i>
<i>Lucile S. Davison</i>	<i>Alice P. Doyle</i>
<i>Clyde Fisher</i>	<i>Mark Hansen</i>
<i>David H. Horan</i>	<i>William Lewis</i>
<i>Gregg Ohr</i>	<i>E. Elizabeth Speirs</i>

Dave then called on Paul Duclos, Excursions Committee Co-Chair, who recognized the activity leaders who led five or more trips during the year. Paul 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>Donna Arbour(23)</i>	<i>Chris Auth (5)</i>	<i>Bob Baldwin(19)</i>
<i>Bill Blaha(8)</i>	<i>Janet Blaha(8)</i>	<i>Dick Blake(5)</i>
<i>Ed Bossom(13)</i>	<i>Steve Braciak(8)</i>	<i>Paula Burton(6)</i>
<i>Tom Carruthers(85)</i>	<i>Ed Chase(6)</i>	<i>Joyce Clark(5)</i>
<i>Ledge Clayton(5)</i>	<i>David Cullen(12)</i>	<i>John Cunningham(27)</i>
<i>Walt Daniels(8)</i>	<i>Birge Dayton(13)</i>	<i>Jan DiMattia(5)</i>
<i>Ed Dresner(6)</i>	<i>Paul Duclos(10)</i>	<i>Henry Edmonds(9)</i>
<i>Bill Foreman(5)</i>	<i>Barbara Froebel(5)</i>	<i>Marty Griffin(11)</i>
<i>Ted Groom(7)</i>	<i>Dale Hackett(8)</i>	<i>Kevin Hannon(5)</i>
<i>Justine Hart(8)</i>	<i>Linda Houser(9)</i>	<i>Jeri Jammet(6)</i>
<i>Bruce Kindseth(5)</i>	<i>Elaine Koza(8)</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel(8)</i>
<i>Tim Loveridge(5)</i>	<i>Glenn MacGrady(5)</i>	<i>Chuck MacMath(6)</i>
<i>Paul Magnuson(7)</i>	<i>James Malumphy(6)</i>	<i>Richard Merritt(12)</i>
<i>Dave Mihalek(10)</i>	<i>Ron Naylor(8)</i>	<i>Ellen Newton(30)</i>
<i>Bill Novoa(13)</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen(9)</i>	<i>Paul Palmer(5)</i>
<i>Mike Palumbo(23)</i>	<i>John Rek(5)</i>	<i>Fred Riotte(6)</i>
<i>Betty Robinson(22)</i>	<i>Richard Rose(5)</i>	<i>Carl Rosenthal(11)</i>
<i>Steve Roth(6)</i>	<i>Bill Russell(10)</i>	<i>Jo Russell(5)</i>
<i>Mark Shappert(8)</i>	<i>Bill Schumacher(18)</i>	<i>Mike Stino(13)</i>
<i>Mark Swanson(20)</i>	<i>Merri Swanson(7)</i>	<i>Chiara Taylor(7)</i>
<i>Barbara Tortora(7)</i>	<i>Tom Tyburski(6)</i>	<i>Waldie Russ(5)</i>
<i>Claude Zeller(6)</i>		

Dave called on Paula Burton to announce 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. The new members of this elite group are Phyllis Freeman and David Cullen.

Dave then introduced Birge Dayton who recognized the following people for their volunteer efforts in maintaining the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut:

2000 Hours:

Dick Blake
Doug Christie

500 Hours:

Ron Kisselburgh
Bob Sprong
Chet Stover

250 Hours:

Paula Burton
Graham Clark
Tom Desrosier
Harlan Jessup
Sue Kirk
Elaine Labella

50 Hours:

Ed Dresner
Tom Montgomery
Don Morgan
Alan Palmer
Bob Poitras
Brigitte Ruthman
Ann Sherwood
Mike Stino
Melissa Sweeney
Tim Sweeney
Joan Taraskiewicz
Chip Tuthill

Dave then recognized Dorothy Gardner who was in attendance and has been a member for 50 years. Dave acknowledged four other 50-year members who were unable to attend the meeting:

Ethel Bacon
Marjorie Hartman
Mildred Smith
Mrs. A.M. Tate

A considerable number of people were recognized when Dave called on all who have been members for at least 25 years to stand. Dave recognized Paul Meleski, Past Chair of the Worcester Chapter and representative to the AMC Board of Directors for the Berkshire, Connecticut and Worcester chapters.

Dave then introduced Sam Pryor, President of the AMC. Sam expressed his admiration for the Connecticut Chapter and that it is noted for bringing talent to the Club. He recognized Sue Hardy, Anne Bailey and Doug Christie in particular. Sam reviewed the progress and status of the AMC Hut re-permitting that is in process with the U.S. Forest Service and indicated that he is pleased with the activities of the AMC in this regard.

Sam reported that Jennifer Huntington, a member since 1970, will be the next AMC president.

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 Paula Burton, who has been Vice-chair for two years; Anne Perkins, Treasurer; Ellen Newton, Bicycling Chair; Bill Russell, Fairfield County Chair; Justine Hart, Member-at-Large; Chuck Luce and Lise Brownell, Newsletter Editors; Roy Hoffman, Northwest Camp Chair; Tom Tyburski, Whitewater Chair; and Jan Larkin, Whitewater Liaison to the Executive Committee. Paula Burton then presented a gift from the Executive Committee to outgoing Chair Dave Cullen.

At 7:59 P.M. Dave called to order the 76th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Dave called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 1996 Annual Report, which was received, seconded and passed. Dave called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 1996 Annual Report, which was received, seconded and passed.

Dave recognized the members of the Nominating Committee for their work in drawing up the slate for next year. Applauded were Carl Rosenthal, Chair, Fred Riotte, Roger Hall, Irene Patsky, and Lisa Spencer. Carl presented the following slate of nominees for 1997:

<i>Paula Burton</i> - Chapter Chair	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i> - Vice Chair
<i>Doug McKain</i> - Secretary	<i>Jadwiga Brockett</i> - Treasurer
<i>Jeri Jaminet</i> - Bicycling	<i>Kirby Holcombe</i> - Conservation
<i>Elaine Kowalcky</i> - Conservation	<i>Mary-Jane Gately</i> - Education
<i>Paul Duclos</i> - Excursions	<i>Merri Swanson</i> - Excursions
<i>Eric Stones</i> - Fairfield County	<i>Lisa Spencer</i> - Member-at-Large
<i>Dave Jenkins</i> - Membership	<i>Trish Treat</i> - Newsletter
<i>Dwight Curry</i> - Mountaineering	<i>Helene Goulet</i> - Program
<i>Birge Dayton</i> - Trails	<i>Bruce Kindseth</i> - 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.

Dave then recounted the story of how the Chapter Chair came to wear a red hat as a way to be recognized because "the Chapter was getting so big that not everyone knew who the Chair was. After all there were 500 members!" But, that was back in 1951 when John Herr was Chapter Chair. Today there are close to 8,000 members. By tradition, the outgoing Chair presents the incoming Chair with a red hat. Dave introduced Paula Burton, the incoming Chair, as "this Chapter's not so secret weapon. She seems to have boundless energy and enthusiasm. She revived an almost moribund Education Committee and established a wonderful leadership training program."

Dave asked all Past Chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and come forward as he introduced them: John Herr (1951-1952), Gardner Moulton (1963-1964), John B. Gardner (1965-1966), Ledge Clayton (1975-1976), Trish Niece (1987-1988), Glen Parchmann (1989-1990), Ken Richardson (1991-1992), and Dave Cullen (1995-1996).

Dave then asked for a round of applause for incoming Chair Paula Burton.

At 8:07 P.M. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Program Chair Helene Goulet then introduced the program speaker, Richard Deslauriers, D.M.D., who presented an extremely interesting talk on "The Pilgrim Road to Santiago de Compostela."

Respectfully submitted,
Doug McKain, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996

Cash at January 1, 1996:	
Cash held by Treasurer:	
Shawmut Bank - Checking	\$17,629
Shawmut Bank - Savings	1,024
Shawmut Bank - CDs	12,764
Total cash held by Treasurer	\$31,417
Cash held by committee - Whitewater	1,304
Total cash at January 1	\$32,721

Revenue Collected:	
AMC dues collected	\$35,307
Program activities	10,776
Camp use	1,286
Contributions & gifts	1,645
Reserve funds - sources of cash	11,211
Sale of local memberships	160
Merchandise sales	3,434
Interest income	762
Total revenue collected	\$64,581
Total cash available	\$97,302

Expenditures:	
Cost of program activities	\$13,368
Cost of merchandise sales	2,020
Contributions	1,055
Reserve funds - uses of cash	12,196
Committee operating expenses:	
Bicycling	1,462
Computer	424
Conservation	30
East of the River	1,009
Education	1,418
Excursions	1,756
Executive	8,475
Fairfield County	1,341
Membership	4,315
Mountaineering	170
Newsletter	9,912
Northwest Camp	1,311
Program	184
Trails	4,368
Total expenditures	\$64,814
Cash at December 31, 1996	\$32,488

Cash at December 31, 1996:	
Cash held by Treasurer:	
Flood Bank checking	\$16,870
Flood Bank savings	1,042
Flood Bank certificates	13,272
Total held by Treasurer	\$31,184
Cash held by committee - Whitewater	1,304
Total cash at December 31	\$32,488

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

Cash at January 1, 1997:	
Cash held by Treasurer:	\$16,870
Floet Bank checking	1,042
Floet Bank savings	13,272
Floet Bank certificates	
Total held by Treasurer	\$31,184
Cash held by committee - Whitewater	1,304
Total cash at January 1	\$32,488
Revenue collected:	
AMC dues allocation	\$21,379
Program activities	4,314
Contributions & gifts	3,083
Reserve funds - sources of cash	12,337
Sale of local memberships	1,120
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	1,181
Merchandise sales	390
Interest income	506
Total revenues collected	\$44,310
Change in cash held by committee - Whitewater	1,768
Total cash available	\$78,566
Expenditures:	
Cost of program activities	\$5,168
Cost of merchandise sales	795
Contributions	1,565
Reserve funds - uses of cash	10,759
Committee operating expenses:	
Bicycling	410
Computer	1,260
East of the River	1,084
Education	274
Excursions	786
Executive	2,623
Fairfield County	459
Membership	3,298
Newsletter	7,068
Northwest Camp	558
Program	115
Trails	775
Total expenditures	\$36,997
Cash at September 30, 1997	\$41,569
Cash at September 30, 1997:	
Cash held by Treasurer:	
Floet Bank checking	\$18,245
Floet Bank checking	13,471
Floet Bank savings	6,781
Floet Bank certificates	
Total held by Treasurer	\$38,497
Cash held by committee - Whitewater	3,072
Total cash at September 30	\$41,569

David Jenkins - Acting Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

Connecticut Chapter AMC members love to bike! What a great year this has been! 1997 saw a change in leadership and committee members, and a change in emphasis in the Bicycling Committee's goals. We kept it simple. Our focus was a three-fold "mission" of: (1) increasing the number and scope of our rides, (2) recruiting new ride leaders while maintaining the present ones, and (3) producing an informative and timely monthly newsletter, the *AMCyclist*. I feel we have succeeded in all three objectives.

Rides - This year we tried to fill up every weekend with at least one or more rides each Saturday and Sunday. From April through September, we had a series of weeknight rides on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For those fortunate enough to be able to ride on weekdays, we even had Monday morning rides for you. During the month of June, we had a second Thursday night ride series in a different geographical location. Mountain biking rides were also available.

Ride Leaders - I counted over 50 different ride leaders. Many of them enthusiastically and diligently gave much of their time to lead rides month after month. Twenty-one leaders submitted five or more rides for your enjoyment. But whether you led one ride or many rides, your efforts did not go unnoticed. A special thanks to our monthly ride coordinators: Roger Borgersen, Deb Casey, Jon Day, Rich Ferraina, and Rick Merritt. "THANK YOU" to all our ride leaders for providing all of us with a great cycling season!

Newsletter - Our *AMCyclist* was published monthly from April through September. It was prepared and distributed in a timely fashion. Because of its much shorter lead-time, the *AMCyclist* provided a means for ride leaders to submit their rides much closer to the ride date than is possible with the *AMC Outdoors* deadlines. Sincerest thanks to our newsletter editor, Maureen Sylvestre-Craig, who labored unstintingly month after month.

Weekend trips - Our leaders took us to Cape Cod; Gettysburg, PA; Hampton Beach, NH; Long Beach Island, NJ; Massachusetts' North Shore; the Rhode Island Seashore; Vermont; and Washington, D.C. They were a lot of work to prepare, but well worth the effort! YOU, our ride leaders, made it happen. Did we ever have fun! And, the Connecticut Chapter was also well represented at the League of American Bicyclists GEAR events in Williamsburg, VA and Canton, NY.

With the end of the season upon us, we look forward to helping our new Bike Chair provide an even better program in 1998. A hearty "Welcome" to our new 1998 Bike Chair, Judy Kunkel! Thanks for stepping forward, Judy.

If you want to join the Bicycling Committee, be prepared to have fun. We wouldn't want it any other way. Ask Doug McKain - he never missed an *AMCyclist* mailing fest.

Finally, and most importantly, a heartfelt and special thanks to this year's Bicycling Committee. This season could not have been as successful without your help and support. You were always there when needed. On to '98!

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

<i>Roger Borgersen</i>	<i>Deborah Casey</i>	<i>Jon Day</i>
<i>Rich Ferraina</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>	<i>Tom Latham</i>
<i>Doug McKain</i>	<i>Rick Merritt</i>	<i>Ellen Newton</i>
<i>Maureen Sylvestre-Craig</i>		

Jeri Jaminet - Chair

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee directed a major effort toward researching and formulating a response to the Connecticut Light and Power Company's (CL&P) relicensing of its five hydropower dams along the Housatonic River. Dam relicensing is a long and complicated process and the license that is granted will set the terms for the treatment of the river for the next thirty or forty years. We decided now is an excellent time to think not only about what we love about the river and thus want to protect, but also about what could improve the river, making it a better place to visit and enjoy.

An informational meeting was held with AMC staff in October 1996. In April we sponsored Housatonic River Day - a day of hiking and exploring the Housatonic, with discussion of dam relicensing issues. We also solicited comments and concerns on the relicensing issue from Connecticut Chapter members. These concerns were reflected in the AMC's submittal to CL&P regarding the dam relicensing.

In March we supported the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut's open space initiative with several of our members attending a public hearing of the State Legislature's Environment Committee in support of open space acquisition.

On Trail Maintenance Day in May we conducted a clean-up of the Mattatuck Trail in Wolcott, under the direction of Patricia Culbert. This was very successful, with twenty-one people attending, and resulted in the removal of sixty-six old tires from along the Trail.

Clean-ups are a great hands-on way to participate in a conservation effort. We plan to participate, along with several other conservation organizations, in a major clean-up of the Thames River in the spring of 1998. This is hoped to be a beginning to enhancing the recreational experience along the Thames, which has been a work horse for industry and population centers along its length. Won't you join us?

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

<i>George Bosse</i>	<i>Patricia Culbert</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
<i>Bob Dickinson</i>	<i>Justine Hart</i>	<i>Fred Riotte</i>
<i>Ann Sherwood</i>	<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	

Kirby Holcombe - Co-Chair
Elaine Labella - Co-Chair

East of the River Committee

The East of the River Committee met four times for business meetings related to program planning, the establishment of goals and objectives, and to discuss news items for our newsletter.

Three issues of *East of River News* were published. The latest issue was mailed to 606 members. An initial issue is sent to new AMC members living in the area, and members can sign up to receive the newsletter at Chapter activities. A by-product of this activity has been the realization that once a member signs up for the newsletter, he or she often remains an AMC member.

A very successful event was a catered dinner held in May and attended by over 100 people. After the dinner, attendees were treated to Curly Perzel's multi-media show of her summer on the Pacific Crest Trail. The event also collected \$90 for the Harry Duren Scholarship Fund.

East of the River Day, a day of activities followed by a potluck supper and Paula Burton's program on her backpacking trip over the Chilkoot Trail in Alaska, was held on October 18th. Next year this event will be held on the same weekend as the Walking Weekend, in a town in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner."

Conservation efforts continue in the "non-funded" Mansfield Hollow State Park. The July issue of *East of River News* reached the desk of a *Willimantic Chronicle* reporter after *The Hartford Courant* had highlighted the sad condition of our state parks. The reporter interviewed me and followed up with excellent coverage on our one local example. Several volunteers have since called to offer assistance. John Folsom, the park supervisor, was scheduled to meet with interested citizens on October 30th to share his hopes and plans for using volunteers.

Tuesday hikes continue to attract an average of twenty participants, several of whom are interested in becoming hike leaders. Special events have included the annual "cookie exchange" at Curly Perzel's house, a three day trip to Cardigan Lodge, and a hiking trip to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire to accompany Carolyn Olsen on the last leg of her Metacomet-Monadnock Trail experience. Congratulations! Tuesday hikes continue year-round, and anyone who has mid-week time available is welcome. Many Tuesday hike participants are from the western part of the State and one regular, Sandy Dunn, who lead hikes and arranged the Cardigan Lodge trip, comes from Rhode Island.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>John & Linda Cunningham</i>	<i>Dot Davis</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Ed & Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Jean Partridge</i>	<i>Ruth Pfeifer</i>
<i>Meg Sertl</i>		

Betty Robinson - Chair

Education Committee

The Education Committee continues to provide leadership training for the Chapter and to offer various outreach activities. At this year's Annual Meeting, programs sponsored by the Committee will include CPR, presentations on accident scene management, winter hiking, nature photography, and using GPS and compass.

In November 1996, the Committee sponsored training for prospective activity leaders at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield. The weekend included good food and fellowship, outdoor activities, and presentations and workshops concerning:

- leadership styles and techniques,
- accident scene management,
- trip planning and management,
- liability and trip requirements, and
- judgment and decision making.

There were twenty-eight program participants.

Another leadership training opportunity was the SOLO Wilderness Medicine course that was arranged and coordinated by Jeff Hogan. It was presented at White Memorial in April, and will be offered again in the spring of 1998.

Nine "rap hikes," another aspect of leadership training, were held this year. Rap hikes provide a meeting ground for the exchange of ideas and procedures between experienced and aspiring leaders. Rap hikes, coordinated by Anne Rehm, are listed in *AMC Outdoors*.

Linda Houser and Anne Rehm presented and led two "Day Hiker Clinics." These hike workshops provide novice hikers with information on hiking, provide an opportunity for questions and discussion, and include participation in an actual hike.

In the area of outreach activities, Shirley Sutton has continued to direct the Junior Naturalist program. In response to requests, Shirley sends out the activity booklets, which are geared to children from approximately six to twelve years of age and, upon their completion, awards the Junior Naturalist patch.

Our video loan library now includes over twenty videos on various outdoor activities, including the Appalachian Trail, backpacking, and conservation. They are available by mail to borrow free. This year Paula Burton, and now Emily Hall, have serviced the requests.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to my enthusiastic, dedicated, and involved committee members.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

<i>Paula Burton</i>	<i>Art Carlson</i>	<i>Paul Duclos</i>
<i>Emily Hall</i>	<i>Jeff Hogan</i>	<i>Linda Houser</i>
<i>Trish Niece</i>	<i>Anne Rehm</i>	<i>Shirley Sutton</i>

Mary-Jane Gately - Chair

Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee coordinates Chapter activities in the following areas: Day Hiking, Backpacking, Family Activities, Flat Water 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 a co-leader program for hike leaders and rosters of both activity leaders and leadership candidates.

Message for the Excursions Chair

This past year has been an exciting year. Paula Burton continues to lead the effort to develop risk management objectives for Connecticut Chapter activities. This Committee, in conjunction with the 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 Housatonic River Day, Give a Day to Trails, National Trails Day, New Members Day, and East of the River Day events were held. I want to take this time to thank all of the activity leaders for contributing so much of their time and love of the outdoors with other members.

Trip Statistics - October 1, 1996 - September 30, 1997

All Activities	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Trips	429	422	435	470	379
Participants	5150+	4680	6079	4241+	4993
Avg. Turnout	12	11	14	N/A	13
Day Hikes	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Trips	395	376	378	429	352
Participants	4640	4257	5717	3794+	4583
Avg. Turnout	12	12	15	N/A	13

Weekend Trips Coordinator: open

The number of weekend trips increased during 1997, but the number of weekend hiking trips as reported in this section decreased. Some of these are listed under the backpacking and skiing sections of this report, or in the Bicycling Committee's report. Weekend hiking trips ranged from a family weekend at Bascom Lodge, to weekends hiking the AT in

New York and New Jersey. 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.

Weekends	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Trips	8	12	12	18	10
Participants	N/A	171	200	N/A	218
Avg. Turnout	N/A	15.7	16.6	20	21.8

Backpacking Coordinator: open

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 Paul Duclos at (203) 932-9868 before 9:00 PM.

This year we had three weekend trips, including an introduction to backpacking for women.

Flatwater Canoeing Coordinator: Paul Magnuson

With the growth in Sea Kayaking, there were three flat water weekend events, as well as eleven day events.

Activities	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Trips	14	11	8	23	N/A
Participants	N/A	86	58	87+	N/A
Avg. Turnout	N/A	8	7	N/A	11

Cross-Country Skiing Coordinator: Marty Griffin

Last winter was known for its lack of snow. Of twenty-three day trips planned, only four were held. In addition, there were five weekend trips.

Ski Trips	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993
Trips	9	23	31	15	17
Participants	82	150	104	80	141
Avg. Turnout	9	6.5	3.4	5.3	8.3

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 are to support members in qualifying for the Connecticut 400 Club (hiking the approximately 400 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 Dave Cullen and Phyllis Freeman qualified for the Connecticut 400 Club award. Congratulations!!! This brings to sixty the 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 1998 season.

Monthly Hike Coordinators for 1997 were:

Carl Rosenthal - Waterford	January/February
Donna Arbus - Meriden	March
Fred Riotte - Suffield	April
Justine Hart - Middletown	May
Ann Rehm - Bristol	June
Mike Stino - Windsor Locks	July/August
Rob Munro - Darien	September
Christine Katz - Norwich	October
Janice Parker - East Lyme	November
Paul Duclos - West Haven	November
Trish Thompson - Fairfield	FCC Coordinator

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

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

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

Fairfield County Group

Over the past twelve months the Fairfield County Group held over 150 outdoor activities in and around Fairfield County. Though hiking was the predominant activity, other events included: road biking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, sea kayaking, white water canoeing and white water kayaking. Several weekend excursions were held.

During this period, five social evenings were held, with an average attendance of over one hundred. In addition to consuming some seventy-five pounds of spaghetti, presentations were given on "Connecticut's Coastal Wildlife Refuges," "Hiking in the Swiss Alps," "Exploring Kamchatka (Russia)," "Mountain Climbing in South America and British Columbia," and "The Housatonic River - from Source to Sound."

Six editions of *THE HIKER* were published, including a special summer edition with topical articles. To attract new members, it was widely distributed within Fairfield County.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP

John Barry, Editor of <i>THE HIKER</i>	Paula Burton, Chapter Chair
Tom Carruthers, Biking/Excursions	Ann Crane, Refreshments
Dianne Davenport, Secretary	Gretchen Goethner, Programs
Peter Heyel, Activities	Joe Kelleher, Food Service
Chuck MacMath, Food Service	Cathy Pinckney, Member-at-Large
Kim Rumford, Distribution	Jeff Russek, Treasurer
Bill Russell, Public Relations	Trish Thompson, Hike Coordinator
Joanne Vaughan, Member-at-Large	Mark Wood, Member-at-Large

Eric Stones - Chair

Membership Committee

As of September 1, 1997 there were 8,905 AMC members affiliated with the Connecticut Chapter. This represented approximately 12% of the Club's total members. The Chapter only experienced net growth of approximately 165 members since last September, but retained 78% of its existing members. This compares to net growth last year of 939 and

retention of 82%. Family memberships now comprise over 28% of the total and this number has been increasing for several years. Members who have been with the Club less than one year make up over 25% of the membership! This is certainly a good thing in that we are always gaining fresh viewpoints, but as you can imagine, new members take up lots of our resources - everything from leader volunteer time to postage costs.

Volunteers on the Membership Committee and their primary area of responsibility are:

<i>Lisa Burgarella</i>	New member phone number look-up (new)
<i>Ledge Clayton</i>	Area membership contact (Fairfield)
<i>Dave Cullen</i>	New member phone number look-up, Caller
<i>Dot Davis</i>	Member-at-Large, Caller
<i>Mary Jane Engle</i>	Adopt-A-Store coordinator (new)
<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>	Prospective member inquiries
<i>Dawn Gagliardi</i>	New Member Day planning
<i>Gerry Hardy</i>	Area membership contact (Hartford)
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	New Member Day planning, Caller
<i>Betty Robinson</i>	East of the River Chair, New member packet coordinator, Membership database coordinator
<i>Gladys Sheehan</i>	Member-at-Large (new)
<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	Member-at-Large
<i>Tori Stepanov</i>	New member listing distribution

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>Jon Burr</i>	<i>John Cunningham</i>
<i>Irene Deneen (new)</i>	<i>Bob Dickenson</i>	<i>Virginia Fisher</i>
<i>Helen Flood</i>	<i>Dale Geislien</i>	<i>John Ilicks</i>
<i>Inger Hellstrom (R)</i>	<i>Melissa Heaphy (new)</i>	<i>Nola Jordan (R)</i>
<i>John Lynch</i>	<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	<i>May Nevius</i>
<i>Donna Palumbo</i>	<i>Michael Palumbo</i>	<i>Joan Seeds (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 December we held two "Callers Best Practices" workshops over a pizza dinner. This was done to thank our caller volunteers for performing a valuable, but often forgotten task. We were also able to share our best practices and tips to make the new member calling as effective as possible.

This year the Club began the "Membership-in-a-Bottle" program. For the first time, chapters are permitted to sell AMC memberships directly to the local public. The membership sold this way is a standard individual one year membership and comes packaged in a handsome water bottle with coupons. It is very easy to sell to people interested in the AMC, and the Chapter keeps a higher portion of the membership dues than normal. This has turned out to be a terrific promotional piece, and is a real win-win situation for the Chapter, the Club and the new member.

In the past twelve months we welcomed 1,600 new members to the Chapter. As a result our New Member Day this year was a great success. We had a spaghetti dinner for the second year in a row (as opposed to a potluck supper). We attracted approximately 190 members, split evenly between newer members and existing members. Between our "hokey" games and the mixed seating, our newer members got a chance to meet the rest of the Chapter. The daytime activities were also well attended. The after dinner presentation included a terrific slide show by Erwin Goldstein about his hot, but rewarding hike across the Grand Canyon in July.

Beginning this fall we are starting an "Adopt-A-Store" program. This is an idea we are borrowing from the New York - North Jersey Chapter. The objective is to promote the AMC and increase membership by placing and maintaining AMC brochures and membership applications at various outdoor and sporting goods stores. Our volunteers do this by adopting a favorite outdoors store close to home, promoting the program to the store manager, and then keeping the store flush with AMC materials. We expect this program to be successful; if you are interested in adopting a store of your own, please contact Mary Jane Engle.

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 at anytime, please call me directly at my phone number listed in *AMC Outdoors*.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers on the Membership Committee for their hard work, time, and most of all, their brain power.

Dave Jenkins - Chair

Mountaineering Committee

Our activities for the year began by meeting at Prime Climb, the indoor climbing gym in Wallingford. Once a week, on Wednesday evenings, we met to hone our skills and strengthen our arms in anticipation of the upcoming outdoor season. We pondered and scheduled our outings on central Connecticut traprock. Meanwhile, our winter activities were in full swing on the weekends, from winter camping in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Adirondacks of New York, to ice climbing at Crawford Notch. There is never a dull moment with the AMC Mountaineers.

Our first scheduled outdoor rock climbing was on April 5th at "Amphitheatre" in Meriden. We worked a route named, appropriately for April, "Rite of Spring." The Connecticut mountaineering schedule continued every Wednesday and Saturday through October. In May we held our annual "Beginners Day." Ten new climbing students participated. We taught basic safety, knot tying, belaying, and climbing techniques. Through this fall we are happy to welcome seven new members to our mountaineering group. We have witnessed a strong surge in participation by women; close to half of our active members are now women.

The senior members of the Club were busy planning and organizing a number of adventures out west. From Yosemite Valley, California, to Mount Rainer, Washington, to Wind Rivers, Wyoming, to Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, great fun was had by all. Once again the Club had an adventurous year with lots of climbing on the familiar and unfamiliar crags around central Connecticut and New England.

We'd like to thank Dwight Curry, our outgoing Mountaineering Chair, for his past years of leadership. Not only was he valued as a strong leader, he also showed incredible knowledge and patience as a teacher and friend to our members. He will be missed. **Thanks, Dwight!**

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

Ed Budzig
Spencer Sprecker

Paul Maresca
Bill Walters

John Rek

Dave Danenburg - Co-Chair
Mark Vandenberg - Co-Chair

Newsletter Committee

Eight-page issues of the Connecticut Chapter newsletter were mailed in April, July and September to more than 7000 recipients. While printing costs remained constant, the prepress stage of desktop publishing now requires the use of a "state of the art" computer and the Quark page layout program, as well as scanning software for photos and art work. Since these tools are not owned by the current editor, prepress costs now need to be factored in as an ongoing part of newsletter production.

Once printed, the newsletter is readied and sorted for mailing by a service using postal software to address the recipients on our mailing list.

Volunteers for the Newsletter Committee would be most welcome. We especially need a graphic artist with electronic publishing experience. We also need people to take photos of Chapter activities and trail scenes, and people willing to write articles about Chapter activities.

Arlene Govang
Trish Treat - Chair

Northwest Camp Committee

The first event at the Northwest Camp was the annual Snowshoe Weekend. Lack of snow resulted in a poor turnout, however there were a few happy souls who attended.

The Spring Equinox Social had a much better turnout. There was a hike to the summit of Bear Mountain to view the Hale-Bopp comet.

The annual Spring Work Party was held in May. There was an excellent turnout because it was a joint work party with the Trails Committee. The following projects were completed: 1) a new retaining wall along the cabin was constructed, accompanied by a French drain to help drainage around the cabin, 2) the outhouse was moved, and 3) and a small revegetation area was made near the cabin. The Trails Committee helped with the drainage work on the Northwest Road. Their help was greatly appreciated.

The Northwest Camp brochure has been circulated to camp users and positive feedback has been received. The Northwest Camp has physically improved, and is looking better since the brochure was developed.

Bad weather limited turnout on New Member Day in September. Work projects around the camp were completed with the two participants.

The Committee met in October to prepare for the annual Fall Work Party. Projects included: 1) restacking firewood, 2) modifications to the cabin interior, and 3) revegetation work.

Cabin use over the year was steady. Thirty-five weekends and eighteen weekdays were booked through September 22nd.

The Northwest Camp Committee, in its continuing tradition of hospitality and land stewardship, is developing a questionnaire to encourage volunteerism and committee membership. Completion of this questionnaire is planned by the end of 1997.

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>Meghan Patrick</i>	<i>John Rek</i>	<i>Jim St. Amand</i>
<i>Dave Terri</i>	<i>Scott Whalen</i>	

Trent Link - Chair

Program Committee

Our Committee has continued to serve the Chapter by putting on four potluck suppers, the Spring Dinner, and we hosted a potluck supper for the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association's Trail Day. We provided the programs for the Mid-Winter Potluck and the Spring Dinner. In addition, we planned the Annual Meeting, which included planning the dinner and evening program, coordinating the afternoon workshops, and handling the book and used equipment sale.

We are fortunate to have been able to use the Cheshire Grange in Cheshire 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. Our Committee members have been responsible for the smooth operation of our activities. The Committee meets several

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 meets 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>Louise Carroll</i>
<i>Brian Cushing</i>	<i>Frank DeFasio</i>	<i>Edgar Dresner</i>
<i>Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Irving Mills</i>	<i>Wilford Parker</i>
<i>Cicilia Stoll</i>	<i>Wilda Wise</i>	

Helene Goulet - Co-Chair
Mark Tenkin - Co-Chair

Trails Committee

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

- Workshops for monitors, maintainers, and guide/ridgerunners were held early in the season. The workshop for maintainers was used as an opportunity to remove many of the blowdowns from an April 1st storm.
- At Hoyt Road, where the Appalachian Trail comes in from New York, rotted bog bridging was replaced, and a system of drainage ditches dug to reduce further rotting.
- Major vandalism damage was repaired, and a new privy built, at the Ridge Runners cabin in Housatonic State Forest.
- The Ridge Runners tent platform at Sages Ravine was replaced.
- The pass-through in the pasture fence at route 341 was replaced with a step-over style.
- The stream bridge between Caleb's Peak and St. John's Ledges was replaced with step stones.
- Open space mowing projects were completed at the north and south ends of the Stanley Tract, the Ten Mile river camping and shelter sites, and Silver Hill Campsite.
- Members of the Trails Committee led Trails Day work parties on the Mohawk, Paugusset, and Nipmuck trails.
- The chainsaw workshop was repeated this year with a rather small turnout.
- Marathon day was replaced with Give a Day to Trails. We need to encourage better attendance at this event.

- Roving or interchapter weekends were held at Camp Dodge in the White Mountains, on the Long Trail in Vermont, in Salisbury, Connecticut with the New Hampshire Chapter, and twice at Camp Mohican in New Jersey.
- The Northwest Camp Committee was assisted with drainage problems on the Northwest Camp access trail, and they in turn helped the Trails Committee with lumber for a tent platform at Sages Ravine.
- The steps at Pine Swamp Brook Shelter were replaced.
- Two bridges were replaced, and the cribbing repaired, on the side trail to Limestone Spring Shelter.
- Additional rock steps were installed on the south side of Ten Mile Hill.
- Vistas were cleared at all needed sites on the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.
- Four privies and three chum boxes were relocated to new pits.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

<i>George Andrews</i>	<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Doug Christie</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Ted Cowles</i>	<i>Walt Daniels</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>Elaine Labella</i>
<i>Elaine Luckey</i>	<i>Richard Rouse</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Norm Sills</i>	<i>Carole Slocum</i>	

Birge Dayton - Chair

Whitewater Committee

The Whitewater Committee provided an active program for 1997. Starting with an icebreaker trip on January 1st, and ending with a trip on December 20th, the program contains approximately 120 trips in 7 northeastern states. Ten of these were weekend (or longer) trips, including trips to the Dead, Kennebec, and Penobscot Rivers in Maine, the Youghigheny River in Pennsylvania, and the Hudson River in New York. The training program began with eight weeks of kayak rolling sessions in January and February at the Suffield Academy pool. These have been held there every winter for approximately 25 years. Next year we will be holding a second session at the Wilton YMCA in Wilton, Connecticut. Four sea kayak trips were held this year, including trips to Cobscook Bay in Maine and Lake George in New York. We are planning to expand the sea kayak program next year to include additional trips and training.

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The Committee published a newsletter in February and October.

River clean-ups were held on Sandy Brook and the Farmington River, and members participated in a clean-up on the Shepaug River.

WHITewater COMMITTEE

<i>Jeff Barnard</i>	<i>Ed Bossom</i>	<i>Clark Bowlen</i>
<i>Ed Chase</i>	<i>Joel Freedman</i>	<i>Naomi Freedman</i>
<i>Becky Hendricks</i>	<i>Paul Hendricks</i>	<i>Dave Jamieson</i>
<i>Shelly Jamieson</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>	<i>Tom Tyburski</i>
<i>Wendy Tyburski</i>	<i>Jerry Walton</i>	

Bruce Kindseth - Chair

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair positions with qualified volunteers. We get to meet many wonderful people that tend to give their time to our club over and over. We also get to "beat the bushes" looking for new talent that can give so much to the AMC. One need not be an "expert" to chair a committee. You need to be organized, have a great sense of humor, and be willing to lead. We will provide the rest. As of this report we still have a couple of open chairs. Any interest? Give any of us a call.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

<i>Justine Hart</i>	<i>Willford Parker</i>	<i>Irene Patsky</i>
<i>Carol Slocum</i>		

Roger Hall - Chair



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Nominations for the 1998 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Paula Burton</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Secretary	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dave Jenkins</i>
Bicycling Committee Chair	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Patricia Culbert</i>
	<i>Roger Gibson</i>
East of the River Committee Chair	<i>Pam Lewis</i>
Education	<i>Virginia Delima</i>
Excursions Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Leo Ouillette</i>
	<i>Merri Swanson</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Charles Baker</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Dave Danenburg</i>
	<i>Mark Vandenberg</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Trish Treat</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Trent Link</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>open</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Anne Sherwood</i>
Whitewater Committee Chair	<i>Bruce Kindseth</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.

Mrs. Mark Goedecke of Canton Center

Mrs. Charles J. Katan of West Granby

Mr. Douglas A. Reed of Portsmouth, New Hampshire