

**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN
CLUB**

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Annual Report

November 20, 1999

**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN
CLUB**

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Annual Report

November 20, 1999

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
1999 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i>
Secretary	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dave Jenkins</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Bicycling Committee Chair	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Frank Junga</i> <i>Lisa Spencer</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rob Funk</i> <i>Pam Lewis</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Virginia de Lima</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>Janice Parker</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Peter Heyel</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Dave Cullen</i> <i>Tori Stepanov</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Paul Maresca</i> <i>Bill Walters</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Arlene Govang</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Trent Link</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
Whitewater Committee Chair	<i>Becky Hendricks</i>
Members-at-Large	<i>Charles Baker</i> <i>Roger Hall</i>
Regional Director	<i>Paula Burton</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

Chapter membership continues to grow, but our biggest problem continues to be the need to find more dedicated volunteers to aid those we have who are already working hard. Please consider doing your part by leading activities that you enjoy participating in. If you have an interest in working on the Chapter's web site, newsletter, answering the Chapter's phone line, or serving on the Education, Conservation, Membership or Program Committees, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.

The Chapter has had many successes this year. The most prominent was our hosting of the club-wide Spring Gathering in Sharon. Many people from other Chapters complimented our committee, chaired by Eric Stones, on the job they did running the event.

Our Trails Committee, inspired by the idea of long-time member Dick Blake, has begun the process of building a handicap access trail in northwestern Connecticut, part of which will join the Appalachian Trail. The project has been designed and fund raising has begun in earnest. Volunteers will be needed to do some of the work.

We have also made some progress this year on the technology front. Our web site is up and running. Its address is WWW.CT-AMC.ORG. This is an excellent source of information about Chapter activities. Some of the committees have done wonderful things on their web pages, while others could use some help. The Chapter's voice mail system is in operation, but could use volunteers to respond to the messages that are being left.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee, sub-committee members, and all activity leaders for their contributions this year. In particular, I thank Doug McKain for putting together this Annual Report and for helping to keep the Executive Committee on track from one meeting to the next.

Carl Rosenthal - Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 1998

The 78th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 21, 1998, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Richard Bartes of the Program Committee introduced Paula Burton, the Connecticut Chapter Chairperson.

Paula welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that the Chapter is vibrant and growing, thanks to all its members and volunteers.

Paula thanked the Program Committee, chaired by Helene Goulet, and asked them to stand and receive a well deserved round of applause. Paula acknowledged Helene for serving four years as Program Committee Chairperson, and indicated that the Nominating Committee is hard at work trying to find a new Program Committee Chair. Anyone interested was encouraged to contact incoming Chapter Chair Carl Rosenthal or Vice Chair Eric Stones.

Paula then thanked the other committees who put together the exceptional programs held during the afternoon.

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of Connecticut Chapter members that passed away in 1998:

<i>Dennis Burke</i>	<i>Scott Isacson</i>
<i>Benjamin Busch</i>	<i>William Lewis</i>
<i>Graham Clark</i>	<i>Elizabeth Telfer</i>
<i>Donald Dozier</i>	<i>Helen Vergason</i>
<i>John Herr - 1951-1952 Chapter Chair</i>	
<i>Robert Holmes</i>	<i>Monroe Wetmore</i>

Paula recognized Dave Danenberg for his efforts in putting together the 1999 Connecticut AMC Calendar and then presented awards for pictures. First place went to Curley Purzel, second place to Betty Williams, and third place to Greta Deriff. They received \$50, \$25, and \$25 gift certificates respectively.

Carl Rosenthal then presented Appie of the Year awards to Betty Robinson (1997) and Dave Cullen (1998).

Eric Stones then presented the 1998 Connecticut Chapter Stewardship Society awards, recognizing those volunteers who contributed more than 30 hours to trails, education, membership, programs, and conservation activities, and to leaders who led five or more activities. The volunteers

receiving the award, a handsome Connecticut Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Award golf shirt, were:

<i>George Andrews</i>	<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>Charles Baker</i>
<i>Jeff Barnard</i>	<i>John Barry</i>	<i>Dick Blake</i>
<i>George Bosse</i>	<i>Paula Burton</i>	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
<i>Ed Chase</i>	<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>
<i>Pat Culbert-Hughes</i>	<i>Dave Cullen</i>	<i>John Cunningham</i>
<i>David Danenberg</i>	<i>Walter Daniels</i>	<i>Dianne Davenport</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Virginia de Lima</i>	<i>Ana Dobbs</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Ed Dresner</i>	<i>Henry Edmonds</i>
<i>Merri Fox</i>	<i>Rob Funk</i>	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
<i>Gretchen Goether</i>	<i>Marty Griffin</i>	<i>Roger Hall</i>
<i>Mark Hansen</i>	<i>Justine Hart</i>	<i>Paul Hendricks</i>
<i>Becky Hendricks</i>	<i>Dave Jenkins</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>
<i>Joe Kelleher</i>	<i>Bruce Kindseth</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>
<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Pam Lewis</i>	<i>Trent Link</i>
<i>Jocelyn Linnekin</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>	<i>Paul Meleski</i>
<i>Dave Mihalek</i>	<i>Stan Newton</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>
<i>Leo Ouillette</i>	<i>Will Parker</i>	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
<i>Ruth Pfeifer</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>	<i>Jo Russell</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
<i>Don Schildneck</i>	<i>Gladys Sheehan</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Norm Sills</i>	<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	<i>Tori Stepanov</i>
<i>Eric Stones</i>	<i>Chet Stover</i>	<i>Trish Treat</i>
<i>Mark Vandenberg</i>		

The hike leaders receiving an award were:

<i>Bob Baldwin</i>	<i>Steve Braciak</i>	<i>Joyce Clark</i>
<i>Ledge Clayton</i>	<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Erik Madsen</i>
<i>James Malumphy</i>	<i>Ron Naylor</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>
<i>Almuth Perzel</i>	<i>Kim Rumford</i>	<i>Jo Russell</i>
<i>Bill Schumacher</i>	<i>Phil Statlender</i>	<i>Mark Swanson</i>
<i>Mark Wood</i>		

Paula then asked all leaders to stand and be recognized.

Paula then recognized club-wide stewardship award nominees. Nominated for the Pychowska Award for those who contributed 96 or more hours to the Club during the past year were:

<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>Bob Baldwin</i>	<i>John Cunningham</i>
<i>Paul Duclos</i>	<i>Trent Link</i>	<i>Leo Ouillette</i>
<i>Eric Stones</i>	<i>Trish Treat</i>	

Nominated for the Hart Award for those who contributed 224 or more hours to the Club during the past year were:

Tom Carruthers *Dave Cullen*
Mark Schappert *Justine Hart*

Paula then called on Ann Sherwood who recognized the following people for their volunteer efforts in maintaining the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut:

500 Hours:

Harlan Jessup
Ann Sherwood.

50 Hours:

Lawton Johnson
Tom Lawton
J.R. Rendon
John Rek
Alana Rinehart
Walt Rinehart
Arthur Runnels
Bob Schoff
Carole Slocum

Leo Ouillette was called on to present the Connecticut 400 patch, which is awarded to those people who hike the over 400 miles of trails in the Connecticut Blue Trail System and the Connecticut Section of the Appalachian Trail. William Novoa, Allmuth "Curly" Perzel, and William Shaffer were awarded the patch for completing this accomplishment in 1998.

Paula then recognized and awarded pins to George Carden and Judson Wells who became 50-year members of the Club in 1998.

A considerable number of people were recognized when Paula called on all who have been members for at least 25 years to stand.

Paula introduced Paul King, an AMC Board member who was in attendance.

Paula then called on Dave Cullen who described the Harry Duren Scholarship Fund that sends one or more youths to an AMC Teen Wilderness Adventure each year. Dave summarized the very successful experiences of the two 1998 scholarship recipients. To help support this worthwhile activity, Dave asked for donations to be made at the end of the meeting.

Before opening the business meeting, Paula expressed appreciation to the 1998 Executive Committee members, presented each of them with an AMC coffee mug, and asked that they be given a round of applause:

Charles "Computer Guy" Baker
Patricia "Muddy Tires" Culbert
Dave "All 'round helpful" Cullen
David "Calendar" Danenberg
Virginia "Step in the Puddle" de Lima
Merri "Everywhere at Once" Fox
Roger "IMAX" Hall
Dave "Money Guy" Jenkins
Bruce "Housatonic" Kindseth
Judy "North Shore" Kunkel
Pam "East O" Lewis
Trent "Caretaker" Link
Doug "Yes, I have copy of that" McKain
Leo "Group Size" Ouillette
Carl "Peakbagger" Rosenthal
Ann "Waterbar" Sherwood
Tori "Trailwork" Stepanov
Eric "Car Spot" Stones
Trish "It's a treat to have you on the committee" Treat
Mark "He's Dave Danenberg and I'm Mark" Vandenberg

At 8:10 PM Paula called to order the 78th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Paula called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 1998 Annual Report, which was received, seconded and passed. Paula then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 1998 Annual Report, which was received, seconded and passed.

Paula recognized the members of the Nominating Committee for their work in drawing up the slate for next year. Applauded were Dave Mihalek, Chairperson, Marty Griffin, Justine Hart, Irene Patsky, and Rod Parlee. Dave Mihalek presented the following slate of nominees for 1999:

<i>Carl Rosenthal</i> - Vice Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i> - Vice Chair
<i>Doug McKain</i> - Secretary	<i>Dave Jenkins</i> - Treasurer
<i>Paula Burton</i> - Past Chair and Regional Director	
<i>Judy Kunkel</i> - Bicycling	<i>Patricia Culbert</i> - Conservation
<i>Lisa Spencer</i> - Conservation	<i>Pam Lewis</i> - East of the River
<i>Rob Funk</i> - East of the River	<i>Virginia de Lima</i> - Education
<i>Janice Parker</i> - Excursions	<i>Peter Heyel</i> - Fairfield County
<i>Kim Runford</i> - Fairfield County	<i>Charles Baker</i> - Member-at-Large

Roger Hall - Member-at-Large
 Tori Stepanov - Membership
 Bill Waters - Mountaineering
 Peg Peterson - AMC Outdoors Liaison
 Ann Sherwood - Trails

Dave Cullen - Membership
 Paul Maresca - Mountaineering
 Arlene Govang - Newsletter
 Open - Program
 Becky Hendricks - 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.

Paula then recounted the story of how the Chapter Chair came to wear a red hat as a way to be recognized. Back in 1951, when John Herr was Chair, he felt that the Chapter was getting so big that not everyone knew who the Chair was. So he wore a red hat to stand out. After all, there were 500 members. Today there are over 9,000 members. Paula then asked all past chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and come up to the podium:

Gardner Moulton (1963-1964)
 J.B. Gardner (1965-1966)
 Bill Schmidt (1973-1974)
 Ledge Clayton (1975-1976)
 Anne Bailey (1985-1986)
 Trish Niece (1987- 1988)
 Glen Parchmann (1989-1990)
 Ken Richardson (1991-1992)
 Mary Dorpalen (1993-1994)
 Dave Cullen (1995-1996)
 Paula Burton (1997-1998)

Paula asked for a round of applause for the Past Chairs and for the new Chapter Chair, Carl Rosenthal.

At 8:15 P.M. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Carl Rosenthal then introduced the program speakers, Lou Sgarzi and Janet Swanson, who gave an extremely interesting multi-media presentation entitled "Faces and Places of Russia."

Respectfully submitted,
 Doug McKain, Secretary.



TREASURER'S REPORT
 FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997 AND 1998

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
Cash at January 1	\$32,488	\$42,906
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$36,735	36,191
Program activities	12,563	9,785
Contributions	1,868	1,853
Reserve funds - sources ⁽¹⁾	17,636	18,968
Local sale of memberships	1,760	1,760
Leadership training	3,595	4,887
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	1,860	1,447
Merchandise sales	2,167	1,880
Interest income	650	664
Total revenue collected	<u>\$78,834</u>	<u>\$77,435</u>
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$13,558	12,745
Cost of merchandise	2,109	1,067
Contributions made	1,590	2,800
Reserve funds - uses ⁽¹⁾	13,215	14,492
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,511	1,799
Computer	1,927	1,962
Conservation	0	551
East of the River	1,429	1,179
Education	3,974	5,266
Excursions	1,319	2,240
Executive	5,891	9,338
Fairfield County	2,549	3,065
Membership	4,467	4,539
Mountaineering	457	540
Newsletter	7,268	8,166
Northwest Camp	1,447	756
Program	235	60
Trails	5,470	6,022
Total expenditures	<u>\$68,416</u>	<u>\$76,587</u>
Cash at December 31	<u>\$42,906</u>	<u>\$43,754</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 AND 1999

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$42,906</u>	<u>\$43,754</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$25,114	\$24,740
Program activities	3,880	4,282
Contributions	1,853	2,045
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	17,523	27,304
Local sale of memberships	1,320	745
Leadership training	3,337	2,907
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	1,090	600
Merchandise sales	0	285
Interest income	<u>423</u>	<u>561</u>
Total revenue collected	\$54,540	\$63,469
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$3,986	\$3,617
Contributions made	1,000	0
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	13,764	6,210
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,591	1,724
Computer	0	2,294
East of the River	1,070	1,066
Education	3,737	3,195
Excursions	1,778	532
Executive	3,295	3,051
Fairfield County	1,580	3,272
Membership	3,513	3,494
Mountaineering	540	548
Newsletter	5,358	2,764
Northwest Camp	284	556
Trails	<u>4,788</u>	<u>1,940</u>
Total expenditures	\$46,284	\$34,263
Cash at September 30	<u>\$51,162</u>	<u>\$72,960</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
RESERVE FUNDS

⁽¹⁾ Reserve funds are cash set aside by the Chapter for a specific future use or spending objective. Sources of such funds are often grants, gifts, or contributions, but can also include funds set aside from the Chapter's operating budget. A summary of the Chapter's reserve funds is as follows:

	<u>12/31/97</u>	<u>12/31/98</u>	<u>9/30/99</u>
Reserve funds:			
American Ref-fuel grant	\$0	\$500	\$200
AT Handicap Accessible project	0	0	22,545
Bicycle racing fund	1,509	2,320	409
Bicycle reserve	332	332	332
Duren Memorial Scholarships	760	891	613
Jim Wright Memorial	414	264	264
Northwest Camp	2,019	2,985	4,036
Ridgerunner	625	625	625
Stanley grant	3,555	3,842	3,921
Stephen Meyers Memorial	2,200	1,988	1,895
Whitewater	1,304	4,580	4,580
General fund	<u>30,188</u>	<u>25,427</u>	<u>33,540</u>
Total cash	<u>\$42,906</u>	<u>\$43,754</u>	<u>\$72,960</u>

David Jenkins – Treasurer



Bicycling Committee

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

1999 was another great year for AMC bicycling. Our newsletter was published monthly from March through October thanks to editor Maureen Sylvestre-Craig and ride coordinator Larry Hayden. Larry set up a web page so ride leaders could check for open dates. This helped tremendously. In addition to listing our rides and weekend trips, we also publicized special events for other clubs and fundraisers for several charities.

Thanks to our ride leaders, we had the usual weekend rides, plus rides every Monday from April through November; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening rides during the summer months; and several mountain bike rides.

To show our appreciation again to the ride leaders, a special event was held for them on Saturday, October 30th. Judy Kunkel led a 25-mile ride and afterward everyone enjoyed a pasta dinner cooked by Committee members Donna and Mike Palumbo.

Weekend trips included Washington, DC; Hampton Beach, NH; the North Shore of Massachusetts; the Berkshires; Franconia, NH; Nantucket; Cape Cod; and Cooperstown, NY. Mountain bike trips were scheduled for Vermont.

Many members traveled to Saratoga Springs, New York in June to take part in the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) rally, and some members attended the LAB rally in Louisville, Kentucky, also in June.

I want to thank the 1999 Committee members for all their support during the past year and look forward to our continuing work together as we move AMC Bicycling into the year 2000.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

<i>Roger Borgersen</i>	<i>Deborah Casey</i>	<i>Jon Day</i>
<i>Larry Hayden</i>	<i>Tom Latham</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>
<i>Jo-ann Oberg</i>	<i>Donna Palumbo</i>	<i>Mike Palumbo</i>
<i>Amanda See</i>	<i>Maureen Sylvestre-Craig</i>	

Judy Kunkel - Chair

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee leadership changed early this year. Lisa Spencer stayed on as co-chair and Frank Junga joined as co-chair. We had difficulty arousing interest in the Committee until later in the year. We had a meeting in early October that was attended by six members. We believe that we will be above the required seven members at the next meeting. Several people have shown interest, but could not attend the October meeting.

The meeting was devoted to discussing projects and goals for the coming years. We feel that our greatest asset is the large AMC membership. We have abundant enthusiasm, and willingness to work. We decided that we could be most effective if we worked more closely with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), the Sierra Club, and the various land trusts. Lisa Spencer will be the Sierra Club contact, Eric Stones and Juliet Leeming will contact the land trusts, and Frank Junga will be the CFPA contact. Juliet Leeming will also help in tracking conservation related state legislation. We believe that we will be able to identify worthwhile conservation projects by working with these groups.

We intend to restart a project to clean up streams along the Mattatuck Trail in Wolcott. George Bosse will head that project.

Our next meeting will be in early January. We will invite Ruth Dinerman to speak on AMC interactions with state legislatures.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

<i>Dave Bicking</i>	<i>George Bosse</i>	<i>Nadine Castonguay</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Roger Hall</i>	<i>Justine Hart</i>
<i>Frank Junga</i>	<i>Marcie Klattewerg</i>	<i>Elaine Labella</i>
<i>Juliet Leeming</i>	<i>Frank Piercy</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	<i>Jerry Stage</i>	<i>Eric Stones</i>
<i>Carolyn Webster</i>		

Frank Junga - Co-Chair
Lisa Spencer - Co-Chair

East of the River Committee

Things were busy east of the river in 1999. Tuesday hikes continued to be very well attended — with approximately 800 hikers participating since January. In addition to regular hikes, there was also a wildflower identification hike, a pot luck hike, a trail maintenance hike, a stream-walk, a moonlight hike, a beach hike in Rhode Island, a cross-country ski day, and a Hartford city hike. Later this winter, we will offer our annual cookie swap hike.

Mid-week excursions were offered as well: a three-day cross-country and downhill ski trip in Vermont; two three-day excursions in northwestern Connecticut (one was canceled due to hurricane Floyd); and a three-day hiking trip in southern Vermont.

Because of the numbers attending Tuesday hikes, we began adding Thursday hikes intermittently in the spring. Some of these were east of the river and others in Massachusetts.

We sponsored a spring weekend and dinner in May, and a fall dinner in October.

We sent out four issues of the East-of-the-River newsletter to 760 members.

Special thanks to John Cunningham for his work as the original Tuesday hike coordinator, and to Janet Bromley who succeeded him this year.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>Janet Bromley</i>	<i>John Cunningham</i>
<i>Dot Davis</i>	<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Ed Dresner</i>
<i>Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Neal Felsing</i>	<i>Frank Junga</i>
<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Meg Seril</i>	<i>Diane Wright</i>	

Rob Funk – Co-Chair
Pam Lewis – Co-Chair

Education Committee

The Education Committee continues to provide leadership training for the Chapter, and to offer various outreach activities. The Committee provided the following events and activities:

- sponsored leadership training weekend in the fall of 1998 (twenty-three people attended)
- sponsored SOLO Wilderness First Aid training in the spring of 1999 (thirty-three people attended)
- sponsored "RAP hikes" for leadership training, at least one each month
- sponsored workshops at 1998 Annual Meeting, including: map and compass, CPR, and AMC facilities
- hosted a table at several AMC Connecticut functions, including the Annual Meeting, New Member Day, and the AMC Spring Gathering in Sharon

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Paula Burton
Dawn Guite
Erik Madsen

Merri Fox
Emily Hall
Anne Rehm

Mary-Jane Gately
Linda Houser

Virginia de Lima – Chair



Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee coordinates Chapter activities in the areas of day hiking, backpacking, family activities, cross-country skiing, and weekend trips. This year responsibility for flat water canoeing activities has been transferred to the Whitewater Committee. In addition to the more formal leadership development programs offered by the Education Committee, the Excursions Committee continues to encourage and qualify new activity leaders through a co-leader program for new leaders and through rap hikes.

During the year, Give a Day to Trails, National Trails Day, New Member Day, and East of the River Day events were held. Thanks to all of the activity leaders who contributed time and effort to making these events a success.

Trip statistics (October 1, 1998-September 30, 1999)

Day hikes	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
Trips *	454	398	395	376	378	429
Participants *	4123	5231	4640	4257	5717	3794
Average turnout *	13	13	12	12	15	N/A

* "Trips" are the number of hikes listed in *AMC Outdoors*; "Participants" is the sum of all the individuals listed on sign-up sheets that were returned; "Average turnout" represents the average number of individuals listed on sign-up sheets that were returned, excluding hikes that were cancelled.

Currently, there are 148 active leaders in the Chapter, a comparatively small roster given the number of trips led over the year. While we have had a gratifying number of new leaders qualifying over the past year, there has also been a certain rate of attrition as members left the area or retired from active leadership. We are keen to increase recruitment of new leaders in order to maintain, or better still to increase, the number and variety of excursions that we can offer. To this end we would like to recruit individuals willing to act as coordinators for family activities, backpacking, cross-country skiing, weekend activities, and leader recruitment. Anyone interested in serving in one of these capacities should contact Janice Parker by e-mail at janiceparker@netscape.net or by phone at (860) 536-0756.

For each issue of *AMC Outdoors*, hikes are coordinated by a different AMC member who solicits hikes by mail, phone, or e-mail, and then prepares the listings that ultimately appear in *AMC Outdoors*. Their

efforts help the Committee meet its goal of offering a wide variety of hikes each month to AMC members and guests throughout the Connecticut. We would like to thank these individuals for their efforts and contributions.

The Monthly Hike Coordinators for 1999 were:

<i>Carl Rosenthal</i> - Waterford	January/February
<i>Donna Arbas</i> - Meriden	March
<i>Paul Duclos</i> - West Haven	April
<i>Fred Riotte</i> - Suffield	May
<i>Mark Wood</i> - Stamford	June
<i>Bob Baldwin</i> - Columbia	July/August
<i>Christine Kaatz</i> - Norwich	September
<i>Tom Carruthers</i> - Westport	October
<i>Charles Baker</i> - Old Saybrook	November
<i>Janice Parker</i> - Ledyard	December

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

<i>Bob Dickinson</i>	Cross-country Skiing Coordinator
<i>Paul Duclos</i>	Computer Coordinator, Backpacking
<i>Suzanne Graham</i>	Trip Reports Coordinator
<i>Peg Peterson</i>	<i>AMC Outdoors</i> Coordinator
<i>Mark Wood</i>	FCG Coordinator

Janice Parker - Chair

Fairfield County Group

What a great year we have had in Fairfield County! The Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club - Fairfield County Group continues to grow to almost 2,000 members, approximately one quarter of all AMC members in Connecticut. Included in our activities were:

1. Seven social evenings/spaghetti dinners during the year! We have added a second dinner location, Danbury, for northern Fairfield County members. Dinner meetings in Danbury are in October and February. Along with our five dinner meetings in Westport, we had approximately 500 members and guests join us for the social hour, dinner, and speaker.
2. Hikes within Fairfield County totaled over 200 with more than 2,000 hikers enjoying our trails such as Devil's Den and the Saugatuck Trail System. With more than 100 miles of trails in Fairfield County, there are plenty of places to explore. This gives us the opportunity to introduce

hiking and the outdoors to many new people and encourage them to become AMC members.

3. We produced six *Hiker* newsletters, both for AMC members in Fairfield County and for those who pick them up in local stores and YMCAs. Those who pay an additional \$7 per year receive *The Hiker* by First Class mail.

Overall, the Fairfield County Group continues to offer much local hiking and camaraderie. We look forward to the year 2000 and sharing our outdoors. Our goal is simple:

2000 in 2000!

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP

Ken Anderson, Activities
Tom Carruthers, Programs
Kim Rumford, Distribution
Karen Stackpole, Leader Development
Mark Wood, Hike Coordinator

John Barry, Membership/Hiker Editor
Al Puches, Treasurer
Bill Russell, Public Relations
Eric Stones, Ex-Chair

Peter Heyel - Chair

Membership Committee

As of September 1, 1999 there were 9,510 AMC members affiliated with the Connecticut Chapter. This number is consistent with where we were a year ago, in spite of the fact that we welcomed over 2,000 new members to the Club in the past twelve months.

Our annual New Member Day was held on Saturday, September 18th. There were a number of activities scheduled for that day, followed by our traditional spaghetti dinner. Over 100 members attended the dinner and were treated to a slide show of the "Tour du Mont Blanc" presented by Bill Russell.

A membership survey was recently mailed to three-year members to obtain information about the experiences of these members, and to determine how we may better serve our members to keep them interested in the club activities and volunteerism. At present the Membership Committee is gathering data from the responses. There seems to be some interest in a "younger members" group and a steering committee is currently being formed to determine how we can better serve the needs of this age group. Anyone interested in helping with this endeavor should contact:

16

Dave Cullen (dlcul@conncoll.edu, 860-889-5056) or
Tori Stepanov (stepanov@gateway.net, 203-797-0411)

The responsibilities of recruiting and welcoming new members to the club and serving the interests of the general membership would be an impossible task without the help of the many dedicated volunteers who serve on the Membership Committee and we are most grateful for their efforts.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

<i>Mary Ann Burns</i>	Member at Large
<i>Dot Davis</i>	New Member Day Planning
<i>Virginia Fisher</i>	Member at Large
<i>Dawn Gagliardi</i>	New Member Day Planning
<i>Dale Geslien</i>	New Member Day Planning
<i>Dave Jenkins</i>	Past Chair, MIB Coordinator
<i>John Kelling</i>	Member at Large
<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	Voice Mail Inquiry Response
<i>May Nevius</i>	Member at Large
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	New Member Day Activities Coordinator
<i>Betty Robinson</i>	New Member Packet Coordinator, New Member Day Planning, Membership Database Coordinator
<i>Gladys Sheehan</i>	New Member Day Planning
<i>Trish Treat</i>	Member at Large

Dave Cullen - Co-chair
Tori Stepanov - Co-chair

Mountaineering Committee

This was a very successful year for the climbing group, in which we had great participation, much climbing, and we hope lots of fun. In 1999 the Mountaineering Committee organized seven trips to various locations: Wheeler Pond, Vermont; the White Mountains; the Adirondacks; and Seneca, West Virginia. Activities included rock climbing, ice climbing, and mountaineering. Our beginners' class, which was held in May, gave ten adults and two children a chance to experience outdoor climbing.

Twelve climbers visited Yosemite Valley, California in September where "Reverend" Al Carilli led a three-day 5.9 A2 wall route up the South Face of Washington Column. Accompanying him on the climb was Cheryl Eveland, John Rek, "Stevie" Pound, and Paul Maresca. This was Al's first big wall climb since turning 60. It was especially rewarding for

17

Paul, having climbed his first Yosemite wall route with Al (and Dennis Burke) in 1992. Climbing a wall with Al is inspiring, a true "experience," which always produces some great memories - Thanks Reverend. There was also a successful summit of Half Dome via the 5.7 "Snake Dike" route by Bob Dest, Professor Menze, and Carol Parker.

Upcoming we have a trip planned for El Portrero Chico in northeastern Mexico during the Thanksgiving holiday. A group will be climbing multi-pitch sport routes and hopefully perform a tyrolean traverse across two 200' spires.

We would like to thank all who help organize these trips and events this past year, especially Carol Parker, Cheryl Eveland, Wally Dannenberg, Mikie Thomas, Gary Carter, Dollar Bill and Carole Phelan for preparing our web page.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

Gary Carter *Cheryl Eveland* *Carol Parker*
Mikie Thomas

Paul Maresca - Co-Chair
Bill Walters - Co-Chair

Newsletter Committee

Two eight-page issues of the Connecticut Chapter Newsletter were sent out in April and October. Because of an unexpected cancellation of the Chapter's non-profit status with the Hartford post office, the second newsletter was delayed. Because of the time lapse it was decided to combine it with the fall newsletter.

After looking into training for, or access to Macintosh based Quark Express it appears that it is seldom available and classes are often cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Access to Macintosh computers with the Quark Express software is also limited. The printer has been supplying the scanning and graphic design, using Quark, at a reasonable cost. In the future it may be reasonable to consider changing to a different format. This may enable the editor or newsletter staff to do much of the graphics and page layout, which would not only provide cost savings, but would make it easier to control the printing dates.

Of course, volunteers are always welcome - and not only those with graphic design skills. They can participate by writing articles, taking

pictures, or just supplying information about any AMC activity. So, if you have any ideas, give me a call!

Arlene Govang - Chair

Northwest Camp Committee

The first event of 1999 was the Annual Spring Work Party, which was held in conjunction with the AMC Spring Gathering hosted by the Connecticut Chapter. Ten people participated on the work party and fifteen people attended a guided tour and hike in the Northwest Camp area. The weather for the event couldn't have been better!

Work included re-identification and marking of newly completed surveying work. It was lead by John Bean, P.E., Professor of Civil Engineering, and students from Central Connecticut State University. It had been a considerable time since the boundaries had been properly identified. This work was greatly needed and appreciated - many thanks to Professor Bean and his students for volunteering their time! Other activities for that day included erosion work and ongoing drainage and revegetation work.

The second event at the Northwest Camp took place on New Member Day on September 18th. Ten people, both old and new members, attended this event, which included a tour of the South Taconics and Riga Plateau led by Bill Sangster and Trent Link. In the evening there was a campfire social and sunset hike on Bear Mountain.

The Annual Fall Work Party was held on November 5th. This entailed restocking the firewood supply, cabin maintenance, and trail work.

The Northwest Camp Committee is presently working on a Model Environmental Educational Facilities (M.E.E.F.) plan and drafting a long range plan. When completed, these will promote conservation, low-impact camping, and educational programming at the Northwest Camp, while promoting an enjoyable backcountry experience.

The Northwest Camp Committee is currently working on plans to restore the cabin. Although the cabin is built entirely of virtually indestructible American Chestnut, which was felled due to a killing blight of the trees in the 1940s, the cabin will benefit from a more substantial foundation to preserve its integrity and historical significance. Over the past forty-nine years, the elements have had an impact on the sill logs. When the restoration is completed, the cabin will have a new stone foundation, a new roof, and a new floor. The Committee's goal is to have the

restoration completed on or before the cabin's 50th anniversary celebration on November 5, 2001.

This project is the most significant undertaken by the Northwest Camp Committee. It exemplifies the fifty years of stewardship and volunteer efforts of a dedicated committee.

To everyone who makes the Northwest Camp the very special place it is ... THANK YOU!

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

<i>Chuck Doll</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 Terril</i>	<i>Scott Whalen</i>

Trent Link – Chair

Program Committee

The Program Committee continued to serve the Chapter by coordinating four annual events. The Spring Dinner was held at the Cheshire Grange in April and we provided the program. We hosted the Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Trails Day potluck in June, which was held at Northeast Utilities in Berlin. We also hosted our traditional spaghetti dinner for the New Member Day program, also held at Northeast Utilities. Our committee planned the Chapter's Annual Meeting held at the Rocky Hill Marriott, including the workshops, the book sale, the used equipment sale, and the dinner and evening program.

We welcomed three new committee members this year and invite everyone to participate. Meetings are not mandatory and we always welcome extra pairs of hands at any of our events. We did meet several times during the year to plan our programs. Many of our long time committee members have "shown the ropes" to the new members, which has allowed for continuity and smooth operations. We gratefully acknowledge those who have helped out from time to time.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Richard Bartes</i>	<i>Frank DeFasio</i>
<i>Ed Dresner</i>	<i>Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Helene Goulet</i>
<i>Kathy Holden</i>	<i>Wilford Parker</i>	<i>Denise Pulaski</i>
<i>Wilda Wise</i>		

Dale Geslien – Chair

Trails Committee

The Trails Committee had a very productive year that included:

- Conducting annual workshops for monitors, maintainers, and guides.
- Conducting a chainsaw re-certification workshop.
- Holding the annual "Give a Day to Trails." This was our most successful event of the year and included completing a short relocation on the Pine Knob Trail, working on rock cribbing on the north side of Ten Mile Hill, installing rock steps and cribbing on the lower section of St. Johns Ledges, installing water bars north of West Cornwall Road, and installing rock step stones north of Carse Brook.
- Completing all open-space mowing projects.
- Completing twelve vista reviews and upgrades.
- Conducting the annual "Introduction to Trailwork for Women."
- Continuing repairs to the ridgerunner cabin.
- Completing the bank retention project at Macedonia Brook.
- Supporting National Trails Day with three projects on Connecticut's blue trail system.
- Supporting three interchapter work trips at Mohican Outdoor Center in New Jersey and Pawtuckaway State Park in New Hampshire.
- Installing a new tent platform, repairing the base of one privy, and upgrading the site trails at the Sages Ravine camp area.
- Moving four privies.
- Repairing the roof of the shelter at Limestone Springs and repairing three additional privies.
- Working on erosion control projects in Riga Plateau, south of Thayer Brook, south of Guinea Brook, and on the Undermountain Trail.
- Continuing the process of organizing the handicap accessible trail at Falls Village. This included the review and approval of a feasibility study of the project by the Trails Committee; final approval of the project by the Trail and Land Management Committee of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC); starting fundraising for the project; circulation of the environmental assessment and comment period for the project; drafting a preliminary work schedule for the spring and summer of 2000.
- Continuing to update the painting and checking of monuments on the external corridor boundaries.

- Collecting evaluations of all our shelter and camp areas for current conditions and to plan future upgrades from a low impact perspective.
- Continuing to review the AT land acquisition process as it nears completion, and evaluating additional needs for the Trust for AT Lands.
- Continuing to review and update the Connecticut Management Plan, including the memorandum of understanding with the State.
- Supporting the Connecticut Forest and Park Association at its April workshop refurbishing the trails in Peoples Forest.
- Participating in an "invitation only" roundtable conference held by Congresswoman Nancy Johnson to discuss telecommunication tower placement issues and concerns.
- Continuing the annual visit with Congressman Christopher Shays urging support for stateside funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
- Participating in an "invitation only" press conference with Congressman James Maloney who announced his co-sponsorship of the permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000" legislation in March 1999.

Again, my thanks to the tireless efforts and time of this Committee.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Dick Blake
Hugh Cobrain
Birge Dayton
Elaine Labella
Ian McCunn
Richard Rouse

Dave Boone
Ted Cowles
Henry Edmonds
Jocelyn Linnekin, Secy.
Bob Poitras
Norm Sills

Doug Christie
Walt Daniels
Harlan Jessup
Elaine Luckey
Walt Rinehart
Tori Stepanov, Treas.

Ann Sherwood - Chair



Whitewater Committee

The Whitewater Committee provided kayak rolling instruction sessions this year at Suffield Academy and at the Wilton YMCA. Over twenty boaters attended the Suffield Academy session and as many as thirty-five attended the Wilton session.

Seventy-five whitewater trips were scheduled on rivers from Maine to Pennsylvania. Dry weather kept water levels unusually low and adversely impacted Whitewater activities throughout the season.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE

Jeff Barnard
Tracy Britt
Naomi Freedman
Shelly Jamieson
Anne-Marie Matula

Ed Bossom
Ed Chase
Paul Hendricks
Bruce Kindseth
Mark Schappert

Clark Bowlen
Joel Freedman
Dave Jamieson
Mike Madison
Jerry Walton

Becky Hendricks - 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: Mountaineering and Program. Any interest? Give any of us a call.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Steve Braciak
Rod Parlee

Dan Casey

Joyce Clark

Dave Mihalek - Chair

Nominations for the 2000 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i>
Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Committee Chair	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Frank Junga, Lisa Spencer</i>
East of the River Committee Chair	<i>Dick Don</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>open</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>Janice Parker</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Peter Heyel</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Charles Baker</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Roger Hall</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mary Ann Burns, Liz Egli</i>
Mountaineering Committee Chair	<i>open</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Arlene Govang</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Chuck Dahl</i>
Northwest Camp Caretaker	<i>Trent Link</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
Whitewater Committee Chair	<i>Becky Hendricks</i>
Past Chair	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Regional Director	<i>Paula Burton</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.

Mr. Charles H. Granger of Greenwich

Mr. Stuart Hamilton of Glastonbury

Mr. Girard S. Haviland of Naples, Maine

Ms. Gertrude Osborne of Hartford

Mrs. Joy Lee Peterle of Stonington

Mrs. J. H. Raub of Bridgeport