

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



83rd Anniversary

Annual Report

November 6, 2004

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 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
2004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Secretary	<i>Cathy Hull</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Doug McKain</i> <i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>John LeShane</i> <i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Barry Resnick</i> <i>Carol Hassett</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>David Roberts</i> <i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jean Trapani</i> <i>Diane Worden</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i> <i>Steve Collins</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rebecca Ford</i> <i>Mark Sondeen</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert</i> <i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Dave Bellemare</i> <i>Darron Kannenberg</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Dennis McGlynn</i>
Regional Director	<i>Norm Sims</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

2004 allowed me the privilege of working with another outstanding Executive Committee. Their commitment to continue to provide excellent leadership with numerous educational, conservation related and recreational opportunities to our membership and the Connecticut community was exceptional.

The 2004 Executive Committee started off their term by attending a December 2003 retreat where the theme was "Conservation Policy and Procedures and How You Can Make a Difference." Faith Salter, AMC's Volunteer Relations Coordinator, was our guest speaker.

The Conservation Committee organized several activities throughout the year with guest speakers making presentations on environmental issues facing Connecticut.

The educational opportunities provided in 2004 have been unsurpassed. The Education Committee continued their tradition of providing instruction at the annual Leadership Training School last November with CPR and SOLO Wilderness First Aid training in April. A train the trainer workshop was conducted at last year's annual meeting, as well as one during the year, which enabled new instructors to conduct several leadership training sessions throughout the year. Two Leave No Trace workshops were held this year. Members of the committee also represented the Chapter on the club-wide Mountain Leadership School staff. A critical incident stress debriefing was held for members. Committee members advanced their own personal training by attending the AMC's first annual Leadership Training Institute's Leadership Conference, taking Advanced Group Debriefing training at the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation Conference, taking the Leave No Trace Masters Course, and attending the NH Chapter's Advanced Winter Wilderness Travel workshop. The Committee is working with the Excursions Committee to put the final touches on their advanced leadership criteria.

The Excursions Committee worked to encourage leadership training graduates to complete the criteria to become hike leaders and qualified 22 new hike leaders this year. They continued to offer hikes, snowshoe and cross country ski activities throughout Connecticut and beyond.

The Whitewater Committee conducted its 34th year of winter pool instructional sessions. Due to popular demand, the committee added a second summer lake training location and also offered "on the river" lessons. They sponsored SOLO Wilderness First Aid training, a swift-water rescue class, and an instructional opportunity in Canada.

The Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee also conducted pool sessions and presented a safety workshop during National Safe Boating week. Committee members represented the Chapter as AMC ambassadors at numerous paddling events. In addition, they organized a Hartford stream cleanup with UConn law students.

Our Mountaineering Committee trained many new climbers this year by hosting a beginner's day, a beginner ice climbing day, and a top rope monitor workshop. Committee members enhanced their own personal education by attending Level 1 Avalanche Training.

The Trails Committee, protectors of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Connecticut, held a maintainer workshop, a monitor workshop and chainsaw certification training. They conducted an AT assessment as required by the National Park Service. Their most ambitious project this year was to reconstruct the Lions Head Trail, a side trail to the AT. They reported increased bear and timber rattlesnake sightings on the trail. Remember, if you are fortunate enough to experience a wildlife sighting, keep your distance. If your presence changes the wildlife's behavior, you are too close.

The Bicycling Committee trained four new leaders this year and continued to emphasize safety in a series of articles in their newsletter.

All six of our activity committees are educating their leaders with the club-wide Outdoor Leadership Development Committee's revised Leadership Requirements and Guidelines that became effective October 1, 2004. Their overall commitment to education enables our membership and the community at large to partake in safe and enjoyable recreational activities. And remember, to paraphrase our mission, we believe that successful conservation depends on people enjoying and appreciating the natural world.

The theme of conservation, education and recreation continued during this year's chapter retreat. Participants learned about ecological foot-printing, orienteering and conservation challenges facing Connecticut.

The Chapter wouldn't be complete without the tremendous efforts of its "support" committees and members. Our Secretary and Treasurer put in many hours to keep us organized and on track. The dedicated volunteers of the Program Committee allow us to enjoy our Spring Dinner, Trail's Day Potluck, New Member Day Dinner and our fabulous annual meeting. They take care of countless details and all the logistics so we can enjoy these social activities. The Fairfield County and East of the River Committees continue to have well attended dinners with interesting presentations, and also publish regional newsletters. The Young Members Committee continues to grow and flourish. Our Membership Committee

organized Chapter representation and promoted Membership in a Bottle sales on "Club Day" at Eastern Mountain Sports stores throughout the state. They prepared a wonderful day of activities for New Member Day, which were unfortunately rained out this year, and arranged for a great speaker for the dinner. The Chapter newsletter editor is running a first class operation and has a publisher who is volunteering to do the layout so we don't have to pay a graphic designer. Our Webmaster and Technology Committee has organized several highly successful Yahoo! group email lists and continued to enhance the Chapter website. Our webmaster has also assumed the Chapter project manager responsibility for the club-wide online activities database, which the Chapter is piloting. Our Backcountry Editor makes sure we get our activities listings into *AMC Outdoors* on time and in the right format. The Harry Duren Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships this year to financially challenged teens who were able to enjoy and experience wilderness adventures.

The Northwest Camp Committee had a phenomenal year after completing their long range plan and constructing an enclosed staircase to the loft of the cabin. They had a long awaited grand reopening celebration and are looking forward to welcoming new guests.

Two of our Executive Committee members have undertaken additional responsibilities representing the Chapter. Dave Boone, Trails Chair, sits on the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Committee and Doug McKain, Bicycling Committee Co-chair, is a member of the Metacomet-Mondanock-Mattabesett Trail Study Connecticut Steering Committee and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association's Aspetuck Trail project.

One of the highlights of this year was the Chapter hosting of the club-wide Fall Gathering. Carolyn Olsen and Dot Davis were up to the challenge of co-chairing the committee to prepare to welcome to Connecticut several hundred guests from the eleven other AMC chapters. They did an incredible job finding Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, CT, scheduling meetings, and offering a variety of activities and entertainment for the weekend.

I would like to recognize those members of the 2004 Executive Committee who were voted in by the Executive Committee after the 2003 election, to fill vacancies. They are Beth Bryan Critton, Vice Chair; Cathy Hull, Secretary; David Roberts, Fairfield Country Group Co-Chair; Steve Collins, Membership Co-Chair and Dennis McGlynn, Member at Large.

A special honor for the Connecticut Chapter this year was that the recipients of the very first AMC Volunteer Leadership Award,

presented at the club-wide annual meeting this past January 31, were Connecticut members Jeff Hogan and Eric Stones. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating them in their achievement. The Connecticut Chapter has a great reputation of volunteerism within the AMC. So, I invite all of you to join in and participate in your chapter in some way. Get involved. There are plenty of opportunities, large and small to fit your needs and schedules. See me or any one of our committee chairs for ideas on how you can help us grow! Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2005.

Dale Geslien
Connecticut Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 2003

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 15, 2003, at the Marriot Hotel in Farmington, Connecticut.

Fred Iannotti, Program Committee Chair, introduced Chapter Chair Dale Geslien.

Dale thanked Fred and the Program Committee for putting together a fantastic program of events and welcomed everyone attending the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Dale shared with the audience an incident that occurred while backpacking with the Mountain Leadership School. The story went as follows:

After the (backpacking) group had their dinner and discussed the day's events, they retired for the evening. Some hours later, Holmes (Dale changed the names to protect the innocent) awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Holmes asked. Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Why, what does it tell YOU?" Holmes was silent for a minute, and then spoke. "Watson, you idiot! Some jerk has stolen our tent."

Dale read the mission statement of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

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 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.

Dale gave recognition to the AMC's Conservation Action Network. She encouraged those who were not members of this Network to consider joining and mentioned that a sign-up card would be available later in the evening.

Dale reported her first year as Chapter Chair had proved to be an extraordinary year of accomplishments for the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC. A few highlights:

- A strong Executive Committee worked together to raise the standard of leadership in Connecticut. Each activity committee worked to review and re-state their criteria for those members wishing to become leaders. Connecticut leaders are, and will continue to be, well trained as evidenced by the leadership commitment of committees who provided numerous trainings and educational opportunities throughout the year.
- The Education Committee organized the annual Leadership Training School held last November at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield. CPR training was conducted once again at the annual meeting and was also available at the SOLO Wilderness First Aid class in April. A curriculum for one day "Leadership Training Sessions" was developed to provide more frequent trainings in a variety of locations across the state. "Train the Trainer" workshops were created to educate experienced hike leaders to become instructors and mentors to prospective hike leaders.
- The Whitewater Committee held a SOLO Wilderness First Aid class as well as a Swiftwater Rescue training. Summer kayak instruction was conducted for the third year at Lake Lillinonah. Both Whitewater and the Flatwater Committees held instructional pool sessions during the off season.
- The Trails Committee ran a successful maintainer workshop as well as a chainsaw workshop. The Chapter supported a SOLO high angle ropes training arranged by Sharon Hospital to train rescue personnel in the northwest corner of the state. Their territory includes coverage for the Appalachian Trail.

- The Bicycling Committee continually emphasized cycling safety issues in a series of articles in their newsletters.
- The Mountaineering Committee offered a Beginners Day Program, Beacon training and several members attended Level 1 and 2 avalanche training in the White Mountains.
- This level of commitment was further evidenced by the attendance at the first annual Chapter Executive Committee retreat. All committee members and activity leaders were invited to attend. The theme was leadership and volunteerism. Guest speakers were Katherine Byers, AMC's Outdoor Leadership Coordinator, and Rick Silverberg, the New Hampshire Chapter's Director of Leadership Training. As a result of much discussion and reflection, the Chapter voted to implement the use of AMC's recommended Liability Release Agreement in an effort to protect our volunteer leaders as well as our Club.
- The Chapter supported many conservation related issues this year. The Chapter supported the Willimantic River Alliance in their efforts to make the Willimantic River corridor an official state greenway. The Connecticut Chapter participated in a Connecticut Trails Coalition with the National Park Service, Connecticut Forest and Park Association and other user groups. The Chapter joined the Connecticut Clean Car Alliance. The Club commented on our behalf, with our input, on the Connecticut DEP Statewide Forest Resource Plan. The Connecticut Chapter also participated on a steering committee to assist the National Park Service with their Metacomet-Mattabesett National Scenic Trail Study.
- The Membership Committee revised their new member packets.
- The Excursions Committee developed a new email list and a process to list short notice hikes; that is, hikes that can be scheduled long after the *AMC Outdoors* deadline has passed. This program has been very successful.
- The Trails Committee represented the Chapter at the Appalachian Trail Conference's biennial meeting held in Waterville, New Hampshire.
- A "Harry Duren Scholarship" was granted to a deserving individual who was able to participate in one of AMC's Teen Wilderness Adventures.

- The efficiency of the Connecticut Chapter's website was enhanced by moving all committee web pages to the same server. Committee email addresses were developed as well as an Executive Committee Yahoo! Group List.
- *The AMC in Connecticut*, the Connecticut Chapter newsletter is now available online and continual refinements and updates to the website are in process.
- The Chapter will be hosting the club wide 2004 Fall Gathering. A committee has been formed to develop a fun filled weekend and plans are underway.

Dale encouraged the audience to read the committee reports in the 2003 Annual Report which contains further details of committee accomplishments while also providing members with activities to enjoy and opportunities to make a difference. Dale mentioned to the audience that the Connecticut Chapter is always looking for new volunteers and asked those in attendance to consider becoming active in their chapter.

A moment of silence was then observed as members stood to honor the memory of Connecticut Chapter members that passed away since the last Annual Meeting:

<i>Donald Berkowitz</i>	<i>Ronald Nonken</i>
<i>Arthur A Brown</i>	<i>Grace Paprzyka</i>
<i>William Colman</i>	<i>Joy Lee Peterle</i>
<i>Elizabeth R. Dowling</i>	<i>Jay Pretash</i>
<i>James Foster</i>	<i>Gordon Streamns</i>
<i>Charles H. Granger, II</i>	<i>James Swallen</i>
<i>Eben M. Graves</i>	<i>Mary Waite</i>
<i>James R. Jewett</i>	<i>Ruth Kibbee Willey</i>
<i>John Kuhn</i>	<i>Bob Sprong</i>
<i>Thaddeus Lezon</i>	

Dale spoke of Bob Sprong who was one of the most faithful and active trail maintainers for many years. Until about five years ago his wife, Anna, was his co-maintainer, but had to resign for health reasons. Bob resigned his section, West Cornwall Road to Pine Knob Loop including the Caesar Brook camping area, only this past January. Dale's thoughts were of Bob as she and others cleared and built water bars on his section on Give-a-Day to Trails this past May. Bob Sprong prepared a slide show on the trails activities for the annual meeting every year from about 1989 until last year. He also prepared shows for other events and took pictures of any activities such as Public Lands Appreciation Day and the first Give a Day to Trails. He served as the Trails Committee's "Audio Visual Coordinator" until his resignation earlier this year. Many

contributions to the Harry Duren Scholarship Fund have been received in memory of Bob Sprong.

Dale asked if anyone knew of any other members who have passed away and asked that their names be called out so that they may also be honored.

Dale announced the recipients of 2003 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards. (Awarded for 30 or more hours of service or leading 5 or more activities.)

<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>
<i>Leon Barkman</i>	<i>James Linnane</i>
<i>John Barry</i>	<i>Jim Liptack</i>
<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Christa Lubatkin</i>
<i>Richard Bartes</i>	<i>Carol Marchion</i>
<i>Sue Bartley</i>	<i>John Marren</i>
<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>
<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>
<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Lisa Menieur</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
<i>Brian Booth</i>	<i>Dave Mihalek</i>
<i>Steve Braciak</i>	<i>Gerri Mihalek</i>
<i>Carolyn Callan</i>	<i>Jon Montelius</i>
<i>Jo Ann Carlson</i>	<i>Rob Munro</i>
<i>Gary Carlson</i>	<i>Jenifer Nadeau</i>
<i>Tom Carruthers</i>	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
<i>Russ Charest</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Leo Ouillette</i>
<i>Ted Cowles</i>	<i>Paul Palmer</i>
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Carol Parker</i>
<i>Dave Cullen</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>Al Puches</i>
<i>Nijole Currie</i>	<i>Lynn Reid</i>
<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Pat Riggs</i>
<i>Chuck Doll</i>	<i>Walt Rinehart</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>
<i>Carmen Donofrio</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Sandy Dunn</i>	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
<i>Tom Ebersold</i>	<i>Bruce Ross</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Richard Rouse</i>
<i>Rebecca Ford</i>	<i>Barbara Rutigliano</i>
<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>Chuck Sack</i>
<i>Kristen Grant</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
<i>Ruth Griffin</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>

Ben Hager
 Mark Hansen
 Larry Hayden
 Ken Hazen
 Ray Helie
 Ken Henneberry
 John Hicks
 Mike House
 Jamie Howland
 Fred Iannotti
 Jeri Jaminet
 Art Jann
 Harlan Jessup
 Frank Junga
 Darron Kannenberg
 Jennie Keeler
 Leo Kelly
 Mark Kiley
 Mary Ann Kouyoumjian
 Judy Kunkel
 Kate Kunze

Jim Scheef
 Jim Schreiber
 Ian Scott
 Debra Sevieri
 Bill Shaffer
 John Shea
 Ann Sherwood
 Don Shildneck
 Norm Sills
 Lisa Spencer
 Rick Strunk
 Moe Sylvestre-Craig
 Debbie Tedford
 Jean Trapani
 Chip Tuthill
 Russ Waldie
 Dana Warner
 Robert S. White
 Dennis Wigg
 Diane Worden
 Gary Zempel

Dale then called on Dave Boone to present Trails Committee Awards.

30 Hours Trail Stewardship

Brian Booth
 Hugh Cobrain
 Ted Cowles
 Ben Hager
 Fred Iannotti
 Harlan Jessup
 Jim Liptack
 John Marren
 Paul Palmer
 Walt Rinehart
 Richard Rouse
 Bill Shaffer

John Hicks
 Dick Blake
 Norm Sills
 Russ Waldie
 Dave Boone
 Birge Dayton
 Bob Poitras
 Doug Cristie
 Walt Daniels
 Henry Edmonds
 Elaine LaBella
 Ann Sherwood

**Pychowska Award
 (96 Hours Trails Stewardship)**

Dick Blake
 Dave Boone

Birge Dayton
 Bob Poitras

Hart Award

(224 Hours Trails Stewardship)

Doug Christie
 Walt Daniels
 Henry Edmonds

Elaine LaBella
 Ann Sherwood

Committee Cumulative Hours Award:

Jim Campbell, Bruce Laroche, Al Meyer,
 Ron Poitras, Andrew Seirup, Jerry Weinstein (12 hours)
 Susan Chamberlin, Fred Iannotti (50 hours)
 Jeff Glans, Ben Hager (100 hours)
 Jim Christie, Bill Shaffer (250 hours)
 John Hicks, Jim Liptack, Bob Poitras (1,000 hours)
 Hugh Cobrain (2,167 hours)

Dave shared that Connecticut Chapter members contributed a total of 4,985 hours during the past season. 2,458 hours were spent on actual on the trail improvements. He thanked Walt Rinehart for assembling trails data.

Dave turned the podium back to Dale where she announced that on behalf of the AMC, Georgia Murray, Staff Scientist and Faith Salter, Chapter Relations Coordinator, would like to thank the Connecticut Chapter's Visibility Volunteer (aka the Viz Vol) of 2003, Frank Junga. Frank took part in a volunteer monitoring program that measured the negative and far reaching effects of poor air quality, not just on mountain views, but for hiker health and ecological well being. He provided important monitoring information to our research staff that will ultimately help the AMC formulate our air quality related advocacy and conservation work in the coming year. Localized non-urban information about air quality that could not have come to light through any other means is now available. In our Viz Vols we have an excellent example of the very things that make the AMC such a special organization - volunteers who know that the recreation we all love cannot exist without conservation of our natural world. The AMC looks forward to building on this good work and incorporating Frank's feedback into 2004's Viz Vol program.

Dale called on Dave Cullen who presented the Appie of the Year Award to Doug Christie.

Dale then recognized those who became fifty-year Club members.

Mrs. Margaret B. Christie of West Hartford
 Mr. Gardner W. Moulton of New Haven
 Mrs. Elizabeth D. Isacson of Branford
 Mr. Daniel D. Kinley of Wilton
 Mrs. Seymour Hadaway of Tulsa, OK
 Dr. Lamson Blaney of Mansfield Center

Mrs. Margaret Christie and Mr. Gardner Moulton were in the audience. Dale invited Christa Lubatkin, Co-Chair of the Connecticut Chapter Membership Committee to present them with their 50 year pins.

Dale invited those 25 or more year members to stand and be recognized.

Dale paid recognition to special guests in attendance:

- Alex Kosseff, AMC's Leadership and Volunteer Relations Director who works at headquarters in Boston
- Heidi Reilly, Travel Programs Coordinator who works in Alex's department.

Dale then paid tribute to 13 former Chapter Chairs in attendance. She asked that they stand as she called their names.

J.B. Gardner	1961-62
Gardner Moulton	1963-64
Ledge Clayton	1975-76
Gerry Hardy	1979-80
Sue Hardy	1981-82
Judy Besancon	1983-84
Trish Niece	1987-88
Glenn Parchmann	1989-90
Ken Richardson	1991-92
Mary Dorpalen	1993-94
Dave Cullen	1995-96
Paula Burton	1997-98
Eric Stones	2000-02

Dale invited Jennifer Nadeau to say a few words about the Duren Scholarship. Jennifer read the thank you letter to the Chapter from this year's scholarship recipient.

Dale gave recognition to the ever growing and vibrant Young Members Committee in the Connecticut Chapter. She shared that several members in this group would be joining the 2004 Executive Committee. Dale commented that they were the next generation of leaders in the Club and their participation was welcomed.

Dale announced that The Connecticut Clean Cars Alliance, of which the Chapter is a member, would be holding a press conference on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 1B of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. She invited members to attend and asked that members email her or see her later in the evening if they wanted additional information.

Dale thanked and asked that the 2003 Executive Committee members who had served over the past year to please stand as she called their names. The following members were recognized:

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Secretary	<i>Pat Riggs</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Doug McKain</i> <i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Frank Junga</i> <i>Lisa Spencer</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Ruth Griffin</i> <i>Barry Resnick</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Flatwater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jean Trapani</i> <i>Diane Worden</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i> <i>Christa Lubatkin</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rebecca Ford</i> <i>Carol Parker</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>

Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert</i> <i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Sue Bartley</i> <i>Darron Kannenberg</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Bill Russell</i>
Regional Director	<i>Norm Sims</i>

At 8:25 p.m. Dale called to order the business portion of the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Dale called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 2003 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Dale then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 2003 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

Dale introduced Dave Mihalek, Nominating Committee Chair, who presented the following slate of nominees for the 2004 Executive Committee:

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Gestien</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Jennifer Schwartzberg</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>John LeShane</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
Education Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Fairfield County Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Diane Worden</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Bill Russell</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Rebecca Ford</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>

Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Program Chair	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Darron Kannenberg</i>

A nomination came from the floor, made by Paul Maresca, nominating Al Carilli for Chapter Chair.

Dave read from the Connecticut Chapter By-Laws:

ARTICLE V – Election and Terms of Executive Committee Members: Termination for Cause

Section 2. *A Nominating Committee of five members of the Chapter shall be appointed by the Chapter Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, not later than April 1st of each year. No member of the Executive Committee may serve on this committee.*

The Nominating Committee shall select a nominee for each Chapter Executive Committee position indicated in the Chapter Standing Rules. The names of the nominating committee members and the list of the offices to be filled shall be made known to the membership not later than thirty days prior to the annual meeting. Additional nominations may, with the written consent of each nominee, be made in writing by any fifty members of the Chapter, who shall specify the name of their candidate and the office for which they nominate. Such nominations shall be placed in the hands of the Chair of the Nominating Committee or the Chapter Secretary not later than, or be mailed to either bearing a postmark not later than, twenty days prior to the annual meeting. No person shall be eligible for office unless nominated in accordance with one of the foregoing procedures, except that if any nominee should for any reason become unable or unwilling to serve, nomination may be made from the floor with the consent of the person so nominated. The notice of the annual meeting shall contain a complete list of the elective offices and the names of all then known nominees for each office.

The nomination of Al Carilli for Chapter Chair was denied based on By-Laws Article V, Section 2.

A motion was made for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented.

Two members were opposed to the nomination of Dale Geslien for the 2004 Connecticut AMC Chapter Chair. All other members were in favor. The motion passed.

Dale asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 8.34 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Fred Iannotti then introduced the program speaker, Cindy Ross, who presented "Scraping Heaven: A Family's Journey Along the Continental Divide" - a narrated, music-filled multimedia slide presentation of the Ross Family's incredible five-summer 3,100 mile trek along the crest of the Rocky Mountains.

**Error in script: should have been announced as the 82nd Annual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Riggs, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2003

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$53,701</u>	<u>\$50,820</u>
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	37,431	36,646
Program activities	15,618	21,336
Contributions	2,761	2,284
Reserve funds - sources ⁽¹⁾	3,710	1,309
Local sale of memberships	7,685	6,720
Leadership training	5,955	5,113
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	371	772
Merchandise sales	1,091	1,498
Interest income	<u>572</u>	<u>376</u>
Total revenue collected	\$75,194	\$76,054
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$23,884	\$25,320
Cost of merchandise	497	1,603
Contributions made	3,350	2,145
Reserve funds - uses ⁽¹⁾	7,308	5,315
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,782	2,178
Conservation	340	96
East of the River	2,529	2,464
Education	4,048	7,195
Excursions	669	505
Executive	7,412	11,748
Fairfield County	2,534	2,621
Membership	6,023	6,291
Mountaineering	1,215	1,353
Newsletter	10,907	11,086
Northwest Camp	328	860
Program	23	127
Trails	4,220	4,456
Whitewater	567	894
Young Members	<u>439</u>	<u>651</u>
Total expenditures	\$78,075	\$86,908
Cash at December 31	<u>\$50,820</u>	<u>\$39,966</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 AND 2004

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$50,820</u>	<u>\$39,966</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$24,468	24,091
Program activities	14,454	16,353
Contributions	25	0
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	2,175	11,671
Local sale of memberships	3,230	3,845
Leadership training	4,340	7,140
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	537	1,777
Merchandise sales	226	8
Interest income	<u>263</u>	<u>210</u>
Total revenue collected	<u>\$49,718</u>	<u>\$65,095</u>
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$14,203	\$14,632
Cost of merchandise	463	0
Contributions made	750	0
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	2,580	6,756
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,714	1,928
Conservation	94	0
East of the River	1,817	1,426
Education	4,334	5,206
Excursions	479	448
Executive	7,057	6,179
Fairfield County	2,162	2,002
Membership	4,537	3,483
Mountaineering	741	926
Newsletter	7,333	7,891
Northwest Camp	544	886
Program	81	18
Trails	3,396	1,621
Whitewater	884	1,212
Young Members	<u>25</u>	<u>63</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$53,194</u>	<u>\$54,677</u>
Cash at September 30	<u>\$47,344</u>	<u>\$50,384</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>12/31/02</u>	<u>12/31/03</u>	<u>9/30/04</u>
Reserve funds:			
American Ref-fuel grant	\$200	\$200	\$200
AT Handicap Accessible project	13,938	13,938	13,136
Bicycle racing fund	410	410	0
Bicycle reserve	332	332	0
Duren Memorial Scholarships	1,796	3,022	1,468
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Northwest Camp	4,835	0	0
Ridgerunner Reserve	752	580	580
Stanley Grant Reserve	4,032	3,450	3,450
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,895	1,895
Whitewater	2,435	2,782	3,436
Fall Gathering	0	0	5,186
General fund	<u>19,941</u>	<u>13,093</u>	<u>20,769</u>
Total cash	<u>\$50,820</u>	<u>\$39,966</u>	<u>\$50,384</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

Moe Sylvester-Craig continued to publish the monthly *AMC Cyclist* newsletter in 2004. This newsletter supplements the rides listed in *AMC Outdoors*.

Larry Hayden continued to maintain the Bicycling Web site, listing all rides and weekend trips, providing leader information, and including links to a large number and variety of bicycling related Web sites.

A total of fifty rides were scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Monday Ride Program continued its success with rides scheduled every Monday from April 5th through November 8th. Vic LaBarre & Sonya Gill, Jay Smith, Sandy Lee, Bobbie Froebel, Tom & Nancy Mann, Ledge Clayton, and Carol Marchion served as monthly coordinators for this program.

Rick Merritt, Glenn Orcutt and Jim Mays continued the popular Manchester Tuesday evening ride program, offering rides for three different classes of riders from April into September.

During the months of May and June, Michael Guiliano held Tuesday evening rides in Stratford, and Finlay Ferguson and Barbara Rutigliano held Thursday evening rides in Essex.

Throughout the season, Donna Palumbo organized the "Wednesday Night Pizza Rides" jointly with the Pequot Cyclists.

There were five weekend trips (Cape Cod (2); Hampton Beach, NH; Massachusetts North Shore; and Fairlee, VT).

Four new leaders were qualified during the year: Terry Bludeau, Cory Clark, Al Crittenden and Warren Pierro.

The Committee extends a hearty "Thank you" to all those who led rides and weekend trips during the year. It is our leaders who make bicycling a popular and successful Connecticut Chapter activity.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

<i>Larry Hayden</i>	<i>Roger Hall</i>	<i>Ken Hazen</i>
<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>	<i>Maureen Sylvestre-Craig</i>
		<i>Doug McKain - Co-Chair</i>
		<i>Rick Merritt - Co-Chair</i>

Conservation Committee

The Committee began the year with the goal to bring to the public and members of the Committee the legislative issues of the day and what the public could do to influence them. In January, Joe Palazzi of the Woodlands Coalition spoke to the Committee on a proposed power line upgrade that would affect many towns along the route of the existing utility right-of-way. In February, Karen Burnaska of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment shared the issues re: the endangered water company lands by the sell off by primarily multi-national companies and the legislative bill being presented to remediate it. Chris Phelps spoke to us in March about the Clean Car Initiative before the legislature. We also had a speaker who talked about the State's Farmland Trust effort to protect farmlands from being sold to developers by purchasing the development rights. In April, we took a walk on the Airline Trail to highlight its connection to the East Coast greenway, the proposed trail that will eventually run from Key West, Florida to Maine. Rain dampened the affair, but a few folks still braved the weather. In May we held an organizational meeting to discuss future speakers and subjects. We took the summer off and in September we held a replacement walk for the one that was more or less rained out. In October we have scheduled Shelley green of The Nature Conservancy to speak to us on "Preserving and Protecting Forest and River Systems." In November, Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator for the town of Middletown will speak to us on Electronics Recycling and in December Brooke Suter and Roger Smith will speak to the Committee on the upcoming legislative session and what the environmental battles will be.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

<i>Barbara Bloomberg</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>M. Friel</i>
<i>Joe Grzybowski</i>	<i>Bud Harmon</i>	<i>Frank Junga</i>
<i>Lisa Kovounajian</i>	<i>Sam Saulys</i>	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	<i>Eric Stones</i>	<i>Paul Zakgrian</i>
		<i>John LeShane-Co Chair</i>
		<i>Jim O'Rourke-Co Chair</i>

East of the River Committee

In January we successfully moved our email list to the Yahoo groups. There are now 241 members on our list.

Our mid-week hikes continue to be popular. We began scheduling a second hike on Tuesdays. This hike is shorter and easier than our regular Tuesday hikes. Thursday hikes are more challenging on occasion.

The winter program was a January slide show featuring a slide show of Antarctica by Milt and Wendy Clark. Our spring dinner in Mansfield was well attended. Sue Spring spoke of her AT thru hike.

Many of our EOR hikers are working to ensure a successful Fall Gathering. Because of the October Fall Gathering we decided not to hold our usual fall dinner.

Barry Resnick will retire as EOR co-chair in December. He will continue as Thursday hike coordinator. He's done a great job and we all appreciate his enthusiasm for all EOR activities. Carol Hassett will continue as EOR chair for the next year.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>Linda Cunningham</i>	<i>Nola Currie</i>
<i>Dot Davis</i>	<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Ed Dresner</i>
<i>Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Rob Funk</i>	<i>Ruth Griffin</i>
<i>Frank Junga</i>	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>	<i>Pam Lewis</i>
<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>
<i>Betty Robinson</i>		

Carol Hassett - Co Chair
Barry Resnick - Co Chair



Education Committee

The Education Committee was challenged this past year with achieving several goals proposed by members, the Executive Committee, the Chapter Chair, and AMC staff. Among these goals were making leadership training programs more accessible and uniform throughout the Chapter, offering continued training in outdoor skills and ethics, and encouraging membership involvement in club-wide activities.

Train the Trainer sessions were offered to veteran activity leaders, who in turn conducted eight-hour Leadership Training Sessions for potential leaders that have proven highly successful with many offerings throughout the state. Our Leadership Training School continues to be the flagship program for southern New England outdoor enthusiasts including students, scout leaders, private guides and local day hikers, all graduating with a new or renewed sense of the risks, rewards and responsibilities of being an outdoor leader.

A full service Wilderness First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training course was again offered in the spring under bright and beautiful skies at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. This committee has conducted Leave No Trace Awareness workshops in conjunction with Eastern Mountain Sports, with several programs offered to the general public in Tarrywile Park, Danbury. Plans for future Leave No Trace Trainer courses are being made with Connecticut Scout Councils for 2005. The only two Leave No Trace Master Educators in Connecticut are members of our Chapter's Education Committee.

Many of our members receiving training in the above programs have become active and involved professional volunteers in club-wide activities, specifically, Directors, Staff, and Leaders for the AMC Mountain Leadership School (MLS.) MLS has a fifty year tradition of backcountry experiential learning and is held in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in the spring and summer.

The committee has also been called upon to provide direction and support for unforeseen tragedies that have befallen our members this past year. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and Group Stress Management sessions have been offered to Chapter groups and individuals upon request, and committee members have been trained to handle stress related issues associated with our volunteers and their respective outdoor Chapter sponsored activities.

As Committee Chair, I have a commitment to continue our Leadership Training to include Advanced Qualification Criteria for four season activity leaders, to re-establish our Junior Naturalist program, and to keep my Committee in tune with the needs of the AMC Connecticut Chapter Members.

We need more of our committed volunteer members to recognize that education is the way to ensure continued conservation and preservation of our favorite hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing and climbing destinations in New England.

I would like to thank all Education Committee members and Training School Staff for their efforts and time volunteered in sharing their knowledge with the Connecticut Chapter Members this past year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

<i>Merri Fox</i>	<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>Jeff Hogan</i>
<i>Eric Stones</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>	<i>Bill Russell</i>
		<i>Leo G. Kelly - Chair</i>



Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee coordinates Chapter activities in the areas of day hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and family activities. The Committee continues to encourage and qualify new activity leaders through a program of formal instruction, mentoring, and co-leading for new leaders in coordination with the Education Committee. This year we've qualified 22 new leaders.

The Excursions Committee continues to implement the AMC's Outdoor Leadership Development Committee guidelines for qualifying leaders, posting approved activities, and reporting activities to the AMC. Alternate means of posting activities have been implemented in approved fashion using mailing lists and the website. There are now over 600 members on the short notice email list, and many others on the Thursday-Western-Connecticut and East-of-the-River Midweek lists.

A total of 313 day hikes with more than 4000 participants were offered during the September 2003 to October 2004 time period. There are 101 leaders listed as active and of these, 76 led hikes during this period.

Thanks to all of the activity leaders who contributed their time and effort, and in particular to those individuals who made exceptional contributions. Twenty-six leaders led five or more trips over the course of the year. Special note should be made of the following:

<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	<i>24 hikes</i>
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>20 hikes</i>
<i>Jennifer Nadeau</i>	<i>15 hikes</i>
<i>Darron Kannenberg, Mark Schappert</i>	<i>10 hikes</i>
<i>Tom Ebersold, Rob Munro</i>	<i>9 hikes</i>
<i>David Cullen, Sandy Dunn, Leo Ouillette, David Roberts, Connie Rokicki</i>	<i>8 hikes</i>
<i>Ken Henneberry, Dave & Gerri Mihalek, Mirela Postelnicu, Jerry Stage</i>	<i>7 hikes</i>
<i>George Arthur, Steve Braciak, Art Jann, Lisa Meunier, Bill Novoa, Chuck Sack</i>	<i>6 hikes</i>

For each issue of *AMC Outdoors*, hikes are coordinated by a different AMC member who solicits hikes by mail and/or phone or e-mail. That member then prepares the listings that ultimately appear in *AMC Outdoors*. Their effort helps the committee to meet its goal of offering a

wide variety of hikes each month to AMC members and guests throughout the state. We would like to thank these individuals for their efforts and contributions.

The Monthly Hike Coordinators for 2003 were:

<i>Dave Cronin</i> - Ridgefield	January/February
<i>Chuck Sack</i> - South Windsor	March
<i>Mike Cunningham</i> - Danbury	April
<i>Bill Russell</i> - Essex	May
<i>Judy Brooks</i> - Vernon	June
<i>Dr. Jenifer Nadeau</i> - Coventry	July/August
<i>James Linnane</i> - Hull's Cove, ME	September
<i>Ken Henneberry</i> - Bethel	October
<i>Chuck Sack</i> - South Windsor	November
<i>John Barry</i> - Greenwich	December

Particular acknowledgment is deserved for the indispensable jobs done by:

Dave Cronin who was responsible for the distribution of the hike Liability Release Agreement and our own activity information - the basis for Excursions Committee record keeping.

James Linnane who coordinated distribution of hike solicitation materials to the monthly coordinators both of whom also served as moderators for posting AMC activities via mailing lists and web-site.

David Roberts, Leader Recruiter, who pursued new, flexible means of qualifying leaders in accordance with revised AMC guidelines and coordinated means of posting activities on short notice via the Fairfield County Group mailing list.

Fiona Nicholson for invaluable assistance in setting up and administering email lists, among many other contributions.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

Dave Cronin *Jim Linnane* *Fiona Nicholson*
David Roberts

John Barry - Chair

Fairfield County Group

Fairfield County Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to extend many thanks and their sincerest gratitude to all the Fairfield County volunteers who made 2004 an extremely successful year for our 3000 regional club members.

In 2004 the Fairfield County Group (FCG) continued its tradition of bringing high quality, interesting speakers and slide presentations accompanied by tasty dinners to our Westport and Bethel meetings. Our seven meetings included topics like; the Canadian Arctic, Central and South America, solo sailing around the world, biking Cuba on a folding-bike, the beautiful but harsh life in Antarctica, The biodiversity of Madagascar, hikers journals and their stories on the Appalachian Trail and paddling with a folding kayak.

New to 2004 was Fairfield County's first Summertime Picnic! The big event was held on Saturday, July 24th and although the weather looked threatening at times, the event was well attended by almost 40 club members and guests who participated in planned bike rides, hikes, volleyball, Frisbee and lots of good eating.

In 2002 the FCG became committed to the task of continuously recruiting new members. After all, without new members the Club would have no new volunteers. Through new PR initiatives including radio, print media, posters and the increased distribution of our very own *HIKER* newsletter, the FCG continues to spark new interest in the AMC to other conservation minded folks who enjoy the great outdoors!

The FCG is however not just about new initiatives. It's also about maintaining the successful ongoing programs we've instituted in the past which bring likeminded outdoors people together. In 2004 we doubled the number of members on our E-lists. Presently, our Outings-Ct list has over 600 subscribers. The AMCThursHikes list has over 300 and the Hikernewsletter-amcfcg has over 300 members! Our AMCFairfieldCounty yahoo! group is maintained (only AMC members may join) and moderated by the FCG. This is a place where members share outdoor related information. Our *HIKER* newsletter has evolved over the last several years. It is currently available via 1st Class USP, electronically or at retail stores and libraries in the Fairfield County area. The *HIKER* continues to be an important vehicle for recruiting new members in Fairfield County and as of this year it has become self sustaining through advertising and subscriptions, lightening the financial burden of the CT Chapter.

The following members have contributed greatly to the ongoing success of the Fairfield County Group. We would like to recognize them below and apologize for anyone we have missed.

AMC FCG Executive Committee: FCG Co-chairs: Tom Carruthers and David Roberts, Secretary: Kate Kunze, AMC Membership and *HIKER* Editor: Fiona Nicholson, Treasurer: Al Puches, Bethel Social Coordinator: Dave Cronin, Westport Social Coordinator and Conservationist: Eleanor Sasso, PR Coordinator: Andrew Goodale.

Many helpers get the *HIKER* Newsletter out 5 times a year: Subscriptions (1st class mail paper version and e-version): Fiona Nicholson, Advertising: Andrew Goodale and David Roberts, Organizing of distributors: Andrew Goodale (and Fiona, Peter Lewis), Graphic Artist: Rob Wallace, Columnists: Starre Vartan, Jen Benner, Eric Bengtson, Will Taylor, Ann Spencer, David Bellemare. Distributors: Debbie and John Anderson in Fairfield, Jacob Baker in Bethel / Danbury, Russell Buck in Stratford, Betty Calaway in Fairfield / Bridgeport, Barbara Carruthers in Stamford, Dave Cronin in Ridgefield, Ed Holowinko in Norwalk, Adrian Krawczenick in Greenwich, Tom Krumwiede in Westport, Kate Kunze in Fairfield, Deborah Lewis in New Canaan, Bruce Nichols in Shelton / Huntington, Fiona Nicholson in Bethel / New Fairfield, Nick Pasquarrello in Trumbull / Bridgeport, Steve Pelletier in Norwalk, Liz Pomper in Stamford, Al Puches in Georgetown / Redding, Eleanor Sasso in Wilton, Brian Scharlach in Ridgefield / Redding, Jean Trapani in Westport, Jill Wagner in Ridgefield, Mel Waskow in Darien, Nick Wolf in Danbury / Brewster,

Social Meetings (Westport and Bethel): Several friends and acquaintances of Dave Cronin and Eleanor Sasso, including: Ann and Charles Spencer, Leon Barkman, Paul Garbarino.

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

The year started out with a delay due to the new pool at the Greenwich YWCA not being finished on time, but we held seven pool sessions nonetheless, and it was great fun to be in a fabulous facility with all the latest accommodations!

Ten trips were planned, and a few had to be cancelled or rescheduled due to rain or the threat of downpours. Two events were dated for New Member Day. We resumed coastal trips this year with a paddle on the

Saugatuck River and harbor in Westport. In addition to these trips, a paddle is part of the Fall Gathering in Woodstock, CT.

A March program featured Chris Duff, worldwide explorer and expert sea kayaker, describing his latest expedition which circumnavigated Iceland.

With the cooperation of the City of Hartford and the University of Connecticut Law School Public Interest Law Group, a stream cleanup in Hartford was held in August. This very successful event was rewarded with a letter by a city councilman thanking the AMC for their involvement. Happy neighbors were very glad to have the area look more natural and less like a dumping ground.

Paddle sport shops have a tradition of doing "demo days" where mostly new paddlers demo boats. AMC Flatwater was represented at demo days held by five retailers for a total of fourteen days in all.

An email list was created for announcing paddles so people who give us their email address can remain current on our news.

In May, Barry Gorfain, an AMC leader for seven years, joined Jean Trapani for a televised safety presentation held at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's opening of National Safe Boating week events in Old Lyme. Jean is planning a presentation at the Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting titled "Planning Your Connecticut Inland Flatwater Paddle Trip."

Communications have continued with Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliarists about paddler safety issues. We are still seeking new leaders and planning leadership training. Our current leaders continue to upgrade their skills and we are proud of their capabilities and grateful for their support.

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE

Lisa Spencer

Robert S. White

Jean Trapani -Co-Chair

Diane Worden -Co-Chair



Membership Committee

As of October 1, 2004 there were 9,777 AMC members affiliated with the Connecticut Chapter. This is one of the first years in recent memory that the Chapter membership has dipped below 10,000 although Membership in a Bottle sales continue to be strong and new members are signing up every month. It may be that older members are not renewing their membership. This decline is something that should be studied in the future.

New Member Day was held on Saturday, September 18, 2004. Thanks to heavy rains starting early in the morning and continuing throughout the day, all the planned activities were cancelled with the exception of the evening program held at Northeast Utilities in Berlin. Approximately 64 members shared the traditional spaghetti dinner and a multimedia presentation by Charles Grey of his 2003 trek to the top of the tallest mountain in the Western Hemisphere, Mount Aconcagua, located in the heart of the Andes Mountains.

Two committees set up tables to introduce themselves to new members: East of the River and Flatwater/Coastal Paddling. The committee heading the Fall Gathering also was on hand to discuss that upcoming event. New Member Day continues to be a tradition that brings together old, new, and prospective members of all age groups and backgrounds – unfortunately this year the unusually wet weather kept too many of them at home!

We are grateful to those members who continue to serve on the Membership Committee and assist in activities like Club Day at sporting goods stores; the annual meeting and the monthly new member packet mailings along with New Member Day:

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dave Cullen

Fiona Nicholson

Dot Davis

Carolyn Olsen

Nancy Meitzler

Betty Robinson

Steve Collins - Co-Chair

Mary Ann Kouyoumjian - Co-Chair

Mountaineering Committee

The past year was a successful year for the Mountaineering Committee with many highlights. The winter season treated us well with extended cold temperatures and plenty of ice in Connecticut. The Committee sponsored successful trips both inside Connecticut, and to the White Mountains and the Adirondacks for ice climbing, hiking, and back country skiing. With the coming of spring, the focus turned back to Rock Climbing. Our weekly Wednesday Night Climbs were again popular with average turnouts of a dozen or more climbers. The summer brought a successful trip to the Adirondacks over the Fourth of July with over 40 participants. Several local Saturday climbs were also organized for those who cannot join the evening outings during the week. The fall brought us a newly created October trip to the "Gunks" that was very well received. The trip included camping and a catered dinner at the Rivendell Winery, located just outside of the City of New Paltz, New York. A record number four-dozen climbers participated in this event. The Committee is now looking to planning events for the winter season, as it is quickly approaching.

In the past year the Committee was able to both increase its level of mountaineering knowledge, and disperse some of it back to the AMC climbing community. Mountaineering leaders enrolled in SOLO First Aide training and Avalanche Awareness courses. During the month of January, Mountaineering leaders provided an Ice Climbing instructional day for Committee participants. In the spring, we held both our annual 2-Day Beginner's Class and a Top Rope Set-up Class. The Beginner's Class was a smashing success. We had the largest class to date of 16 participants, and very positive feedback from the students. It was good to see several students return to participate in Committee climbing outings throughout the summer. The Top Rope Set-up Class was open to the entire AMC community, with the intent to increase the knowledge of our participants and provide a training opportunity for potential future Mountaineering Leaders. Six students participated in this opportunity. In the coming fall both a day of Self-Rescue Training and Avalanche Beacon Search Practice Sessions are planned.

Of final note, one of our regular committee participants, Chuck Boyd, was successful in his ascent of Mount Everest in May of this year. Chuck was part of a Connecticut based expedition that received statewide attention and periodic coverage in the *Hartford Courant*. We are glad to see Chuck return to Connecticut safe and sound.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

*Chuck Boyd
Carol Parker*

*Al Carilli
Bill Walters*

Paul Maresca

*Rebecca Ford - Co-Chair
Mark Sondeen - Co-Chair*



Newsletter Committee

During 2004, three issues of *The AMC In Connecticut* newsletter were distributed to approximately 7,400 Connecticut member households. Fred Iannotti has joined the Newsletter Committee as Publisher and does all the creative, layout and design work using Quark software. Previously this work was outsourced, so Fred's hard work and exceptional creativity is also saving the Connecticut Chapter a substantial amount of money. Kristin Sutherland continues to provide copy editing assistance.

As we look forward to 2005 and beyond, the Newsletter Committee is committed to communicating the need for member volunteers and publishing relevant and engaging topics for our members. It is our goal to continue providing a steady flow of information and articles representing all committees. Recruitment of editorial staffers from each committee continues to be critical to this success.

The Newsletter Committee is also exploring offering more information on the web and is seeking an Online Editor to spearhead this initiative. This would allow for real time information availability and provide a solution to the space constraints we experience with the print newsletter.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

*Mike House - Editor
Fred Iannotti - Publisher
Kristin Sutherland - Copy Editor*



Northwest Camp Committee

Northwest Camp is open for business again. We hired an architect for \$400 to draw up plans for enclosed stairs to the loft. This was required by the AMC's safety inspection in July 2002 of all of their facilities. We received \$10,350 from an AMC small facilities grant. \$3,526 was paid from Northwest Camp's reserves. The plans were approved by the town of Salisbury and the AMC, and permits were acquired from Salisbury for \$126.

We were then able to have an AMC crew from the White Mountains help build our project during June and July 2004.

\$5950 was paid to the AMC for labor, generator rental, gas, materials and administrative fees, and we purchased \$7,400 of materials locally from DeVries Building Supply.

We received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) on Aug 10th and enjoyed a small celebration on August 14th.

Many thanks to Paula Burton, Norman Sims, Paul Cuhna, and especially Roger Scholl, for their help, encouragement, money, and work.

We also had spring and fall work parties and five impromptu work parties during the summer to help in construction and satisfying the CO requirements. Unfortunately the New Member Day hike was rained out.

We have submitted a Long Range Plan to the AMC's Facility Committee to fulfill our commitment.

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

<i>Paul Ives</i>	<i>Ken Kostak</i>	<i>Keith Larsen</i>
<i>Trent Link</i>	<i>Roy G. Meadows</i>	<i>Thomas Nichols</i>
<i>Rod Parlee</i>	<i>Al Puches - Treasurer</i>	<i>John Rek</i>
<i>Jim St. Amand</i>		

Chuck Doll - Chair
Dan Greene - Registrar & Caretaker

Program Committee

The Program Committee runs the Chapter's Spring Dinner, Trails Day Potluck Dinner, New Member Day events, and the Annual Meeting, which includes workshops, dinner, a meeting, and always finishes with a very interesting and exciting guest speaker.

For our 2003 Annual Meeting, Education Chair Leo Kelly gave an early morning CPR Course from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, while the rest of our workshops ran from 1:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. We had twelve afternoon workshops. They were as follows: Leadership Training "Train the Trainer" by Leo Kelly, "The Proposed Upper Housantonic Valley National Heritage Area" by Ron Jones, "Sea Kayaking" by Sarah DuBois, Hiking the "Appalachian Trail" by Sue Spring, "Big Wall Climbing at Yosemite" by Ken Klopfer, "Building Structures on the Appalachian Trail" by Birge Dayton, "MMM Creation of a National Scenic Trail" by Ann Colson, "Hiking the Whites With Lamas" by Deborah Frock, "Orienteering - Map & Compass Skills" by Paul Pearson, "The East Coast Greenway" by Karen Votava, "Become a Appalachian Trail Maintainer, Monitor or Guide" by Dave Boone, "Bicycle Maintenance & Repair" by Paul Rock, and "Backcountry Alpine Skiing in British Columbia" by Paul Maresca.

Following the workshops we had a Social Hour from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and a meeting, and then the night was finished off by a presentation by: Cindy Ross "Hiking with Children along the Continental Divide." If anyone would like to read about Cindy Ross's story; you can read the short version in "Appalachia Summer 2003," pages 46-52, or read the full story by reading her book, *Scraping Heaven: A Family's Journey Along the Continental Divide*.

The Spring Dinner was held on April 3, 2004 at the Cheshire Grange. The Roast Beef Dinner was absolutely delicious and there was plenty to eat. I think most people had seconds, there was so much food. Following the dinner, we had George Gay, Executive Director of the Northern Forest Alliance, as our feature speaker. The Northern Forest Alliance is a 44 Member Conservation Organization working for landscape level land protection, sustainable Forestry, and Economic Revitalization throughout the Northern Forest. The Northern Forest consists of 26 Million Acres.

Our Trails Day Potluck Dinner was held on June 5, 2004 at Northeast Utilities. We had plenty of hikes scheduled for the day, but most of the hikes ended up being canceled due to very heavy rain. The Trails Day event included a presentation by Adam Moore, Executive Director of the

Connecticut Forest and Park Association, on "Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Connecticut's Blue-Blazed Trail System."

New Member Day events included lots of hikes scheduled throughout the day. The New Member Day evening program began at 5:00 p.m. with a social hour followed by a spaghetti dinner. After dinner, Charles Gray presented "Climb to the Summit of Aconcagua: the Highest Mountain in the Western Hemisphere." Our new Membership Co-Chair, Steve Collins, found our guest speaker for us.

Our committee members again did an outstanding job coordinating these events, ensuring that the projectors, screens, and PA systems were available for our guest speakers, and providing hors d'oeuvres and beverages, ordering and storing supplies and equipment, and handling the registration and logistics. We all need to thank them for their dedication and unselfishness in ensuring that these events were a success.

On July 4, 2004 one of our long standing Program Committee Members, Richard Bartes, passed away after an illness he'd been fighting over the last several years. Richard was on the AMC Program Committee, along with his wife Luella, for many years and was the backbone of the Program Committee. Richard was a US Air Force Veteran, a professional engineer, a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and President of the Torrington Company Foremen's Club for many years. He also belonged to the Harwinton Historical Society. We all give his wife Luella our Blessings!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

<i>Maria Athanasiou</i>	<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Frank DeFazio</i>
<i>Teresa Domnauer</i>	<i>Lisa Giugno</i>	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>	<i>Wilford Parker</i>
<i>Wilda Wyse</i>		

David Bellemare - Chair

Trails Committee

The Trails Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and its side trails in Connecticut, and the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), the Connecticut DEP, and the National Park Service (NPS). Our accomplishments this year included:

- A chainsaw certification workshop was held for section maintainers. Professional level training is now required for maintainers using chainsaws on AT lands.
- Relocation of the Lion's Head side trail and treadway hardening was the major project for the year. The project involved the installation of over 1500 feet of turnpiking and gravel treadway.
- A red worm composting privy was constructed at Limestone Springs campsite, furthering the Committee's plan to replace all pit privies with this more environmentally responsible means of waste disposal.
- A DR brush mower was purchased with funding from the ATC and LL Bean. Other major equipment obtained this year includes a new chainsaw and a laser traffic counter.
- In response to the increasing presence of bears, particularly in the Bear Mountain area, bear-proof food storage boxes were obtained and placed at the Sages Ravine campsite. Educational efforts were begun to educate hikers on co-existing with bears. This effort was funded by an AMC CPC Special Projects grant.
- A retreat was held in an effort to allow members to prioritize the work of the Committee and discuss matters involving retention, relationships with ATC, AMC, and each other.
- An inventory of cultural resources along the Connecticut section, funded by the ATC and NPS, was completed and accepted. This document will ultimately be used to protect historic sites identified along the trail.
- Many treadway improvements were made, including work of a week long summer crew on the south side of Bear Mountain.

Work parties to improve the trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Dick Blake
Hugh Cobrain
Birge Dayton
Gene Grayson
Ian McCunn
Peg Peterson
Brigitte Rothman
Sue Spring

Hugh Broughel
Ted Cowles
Henry Edmonds
Elaine LaBella
Gary Nasiatka
Bob Poitras
Ann Sherwood

Doug Christie
Walt Daniels
Harlan Jessup
Hillary Lang
Paul Palmer
Walt Rinehart
Norm Sills

Dave Boone - Chair



Webmaster/Technology Committee

2004 Accomplishments

1. The web site was updated many, many times with hikes, trips, etc., as sent to *AMC Outdoors*, plus notices for committee meetings, dinners, the Chapter Annual Meeting, New Member Day and probably more.
2. Late in 2003 we moved the Chapter web site to a new hosting service. The move was accomplished without any "down time." The new service has given us improved security and forwarding email addresses for Chapter officers and committee chairs.
3. We expanded use of free Yahoo!-based email lists to several committees making it easier to send official announcements to committee members.
4. We held several meetings throughout the year to discuss how the Chapter uses the Internet, how to use email lists, and the Activity Database Project.

AMC Activity Database Project

The AMC started a club-wide project to implement a completely new system for publishing activities like hikes, bike rides, etc. at the chapter level as well as inter-chapter trips and major excursions. The new system will use a database to store information entered by trip leaders, which is then reviewed and approved by the chapters. Ultimately the trips will appear on the AMC web site (www.outdoors.org), chapter web sites (ours is www.ct-amc.org) and in *AMC Outdoors*. When it is implemented, this system will change everything about how activities like hikes are approved and published on the web or in print. I am coordinating this project for our chapter.

2005 Goals

1. Help the AMC implement the Activities Database and integrate the web listings into our Chapter web site.
2. Explore means to include short notice hikes on the web site.
3. Host Activity Database training sessions as needed to train people to use the new system.

COMMITTEE WEB PAGE MAINTAINERS

Bicycling	Larry Hayden
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling	Bob White
Mountaineering	Kevin Hutt
Trails	Peg Peterson
Whitewater, Young Members	Mark Schappert

Jim Scheef - Chair



Whitewater Committee

The Whitewater Committee is saddened to report the untimely death of Dean Forostoski, who was involved in a whitewater accident in April 2004. Dean was a novice paddler and a person who loved the serenity of being on the water. He was a person who gave of himself and would have one day become a whitewater leader. Through this accident, the committee has moved forward in presenting a Wilderness First Aid Class, and having Zoar Outdoors train our leaders and paddlers in whitewater rescue. A rescue pin kit was raffled off in memory of Dean, at the Whitewater rescue class.

The Whitewater Committee has brought on two new trip leaders and three new committee members. The committee has also seen a rise in the number of participants on the water.

The annual trip to Canada for new as well as experienced paddlers brought nineteen of them to the Ottawa Kayak School for instruction and fun. New activities have been taken on by the committee, from Zoar Gap

day to the 1st Annual Connecticut AMC Whitewater Picnic and Leaders Appreciation Day.

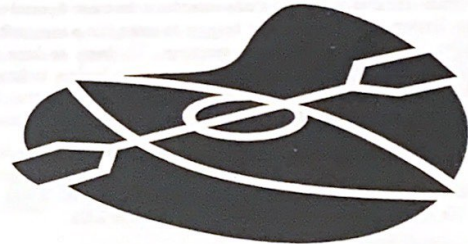
This year we again ran two pool sessions during the winter months to give paddlers a place to come play and learn a new skill in paddling. During the summer we also had two different lake sessions where we taught new paddlers strokes and concepts and how to roll the kayak.

Next year the committee is looking to add a new pool session location and having a memorial paddle in Dean's name. The committee is also looking to upgrade its equipment to help ensure a safe new year for 2005.

WHITewater COMMITTEE

Melanie Bowers	Webb Carnes	Ed Chase
Carem Donofrio	Paul Griese	Jim Kilkenny
Rowan Monington	Jon Montelius	Ian Scott
Barry Smith	Mike Thomas	John Virtue
Dana Warner		

Mark Schappert - Co-Chair
Dennis Wigg - Co-Chair



Young Members Committee

The Young Members group had an enjoyable 2004. Our events included hiking, canoeing, whitewater rafting, backpacking, camping and hiking at Mt. Monadnock, beach walks, moonlight hikes, a summer picnic, and a few socials. Mirela Postelnicu led numerous 10 to 18 mile segment hikes on the AT and weeknight summer trail runs at Wadsworth Falls State Park. Erik Madsen led two weekend backpacking trips to Vermont and a 10-day New Hampshire AMC huts trip. Thanks to new hike leader Katie Jezek for co-leading the huts trip.

Many day and evening hikes were led by Lisa Meunier, Dennis McGlynn, David Bellemare, Mark Schappert, Darron Kannenberg, Tom Ebersold, Jennifer Nadeau, and new hike leaders John Virtue, Ana Ketch and Lori Stethers. These hikes included Bear Mountain, Brace Mountain, Chauncey Peak, Hubbard, Blanchford, Sleeping Giant, Kettletown, Metacomet, Penwood, Seven Falls, Black Rock, White Memorial, Paugussett, Indian Wells, Ragged Mountain, Topsmead, Southford Falls, Zoar, Granville, Bulls Bridge, Lillinonah, Redding Land Trust, Putnum, Bluff Point, Stonington, and others. Thanks to Sue Bartley for the summer picnic at Wadsworth Falls.

David Bellemare, Dennis McGlynn, and Darron Kannenberg attended the train-the-trainer workshop at last year's Chapter Annual Meeting, and in March 2004 we held an AMC leader training class. The in-class training was at Quinnipiac University and the on-the-trail leader and group scenarios took place on a five mile hike at Sleeping Giant. Eleven participants attended and successfully completed the class. Special thanks to Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly for helping to make this a successful and enjoyable learning experience for everyone. We hope to have more participants become trained and registered as hike leaders to help add new hikes and to revisit some of the less traveled trails. Please let us know if you would like to learn how to become an AMC hike leader.

We thank AMC for continued support of young member groups. We thank all of our hike and event leaders for putting together an enjoyable year of events. We thank all the participants for making the events a fun time. We hope you will join us for an exciting year in 2005.

YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

<i>Sue Bartley</i>	<i>Steve Collins</i>	<i>Jamie Howland</i>
<i>Dennis McGlynn</i>	<i>Jennifer Nadeau</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>

David Bellemare - Co-Chair
Darron Kannenberg - Co-Chair



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair or co-chair positions with qualified volunteers. Each Committee member is asked to try to fill a position with a qualified volunteer. As of this report we still need to fill a number of positions. If you are interested or know of a good candidate, please contact Dean Fenton at deanfenton@hotmail.com.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tony Fitzherbert *Bruce LaRoche* *Julie Lindberg*
Eric Stones

Dean Fenton - Chair

Nominations for the 2005 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Secretary	<i>Cathy Hull</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Education Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Diane Worden</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Dennis McGlynn</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Steve Collins</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>open</i>
Program Chair	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Darron Kannenberg</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.

Col. William Cheney of Alfred Station, NY
Mr. Douglas Christie of West Hartford, CT
Ms. Clare D. Conover of Madison, CT
Mrs. Dorothy R. Crouch of Bridgeport, CT
Mr. Gerald Ivers of Southbury, CT

