

# APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Annual Report

November 5, 2005

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  
2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jim Mays</i> <i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Committee Chair	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Doug Atwell</i> <i>Gene Grayson</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Committee Co-Chairs	<i>John Barry</i> <i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers</i> <i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jean Trapani</i> <i>Diane Worden</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Sue Lach</i> <i>Steve Collins</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Brian Keers</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>Doug McKain</i>
Regional Director	<i>Norm Sims</i>

## CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

2005 proved to be another productive year for the Connecticut Chapter. A dedicated and enthusiastic Executive Committee led groups of volunteers to provide educational, conservation related and recreational opportunities for our membership. I'd like to highlight some of the milestones we achieved and activities we provided this year.

I think the Chapter's most significant accomplishment of the year was to establish advanced leadership criteria, for leading hikes at elevations of 4,000 feet or greater, as well as for backpacking. As many of you may realize, education has been the theme of my term as Chapter Chair. Why? Because without education, there is no recreation the AMC way. Education has two main focuses. First, educating our leaders to lead activities safely provides a benefit to our membership by allowing them, as outdoor enthusiasts, to enjoy our natural wonders. Our leaders are well trained in accordance with the Club's Outdoor Leadership Development Committee's Leadership Requirements and Guidelines, and many also have wilderness first aid training. Secondly, by educating our leaders to follow and pass on Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics, we do our part to conserve those natural wonders.

The Education Committee conducted its annual SOLO Wilderness First Aid training, Leadership Training Session and Leadership Training School. New this year was a Leave No Trace Train the Trainer Course, co-sponsored by Eastern Mountain Sports, and taught by Connecticut Chapter LNT Master Educators. The Whitewater Committee expanded their traditional pool sessions and repeated their instructional week at Ottawa Kayak School. They also offered a swiftwater training class and a SOLO wilderness first aid class. The Flatwater Committee also continued their pool sessions and helped organize a "paddlesmart" safety event. Our Mountaineering Committee conducted vertical ice instruction and enlisted the assistance of a professional guide for their beginner climber program. They also held a self-rescue workshop. Our Trails Committee organized maintainer, guide and monitor workshops, and also encouraged chain saw certification. The proof positive results of these efforts were evidenced by 28 new hike leaders and several new paddling and mountaineering leaders this year!

The Excursions Committee coordinated hike leader applications and approved several advanced leaders. They have been instrumental in converting hike listings to the new online database and ensuring that we have a wide variety of activities throughout the state. Our Trails Committee, responsible for the 53 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in

Connecticut, and its side trails, has the reputation for some of the best maintained miles on the AT. They welcomed a new AMC regional Trails Coordinator this year and are coordinating the Chapter Trails Challenge. The Chapter has been challenged by the Club to take an additional 5 miles of trail to maintain. The Trails Committee also represented the Chapter at the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Johnson City, Tennessee, last July. Closer to home, the Trails Committee installed bear-proof lockers at campgrounds along the AT.

The Executive Committee got their jump start on the year with a membership themed December retreat which led to their March retreat. The March retreat's significant accomplishment was establishing a chapter activity financial policy. Presentations were also made by the Education, Flatwater and Trails Committees.

Another milestone for the Chapter this year was the online activities database. All activities are being entered into the club-wide database which can be queried by all. Efforts have been made to facilitate the manner in which leaders submit their activities. The membership benefits by the decreased lead time for publishing activities. Members can find out what's happening in a specific area, on a specific date, for activities happening throughout the entire Club. The Bicycling Committee started a short notice list this year, with a shorter lead time, in order to offer more rides to members.

The Membership Committee reviewed and revised the new member packet which is sent out to new members each month. They also represented the Chapter at various vendors and club/demo days throughout the year. They organized activities throughout the state, including a special evening presentation for New Member Day, which was the highlight of their year.

Our Conservation Committee received a Special Projects Grant from the Club to purchase and prepare a panel display board which they have brought to several Chapter activities. Our Newsletter Committee introduced an online newsletter to bring more in-depth articles which can be expanded upon from the hardcopy issue. In continuing our efforts to communicate to the membership, a new Connecticut Chapter Announcement Yahoo Group was established to remind members of upcoming Chapter events.

The Chapter had many volunteers to represent the Club at the Banff Mountain Film Festival, which was held at several locations throughout the state. The East of the River Committee and the Fairfield County

Group (FCG) continued their popular social events and the FCG also co-sponsored "5 Days of Sustainable Trail Education and Awareness in Fairfield County." The Young Members, Whitewater and FCG held picnics, a new tradition in the making.

NW Camp continued its efforts to offer its facilities to the membership with an educational component. Re-vegetation areas have been established, along with an informational kiosk. Efforts are underway to incorporate Chapter activities at the Club destination.

The Chapter continued its practice of granting two Teen Wilderness Adventure Scholarships to outdoors oriented and financially challenged teens. Your generosity is greatly appreciated to make these scholarships possible.

Our Program Committee completed the successful migration of our annual meeting to a more cost effective location at Northeast Utilities, no easy task! We offer our sincere thanks to Northeast Utilities for their generosity in providing us the use of their facility in which to hold, now three, of our Chapter events.

Change is not easy, but it is always good. As I conclude my third year as Chapter Chair, I offer my thanks to a wonderful Executive Committee, and especially the support team of my Vice Chair Beth Critton; Secretary, Carol Hassett; Treasurer, Al Puchess; and Member At Large, Doug McKain. I couldn't have done it without them.

I have enjoyed serving the Connecticut Chapter as Chapter Chair, and was very honored and humbled to receive the club's 2005 Distinguished Service Award for my additional work on the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee, Mountain Leadership School and as a Master Educator of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. It has been a rewarding experience and I encourage all of you to get more involved with your Chapter. I feel very comfortable passing the Chapter Chair red hat to Beth Critton, who shares my enthusiasm for the outdoors and the Club.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2006.

-Dale Geslien  
Connecticut Chapter Chair

#### CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 2004

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 6, 2004, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Dave Bellemare, Program Committee Chair, introduced Chapter Chair Dale Geslien.

Dale welcomed everyone attending the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. She thanked Dave and the Program Committee for putting together a wonderful program of events and asked them to stand for a round of applause.

Dale shared an experience she had that led to her having the time to prepare such a lengthy report this year. She took Leave no Trace Master Educator training during the summer, backpacking on the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts. While on Race Mountain she tore her ACL. She scheduled her surgery for September 20 so she would still be able to lead her New Member Day hike on September 18. The hike was unfortunately rained out but her surgery took place as scheduled. Her surgeon prescribed a knee bending machine, which she had to use 6 hours a day while in a reclining position. Making good use of her time, Dale set herself up in front of her computer. Even though she had a lot of time to prepare her report she attributed its length to all the wonderful things our Chapter's committees have been doing for our membership.

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 said she'd been privileged to work with another outstanding Executive Committee in 2004. The committee started its term by attending a December 2003 retreat featuring guest speaker Faith Salter, AMC's Volunteer Relations Coordinator. The theme was "Conservation Policy and Procedures and How You Can Make a Difference."

She highlighted the accomplishments of the Chapter's committees:

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

The Education Committee continued its tradition of providing instruction at the annual Leadership Training School last November and with CPR and SOLO Wilderness First Aid training in April. Two Train the Trainer workshops enabled new instructors to conduct several leadership training sessions throughout the year. Two Leave No Trace workshops were also held. Members of the committee 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 New Hampshire Chapter's Advanced Winter Wilderness Travel workshop. The Committee is working with the Excursions Committee to put the final touches on its 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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. Dale reminded the audience to keep their distance if they're fortunate enough to experience a wildlife sighting.

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

All six of our activity committees educated 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 enabled our membership and the community at large to partake in safe and enjoyable recreational activities. Dale paraphrased our mission adding 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 scholarships this year to financially challenged teens enabling them 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 2004 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 welcome to Connecticut several hundred guests from the eleven other AMC chapters. They did an incredible job finding Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, Connecticut, scheduling meetings, and offering a variety of activities and entertainment for the weekend.

Dale recognized 2004 Executive Committee members who were voted in to fill vacancies by the Executive Committee after the 2003 election. They were 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.

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. Dale asked the audience to join her in congratulating them in their achievements. She said the Connecticut Chapter has a great reputation of volunteerism within the AMC. She invited everyone to join in and participate in the Chapter in some way. There are plenty of opportunities, large and small, to fit everyone's needs and schedules. She told the audience to see her or any one of our committee chairs for ideas on how they could help the Chapter grow. She offered best wishes for a happy and healthy 2005.

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

<i>Richard Bartes</i>	<i>Anne Lessels</i>
<i>Stuart D. Burt</i>	<i>Bob Meyer</i>
<i>Dean Forostoski</i>	<i>Irving Mills</i>
<i>Patricia Klunk</i>	<i>Edward B. Rowe Jr.</i>

Dale asked if anyone knew of any other members who had passed away and asked that their names be called out so that they may also be honored. Someone called out the name of Dick Ploski.

Dale called upon Beth Bryan Critton to announce the recipients of 2004 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards.

<i>George Arthur</i>	<i>Ben Hager</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>
<i>John Barry</i>	<i>Roger Hall</i>	<i>Ted O'Neill</i>
<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	<i>Larry Hayden</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>
<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Ken Hazen</i>	<i>Leo Ouillette</i>
<i>Terry Bludeau</i>	<i>Ray Helie</i>	<i>Carol Parker</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Ken Henneberry</i>	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
<i>Brian Booth</i>	<i>John Hicks</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>Melanie Bowers</i>	<i>Mike House</i>	<i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
<i>Steve Braciak</i>	<i>Jamie Howland</i>	<i>Al Puches</i>
<i>Judy Brooks</i>	<i>Cathy Hull</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
<i>Hugh Broughel</i>	<i>Kevin Hutt</i>	<i>Walt Rinehart</i>
<i>Al Carilli</i>	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>
<i>Jo Ann Carlson</i>	<i>Wally Inkpen</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Gary Carlson</i>	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Dick Roethlein</i>
<i>Tom Carruthers</i>	<i>Art Jann</i>	<i>Connie Rokicki</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>Bruce Ross</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Frank Junga</i>	<i>Richard Rouse</i>
<i>Steve Collins</i>	<i>Darron Kannenberg</i>	<i>Bill Russell</i>
<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>	<i>Jonathan Katz</i>	<i>Barbara Rutigliano</i>
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Brian Keers</i>	<i>Chuck Sack</i>
<i>David Cullen</i>	<i>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>MaryAnn Kouyoumjian</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
<i>Mike Cunningham</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Kate Kunze</i>	<i>Ian Scott</i>
<i>Dot Davis</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Bill Shaffer</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>John LeShane</i>	<i>Jack Shea</i>
<i>Frank Defazio</i>	<i>James Linnane</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Chuck Doll</i>	<i>Jim Liptack</i>	<i>Barry Smith</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Erik Madsen</i>	

<i>Carmen Donofrio</i>	<i>Carol Marchion</i>	<i>Jay Smith</i>
<i>Ed Dresner</i>	<i>Paul Maresca</i>	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
<i>Sandy Dunn</i>	<i>John Marren</i>	<i>Jim St. Amand</i>
<i>Tom Ebersold</i>	<i>Jim Mays</i>	<i>Jerry Stage</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Dennis McGlynn</i>	<i>Moe Sylvestre-Craig</i>
<i>Finlay Ferguson</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
<i>Rebecca Ford</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>	<i>John Virtue</i>
<i>Mary Friel</i>	<i>Rick Merritt</i>	<i>Russ Waldie</i>
<i>Paul Garbarino</i>	<i>Lisa Meunier</i>	<i>Susan Wallen</i>
<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>Dave Mihalek</i>	<i>Bill Walters</i>
<i>Andrew Goodale</i>	<i>Geri Mihalek</i>	<i>Dana Warner</i>
<i>Danny Greene</i>	<i>Rob Munro</i>	<i>Robert S. White</i>
<i>Paul Griese</i>	<i>Jenifer Nadeau</i>	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
<i>Marty Griffin</i>	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>	<i>Diane Worden</i>
<i>Michael Guiliano</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>	

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

Pychowska Award  
(96 Hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>John Marren</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Walt Rinehart</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Bill Shaffer</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>

Hart Award  
(224 Hours Trails Stewardship)

*Walt Daniels*

Trails Committee Cumulative Hours Award:

<i>Denise Badger, Kim Herkimer, Sue Spring</i>	
<i>John Steinis, Colin Wilson, Sean Wilson</i>	<i>(12 hours)</i>
<i>Abigael Boone, Dave Duffner</i>	<i>(50 hours)</i>
<i>John Marren</i>	<i>(500 hours)</i>
<i>Bob Poitras, Russ Waddie</i>	<i>(1,000 hours)</i>

Dale called on Dave Cullen who presented the Appie of the Year Award to Luella Bartes and posthumously to Richard Bartes.

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

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

Clare Conover and Doug Christie were in the audience. Dale called upon Steve Collins, Membership Committee Co-Chair, who presented 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:

- Kevin Breunig, AMC's Director of Communications
- Henry Schreiber, Vice Chair of the New York/North Jersey Chapter

Dale then paid tribute to 11 former Chapter Chairs in attendance. She asked that they stand as she called their names.

Gardner Moulton	1963-64
Bill Schmidt	1973-74
Ledge Clayton	1975-76
Judy Besancon	1983-84
Anne Bailey	1985-86
Trish Niece	1987-88
Glenn Parchmann	1989-90
Mary Dorpalen	1993-94
Dave Cullen	1995-96
Paula Burton	1997-98
Eric Stones	2000-02

Dale invited Dick Don to say a few words about the Duren Scholarship. Dick read the thank you letters to the Chapter from this year's scholarship recipients.

Dale thanked and asked that the 2004 Executive Committee members who had served over the past year to please stand as she called their names. The following members were recognized:

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

Dale invited Kevin Breunig, AMC's Director of Communications, to the podium to speak about the White Mountain National Forest.

At 8:10 p.m. Dale called to order the business portion of the 83<sup>rd</sup> 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 2004 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Dale then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 2004 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next order of business was the proposed revision of the bylaws. Dale said if there were no objections, the revision would be considered by

paragraphs. Each article would be considered and discussed separately at which time it could be amended. One vote would be taken at the end.

There were no objections and Dale asked the Bylaws Chairman, Doug McKain, to proceed.

The Bylaws Chair made a motion to adopt the following revision of the bylaws. (A second motion was not required as the motion comes from a committee).

ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION Section 1: Add the following to the composition of the Executive Committee: "the Newsletter Editor, the AMC Outdoors Liaison, the Chapter Web Master, the Chair of the Northwest Camp Committee."

Dale asked if there was any discussion of the proposed article IV, section 1.

The Bylaws Chair read:

ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION Section 2: In the third sentence, change from, "...shall elect one of their number to perform..." to "...shall elect one of their members to perform..."

Dale asked if there was any discussion of the proposed article IV, section 2.

The Bylaws Chair read:

ARTICLE V – ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TERMINATION FOR CAUSE Section 1: In the sixth sentence, "The Chapter Chair shall not be eligible to be nominated and elected for more than two consecutive terms of one year each." Add "except that in the absence of someone to be nominated and elected to the Chapter Chair position, a seated Chapter Chair may be nominated and elected for up to two additional consecutive one-year terms."



Dale asked if there was any discussion of the proposed ARTICLE V, section 1. After some discussion, this section was changed to the following:

MEMBERS: TERMINATION FOR CAUSE Section 1: In the sixth sentence, "The Chapter Chair shall not be eligible to be nominated and elected for more than two consecutive terms of one year each." Add, "except that in the absence of someone to be nominated and elected to the Chapter Chair position, a seated Chapter Chair may be nominated and elected for up to one additional consecutive one-year term."

The Bylaw Chair read:

ARTICLE V – ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TERMINATION FOR CAUSE Section 2: In the second paragraph, second sentence, change the date that the names of the Nominating Committee members and list of offices to be filled shall be made known to the membership from June 1st to July 1st.

Dale asked if there was any discussion of the proposed ARTICLE V, Section 2, second paragraph, second sentence.

The Bylaws Chair read:

ARTICLE V – ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TERMINATION FOR CAUSE Section 2: In the second paragraph, sixth sentence, "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." Insert, "or for any Executive Committee positions currently vacant and without a nominee" after "...unwilling to serve."

Dale asked if there was any discussion of proposed article V, section 2, second paragraph, sixth sentence.

Dale repeated the question is on the adoption of the proposed revision of the bylaws. She asked if the audience was ready for the question. She asked all in favor of the adoption of the proposed revision to

acknowledge by saying aye. She asked if anyone was opposed and thanked the audience. The revision was adopted.

Dale asked Dean Fenton, Nominating Committee Chair, to present the 2005 slate of nominees. She asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

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

Dale asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any vacant Executive Committee positions. Three were received: Jim Mays, Bicycling, Brian Keers, Mountaineering, and Chip Tuthill, Northwest Camp.

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

Dale asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 8:55 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Dave Bellemare then introduced the program speaker, Robert Anderson, who presented "Seven Summits Solo," a multimedia presentation on climbing the tallest mountain on all seven continents solo.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hull,  
Secretary

Note: Shortly after the 2004 Annual Meeting, it was determined that the nomination and election for the Northwest Camp Committee Chair was null and void because it was not in compliance with the Northwest Camp bylaws.

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2004

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Cash at January 1	\$50,820	\$39,966
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	36,646	35,777
Program activities	21,336	22,399
Contributions	2,284	2,149
Reserve funds – sources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,309	24,783
Local sale of memberships	6,720	3,970
Leadership training	5,113	8,010
Subscriptions/Advertising to <i>THE HIKER</i>	772	1,777
Merchandise sales	1,498	912
Interest income	376	295
Total revenue collected	\$76,054	\$100,072
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$25,320	\$27,642
Cost of merchandise	1,603	420
Contributions made	2,145	0
Reserve funds – uses <sup>(1)</sup>	5,315	24,766
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	2,178	1,928
Conservation	96	0
East of the River	2,464	1,446
Education	7,195	7,017
Excursions	505	448
Executive	11,748	9,836
Fairfield County	2,621	2,569
Flatwater	-	40
Membership	6,291	2,073
Mountaineering	1,353	926
Newsletter	11,086	10,335
Northwest Camp	860	999
Program	127	31
Trails	4,456	4,514
Whitewater	894	1,266
Young Members	651	438
Total expenditures	\$86,908	\$96,674
Cash at December 31	\$39,966	\$43,364

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2004 AND 2005

	2004	2005
Cash at January 1	<u>\$39,966</u>	<u>\$43,364</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$24,091	22,472
Program activities	16,353	16,495
Reserve funds - sources <sup>(1)</sup>	11,671	110
Local sale of memberships	3,845	2,825
Leadership training	7,140	6,680
Subscriptions/Advertising to <i>THE HIKER</i>	1,777	2,071
Contributions	0	100
Merchandise sales	8	8
Interest income	<u>210</u>	<u>430</u>
Total revenue collected	\$65,095	\$51,191
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$14,632	\$14,122
Reserve funds - uses <sup>(1)</sup>	6,756	3,083
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,928	1,480
Conservation	0	53
East of the River	1,426	1,998
Education	5,206	4,784
Excursions	448	172
Executive	6,179	4,856
Fairfield County	2,002	1,693
Membership	3,483	3,466
Mountaineering	926	1,460
Newsletter	7,891	7,820
Northwest Camp	886	140
Program	18	0
Trails	1,621	3,426
Whitewater	1,212	895
Young Members	<u>63</u>	<u>0</u>
Total expenditures	\$54,677	\$49,448
Cash at September 30	<u>\$50,384</u>	<u>\$45,107</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT  
RESERVE FUNDS

<sup>(1)</sup> 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:

	12/31/03	12/31/04	9/30/05
Reserve funds:			
American Ref-fuel grant	\$200	\$200	\$0
AT Handicap Accessible project	13,938	13,136	12,869
Duren Memorial Scholarships	3,022	2,429	1,995
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	3,450	3,450	3,450
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,895	1,895
Whitewater reserve	2,782	3,981	3,518
Fall 2004 Gathering	0	952	0
General fund	<u>14,415</u>	<u>17,057</u>	<u>21,116</u>
Total cash	<u>\$39,966</u>	<u>\$43,364</u>	<u>\$45,107</u>

*Al Puches - Treasurer*

---

## Bicycling Committee

---

Terry Pappagallo assumed the editorial responsibilities of our monthly *AMC CYCLIST* newsletter. The newsletter supplements the rides listed in *AMC Outdoors* giving us more time to advertise bike rides.

Tom Ebersold instituted a short notice ride email list used for announcing rides that are planned too late for our newsletter. Leaders can submit rides with just a few days notice and an e-mail is sent to members who have opted to use this service.

Warren Pierro took over this year as Ride Coordinator. He maintains our website, listing all rides and weekend trips and providing an updated list of all bike leaders.

Doug McKain and Carol Marchion oversaw the Monday day ride program this year with great success scheduling a ride every Monday from April through November 14. Vic LaBarre and Sonya Gill, Ledge Clayton, Jay Smith, Sandy Lee, Bobbe Froebel, Tom and Nancy Mann, and Carol Marchion served as monthly ride coordinators.

Rick Merritt, Jim Mays and Glenn Orcutt continued the popular Tuesday night rides in Manchester with three different classes of rides ranging from 15 to 40 miles and averaging 12 to 22 MPH. Turnout this year was 25 to 40 riders each night during the season, which ran from April through September.

Barbara Rutigliano and Finlay Ferguson successfully continued the Thursday night rides in Essex, with many riders doing varying rides of 20 to 30 miles. They had a great turnout for dinner after the rides at a local pizza pub. The rides ran from May through August by request of the riders.

There were weekend trips to Washington, D.C., led by Larry Haden and Moe Sylvestre-Craig; Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, led by Rick Merritt and Wally Inkpen; Fairlee, Vermont, led by Doug McKain and Ruth Penfield; and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, led by Terry Bludeau and Susan Wallen.

Over 70 weekend rides were offered on Saturday and Sunday from April to November in various Connecticut locations. Hopefully next year we can encourage more rides from our bike leaders.

The Committee would like to thank all those who led rides and weekend trips this year. It is these people who make our biking year a success.

## BICYCLING COMMITTEE

*Terry Bludeau*      *Tom Ebersold*      *Ken Hazen*  
*Doug McKain*      *Terry Pappagallo*      *Warren Pierro*

*Jim Mays* – Co-Chair  
*Rick Merritt* – Co-Chair



---

## Conservation Committee

---

The Conservation Committee seeks to inform and engage AMC members on important and timely issues affecting the outdoors and the environment with a special emphasis on Connecticut and the Northeast. This past year we have sponsored numerous forums offering members and the general public a chance to learn first hand how they can help protect the environment by speaking out as active citizens.

The committee worked especially hard to support AMC Campaigns to influence the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan, the Green Mountain National Forest Management Plan and the Federal Highlands Act implementation. Each of these initiatives is critical to protecting and enhancing northeastern wild lands and open spaces.

We were also active supporting important Connecticut based legislative efforts to promote open space preservation, reduce air pollution, increase recycling and combat global warming. In each case we sponsored

speakers on these issues, attended legislative hearings and environmental rallies in support of these progressive environmental initiatives.

In addition to our advocacy efforts we have sponsored two conservation hikes and two trail clean-ups as educational and conservation projects. Hikes at Mount Higby and Skiff Mountain highlighted our support of the Mattabesett-Metacomet National Scenic Trail and Highlands Act initiatives respectively. Our three cleanups at Bulls Bridge in Kent, Hammonasset Beach and Bigelow Hollow offer AMC members a chance to contribute to cleaner trails and learn about the negative impacts some people continue to inflict upon the environment (see our page on www.ct-amc.org for details).

A primary goal of our committee is to involve as many AMC members as possible in our conservation education, advocacy and clean-up projects. We have made it a priority to participate in each of the Chapters four general annual meetings, created a new interactive display, upgraded our webpage, and sought out grants in support of our activities. We kept a commitment to informing Connecticut AMC members through our monthly meetings, active tabling at AMC events, press releases and regular contributions to the Chapter Newsletter.

#### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

<i>Austin Carey</i>	<i>John Crist</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
<i>Mindy Gates</i>	<i>Cathy Hull</i>	<i>Frank Junga</i>
<i>John LeShane</i>	<i>Andrew May</i>	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>
<i>Keith Santeler</i>	<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	

*Jim O'Rourke-Chair*




---

## East of the River Committee

---

Our fall hikes were particularly well attended with up to forty hikers on some occasions. In October the Connecticut Chapter hosted the Fall Gathering at Camp Woodstock in the eastern part of the state. This important event was a huge success thanks to the efforts of many East of the River volunteers, in particular the co-chairs of the event, Dot Davis and Carolyn Olsen.

In the winter we had numerous hikes in picturesque winter scenarios with a few on snow shoes. Our winter social featured EOR's Pam Lewis who gave a reading from her recently published novel. In the spring, our many hikes included Mt Greylock, and the northern Connecticut/southern Massachusetts sections of the AT. Our spring dinner was a great success thanks to our social committee led by Dick Don. Carol Markowitz, nature photographer and world traveler, gave an interesting presentation and slide show on her recent trip to New Zealand.

In a rather warm and muggy summer we had twenty-nine great hikes including Bigelow Hollow, Voluntown, Chatfield Trail, Sleeping Giant, and parts of the AT. The EOR group was well represented with three students attending the Chapter's Leadership Training Session July 10.

Three issues of the EOR newsletter, edited by Betty Robinson, were sent to over 900 recipients including all new members living in the EOR area. Bulk mail and email are utilized where possible to control costs.

#### 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>Fay Dresner</i>
<i>Ed Dresner</i>	<i>Rob Funk</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
<i>Ruth Griffin</i>	<i>Frank Junga</i>	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>
<i>Pam Lewis</i>	<i>Nancy Meitzler</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>	

*Doug Atwell – Co-Chair*  
*Gene Grayson – Co-Chair*

---

## Education Committee

---

The Education Committee has continued to work toward achieving the goals outlined in past reports. The final plan for Advanced Hike Leader Qualification has been adopted and many leaders are now classified as four season day and backpacking trip leaders. Training opportunities have included our traditional Leadership Training School held in the fall. This school has become the model for Leadership Training throughout the Club, and is attended by many AMC members outside of the Connecticut Chapter, as well as our own members wishing to become activity leaders.

Many of our members receiving training in the above program have become active and involved professional volunteers in Club-wide activities. These activities include staff and instructional positions with the AMC Mountain Leadership School and involvement with the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee.

The Education Committee has been called upon to provide informational workshops for the Leadership Training Institute at the AMC Highland Center and has had the opportunity to provide experiential training "on the trail" in the areas of Wilderness First Aid and Leave No Trace Principles and Outdoor Ethics.

The committee has also been called upon by groups (i.e. Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America, Eastern Mountain Sports) to offer their guidance and training in all fields relating to the safe and wise use of our natural resources.

It is with great pride that we end this year knowing that because of our dedicated Education Committee staff, many of our Chapter members are traveling the backcountry with a new respect for the risks, rewards and responsibilities associated with the AMC mission of protection, enjoyment and wise use of the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region.

As chairperson for the Connecticut Chapter AMC Education Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to invite members to participate in helping to achieve our educational goals for the upcoming year. This can be accomplished by coming on board as committee members, creating local working groups or offering your services and expertise in instructional workshops.

Finally with this being my last year as Chairperson I leave with you this thought:

Leadership is like life—you never know when or where it will come to an end. And in the end, the only thing you leave behind is your legacy. If we learn anything about life and leadership it's that we don't realize how important someone or something is until it's gone. Don't make that mistake in your life with people you love and care about, and don't make that mistake when you are given the opportunity to lead. Remember: Leadership in the beginning begets leadership in the end. If you establish strong foundational skills as an individual, and within your organization, you establish a legacy of leadership that thrives and grows long after you depart. And in the end you reap what you sow. As the Dalai Lama said, "Live a good and honorable life, so that when you get older, you can look back and enjoy it for a second time."

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dean Fenton  
Jeff Hogan

Merri Fox

Dale Geslien

Leo G. Kelly – Chair



---

## Excursions Committee

---

The Excursions Committee has had a very busy and productive year.

Our hike leaders led a large number of hikes in Connecticut and elsewhere throughout the year, including hikes sponsored by the East of the River, Western Connecticut Thursday Hiking, and Young Members groups.

In conjunction with the Education Committee we organized two Leadership Training events, which were both well attended. Twenty-two people attended Leadership Training School in Litchfield in November last year and an additional twenty people attended a Leadership Training Session at Sleeping Giant State Park in July. Mainly as a result of these events, as of September 30 we have approved twenty-eight new Day Hike Leaders, a significant increase on the total of twenty-two new leaders in the prior year. In addition, two of our leaders attended the AMC's Mountain Leadership School in New Hampshire and many leaders attended Wilderness First Aid courses during the year.

Together with the Education Committee, we established new qualification requirements for hike leaders wishing to lead backpacking hikes, hikes at elevations over 4,000 feet, and high elevation winter hikes. A number of hike leaders have already been approved in these new advanced leader categories.

We have streamlined our procedures for the submission, approval and advertising of hikes. Working closely with our Chapter Webmaster, and with AMC staff in Boston, we have integrated our efforts fully with the AMC's new activity listing system. As a result, all of our hikes and other trips are now listed on the AMC's website and available on the Club's search facility. The Excursions Committees pages on the Connecticut Chapter's website are now linked to the Club's activity listing system to allow us to provide a constantly updated list of our hikes on our Chapter website. By linking this new system with our existing Yahoo! based email lists we now provide our hikers with regular email notifications of our hikes, including a recently introduced Weekly Upcoming Hikes List.

Our "Short Notice" email list has continued to grow and now has almost 800 names on it. Hikers are also receiving emailed hike notifications through the East of the River, Western Thursday Hiking, and Young Members email lists. These lists significantly enhance our publication of hikes in *AMC Outdoors* and in *The HIKER*.

We have also continued to develop our Hike Leaders Yahoo! list, which now has the email addresses of 170 Hike Leaders. This allows us to communicate with our leaders on a regular basis.

The Excursions Committee Co-Chairs would like to thank all of the hike leaders, the Excursions Committee members, Jim Scheef, our Webmaster, and Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly of the Education Committee, for all of the work they have put in this year.

### EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

*Dave Cronin*

*Carol Hassett*

*Fiona Nicholson*

*John Barry - Co-Chair*

*David Roberts - Co-Chair*



---

## Fairfield County Group

---

The Fairfield County Group (FCG) enjoyed a very successful year in fulfilling its aim of developing the club in southwestern Connecticut through speaker meetings, an annual picnic, email groups and our newsletter *The HIKER*.

Our speaker meeting program continued with five meetings in Westport and two in Bethel. Once again we managed to bring quality speakers to our meetings and to attract good sized audiences. Our Westport meetings covered subjects ranging from Backwoods Fishing, Sustainable Trails, Adventure Writing, Mountaineering and Bhutan. Our January meeting featuring Daryl Hawk's recent trip to Bhutan drew a record crowd of 140

people. Our Bethel meetings were also well attended with presentations on Hiking the AT and on Climbing Kilimanjaro.

Our second Annual Hike, Bike and BBQ Picnic took place at Putnam Park in Redding with four hikes and bike rides in the morning returning to the park for a BBQ lunch, followed by games and a letterboxing hike.

Our newsletter *The HIKER* continues to grow. We have expanded from a single sheet only a few years ago, to a four page format and more recently to our new eight page newsletter on our signature green paper. Our print run now runs to 2,000 copies which are distributed by a force of about 25 volunteers to numerous locations throughout our region. Our advertisers have allowed us to cover a significant portion of our printing costs and we thank them for their support. *The HIKER* is the only document distributed by the AMC to these locations and has been a key factor in attracting new members to the club. In addition *The HIKER* is available by mail through paid subscription and in electronic form to our *HIKER* email distribution list and on the Chapter website.

We have continued to add members to our FCG Yahoo! discussion group and to develop other ways of informing members in the area of our activities. We are listing all FCG events on the AMC's activity listing system, on the Club and Chapter websites, in the Chapter newsletter and we recently established a new section in the *AMC Outdoors* magazine to highlight our events. We have also worked to develop our contacts in the local media and to produce press releases for our events.

FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of the many volunteers who contributed to the group's success.

#### FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE

<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Paul Garborino</i>	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
<i>Al Puches</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>	
		<i>Tom Carruthers - Co-Chair</i>
		<i>David Roberts - Co-Chair</i>

## Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

This was a successful year with many events of various types held all over the state for flatwater paddlers. I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation and admiration for the leaders and committee members who managed to volunteer in the midst of numerous other pressing commitments.

Pool sessions were held again at the Greenwich YWCA. Ten were planned and only one was cancelled due to inclement weather. We very much appreciate the sincere cooperation and professional expertise of Kathleen Walsh, their Aquatics Director. Michele Sorensen, an American Canoe Association certified kayak instructor, donated her time again for the fourth year in a row, and many other skilled paddlers assisted newcomers learning to roll, self-rescue, and practice strokes such as bracing.

Jean Trapani helped plan a Paddle Smart Safety Event for March 6 with the cooperation and sponsorship of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Boating Division, the Coast Guard, and ConnYak (Connecticut sea kayaking club). Held at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, the Chapter was also represented by whitewater paddlers, including Dennis Wigg, and they demonstrated rolls and other rodeo moves. It is critically important for inland flatwater paddlers to learn more about the ocean if they plan on paddling in Long Island Sound. During the Connecticut Chapter retreat the following weekend, Jean repeated the safety message with a presentation comparing a recreational kayak with a sea kayak and gear.

Hands-on experience was scheduled with Adam Bolonsky's Level 2: To the Ocean program, a combination of on land and on water instruction for all day on June 25. Very unfortunately, Mr. Bolonsky cancelled his involvement at the last minute.

In April, May, June and July, Flatwater was represented at demo days held by 5 retailers for a total of ten days in all.

After the last annual report was written in 2004, a program was held with Gail Ferris speaking about her Greenland Adventures, plus three paddle sports shops and/or instructors discussing cold water paddling. Another speaker of paddling adventure is planned for November 2005. Kirt Mayland is scheduled to talk about Connecticut's water laws at the 2005 Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting.



New leader Mike Paoletto took responsibility for managing some pool sessions. Robert S. White led a successful bird watching trip and Tom Ebersold became our newest trip leader. Jenifer Nadeau and Bruce Ross continued their substantial contributions to our trip lineup for a total of 16 flatwater inland trips, with 2 more planned at the time of this writing, spanning May through October. We're having a lot of fun!

#### FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE

*Lisa Spencer*

*Robert S. White*

*Jean Trapani - Co-Chair*  
*Diane Worden - Co-Chair*



---

## Membership Committee

---

As of October 15, 2005 there were 8,934 AMC members affiliated with the Connecticut Chapter. Membership continued to decline in 2004. However, Membership in a Bottle (MIB) sales were steady and new members averaged 150 per month. It appears that there is a challenge with retaining existing members, which is a trend in the organization.

The major event for the Membership Committee was New Member Day, which was held on September 17, 2005. 18 events ranging from hiking, bicycling and flatwater were scheduled throughout the state. Participation at the events ranged from 3-12 participants. The day concluded with the traditional spaghetti dinner at Northeast Utilities in Berlin. Approximately 60 members were in attendance. The evening was topped off with a multi-media presentation of Sue Lach's 2004/2005 AMC Major Excursion to Africa where she hiked to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro and explored the Serengeti.

Membership recruiting was active throughout the year. The Committee participated in the Safe Boaters Clinic, Collinsville Canoe Day, Banff Film Festival and EMS Gear Sale (April and October). Displays and representatives were on hand to answer questions about the AMC and promote the Club. Membership in a Bottle campaigns and the monthly mailing of Welcome Packets continue.

The participation on the Committee continues to be strong. We are appreciative of those who dedicate their time and ideas to the Committee.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Patricia Carroll*

*Dave Cullen*

*Jennifer Decker*

*Mary Ann Kouyoumjian*

*Fiona Nicholson*

*Betty Robinson*

*Steve Collins - Co-Chair*

*Sue Lach - Co-Chair*

---

## Mountaineering Committee

---

The past year included ups and downs for the Mountaineering Committee. Early in the year, a number of active Committee leaders and participants left the Mountaineering Committee to form an independent mountaineering club to escape obligation to the AMC's recently enhanced Leadership Requirements and Guidelines. Although this made an impact on the Committee, through the efforts of the remaining Committee members several achievements were realized.

In the winter months, the Committee sponsored several recreational and instructional events. Wednesday evenings brought us to indoor climbing at the Prime Climb Gym. There were organized weekend trips to both Smuggler's Notch, Vermont and the Adirondacks in New York where participants enjoyed backcountry skiing, ice climbing, and hiking. Several weeknight skiing events were held at Ski Sundown in CT. An instruction based overnight winter hiking and camping trip to the White Mountains resulted in a summit of Mount Jefferson. An ice climbing instructional day was also held.

There were more changes to the Committee with the arrival of warm weather. The Committee discontinued its traditional Wednesday evening outdoor climbs. The traditional format of these events made it impossible to properly comply with the latest AMC Leadership Regulations. Rather than put both the Committee's leaders and the AMC organization at increased risk of liability, it was decided it was best for the Committee to no longer sponsor these particular events. Despite several postponements due to rain, a successful Rock Climbing instructional program was achieved. A portion of this instruction was subcontracted to a professional climbing instructor to improve the quality of the experience for the students and to reduce liability risk to the AMC leaders. This was a major change for us this year. A few weekend rock climbing outings were also held in the summer and fall.

The final achievement of note was the recruitment and training of two new AMC leaders, Ron Curtis and Gustavo Nava. A leadership training class was organized to educate these members of the basic AMC leadership skills necessary for organizing top rope climbing outings. These people also recently gained co-leading experience with Mountaineering Committee events. Thus the committee is now happy to add two new leaders to its ranks.

## MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

Rebecca Ford  
Bill Walters

Kevin Hutt

Carol Parker

Brian Keers - Co-Chair  
Mark Sondeen - Co-Chair



---

## Newsletter Committee

---

During 2005, three issues of *The AMC in Connecticut* newsletter were distributed to approximately 7,000 Connecticut member households. Fred Iannotti has done a very creative and professional looking job with the newsletter layout and design. Unfortunately, Fred will be moving on in 2006 so we're looking for his replacement.

Kristin Violette, Online Newsletter Editor, has developed an online version of *The AMC in Connecticut* newsletter that went live in March 2005. This allows for real time information availability and provides a solution to the space constraints we experience with the print newsletter. Now, print newsletter articles and articles and that don't make the print newsletter can be seen online. Check it out at [www.ct-amc.org/news](http://www.ct-amc.org/news).

As we look forward to 2006 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.

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

---

## Northwest Camp Committee

---

Our winter hike drew a large turnout. During the spring work party we cleaned out and around the cabin and replaced the railing to the stream with cedar logs donated by Trent Link.

Our summer activities included a sky watch hike to the stone building on Mt. Everett and a New Member Day hike. We trimmed some of the trails.

During the fall work party we stacked three cords of delivered wood. We built another railing to the stream and replaced the cabinet with cedar donated by Trent. The countertop was replaced with slate donated by Jim St. Amand.

We received a grant to update our low impact brochure which will include our new rates, up \$10 a night from the previous year. It is mailed to new renters along with their registration card.

Our goal is to find a low cost alternative to our outhouse. Over the next few years we also plan to coordinate events such as "Leave no Trace" and leadership training with the Connecticut Chapter. We also will have hikes with nature and history experts. We hope to boost our committee membership by having representation at several of the Connecticut Chapter's events.

### NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

*Jim Edwin*

*Paul Ives*

*David Marlinsky*

*Tom Nichols*

*John Rek*

*Dan Green*

*Sue Ives*

*Dennis Marlinsky*

*Rod Parlee*

*Joni Kafka*

*Trent Link*

*Brandon Neupaver*

*Al Puches - Treasurer*

*Chuck Doll - Chair*

*Jim St. Amand - Registrar & Caretaker*



---

## Program Committee

---

The Program Committee runs four big AMC events each year: the Spring Dinner in April, the Trails Day Potluck Dinner, co-sponsored by CFPA, in June on National Trails Day, the New Member Day event in September, and the Annual Meeting in November.

We held the Spring Dinner, a sellout, on Saturday, April 9th at the Cheshire Grange. A social hour from 5:30 - 6:30 PM was followed by diner with a roast beef or vegetarian option at 6:30. Everyone in attendance agreed the Grange prepared an excellent meal. Michael Tougas was the guest speaker. His presentation, "Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wannabe" was very entertaining and amusing.

The Trails Day Potluck Dinner was held on Saturday, June 4th at the Northeast Utilities (NU) in Berlin. This event had a social hour followed by a Potluck Dinner. Everyone brought good food and there was plenty to eat. Dan Hubbard, of the National Park Service, was our guest speaker. His presentation, "Designing the Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Monadnock Trail as a National Scenic Trail" was educational and entertaining. Mr. Hubbard talked about the ecology along the trail as well as the myriad social factors involved in its development.

The New Member Day event was also held at NU. A spaghetti dinner and dessert followed the social hour. The evening's presentation, "Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa," by Sue Lach, was great.

We moved the November Annual Meeting from the Marriott to NU. The Marriott has gotten so expensive that there is no way we could possibly break even on the event. Eurest Dinner services has exclusive rights to cater all events held at NU. They have assured us that the food will be excellent and plentiful. I toured the facility with Luella Bartes, a former Program Chair and longtime Program Committee member. Luella is confident the room set up will work out really well for the Annual Meeting. The day's schedule includes a CPR Course in the morning, workshops all afternoon, social hour from 5:00 to 6:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 followed up by a brief business meeting. The evening's presentation by Kourosh Mahboubian, founder of MAD DOG Expeditions, is "Aquatic Exploration of the Amazon Rainforest."

There are a lot of expenses, unseen by the members, associated with putting together the Annual Meeting. Last year's admission fee was \$35, and we still lost \$5,000 on the event. Our goal this year is to break even and still provide an enjoyable, fun day for everyone.

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

*Maria Athanasiou  
Frank DeFazio  
Lori Stethers*

*Colleen Barry  
Ellen McGuire  
Wilda Wyse*

*Luella Bartes  
Wilford Parker*

*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, as well as the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the National Park Service (NPS). Our successes and accomplishments this past year included:

- Purchase, modification, and installation of bear-proof food boxes at campsites on the Riga plateau.
- Relocation and hardening of the Lion's Head side trail.
- Participated in DEP operation to interdict All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use on the AT.
- Welcomed Jonathan Szalewicz as the new AMC Southern New England Trails Coordinator. Jon replaces Ted Weber. The Trails Chair participated in the interview process for this essential position.
- Five new volunteer corridor monitors were recruited and trained at our Monitor's Workshop.
- "Give A Day to Trails" saw the completion of several tasks on Schaghticoke Mountain, Mt. Algo, and Caleb's Peak.
- Met with our Berkshire AT Committee colleagues to discuss options for consistent management concepts for the Plateau area of Connecticut and Massachusetts.
- Provided for and supported another successful summer Ridgerunner program.
- Several members certified or recertified as sawyers at ATC's chainsaw course.
- Hardened wet area north of Hoyt Road trailhead by installing turnpiking.
- The Committee was well represented at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy biennial meeting "Southern Highlands 2005" held in Johnson City, Tennessee.
- A train derailment in Falls Village forced the temporary closure of the AT near Warren Turnpike. Clean-up and dealing with the aftermath continues.

- 15,000 "Welcome to the AT in Connecticut" brochures were printed and distributed at trailheads.
- In our continuing efforts to improve waste management on the Trail, the Pine Swamp privy was converted to the moldering style.

Trail improvement efforts occur nearly every weekend—please consider coming out, getting dirty, and having fun!

#### TRAILS COMMITTEE

*Dick Blake  
Hugh Cobrain  
Birge Dayton  
Gene Grayson  
Gary Nasiatka  
Bob Poitras  
Ann Sherwood*

*Hugh Broughel  
Ted Cowles  
Henry Edmonds  
Ian McCunn  
Paul Palmer  
Walt Rinehart  
Norm Sills*

*Doug Christie  
Walt Daniels  
Harlan Jessup  
Elaine LaBella  
Peg Peterson  
Brigitte Rothman  
Sue Spring*

*Dave Boone – Chair*




---

## Webmaster/Technology Committee

---

### 2005 Accomplishments

1. The website was updated many, many times with hikes, trips, notices for committee meetings, dinners, the Chapter Annual Meeting, New Members Day and probably more.
2. Integrated the AMC Activity Database system into the website.
3. Implemented the Online Newsletter as a part of the Chapter website.

### AMC Activity Database Project

The Activity Database system has been implemented by AMC and is integrated into our Chapter website. The goal here was to make the new system appear as a part of our Chapter website rather than to send visitors off to the main AMC website ([www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org)). The Connecticut Chapter has been in the forefront of this project from the very beginning. Activities in support of this project:

1. Attended a webmasters meeting at the AMC Annual Meeting.
2. Worked with several committees to help them use the system to manage and publicize their activities.
3. Met with both AMC staff and people from other chapters at the Chapters Retreat. This very productive meeting has generated much discussion.
4. Worked with staff and another webmaster to develop a prioritized list of system enhancements requested by people from all of AMC.
5. Adapted a search form to our website to allow visitors to search for activities sponsored by any Chapter or committee from our website.

The new system is far from perfect and has not yet been implemented by all chapters. There was much beneficial discussion at the Chapters Retreat. As the system becomes more pervasive, there will be many benefits to activity leaders, committees, website visitors, as well as both AMC members and non-members.

## 2006 Goals

1. Help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
2. Provide better integration of the Activities Database system into our Chapter website.
3. Host Activity Database training sessions as needed to help our committees use the new system to best advantage.

I want to thank those who maintain the sections of the website devoted to specific committees:

### COMMITTEE WEB PAGE MAINTAINERS

Bicycling	<i>Warren Pierro</i>
Conservation	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling	<i>Bob White</i>
Mountaineering	<i>Carol Phelan</i>
Mountaineering	<i>Kevin Hutt (retiring)</i>
Trails	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Whitewater, Young Members	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
All other committees	<i>Jim Scheef</i>

*Jim Scheef - Chair*



## Whitewater Committee

In 2005 the Whitewater Committee continued to grow in numbers.

The Whitewater Committee ran three different pool sessions during the winter. The Committee decided to drop one of the pool sessions due to lack of attendance. But overall the pool sessions were still a success, with the help of pool coordinators Mark Schappert, Paul Geise, John Virtue, and Dana Warner. We also continued with our annual raft and kayak trip to the Hudson River in New York. Lake sessions and on the river instructionals have become the norm for the Whitewater committee as well as whitewater instruction with the Ottawa Kayak School (OKS) in Canada. Our trip to the Ottawa Kayak School this year included 37 participants who hailed from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Two adventurous folks ventured from Kansas to join us. Our program has become more diverse with whitewater enthusiasts of all ages taking part in our activities. It was nice to see that we had about an equal number of men to women and also a few kids attend the OKS.

Since instruction is an important aspect to the committee we have continued with the Whitewater Rescues course which was coordinated by Webb Carnes this year. It was a success. With the low water levels here in Connecticut we moved the rescues course to Zoar Outdoors and the Deerfield River.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Leaders Appreciation Day and Picnic was another success story that we plan to continue in 2006. In 2005 we added on new trip leaders and more class II river trips.

The White Water Committee would like to thank all of the trip leaders and all the individuals who helped out in the instructional (lake, river and pool sessions) as well as on the river trips as co leaders.

### WHITEWATER COMMITTEE

<i>Melanie Bowers</i>	<i>Webb Carnes</i>	<i>Ed Chase</i>
<i>Carmen Donofrio</i>	<i>Jim Kilkenny</i>	<i>Rowan Monington</i>
<i>Ian Scott</i>	<i>Barry Smith</i>	<i>Mike Thomas</i>
<i>Dana Warner</i>	<i>John Virtue</i>	

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

---

## Young Members Committee

---

The Young Members Group (YM) had an enjoyable year. We hiked winter and spring at Sleeping Giant, Pequonock River Valley, Trout Brook Valley, Shenipsit, Penwood State Forest, Ragged Mountain, Hubbard Park, Burr Pond, Ozbournedale, East Rock, Mt. Greylock, and Topsmead. We went cross country skiing at White Memorial and snowshoeing at Seven Falls. We walked the beach at Hammonasset. We enjoyed a slide show of past events, a potluck led by Mirela Postelnicu, a Black Rock Hike, potluck and National Parks Monopoly socials provided by Ana Ketch.

Summer and fall events included Southford Falls hike and ice cream social, Undermountain Trail to Racebrook Falls, Talcott Mountain, a mid-week sunset hike at Mt. Higby, Mt. Chauncey and Lamentation Mountain, full moon hike up Brace, Mattabessett segments, and a few of our regular hiking trails. Thanks to Susan Bartley for leading our summer picnic at Wadsworth Falls and to David Bellemare for providing a backyard cookout.

Thanks to our seasoned hike leaders Mirela Postelnicu, Jamie Howland, Mark Schappert, Tom Ebersold, Lisa Meunier, Ana Ketch, David Bellemare, and Darron Kannenberg for providing hikes throughout the year.

We had many new hike leaders in 2005. John Crist led a winter hike at Sleeping Giant. Tony Manzo led a winter hike at Macedonia. Jeff Lake led a spring hike at Valley Falls. Ted Marshall led a spring hike at Penwood. Greg Horan, a new social leader, led a restaurant social and an apple picking event at Lyman Orchards. Thanks to our new hike and social leaders for helping to make this an enjoyable year.

Some events this year allowed our members to get away for an adventurous weekend well beyond the Connecticut borders. These included: a Mt. Monadnock winter summit led by David Bellemare, Tecumseh winter summit (New Hampshire) led by Erik Madsen, White Mountains skiing, tubing, sleigh ride weekend led by Jenifer Nadeau, Mount Mansfield and Mount Lafayette weekend led by David Bellemare, Catskills and Howe Caverns weekend led by Ana Ketch and co-leader Lisa Meunier, Maine Summer Extravaganza led by Ana Ketch and Boston hike leader Dave Conna (eight days hiking and camping in Baxter, Acadia, Bradbury, and Boothbay), and Megaliths of New

Hampshire weekend led by David Bellemare and co-leader Ana Ketch. Thanks to these hike leaders for these remarkable trips.

Mark Schappert organized and led at least 12 hikes and socials this year and he is still setting up new events for the group. Thanks to Mark for going beyond the call of duty as a hike leader for the Young Members group. Mark is also our web page editor and keeps our current and past events on line. Thanks again Mark.

Thanks to Ana Ketch for being our YM event approver for the first 6 months of the year. To conform to new AMC Connecticut Chapter requirements, we now have our hiking events approved by the Excursions Committee. This has proven to be helpful to both the Chapter and the YM group and we thank the Excursions Committee for their time and effort in approving our events. Thanks to Dennis McGlynn for being our YM event coordinator and helping us maintain communication with the Young Members group for the second half of 2005. Jamie Howland, long-time email coordinator, set the group up with separate hiking and social Yahoo email accounts, which help us to communicate with the YM group and simplifies email list maintenance. Thanks Jamie. Thanks to our group members for making our events enjoyable for everyone. We encourage all members of the group to consider becoming hike and/or social leaders and to explore the many additional opportunities for service provided by the AMC Connecticut Chapter.

In February 2005, David Bellemare and Darron Kannenberg announced to the Young Members Committee and hike leaders that this would be their final year as co-chairs for the Young Members Group. By summer 2005, two members of the Young Members committee stepped in to volunteer as the Young Members co-chairs for 2006. We fully support and appreciate the service that they will provide to the group as the new co-chairs.

We hope that everyone will join us for an exciting 2006.

### YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

*Sue Bartley  
Dennis McGlynn  
Mark Schappert*

*Jamie Howland  
Jennifer Nadeau*

*Ana Ketch  
Mirela Postelnicu*

*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 have the 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

Barbara Beckerman    Patricia Huff    Bruce LaRoche  
 Julie Lindberg  
 Dean Fenton – Chair




---

## Nominations for the 2006 Executive Committee

---

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

Chapter Chair	Beth Bryan Critton
Chapter Vice Chair	Sue Lach
Secretary	Carol Hassett
Treasurer	Al Puches
AMC Outdoors Liaison	open
Bicycling Co-Chair	Jim Mays
Bicycling Co-Chair	Rick Merritt
Conservation Co-Chair	John Crist
Conservation Co-Chair	Jim O'Rourke
East of the River Co-Chair	Doug Atwell
East of the River Co-Chair	Gene Grayson
Education Chair	Dale Geslien
Excursions Chair	David Roberts
Fairfield County Co-Chair	Tom Carruthers
Fairfield County Co-Chair	David Roberts
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Chair	Jean Trapani
Member-at-Large	open
Member-at-Large	open
Membership Chair	Sue Lach
Mountaineering Chair	Mark Sondeen
Newsletter Editor	Mike House
Northwest Camp Chair	Chuck Doll
Past Chair	Dale Geslien
Program Chair	Dave Bellemare
Trails Chair	Dave Boone
Webmaster/Technology Chair	Jim Scheef
Whitewater Co-Chair	Mark Schappert
Whitewater Co-Chair	Dennis Wigg
Young Members Co-Chair	Jamie Howland
Young Members Co-Chair	Mirela Postelnicu
Regional Director	Norm Sims



## 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. G.E. Anderson of Madison, CT*

*Mr. Daniels Weaver of Stratford, CT*

