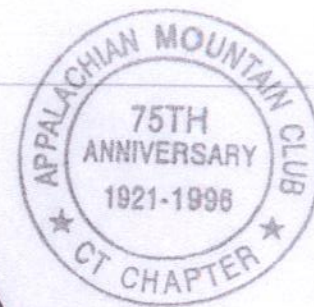




APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF
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Compiled by

JOHN SCULLY
and
MARJORIE HACKBARTH

THE EARLY YEARS: 1921-1938

In April 1921, Frank S. Mason, then chairman of the Committee on Regional Chapters of the Appalachian Mountain Club, wrote to several Connecticut members to ask if it were feasible to form a chapter. The matter had been discussed informally the preceding winter at an AMC outing in Jackson. Dr. A.A. Crane of Waterbury, the senior male member in Connecticut, and other Connecticut members were approached. Since the idea appeared to them desirable and feasible, Frederick W. Kilbourne sent notices to all registered members residing in the state, calling for a meeting at Hubbard Park, Meriden, to consider the project.

Many favorable replies were received and much interest indicated. June 11, 1921, was the date settled upon as most convenient for the meeting and a walk in the Hanging Hills. That day became the birthday of the Connecticut Chapter.

At the time appointed, about 40 persons assembled at the entrance to Hubbard Park and from there hiked to the top of West Peak. On the way, Arthur Blewitt of Waterbury killed a good-sized rattlesnake after several walkers had passed dangerously near without seeing it or hearing its rattle.

After an open-air supper around a fire, the party assembled on the verandah of the Danaher cottage, where Henry Jewett Greene, a member of the Committee on Regional Chapters who had come from Worcester for the purpose, directed the procedure of organizing a chapter.

The appropriate votes were passed and the following officers and members of the Chapter Committee were elected to serve until the first annual meeting: Chairman, Dr. Augustin A. Crane; Secretary, Frederick W. Kilbourne; Treasurer, Reverend George T. Linsley; Chairman of Trails Committee, Professor Karl P. Harrington; Entertainment Committee, Arthur F. Ellis; Membership, Dr. Herbert Thoms; Excursions, Robert A. Squire.

³
his son spoke at 75th anniversary
celemony 9/21/96

A participant of that first meeting recorded these thoughts:

So much for our birth! Our baptism was almost immediate. The clouds had been darkening and the thunder had begun to roll, but we had important business to transact and paid little attention to the weather. However, no sooner had we started down the trail than the heavens opened. Never, it seemed to us, had it rained harder than during the succeeding half hour, and never were human beings any wetter than the members of the newly formed chapter and their companions.

Two weeks later, the chapter made its second hike, a climb from the west side of the Naugatuck River in Beacon Falls up to High Rock Grove and then down by wagon road to Naugatuck, and it was off to a sturdy start. Excursions were made to places that have since become frequent objects of hikes, such as Sage's Ravine and Bash Bish Falls and Sleeping Giant. One memorable event of 1925 was a hike up West Peak in Meriden on a bitterly cold January day to view a total eclipse of the sun. More than 30 Appies came down from Boston to joining them. Fortunately, the weather was clear and an account of the day reports "unobstructed views of the wonderful phenomenon."

In the 1920s, the chapter acquired a stone house on Sleeping Giant. The state of Connecticut had purchased land on the Giant, including the house, and Phil Buttrick, then secretary of the Forestry Association, proposed that the chapter take it over for a club house. Money was raised and a number of New Haven women cleaned and sewed to make the place habitable. Many parties were held there, but the house was later demolished.

The chapter was still small in the 1930s, so many of the members could go on camping weekends together using equipment that the chapter purchased for \$300. The committee usually scheduled one camping weekend a month, except in July, August and December, and usually set it at the time of the full moon.

An unusual feature of the winter camping was that the members often set up their camp on ice, which made a good foundation after

being cleared of snow. "Eight-inch spikes were driven into the ice for holding the tents, and when heavy waterproof canvas was spread down for a floor and the equipment installed, everything was in fine shape. In summer only two tents for sleeping quarters were put up and the cooking was done outdoors."

Unfortunately, there seems to be no record of the effect of the great New England hurricane of 1938 on the trails, but tree damage must have been heavy. The intrepid trails men of the chapter cleared the debris and left the trails usable for hikers that autumn.

THE MIDDLE YEARS: 1939-1981

EXCURSIONS

Over these years the number of excursions multiplied and their variety increased enormously. As the membership of the chapter increased, so did the scope of members' interests. New activities were added to provide opportunities for members to enjoy the outdoors in their favorite ways, and new committees were formed with the responsibility of affording direction to the new interests.

For many years the outdoor year began with Seymour Smith's climb up Canaan Mountain on New Year's Day. Though the weather was often bitterly cold and the mountain covered with deep snow, hardy hikers made this a traditional climb. There are few things more exhausting than making a trail through three feet of snow. The end of winter was celebrated by the sugaring-off at Northwest Camp, when concentrated maple sap was poured on snow, which made a delicious candy.

In 1953, the custom began of holding a semi-annual meeting early in May, which had the advantage for older members, and for those who had to drive quite some distance, of much better weather than the annual meeting in December. This was later tied with the Appalachian Trail Marathon day. Hikes of varying distances and degrees of difficulty were offered on sections of the Appalachian Trail

in Connecticut so that the entire trail in the state was covered, and hike leaders were to report on the condition of the trail that they traversed.

Some leaders inaugurated related series of hikes on particular trails; among these can be noted those by Bente Morch over the entire Monadnock Trail during 1964 and 1965; by Bill and Rhoda Schmidt on the entire Metacomet Trail; and by Sue and Gerry Hardy, which covered all of the through trails in eastern Connecticut.

A Connecticut 400 Club was formed in 1976 to distinguish those members who had hiked all the through trails in Connecticut, some 450 plus miles. Members who achieved this could wear a patch, designed by Daryl Borst and Paula Johnson.

Going beyond Connecticut, Ned Greist started a series of week-end backpacking trips in 1960, of which one of the first goals was to climb all the peaks above 4,000 feet in the White Mountains. Once that was accomplished, he then followed by leading his loyal band of stalwart hikers over the Long Trail in Vermont. Their trips also included climbing the peaks of the Adirondacks and the Catskills, and the 100 highest peaks in New England.

The Excursions Committee has always been concerned with the ability of members to handle themselves properly on different types of hikes. Clinics have been and still are held, and the training of trip leaders has received greater emphasis. In an effort to enable new members to find their hiking level, as opposed to more experienced members (perhaps defined as having two or more years in the AMC), a rating system was instituted for all hikes. The ratings are based on hike length, difficulty of terrain and hiking pace. Hikers unsure of their capacity should try only one level higher than they have previously attempted.

TRAILS

Connecticut AMC members have worked closely with members of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association in maintaining trails of the Connecticut Blue Trail system. Many members belong to both.

The Appalachian Trail in Connecticut was conceived in 1921, and its original thirty-three miles was laid out by Ned Anderson for

the Connecticut Forest and Park Association in the late 1920s. In 1949 the chapter took over responsibility for the maintenance of more than half of the enlarged Appalachian Trail in the state. For many years this trail has been marked by white blazes throughout its length, but in its early days the Connecticut section used the blue of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. The Appalachian Trail was declared a National Scenic Trail in 1968.

In 1929 the Quinipiac was the first blue trail to be opened for hiking. By 1936 the blue trail system had so expanded that the association published the *Connecticut Walk Book*, to which the chapter contributed \$100 to assist in printing. The *Walk Book* is now in its 17th edition and, with its maps, has been an indispensable aid to hikers throughout the state, particularly to those planning hikes in sections new to them.

For many years the Trails Committee operated successfully on an informal basis. No meetings were held, except "on the trail," and its trail maintenance centered around its section of the Appalachian Trail. But by 1980, major changes were in order. As the 1981 account of the Connecticut Chapter reported:

Prior to November 10, 1979, only part of the trail in Connecticut was under the jurisdiction of the chapter, since for many years Seymour Smith was the guardian of almost half the trail in Connecticut. In 1979 Seymour chose to resign his duty, and responsibility for care of the entire 56 miles was assigned to the chapter by the Appalachian Trail Conference. In addition, the Trail Committee structure changed from a roving trail crew to designating short trail sections (four to six miles long) to individual maintainers.

While the blue trail system was being expanded in Connecticut, the roving trail crew roamed the state to help local trails chairmen of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association in clearing the trails. From 1956 to 1975 the crew went farther afield, going to New Hampshire each year to assist AMC trail crews there, help that was

enthusiastically received.

In 1960 Marathon Day on the Appalachian Trail came into being. It has a dual purpose: to observe and report on the condition of the trail, and to invite AMCs to experience at least part of the trail. On this day the entire Appalachian Trail is hiked, but divided into many varied segments under different leaders so members can choose the type of trail over which they would like to hike.

Again, from the 1981 report:

From the time of the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968 through 1981 nearly all the Trail Committee's work centered around maintenance of the Appalachian Trail. The next milestone, perhaps the most significant happening to affect the trail, was the passage of the 1978 Appalachian Trail amendments to the 1968 law. This amended the previous legislation by establishing a three-year deadline for substantially completing the protection program and by increasing the level of funding to \$90 million during that period.

With this major federal involvement the Connecticut Appalachian Trail Committee was formed in 1978 to review and make recommendations to the National Park Service regarding trail location and land acquisition. The first chairman of CATC was then-chapter Trails Committee chairman Neil Clark. Partly as a result of anti-trail feeling on the part of some landowners, and partly to develop a plan for the Connecticut Chapter to manage the trail and protect the landowners, a new committee was formed, comprising "AMC members, local citizens, and representatives from the same organizations—though not necessarily the same people—who were on CATC. This management plan was completed in 1981 and presented to Congress as a model for management planning up and down the Trail."

At this point, the chapter accepted the responsibility of managing the trail as a total entity, rather than, as before, simply maintaining the footpath. It also added, for the first time in Connecticut, a

full-time AMC staff person.

During this time the chapter acquired a major tract of land of some 1,200 acres "from Mt. Riga, Incorporated, including Bear Mountain and most of the land formerly leased by the chapter from Mt. Riga. The AMC was given the responsibility and some funds to manage this property. Other funds for management came from the Smith-Lorenz fund, which has been established to benefit the trail in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Connecticut provided the start-up money for the fund by selling the Lorenz Memorial Area (Sage's Ravine) and by a gift from Seymour Smith."

Major changes to the Appalachian Trail occurred during the 1980s. One was construction of a foot bridge named for Ned Anderson over the Ten Mile River, which eliminated much road walking in New York state. The big change was relocating the Appalachian Trail largely west of the Housatonic River. It now uses Sharon Mountain and no longer goes through Cornwall on the east side. The relocated trail provides an unusually scenic, more remote, though shorter, path.

SKIING

Skiing was first organized as a club activity in the winter of 1952-53. In that season and the next, there were scheduled weekend trips to Vermont ski centers for downhill skiing. Those attending often camped out near the ski runs, sometimes in freezing weather. Instructions included, "bring ground cloths to put over and under the sleeping bags when sleeping out."

Apparently snow conditions were erratic the second season, causing cancellation of trips. The Ski Committee decided to cancel the Ski Club as a scheduled activity and return to the former system of occasionally getting together when the conditions were right.

Over the next 20 years, cross-country skiing became more popular in general and with members in particular. It was easier and more economical to find pleasant back country trails and old logging roads on which to make ski trails.

From 1970 to 1971 a special section for ski touring first appeared in *The AMC Bulletin*. In the following winter, 1971-1972, Oliver Case was listed as coordinator of ski touring, the first to be so

named. He was followed throughout that decade by John Maloney and then Dale Hackett. Ski listings became a standard part of *The Bulletin* during the winter months, though usually with the cautionary note, "If snow conditions permit. If not—a hike."

BICYCLING

Bicycle riding in more or less good weather began engaging the interest of more members in the 1960s and 1970s, no doubt stimulated by the greater ease of multi-speed bikes. For many of those years, there were special trips to places like Block Island, Fisher's Island, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Cape Cod, but it was not until about 1978 that the Excursions Committee chairman named a bicycle coordinator to find leaders and schedule regular rides.

These attracted enough interest and attendance that the committee set up a workshop for bicycle maintenance and bike talks became a regular feature at the annual meeting. The appeal of biking grew in the '80s and club activity was further invigorated when Harry Duren became chair. He instituted a more structured policy for rides, set up a format of safe practices to follow, and imbued leaders with his own enthusiasm. He died much too young, but fortunately he has been followed by able successors as chair.

Not only has cycling in fair weather months continued to boom on weekends, but now there are frequent bike rides on weekdays, and Wednesday evening pizza rides, which take advantage of the long evening light of summer for shorter trips.

Better mountain bikes have added to the popularity of that sport, and mountain biking now has its own section in *AMC Outdoors* (formerly *The Bulletin*.)

WATER CANOEING

After World War II, members of the chapter were ready to start a number of new activities, among them was whitewater canoeing. A circulated petition showed considerable interest, and in 1947 one canoe was purchased and more followed.

A report from the period notes:

By 1949 a number of trips were held, with interest

increasing along with the skill of the group. Through changes in the committees and personnel, most of the original, experienced members came faithfully to help and to teach. New members came to try it; they liked it and became AMC members and whitewater enthusiasts.

In August 1949 the first Bantam Olympics were held under the leadership of Doug Brown. By the mid-1950s participants were going beyond Connecticut to the West and the Windfall Rivers in Vermont, the Swift in New Hampshire and the Esopus in New York.

The 1981 chapter history is worth quoting in detail:

By 1957 white water canoeing was well established, with a strong group of experienced paddlers. We boasted a fleet of 10 Grumman aluminum canoes, seven 10-footers, mostly shoe-keeled, painted in a variety of brilliant colors and christened with Indian names, such as Cayuse and Warrior.

We had developed excellent safety methods based on teamwork and a rating system for paddlers based on skill and experience: novice, intermediate, expert and instructor. Rivers had corresponding ratings of novice, intermediate and expert. An effective training program welcomed beginners and participants who progressed according to their accumulation of knowledge and ability. Our instructors had acquired a working knowledge of white water throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. ...

In the late 1950s the foldboat was introduced to New England by immigrants from Central Europe, where the sport had become highly developed. ... A few years later came the introduction of fiberglass, which, unlike aluminum, can be molded into any desired shape in a small workshop without heavy production machinery. Designers here and

abroad experimented with both canoe and kayak hull shapes. Fiberglass kayaks replaced the fragile foldboat. ... In 1965 the chapter purchased its first fiberglass canoe, and by 1970 the chapter owned five decked fiberglass canoes and a kayak, complementing its regular fleet of aluminum canoes. ...

Improvements in technique kept pace with changes in design. Slalom racing brought about much of this, with its emphasis on precise maneuvering, use of current differentials, and efficiency of stroke. Such techniques as ferrying, eddy turning, and peeling off, essential to slalom racing, became everyday cruising methods. The English gate became a regular training tool. ...

In the early years of slalom racing, our chapter had many competitors, and besides supporting the annual AMC slalom, contributed leadership and officiating to regional and national races. The AMC slalom graduated in difficulty from the Salmon River to the Upper Farmington River below Otis, Massachusetts. For a number of years, beginning in 1957, the Eastern White Water Slalom Championships were held on the West River at Salmon Hole and there, in 1959, Connecticut entrants won the team race. In later years the increasing demands of training required of a serious competitor led to the separation of serious competition from cruising, with the chapter program concentrating on cruising. For several years Connecticut Chapter cruisers contributed spectacularly as a rescue team at the National and Eastern Slalom Championships under the leadership of Bob and Liz Hull.

The popularity of the kayak and the C-1 brought about the introduction of Eskimo rolling, an indispensable safety technique for heavy water, but almost impossible to learn under field condi-

tions. No better place or time to learn than off-season in a heated swimming pool. Thus we introduced the first "rolling seasons" under the leadership of Bob and Liz Hull, with Warren Yeisley the first instructor at the Hartford YMCA pool in 1968. By 1970, we held the first indoor pool slalom race, which required rolling as part of the course.

During the 1970s canoeists explored and paddled over much new water. Two of the most exciting and impressive were the Rapid River in Maine and the gorge of the Hudson in New York.

At the start of the 1980s a major concern was whether hydroelectric dams might be built in locations that would inundate the best paddling sites, and members monitored this as best they could.

FLAT WATER CANOEING

For those who like a calmer form of canoeing, the chapter has long offered flat water canoeing, though it was not until the mid-1970s that sponsorship was assigned to Bill Blaha of the Excursions Committee for specific coordination. To quote again:

Connecticut is blessed with a great variety of interesting waterways for the canoeist. We have a delightful assortment of rivers, including the Farmington, Housatonic and Connecticut. We have innumerable lakes, both small and large, and the entire Long Island shoreline, with its thousands of backwaters.

Spring is a popular time for annual trips on selected rivers. Some leaders became identified with them—Dale Hackett on the Willimantic and Bill and Janet Blaha on the Wood River in Rhode Island. Out-of-state, Ledge Clayton and Marty Higgins ran weekend trips on the upper Connecticut, and Jack and Vel Randall led week-long trips on Lake George and on the Adirondack lakes. By 1980 more than a dozen trips were scheduled for the increasing number of ardent flat water canoeists.

ROCK CLIMBING AND MOUNTAINEERING

Many activities have small beginnings, and to quite an extent, this was true of the chapter's move into mountaineering.

Before World War II a group of keen, athletic members met for rock or cliff climbing in the evenings from May through September. Most of the weekly climbs took place on the columnar trap-rock outcroppings along the Metacornet trail in central Connecticut, but they also used the Hanging Hills of Meriden and the Greystone Hills north of Waterbury.

As a chapter activity, climbing virtually ceased during the war, since many climbers served in the war and because of gas rationing. It was not until 1950 that rock climbing started again in any meaningful sense when J.B. Gardner reactivated the sport.

The group no longer met evenings, but did their climbing on weekends. In addition to returning to their former haunts in Connecticut, the climbers went into New York state to the Shawangunks, which is, a chronicler noted, "one of the best rock climbing areas in the Northeast, whose cliffs offer innumerable lead climbs of all degrees of difficulty. ...

"In 1952, on the Waterville Cliffs, dynamic belaying practice equipment was put up—the first in the Northeast—and such belaying practice became part of the yearly rock climbing program."

In 1959 J.B. Gardner, the rock-climbing chair, expanded the range of activities to all aspects of mountaineering. The following year the committee became the Mountaineering Committee, comprising all aspects of rock and ice climbing, mountain walking and hiking, backpacking and ski touring. In 1971, for easier planning and efficiency, this committee set up three sub-divisions—backpacking, ski touring and technical climbing—which worked out well.

Technical climbing activities were conducted year-round. The prime effort during winter was on difficult ice climbing, using the latest techniques and equipment. By the season's end a high average skill level existed within the group. Snow climbing and glacier techniques were also practiced and a full winter of mountain backpacking under severe con-

ditions was a necessary associated activity. During the nine warm months, activities were concentrated on rock climbing with emphasis on leader proficiency, safety and new techniques.

In 1972 Bill Adamson initiated a new beginner's program in rock climbing.

The climbers were advanced through the program in a one-to-one teacher-student ratio with the emphasis on producing competent climbers through a progressive program of increasing skills, rather than having several beginner climbs focusing on the same materials.

CONSERVATION

Almost 40 years ago, when the term "ecology" was little known outside academic circles and popular concern about the environment was just germinating, the chapter's Conservation Committee had already been active in efforts to protect the natural world.

The 1959 committee report expressed a sense of urgency.

Conservation problems are growing fast. Our efforts to understand and to educate others to understand—and thereby appreciate—the value of natural areas must grow even faster.

In 1967 the committee, under the direction of Wilbur Squires, successfully pushed the legislature for the passage of a wetlands protection bill, and a bill to limit the liability of landowners who permit hiking trails to cross their lands. Two years later the committee started *The Conservation Newsletter*, a quarterly publication, with the aim of informing all chapter members on conservation issues. This continued for some years:

Perhaps foremost among the topics which concerned the committee in the late 1960s was the

pump storage facility which was being planned for the Canaan Mountain area by Northeast Utilities. These plans threatened an area which was center for many chapter activities. Committee members spent long hours mobilizing chapter opposition to the plans and coordinated with other groups in a successful effort to defeat the plans.

With George Kennedy and David Royce as leaders, the committee successfully lobbied the legislature for passage of the Appalachian Trail Bill and the Scenic Rivers Bill.

In 1977 the committee sponsored the first annual Conservation Saturday, which has continued to the present. The day's activities concentrate on an important aspect of conservation in Connecticut. Subjects in those years were the Housatonic and Shepaug Rivers, the Connecticut coast, and stewardship of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.

EDUCATION

Education, in the sense of providing a way for non-members to learn about natural history or providing information about hiking, came relatively late in our evolution. It was in 1974 that the chapter officially organized an Education Committee, first chaired by Hob Grocock.

The committee set up workshops on back-packing and related hiking information for such youth organizations as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and 4-H groups. A speaker's bureau was formed, comprising men and women competent to speak about nature, hiking or trail building on request to interested audiences. Members also prepared, printed and distributed a leaflet, *So You Want to Take a Hike*, and assembled a slide show that could be shown in places where the leaflet was passed out.

Annual workshops for faculty advisors and leaders of youth groups on hiking and backpacking were held, and to these topics were added in 1979 instruction for beginners' cross country skiing, a make-your-own-equipment workshop and a bicycle workshop.

In 1976 "the committee arranged for a first-aid course for chap-

ter members, which was conducted by Ted Brown at the Red Cross headquarters in Farmington. ... Eight two-hour sessions were held on consecutive Wednesday evenings and a field exercise on mountain rescue was conducted on a Saturday. Red Cross certificates were given those completing the course," which was offered in following years, and to it was added training in CPR.

One of the more unusual programs run by the committee had the aim of assisting in the training of community-based youth for outdoor leadership.

In 1978, this program became a reality, with two workshops held—one in June and one in November. The June workshop was introductory, comprised of presentations and discussions involving trip planning, group leadership, where to hike in Connecticut, equipment, how to handle trail emergencies, outdoor awareness, finding your way, winter day hikes, and a backpacking slide show. The second workshop in November provided participants with an active role in learning the skills of outdoor leadership.

This was repeated the following year.

MT. RIGA AND NORTHWEST CAMP

After considerable negotiation, the chapter was able to lease property on Mt. Riga from the Mt. Riga Corporation in 1951 for a nominal annual sum. Very soon a lean-to was built by enthusiastic campers using fallen-but-still-sound chestnut timbers. The lean-to soon expanded into a full-fledged log cabin when more chestnut logs were brought in from the surrounding forest, shaped and fitted.

A full and interesting account of the negotiations leading to the lease and the building of the cabin and adjacent patio and fireplace is included in the 1957 chapter history.

When the cabin was built, the Riga plateau was a little-known wilderness, but over the next 30 years the number of backpackers and hikers multiplied, as did the number of snowmobiles cruising

the unplowed Mt. Washington road. This greatly increased activity brought problems of vandalism and illegal use of the cabin, which the Mt. Riga Committee attempted to solve by using paid ridgerunners to keep an eye on the cabin, at least on weekends, and sometimes to occupy it in the summer. Among the improvements were picnic tables, outhouses, a resingled roof, two new front doors and, in 1980, new bunks.

Trails were constructed in the early years to connect the cabin to the summit of Bear Mountain (B-Line) and to the Bear Mountain Road (Bog Trail), and a log bridge was built over the B-Line Brook (Blaklock's Bumpy Bridge).

Many enjoyable customs were started and continued: wood-cutting parties in the fall and sugaring-off parties in early spring. Certain anniversaries of the cabin were celebrated there and, uniquely, a reception after a wedding on top of Bear Mountain.

Up until 1974, cabin expenses were met by the voluntary contributions of users who put donations in a glass jar called "The Mt. Riga National Bank." In that year a set fee was established, payable at registration time, and a Northwest Camp registrar took responsibility for this.

BANTAM CAMP

For many years, starting in 1938, the chapter had a cabin and waterfront lot at Marsh Point on Bantam Lake in Litchfield. On the lot two tents were pitched for ladies' and men's dressing rooms. Fairly soon a dock was built and a raft for swimming. Later a canoe dock was built after which the Whitewater Canoe Committee built a welded steel canoe rack.

Members did all the work to improve the site and facilities. A well was dug with pump and piping to the cabin, which was a great boon to parties and activities, as was the addition of electricity.

The record-breaking rains of August 1955 caused the lake to rise 10 feet above the normal level and made a mess of the camp, but there was no structural damage and members salvaged the dock and

raft and put the place to rights.

Many happy times were held there, including water carnivals, chicken barbecues, new members parties, a chili party in January, and AT Marathon Day potluck supper. But problems, some not easily solved, kept rising. The lake suffered a severe algae problem and at times the well went dry. In the spring of 1972 there was a heavy span-worm infestation, and some major repairs were becoming necessary. At the same time, the annual lease was increased and general interest in the camp was declining.

In the annual report for 1973 the chapter summarized most of the reasons for closing the camp:

Unfortunately, the White Memorial Foundation, owners of the camp, have decided to sell the cabins and lease the land. Specifically, they asked us to buy the cabin for \$5,000 and sign a one-year lease on the land for \$1,000. This would have meant almost doubling our annual expense, plus buying a cabin on land that we did not own. All efforts to obtain a longer lease and lower terms failed. As a result, the chapter has decided to close Bantam Camp.

SLEEPING GIANT HUT

In the mid-1920s the state was acquiring various pieces of property in and around Sleeping Giant in the Mt. Carmel section of Hamden, with the intention of creating a state park. Among the properties was a stone house on the Giant that then-secretary of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association proposed that the chapter take over for a club house.

This was done, and we read that the New Haven ladies cleaned it up and made it habitable and for some years it was a center of many weekend parties and other sociable activities.

In 1933, however, the quarry lease was purchased by the Sleeping Giant Park Association, and other land owned by the state enabled Sleeping Giant to become a valued addition to the state park system. This meant the end of private use of property on the Giant and the stone house was torn down.

INTO THE PRESENT: 1981-1996

PREFACE

To obtain information for this section, the records of the Executive Committee from 1981 to 1996 were consulted, along with other sources of the period. Thanks is due to secretaries Mary Jane Gately and Doug McKain for supplying the records, and to Michael Stine, who loaned many back issues of *AMC Outdoors*, and Dale Hackett, who loaned his copy of *History of the Connecticut Chapter 1922 to 1981* to serve as a guide.

The history was divided into 12 different committees and a copy was sent to the current chair for additions or corrections. Some chose to rewrite their sections, which is acknowledged at the end of the article, or, in case of suggestions, their input is credited. In cases where no reply was received, the original account is offered.

A list of the officers from 1981 to 1996 concludes this history.

— Marjorie Hackbarth

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Monthly meetings of the Executive Committee are held at members' homes. A meal is provided, and the cost is shared. The annual meeting is held in December at a public facility. An interesting feature is the Red Hat Ceremony, begun in 1951-52 by John Herr. The new chapter chair is presented with his or her red hat while all past chairs in attendance don theirs.

The management plan for the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut was started in 1981 and the Mountaineering Committee was reinstated. Since the Connecticut 400 Club, started in 1976, only had 14 members, Ed Dresner planned hikes to cover the entire blue trail system. Gardner Moulton began working on the club history from 1957 to 1981 and at its completion in 1984 Norm Sills took over sales of the manuscript, but the venture was not a financial success.

Fifty-year membership pins were awarded for the first time in 1982.

The greatest problem at this time was finding leaders for activities. The NTO Committee supposedly aimed at younger hikers or young in spirit died out in 1982.

Also a great concern was the fate of Undermountain House, property in Salisbury purchased by NPS and given to the chapter. Over the years, attempts were made to make it a facility available to hikers, to rent it or to make a youth hostel, but finally in 1986 it was sold to the town of Salisbury.

After much debate, in 1983 the Lorenz Plaque was placed on the Paradise Lane Trail. Margaret Endor donated the land in Sage's Ravine in honor of her father, charter member of the chapter.

The chapter participated in the capital fund campaign. Andy Nichols was the first chair. By the end of the national campaign in 1988, \$8 million had been raised.

In 1983 a 120-foot bridge over the Ten Mile River was financed. Gerry Hardy arranged the microfilming of chapter records from 1921 to 1978.

In 1984 the Fairfield County Committee was formed to increase activities for members in the southern part of the state. The chapter worked closely with the Stanley Works, which owned property on River Road in Kent. Stands were taken against the DEP rebuilding the Bear Mountain monument, a SNET tower on a local mountain and the new club logo.

The committee developed job descriptions for members of the executive board and sponsored a lecture in Hartford by Sir Edmund Hillary.

In 1985 semi-annual issues of a newsletter were published. A provision to reimburse members for travel expenses of attending club-wide meetings was passed. Since cash flow from the main club was posing a problem, a \$15,000 donation from the chapter to the capital fund was withheld. Connecticut Chapter patches and club license plates were sold as local fundraisers. Dues were increased by the main club. At this time there was a growing interest in rails to trails.

A Connecticut Chapter phone line was established.

In 1988 individuals who had led five hikes were recognized, and Eastern Mountain Sports started the policy of discounts to AMC members. The Executive Committee declined to endorse the suggestion of Bill Russell of the Fairfield County Committee that the chapter add an Environment and Population Committee.

In 1991 the Connecticut Chapter, along with Berkshire, sponsored the Appalachian Trails Conference at Williams College, with Dereka Smith in charge. The affair was a tremendous success, with 400 volunteers, 150 hikes, 50 workshops, five panels, and 30 bus tours. It earned \$5,000 for the chapter.

At this time the Connecticut was the first AMC chapter to become a member of the 265 Mile Club. Support was given to the 75th anniversary of the Connecticut State Park System, the River Alliance, and the Blue Trail system of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association.

In 1991, at the suggestion of Harry Duren, bicycling became a separate standing committee.

The next year, an East of the River potluck was held and activities in that area increased. In 1995 East of the River became a standing committee under Betty Robinson.

In October 1993 the chapter sponsored the clubwide fall meeting at the Hemlocks in Hebron.

The chapter subsidized activity leaders to attend wilderness first aid courses.

In 1994 a long overdue revision of the chapter bylaws and standing rules was completed. In June of that year the club began cooperating with the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association in celebration of an annual National Trails Day.

The number of issues of the newsletter increased to three. Matt Donachie was honored for his six years as editor.

The death of Harry Duren was mourned by the chapter and a scholarship in his memory was established to send teenagers to an AMC Teen Wilderness Adventure Course.

Chapter chair David Cullen conducted hikes around the state to meet members.

As in many other organizations, risk management became a great concern of the committee.

In 1995 half of the fee for the volunteer workshop weekend held at the Episcopal Conference Center at Ivoryton was subsidized by the club. Anne Bailey was thanked for her long service as regional director. Her successor was Paul Meleski.

A major concern now is our plans for strategic priorities for Vision 2000.
— Input, David Cullen

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Bicycling has been a club activity since the 1960s, under the leadership of the Excursions Committee. The committee at first felt there was not a great club demand because so many other biking groups existed. However interest grew and finally in 1992, at the suggestion of Harry Duren, bicycling became a standing committee. From then on the program flourished.

Outstanding weekend trips were made to the Lake George region, Pennsylvania Dutch country, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Tanglewood. Potlucks and leadership training sessions were held.

In the interest of safety, helmets were required on all AMC bike rides. Harry prepared a paper on bicycle policies and procedures.

Among the many individuals donating their services to the program were Jennie Keeler, Mike Stino and Ellen Newton, who assumed the chair after the death of Harry Duren. Newton instituted Monday-night rides. A data base of bicycling members and a newsletter were developed. By 1995, 300 participants took part in 125 rides over 17 weekends.

In 1995 the committee produced a brochure to publicize bicycling and a membership list for leaders, and held a leaders' potluck. In July Harry's Ride, a memorial to Harry Duren, was held at Harkness with members of his family present.

The committee decided that participants 18 years of age or younger would not be allowed to participate on AMC rides unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

Ellen Newton developed a 30-hour cycling course that included CPR instruction. The committee would pay half of the cost for people who had lead five rides.

An AMC road racing team was approved and sought sponsorship from local merchants. The first race was held in July 1996.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The mission of the AMC is to promote environmentally sound recreational uses of our natural areas through peer leadership and education. We work to promote the protection, enjoyment and accessibility of the mountains, rivers and trails of the Northeast. We encourage people to experience and enjoy our natural areas in a variety of recreational ways because we believe support for successful conservation programs depends on this exposure.

The task of the Connecticut Chapter Conservation Committee is to promote and pursue the AMC mission, particularly as it relates to conservation, with an emphasis on Connecticut issues. We do this by keeping abreast of current conservation issues and legislation, providing information and education to our members, and sponsoring conservation oriented projects to directly contribute to an improved environment. Our primary interest is Connecticut, but we are also involved with conservation issues throughout the Northeast. We support the initiatives and positions of the clubwide Conservation Committee and provide that committee with the views and opinions of the Connecticut Committee and AMC members.

Programs and projects over the years have included an annual Conservation Day, which is now combined with National Trails Day. Conservation Day in 1995 recognized the 100th anniversary of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association.

The committee has been concerned with acid rain, diversion of water from the Farmington River by the MDC and protection of wetlands. A conservation newsletter was published at times to alert people to conservation issues before the legislature. The committee opposed the opening of Bluff Point to motorized vehicles and the effort of the town of Groton to increase development of the park.

Programs to enhance the enjoyment of the outdoors have included alpine flower walks, tree identification, photography, hike training for youth groups, bike touring and rails to trails. The committee has participated in Earth Day and supported the protection of Long Island Sound and the development of Greenways.

To further the cause of conservation, the committee supported the option of donating to the wildlife fund on state income tax returns. The committee worked with other conservation groups,

such as the Roxbury Land Trust, New England Trails Conference, Farmington River Wild and Scenic River Study, Earth Day, Boy Scout Jamboree and Water Festival, and the Berkshire Chapter.

During the last few years, despite hard work by the committee chairs and members, there seems to be a lack of interest in the Conservation Committee. This has apparently been the issue with all the AMC chapter conservation committees, and the club is actively trying to invigorate this function.

Two new chairs of the Conservation Committee were appointed for 1996. Some of the items they have been addressing are the Northern Forest issues and legislation, destruction of our hemlock forest by the Woolly Aged, and the AMC hut relicensing process. The committee is also monitoring the relicensing of the hydroelectric dams on the Housatonic River. They plan an informative meeting on this relicensing for chapter members in September.

— Revision, Kirby Holcombe

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee endeavors to teach members and the public that experiencing the outdoors can be safe and rewarding without being destructive to the environment.

The committee has sponsored first aid and CPR courses, a speakers' bureau and leadership seminars, as well as revising a brochure on the Appalachian Trail.

Other activities include natural history hikes, photograph workshops, orienteering programs and the development of a slide show to publicize the Appalachian Trail. In recent times, the committee's attention has also been given to low-impact camping.

A leadership newsletter is published and leadership-training weekends have been held at Bascom Lodge, Mohican Outdoors Center and White Memorial Foundation. Outreach hikes are now being held to serve retarded people.

In 1994 a Junior Naturalist Program was started with the input of Paula Burton, Marcia McGowan, Anne Rehm and Shirley Sutton. The committee produced a brochure about video rentals and provided a badge for participants. In 1995, 30 people completed the SOLO wilderness first aid course.

— Input, Paula Burton

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

Most outdoor activities of the club are managed by the Excursions Committee, with the exception of those activities that are arranged by standing committees. Preparation for excursions is completed months in advance in order to meet publication deadlines in *AMC Outdoors*. Monthly coordinators and leaders prepare lists of hikes.

Marathon Day provides a series of hikes on the Appalachian Trail. During the chairmanship of the Sardinhas, the number of daily hikes was increased to try to reduce the number of participants on individual hikes.

The committee conducts leadership training sessions and instituted a new policy requiring members to co-lead two hikes before qualifying to lead a hike by themselves. The Excursions Committee works with the Education Committee to encourage and recruit leaders. A computer maintains a list of leaders and helps with the clerical work.

Ed Dresner and Steve Breciak sponsored hikes to include new additions to the Blue Trail system. Daryl Borst monitors the Connecticut 400 Club. In 1983 the Randalls completed a 15-hike series on the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. Also, the Fairfield County Committee started to schedule hikes. Afternoon hikes increased and were well attended. To reduce costs, bulletin notices were streamlined. A brochure called *So, You Want to Become a Leader?* was published.

Members who have led five hikes are recognized with a patch and rocker the first year and a rocker in subsequent years. An East of the River group is now running Tuesday hikes.

Other activities have included cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, flatwater canoeing, bicycling and backpacking. Marty Griffin serves as cross-country coordinator with the weekend trip to Craftsbury Common in Vermont a popular favorite.

In good winters, many daily ski trips are offered. Other favorites are weekend trips by Ledge Clayton and Dale Hackett.

Interest in flatwater canoeing and backpacking fluctuate. Backpacking trips on the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut, the White Mountains, Adirondacks and Berkshires have been held.

Major excursions have been led by members Barry and Ella

Wulff, Jack Randall, Joan de Fosses, Bob and Connie Funk, Guy Wallace, Ledge Clayton, Jo and Bill Russell, and Gerry Stanton. A popular trip for many years was the week-long trip to Shenandoah. The untimely death of Jack Randall shortly after leading a major trip was mourned by the club.

Participation in AMC regional training sessions produced many leaders. The SOLO wilderness first aid course in April also offers valuable leadership skills.

—Input, Paul Duclos

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMITTEE

The Fairfield County Committee meets the needs of chapter members in the southern part of the state. It had previously been an ad hoc committee but became a standing committee in 1984. Jeanne Blauner was the first chairperson. The committee holds five general meetings annually. In the early years, monthly potlucks were held at members' homes.

Extensive publicity attracted a lot of new members. In 1986 mailing lists were sent to 716 households and membership grew steadily. A wide variety of activities such as hikes, backpacks, flat water and whitewater canoeing, cross-country skiing, trail work, hiking, sailing, photo contests and contra dancing were offered.

In 1989 the committee published a newsletter, *The Hiker*. More than 1,600 were sent out in 1994. The membership was so large that new facilities for the bi-monthly meetings were sought and mailing of *The Hiker* had to be discontinued. The newsletter is now available at local sport and outings stores and libraries. Fairfield County activities are published in the Connecticut section of *AMC Outdoors*.

Meetings are held bi-monthly at the Saugatuck Congregational Church on the Post Road in Westport on second Wednesdays.

—Input, Bill Russell

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The period from 1981 to 1996 has seen rapid growth. In 1981 there were 2,720 members, and now there are more than 8,500, an average growth of 8 percent a year, although there was a small decline in the early 1980s. This growth can be mostly attributed to the public's increased interest in the outdoors, fitness and the environment.

In an effort to keep participation more personal, the Membership Committee began mailing welcome packets containing local chapter information to all new members. Later, Membership Committee volunteers began making personal telephone calls to new members to answer questions and invite them to hikes and bike rides.

Since the early 1980s, a September Saturday has been set aside as New Members Day, when beginner activities take place and a potluck dinner is held. The New Member Day potluck is one of the most popular of the year and gives new members a chance to meet longtime members.

Further growth necessitated focus toward more local activities and, as a result, two chapter sub groups were formed. In 1984, members in Fairfield County began meeting and planning activities for people in that area. In 1995, members east of the Connecticut River began planning activities tailored to outdoor enthusiasts in the eastern portion of the state.

In 1991 the chapter bought a computer for the Membership Committee. From the computer the committee is able to retrieve tailored membership information and volunteer lists.

— Dave Jenkins

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

In the past the Mountaineering Committee also included hiking, backpacking and ski touring and had an active program until it languished between 1978 and 1980. In 1981 Bill Schmidt took over the chairmanship and mountaineering has been a regular activity of the club ever since.

The committee organized popular local climbing trips to Ragged Mountain in Southington, including Wednesday night sessions, Hubbard Park in Meriden, the Shawangunks in New York and Race Brook in Massachusetts.

Members have conducted seminars on winter backpacking, frostbite and hypothermia, and beginning rock climbing, including indoor climbing. A popular trip of Bill Schmidt's was a winter ascent of Mt. Monadnock.

The members continued to climb in distant places: Acadia

National Park in Maine and mountains in Oregon and California. In 1986, six members climbed Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. Beginning climbing instruction continued, with one course being sponsored by Clapp and Treat and led by Galen Rowell at the University of Hartford. Member Dennis Burke had the distinction of reaching the summit of Argentina's Aconcagua, South America's highest mountain.

The parking situation at Ragged Mountain is a serious problem. Appeals to the Connecticut DEP and the AMC Boston headquarters have not solved the problem, and it remains a thorn in the side of climbers to this day.

Clean-ups in the Shawangunks, Ragged Mountain and Hubbard Park provide opportunities for conservation activities.

Safety concerns led the committee to purchase helmets in 1992.

Mountaineering trips continued to British Columbia, Alaska (one member reached the summit of Denali), El Capitan in Yosemite, Wyoming, and Oregon. Four winter trips in New England were planned for ice climbing. The Harvard Cabin New Year's trip was a popular one.

Due to liability problems, beginners' sessions in the field were discontinued for a while, but recently beginners' instruction in knot tying was held.

Since winter trips were publicized only by word of mouth, the Executive Committee suggested the committee publicize trips in *AMC Outdoors*.

Recently, at a chapter potluck, a slide presentation of the climbing of the Lotus in northern Canada gave members the thrill of climbing, if only vicariously.

MT. RIGA (NORTHWEST CAMP) COMMITTEE

The principal business of the committee is the maintenance and improvement of Northwest Camp in the Mt. Riga area and now within the national park. The cabin is available for a fee upon application to the committee chairman. In addition to constant work on repairs, the committee sponsors winter wood-cutting sessions, a Christmas hike and caroling, a spring sugaring-off party, and in the summer, a barbecue and blueberry picking.

Vandalism is frequently a problem. Consequently, it is deemed wise to leave the cabin unlocked. One winter, thieves took the wood cut by using a sledge and another time the wood stove was stolen. The committee donated \$300 to the AMC ridgerunner program, which helps to reduce vandalism. Another deterrent was the installation of a steel gate between the parking lot and the old jeep road to the cabin.

Nineteen ninety-one was the camp's 40th anniversary. Four hikes were sponsored for Williams '91. Chairman Paul Ives created a Mt. Riga volunteer patch and in the same year the committee's name was changed to Northwest Camp.

The next year, a welcoming ceremony was held for through-hiker Herb Van Winkelen, a committee member, along with members of the GMC.

Over the last two years the following improvements have been made: a new insulated chimney was installed for the wood stove; a new cedar floor was installed; underground drainage was put on the east side of the cabin; a new fireplace and grill was located some distance from the cabin and a new enlarged window with a rope ladder for a fire escape was built. The improvements and decreased vandalism have brought more use. It has been necessary to raise fees from \$10 to \$16 per night.

— Input, Roy Hoffman

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Formerly known as the Entertainment Committee, the Program Committee's activities and events have changed over the years. In recent years these have included a mid-winter potluck, spring dinner, Marathon Day, New Members Day, Conservation Day, East of the River meeting and annual meetings.

In 1994 Connecticut Trails Day was added to the annual potluck schedule. This event is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. In 1996 the Conservation Day potluck was combined with the June Connecticut Trails Day. Also in 1996, the responsibility for the East of the River potluck was shifted from the program committee to the East of the River Committee.

The chapter's 75th anniversary celebration will be combined with New Members Day. A social hour is planned, followed by a

spaghetti dinner at Northeast Utility in Berlin.

AMC potlucks are well attended and are known for the great food. In the past, Preston Hill, Indian Hills Country Club, Howard Johnson Conference Center and Housatonic Regional High School have been popular locations for the potlucks. Currently the First Congregational Church in Goshen, Northeast Utilities in Berlin and the Third Congregational Church in Middletown are used. For economic and environmental reasons, members are asked to provide their own reusable tableware.

Annual meetings were held at the Days Inn in Meriden for several years until it was moved to the Marriott in Rocky Hill in 1994. The annual meeting includes afternoon workshops and presentations on topics of interest to club members. Last year's workshops were bicycle maintenance, winter hiking, whitewater canoeing and mountaineering.

There are also committee information booths staffed by committee members to educate members and guests on committee functions and responsibilities. In the morning there is a CPR course. There is also a book and used equipment sale. Members may bring in used equipment for sale and the club gets a percentage of the sales price. A social hour precedes the dinner, business meeting and evening program. A popular event of the annual meeting is the Red Hat Ceremony. A moment of silence is observed for deceased members. Active leaders are recognized, along with Connecticut 400 Club and 50-year members. The evening concludes with a program of interest to the club members. Recent programs included, *Ascent of Mt. Everest*, *The Leather Man* and *Hiking the Appalachian Trail*.

— Helene Goulet

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Between 1979 and 1996, 75 percent of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut was relocated. In 1981 a major portion of the trail was relocated from Route 41 to Lions Head. Members of the Trails Committee and CETA cut 15 miles of new trail, but the relocations were not all opened right away.

Other noteworthy events included the controversy over restoring the monument on Bear Mountain, which the AMC opposed,

and the use of self-registration boxes and pressure plates to try to determine use of the Appalachian Trail.

In 1979 the committee had only a half dozen tools; now it has a building full of tools, including many power tools and winches, etc. They are used virtually every weekend except in the winter on the Connecticut Appalachian Trail and other trails. The Trails Committee is also responsible for approximately 7,000 acres of federal land.

It is difficult for some to understand that getting a protected trail through Connecticut (The AT) is not easy. There was much controversy and hostility and many potential relocations were explored. Some of the negotiations dragged on for as many as 14 years. Mostly, however, this was not the function of the Trails Committee. But the result we see today is a better trail in a better location, with generally good relations with our neighbors.

Below is a partial listing of activities and projects completed by very active volunteers.

In 1981, there were 43 volunteer ridgerunners; 60 on spring and fall weekends.

The AMC trail crew from New Hampshire finished the three-year project of rock steps at St. Johns Ledges.

In 1982, Judy Besancon succeeded Norm Sills as Trails Committee chair. Also that year, trailhead signs were installed at Undermountain Trail by volunteers; the Mountain Brook lean-to on River Road in Kent burned down by DEP; a trust for the Appalachian Trail Lands was formed; CATMAC, a management committee, was formed; trail construction camping weekend at Northwest Camp attracted 27 volunteers; corridor monitoring program was instituted and has continued ever since; the coordinator's office was moved to the Undermountain House, Route 41; and the CETA crew reconstructed trail on Barrack Matiff in Salisbury.

The trail connecting New York and Connecticut was dedicated with 175 people in attendance. But it was not opened at that time, since there was no bridge. Hikers attending the dedication waded across the Ten Mile River or used canoes. At this ceremony the first Memorandum of Understanding between AMC, NPS, ATC and DEP was signed. That year, Paradise Lane became a public trail.

In January 1983, Jack Wallace, vice president of CBT became Trails Committee chair. AMC became the owner of the Undermountain House. For many years a committee tried to establish a hiker hostel there, although this was never accomplished. The house was sold in 1989 to the Town of Salisbury.

A portion of relocated trail on Hamlet Hill opened in April 1983 from Barrack Matiff to the junction above Rand's View, with Rand's View on a side trail. Relocation from Indian Rock to Route 341 over Algo and Schaghticoke mountains opened that May.

The Riga Junction sign was installed by volunteers in June. Fifteen members camped overnight at a two-day workshop at Macedonia Brook State Park in June. A plaque was installed in August on the Paradise Lane Trail in memory of Edward Lorenz, charter member of Connecticut Chapter. The CETA program completed its fourth and last year. Ten Mile River bridge was installed on December 7 in the pouring rain.

In 1984 Joan Hicks became Trails Committee chair. Relocated trail from Route 341 in Kent to Caleb's Peak opened in April, bypassing Macedonia Brook State Park. Relocation from Hoyt Road on New York State line to Bulls Bridge in Kent opened in May. The Salisbury Fund was established in June. Norm Sills retired as coordinator and was replaced by Peter Jensen. That summer a caretaker program was instituted in Sage's Ravine. A volunteer recognition program was put into effect.

A weekend trail maintenance workshop organized by Hicks in 1985 drew 33 volunteers on a gloomy day. Eight volunteers from Connecticut joined the New Hampshire Chapter volunteers at Camp Dodge in Pinkham Notch. New privies were installed at Mt. Algo and Ten Mile River.

In 1986 Dick Blake and Bob Dowd became co-chairs and greatly expanded the activities and the size of the volunteer pool. Shelters at Limestone Spring and Mt. Algo were constructed by volunteers, using plans supplied by the Maine chapter and logs cut at Macedonia Brook State Park.

The New Hampshire Chapter trail crew came for a work/social weekend in 1987. Repeated in October and every year since, it is based at the home of John Hicks in Salisbury. The Stewart Hollow

lean-to was constructed that summer. A committee outing was held at Great Mt. Forest.

AMC and DEP sponsored a clean-up on River Road in Kent in 1988. The longest and most controversial trail relocation was moving the Appalachian Trail out of Cornwall to Sharon. This was accomplished on Marathon Day and the old route became the Mohawk Trail, "the trail that was built in a day."

AMC volunteers built the Pine Knoll Shelter on Mohawk Trail. The committee remodeled a shed on HVA property for a tool shed. Volunteers removed 19 truckloads of trash from the newly acquired Stanley tract.

Doug Christie was Trails Committee chair in 1989. The Undermountain House was sold and the regional office moved to Dalton, Massachusetts. Dennis Regan replaced Peter Jensen as coordinator.

Ninety scheduled work parties were held with 116 volunteers participating. Pine Swamp lean-to was constructed and three new campsites were established. The Silver Hill Shelter was renovated and opened for backpacker use with extensive volunteer effort (750 hours) spearheaded by Dick Blake. The cabin was destroyed by fire the next year.

The first chums (portable outhouses) designed and built by Dick Blake were installed at four sites. A bridge was built over Macedonia Brook. Peter Jensen led heavy trail construction at Prospect Falls.

Forest management, open space management, trail assessment, natural history inventory all began in 1989 or 1990.

Eighty-six work parties, with an average attendance of 7.2 people, completed a total of 3,551 hours of field work in 1990, completing too many projects to list here. There were also work weekends at the Delaware Water Gap, at Camp Dodge and in Salisbury, and a management outing at the Twin Lakes Beach Club.

In 1991 the Connecticut and Berkshire Chapters were hosts for the biennial Appalachian Trail Conference, held at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. It was a tremendous success, due in no small measure to Connecticut Chapter co-chairman Dereka Smith. Relocated trail over Prospect Mountain from the Great Falls opened. Volunteer hours in 1991 totaled 4,800 hours.

The interim chair in 1992 was Norm Sills. A portion of the relocated trail from Lower Cobble Road to Route 41 was opened. The Iroquois pipeline was built across the trail in Sherman. Iroquois built a large parking lot on Route 55 for trailhead parking. Volunteers logged 700 hours devoted to relocating the Mohawk Trail on Coltsfoot Mountain in Cornwall, including a substantial bridge over Furnace Brook.

Henry Edmonds became chair in 1993. The regional office moved from Dalton to Mt. Greylock Visitor Center. The Connecticut roving trail crew had five service trips, two in New Jersey, one in Pennsylvania, one in Vermont with GMC and one at Camp Dodge, and were again joined by the New Hampshire crew in the fall. The Mt. Riga shelter was built on Riga plateau.

Relocated trail over Schaghticoke was opened on Trails Day with a joint ceremony with the Dutchess County (New York) AT Committee in 1984. An outreach program for area youth was developed.

In 1995 Birge Dayton was elected chair. Activities that season included workshops on leadership, first aid, monitoring, maintainers, chainsaw, guide and ridgerunner.

Volunteers spent two weekends at Camp Mohican, one at Camp Dodge and one on the Long Trail in Vermont. In addition to regular work parties, there was a Public Lands Appreciation Day sponsored by Times Mirror Publications, with 78 volunteers.

The latest lean-to, at the Ten Mile River, was completed in 1996. The relocation to include Rand's View on the Appalachian Trail was opened. The map in the brochure, produced annually since 1979, was redesigned.

— Birge Dayton

WHITEWATER CANOEING COMMITTEE

Unlike most outdoor activities, whitewater canoeing, which dates back to 1957 in the chapter, is a standing committee on the executive board. The program follows a long-established pattern featuring novice canoe training sessions, kayak rolling in an indoor pool at Suffield Academy, canoe maintenance and repair, and a large number of canoe trips both in Connecticut and other states, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and New York.

Club canoes are available for flatwater activity, which is popular at present. As in all committees, the problem of leadership is a great concern and leadership training sessions have been held.

In 1983 three more canoes were purchased with money donated by the chapter. Money from the Excursions Committee made possible the replacement of all aluminum canoes with Mohawk ABS canoes. The committee bought equipment for camping and family trips.

In 1985 a whitewater hotline was established and netted 1,200 calls. In addition, a committee newsletter was published. Jack and Naomi Freeman made a gift of an Old Town Herrigan C-2. Members attended a high performance canoe symposium in Phoenicia, New York.

In 1988 members participated in the Farmington River clean-up. Steve Tackermant worked on revision of the *AMC River Guide* and a safety and rescue clinic was held.

In the 1990s vandalism at river access parking areas became a problem. At the annual meeting in 1992 Ed Chase was honored for 23 years of conducting rolling sessions and in January Dick Ploski was recognized for 20 years of service.

To promote safety, proper equipment is required of canoeists, and the rivers and participants are rated. AMC interchapter guidelines are followed. A new attempt to encourage leaders was to send them a schedule of trips and let them sign up for ones they can lead. The response from leaders was excellent and produced a whitewater schedule that offered 134 paddling trips.

The roster was trimmed to include only paddlers who have participated on a club trip during the preceding two years. In June 1995 an open boat training session was held with the Berkshire Chapter on the Deerfield River in Massachusetts and with many more participants than the two previous years. — Input, Tom Tyburski

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

1982

Chair, Sue Hardy
 Secretary, Marion Vandver
 Treasurer, John Langan
 Membership, Rob and Connie Funk
 Trails, Judith Besancon
 Programs, Zeena Garber
 Excursions, Cathy and Joe Sardinha
 Whitewater, Kent Heidenis
 Mountaineering, Bill Schmidt
 NTO, Bill Johnson
 Conservation, Dave Leff
 Education, Kathy Rubin
 Riga, Fred Johnson
 Past Chair, Gerry Hardy

1983

Chair, Judith Besancon
 Secretary, Jane Stone
 Treasurer, John Langan
 Membership, Rob and Connie Funk
 Trails, Jack Wallace
 Programs, Dereka Smith
 Excursions, Anne Bailey, Paul Pikula
 Whitewater, Mike Mixter
 Mountaineering, Steve Tuckerman
 Conservation, Elaine Luckey
 Education, Don Garber
 Riga, John Hicks
 Past Chair, Sue Hardy

1984

Chair, Judith Besancon
 Secretary, Jane Stone
 Treasurer, Paul Ford

Membership, Trish Niece
 Trails, Joan Hicks
 Programs, Fay and Ed Dresner
 Excursions, Anne Bailey, Paul Pikula
 Whitewater, Mike Mixter
 Mountaineering, Steve Tuckerman
 Conservation, Kathy Ryan
 Education, Don Garber
 Riga, John Hicks
 Past Chair, Sue Hardy

1985

Chair, Anne Bailey
 Secretary, Dereka Smith
 Treasurer, Paul Ford
 Membership, Trish Niece
 Trails, Joan Hicks
 Programs, Fay and Ed Dresner
 Excursions, Mary Adams, Steve Tuckerman
 Whitewater, Rich Ploski
 Mountaineering, John Rek
 Fairfield County, Jeff O'Donnell
 Conservation, Sarah Faulkner
 Education, Dave Scribner
 Riga, Fred Harris
 Past Chair, Sue Hardy

1986

Chair, Anne Bailey
 Secretary, Dereka Smith
 Treasurer, Harry Duren
 Membership, Trish Niece
 Trails, Robert Dowd, Dick Blake
 Programs, Eleanor Bielak, Glen Parchmann
 Excursions, Mary Adams, Steve Tuckerman
 Whitewater, Rich Ploski
 Mountaineering, John Rek

Fairfield County, Susan Joy
 Conservation, Sarah Faulkner
 Education, Flo Griev
 Riga, Fred Harris
 Past Chair, Sue Hardy

1987

Chair, Trish Niece
 Secretary, Dereka Smith
 Treasurer, Harry Duren
 Membership, Jeri Lyons
 Trails, Dick Blake
 Programs, Eleanor Bielak, Glen Parchmann
 Excursions, Maria and Paul Scarpia
 Whitewater, Tom Ploski, Ed Bossom
 Mountaineering, Al Carilli
 Fairfield County, Susan Joy
 Conservation, Sarah Faulkner
 Education, Flo Grieb
 Riga, Paul Ives
 Past Chair, Anne Bailey

1988

Chair, Trish Niece
 Secretary, Glen Parchmann
 Treasurer, Harry Duren
 Membership, Jeri Lyons, Marian Ritter
 Trails, Dick Blake
 Programs, Merri Swanson
 Excursions, Gerry Stanton, Susan Joy
 Whitewater, Ed Bossom
 Mountaineering, Al Carilli
 Fairfield County, Susan Joy
 Conservation, Art Mauger
 Education, Mitch Underwood
 Riga, Paul Ives
 Newsletter, Mary Anne Hardy

Past Chair, Anne Bailey
Member at Large, Susan Faulkner

1989

Chair, Glen Parchmann
Secretary, Mary Dorpalen
Treasurer, Harry Duren
Membership, Janet DiMattia
Trails, Doug Christie
Programs, Fay Dresner
Excursions, Merri Swanson, Gerry Stanton
Whitewater, Ed Bossom
Mountaineering, Ed Budzik
Fairfield County, Susan Joy
Conservation, Don Patterson
Education, Mitch Underwood
Riga, Paul Ives
Newsletter, Matt Donachie
Past Chair, Trish Niece
Member at Large, Jeff O'Donnell

1990

Chair, Glen Parchmann
Secretary, Mary Dorpalen
Treasurer, Paul Maresca
Membership, Janet DiMattia
Trails, Doug Christie
Programs, Gordon Gaulin
Excursions, Merri Swanson, Trevor Ledger-Thomas
Whitewater, Ed Bossom, Dick Ploski
Mountaineering, Ed Budzik
Fairfield County, Bill Russell
Conservation, Don Patterson
Education, Francine Zawistowski
Riga, Paul Ives
Newsletter, Matt Donachie
Past Chair, Trish Niece

Member at Large, Jeff O'Donnell
Williams '91, Dereka Smith
Public Relations, Ken Richardson

1991

Chair, Jeff O'Donnell (Jan.-Mar.), Ken Richardson
Secretary, Kathleen Wright
Treasurer, Paul Maresca
Membership, Janet DiMattia, Trish Niece
Trails, Doug Christie
Programs, Gordon Gaulin
Excursions, Merri Swanson, Trevor Ledger-Thomas
Whitewater, Steve Skoloski
Mountaineering, Don Reichler
Conservation, Judy Snyder
Fairfield, Bill Russell
Education, Francine Aloisa
Northwest Cabin, Paul Ives
Newsletter, Matt Donachie
Williams '91, Dereka Smith
Regional Director, Anne Bailey
Past Chair, Glen Parchmann

1992

Chair, Ken Richardson
Vice Chair, Mary Dorpalen
Secretary, Robert Vinopal
Treasurer, Dave Jenkins
Membership, Francine Aloisa, Betty Robinson
Trails, Norm Sills
Programs, Gordon Garlin
Excursions, Merri Swanson, Carl Rosenthal
Whitewater, Jan Larkin
Mountaineering, Don Reichler
Conservation, Don Patterson
Fairfield County, Bill Russell

Education, Paula Burton
 Northwest Cabin, Paul Ives
 Newsletter, Matt Donachie
 Member at Large, Dave Cullen
 Regional Director, Anne Bailey
 Past Chair, Glen Parchmann
 Bicycle, Harry Duren

1993

Chair, Mary Dorpalen
 Secretary, Mary Jane Gately
 Treasurer, Dave Jenkins
 Membership, Betty Robinson, Marilyn Harper
 Trails, Henry Edmonds
 Programs, Helene Goulet
 Excursions, Carl Rosenthal, Rich Rahmig
 Whitewater, Cord Gasque
 Mountaineering, Rick Orsini
 Conservation, Mary Adams
 Fairfield County, Chuck MacMath
 Education, Paula Burton
 Northwest Cabin, Gary Canant
 Newsletter, Matt Donachie
 Member at Large, Dave Cullen
 Regional Director, Anne Bailey
 Past Chair, Ken Richardson
 Ad Hoc Computer, Paul Duclos, Chris Dutro
 Bicycle, Harry Duren

1994

Chair, Mary Dorpalen
 Vice Chair, Dave Cullen
 Secretary, Mary Jane Gately
 Treasurer, Dave Jenkins
 Membership, Betty Robinson, Marilyn Harper
 Trails, Henry Edmonds

Programs, Helene Goulet
 Excursions, Carl Rosenthal, Rich Rahmig
 Whitewater, Cord Gasque
 Mountaineering, Rich Orsini
 Fairfield County, Chuck MacMath
 Conservation, Mary Adams
 Education, Paula Burton
 Northwest Camp, Gary Canant
 Newsletter, Matt Donachie
 Bicycle, Harry Duren
 Ad Hoc Computer/Member-at-Large, Paul Duclos
 Regional Director, Anne Bailey
 Past Chair, Ken Richardson

1995

Chair, Dave Cullen
 Vice Chair, Paula Burton
 Secretary, Mary Jane Gately
 Treasurer, Anne Perkins
 Membership, Dave Jenkins
 Trails, Birge Dayton
 Programs, Helene Goulet
 Excursions, Cindy Mangini
 Whitewater, Tom Tyburski
 Mountaineering, Dwight Curry
 Fairfield County, Bill Russell
 Conservation, Mary Adams
 Education, Jeff Hogan
 Northwest Camp, Roy Hoffman
 Newsletter, Chuck Luce
 Bicycle, Ellen Newton
 Ad Hoc Computer/Member-at-Large, Paul Duclos
 Regional Director, Paul Meleski
 Past Chair, Mary Dorpalen
 East of the River, Betty Robinson

1996

Chair, Dave Cullen

Vice Chair, Paula Burton

Secretary, Doug McKain

Treasurer, Anne Perkins

Membership, Dave Jenkins

Trails, Birge Dayton

Programs, Helene Goulet

Excursions, Merri Swanson, Paul Duclos

Whitewater, Tom Tyburski

Mountaineering, Dwight Curry

Fairfield County, Bill Russell

Conservation, Kirby Holcombe, Elaine Kowalcky

Education, Mary Jane Gately

Northwest Camp, Roy Hoffman

Newsletter, Chuck Luce, Lisa Brownell

Bicycle, Ellen Newton

Member-at-Large, Justine Hart

Regional Director, Paul Meleski

Past Chair, Mary Dorpalen

East of the River, Betty Robinson