



NW Camp Committee Annual Report for 2020

Submitted by Rod Parlee, Chair

The NW Camp Committee had a disappointing and challenging year managing the cabin and its surrounding 125-acres high on the Taconic Plateau below the summit of Bear Mountain. The rustic but cozy cabin is constructed of native American chestnut logs, tucked away under the beautiful old-growth Eastern hemlock forest canopy located in a remote and environmentally diverse northwest corner of Connecticut. Sadly, this amazing cabin remained vacant during most of 2020 due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

On Monday, March 16, 2020 at 1:16 PM the NW Camp Committee was notified that the AMC Leadership Team implemented a closure of all Volunteer Camp and Cabin (VCC) lodging. Forty-eight hours later the NW Camp Caretaker, Don Klein, former Chair John Hicks and former Co-Chair Tom McGrath sprang into action and arrived at the cabin where they secured it, locked it, and posted “Temporarily Closed” signs at the cabin and various entry points. Many executive board and regular meetings immediately followed with a goal of reopening, but too many critical health related questions remained unanswered. As of October 2020, Northwest Camp unfortunately remains “Temporarily Closed”.

Since March, volunteer Cabin Monitors have inspected the cabin and surrounding property almost on a weekly basis, sometimes twice a week. Thankfully, even with the onslaught of crowds in April and May flocking to the outdoors in the immediate area, the cabin stayed secure and clean. In early August, tropical storm Isaias and following windstorms impacted some of the old-growth Eastern hemlock forest surrounding the cabin. Once again, Committee members arrived at the cabin property on a weekly basis under the direction of Cabin Caretaker and Certified sawyer, Don Klein cleaning woody debris away from the cabin.

The Committee volunteers managing this self-service facility will continue to balance the needs of its guests with a safe and environmentally responsible self-service camping experience.

Going forward, the hope remains alive that this well-managed cabin sitting on a sensitive piece of property will open for guests sometime soon. Through the VCC committee’s collaborative, information sharing process the NW Camp committee will continue to share and work to sustain its long-term myriad of benefits for future generations to enjoy.

2020 Committee Roster with Volunteers

Rod Parlee (Chair) *

Art Mauger (Secretary) *

Craig Kennedy (Registrar) *

Donald Klein (Caretaker) *

Paul Thoma (Treasurer) *

Tom McGrath (Outgoing Co-Chair)*

Al Puches (Chapter Treasurer) *

John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar) *

Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor)

Joe Parenteau (Cabin Monitor)

Joel Hoffman (Cabin Monitor)

Roy Hoffman (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)

John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)

Trent Link (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)

Ethan Rain

Eric Harvey

Tom O'Connor

* Denotes Stewardship Award with more than 30 volunteer hours

