



THE AMC IN CONNECTICUT

CT-AMC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 42 | NO 3 | AUTUMN 2021



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Jocelyn Eppich - Chapter Chair

We celebrated the Chapter's 100th-year birthday on September 18th at Hubbard Park in Meriden. This location was chosen because the Club's first meeting was held on the West Peak, which can be assessed by a road or trail from the park. We had about 100 persons in attendance. Some of our Past Chapter Chairs spoke during our program. Did you know a requirement to become a member in the earlier years of AMC, you would have to have two current member sponsors write letters on your behalf? I found out this could be a difficult task, sometimes befriending people you meet on the trail once you found they were AMC members.

As with many clubs, it's all about volunteers, especially for our Executive Committee. As a member of this committee, you have the opportunity to meet and work with like-minded people. You learn about the many things the Club does for trails, conservation, and recreation. If you enjoy running events, we need persons to work in a committee to organize our Spring Dinner and Annual

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CT-AMC A.T. DAY IS HERE!

Saturday, October 16, 2021

CT-AMC Appalachian Trail Day, better known as A.T. Day, celebrates our 52 miles of the Appalachian Trail in CT, and is our largest outdoor social event of the year. The A.T. in Connecticut is maintained by volunteers, organized by our own A.T. Committee, chaired since 2003 by Dave Boone. Connecticut is one of the few AMC chapters (there are 12 of them) where the chapter has sole responsibility for maintenance of the chapter's section of the A.T., so we CT Appies have reason to be proud of it.

A.T. Day events include several hikes on the Appalachian Trail that cover the entire length of the trail in our state. We also include hikes in Macedonia Brook State Park, a historical nod to the fact that the A.T. used to traverse the park. Other chapter committees offer events also, including a bike ride with the Biking Committee and a Try-a-Climb at St. John's Ledges with the Mountaineering Committee.

The A.T. Committee offers a chance to work on the iconic trail and to meet some of the crew that keeps the trail in such great shape in CT. The A.T. Committee is, in fact, largely responsible for the concept of A.T. Day, which started over 60

years ago as "Marathon Day." Once upon a time, the Trails Committee, as it was then known, hiked the entire 52 miles of the A.T. in CT in a relay in a single 24-hour period...Marathon indeed! Read up on the *The Marathon Day History Story* on page 9.

Of course, food is often a part of the CT-AMC experience. Some say we are an eating group with a hiking disorder. Marathon Day always ended with a dinner, and we continue the tradition with our Grand BBQ at the pavilion at Macedonia State Park. \$6 /person, \$3 kids or dogs.

Everyone is welcome: members, non-members, and potential members. This year you are invited to bring your lawn chairs for the picnic to avoid crowding in the pavilion and maintain social distancing (required for all who are not fully vaccinated against covid-19). Hope you can join us for this special day! ▪

PEG PETERSEN, CHAIR OF THE CT-AMC A.T. DAY COMMITTEE

BBQ REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
Email to: yes21atday@outlook.com
and put "YES" in the subject line.

Event listings and registrations available via: www.ct-amc.org

IN THIS ISSUE

- UNCLE AMC WANTS YOU! 2
- AT-A-GLANCE 2
- MAJOR A.T. REROUTE 3
- **CT-AMC BOOK IS HERE!** 4
- CELEBRATE A.T. DAY 4
- OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY 4
- FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP 4
- NWC SUMMER ACTION 5
- HELLO HIKE LEADERS 6
- BRIDGE OUT! SAGES RAVINE 6
- CT-AMC CENTENNIAL SWAG 7
- NWC TAKES A HIKE 7
- LATE SUMMER IN MAINE 7
- GIVE UNTO CESAR 8
- MARATHON DAY 9
- KEEP ON CLIMBING 9
- AMC SUPPORTS TCI 10
- EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES 10
- EXECUTIVE SLATE 2022 11
- NEW MEMBERS HIKES 11



CONNECTICUT APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

THE AMC IN CONNECTICUT - A NEWSLETTER

Volume 42, Number 3, Autumn 2021

Editor & Publisher: Darcy Witham - dwgraphicarts.com

Please send future newsletter submissions & advertising to:
Editor: The AMC In CT, 71 Noble Street, Stamford, CT 06902
or ctamceditor@ct-amc.org

Read online: www.ct-amc.org

Please send all address and e-mail corrections to:
AMC, 10 City Square, Boston, MA 02129 or
information@outdoors.org

AT-A-GLANCE

OCTOBER 16 - CT-AMC A.T. Day and BBQ

OCTOBER 16 - NW Camp Open House Weekend

OCTOBER 23 - Leadership Training

NOVEMBER 6 - NW Camp Fall Workparty

NOVEMBER 6 - Leadership Training

NOVEMBER 6-7 - Wilderness First Aid

CT-AMC ACTIVITIES - activities.outdoors.org/search/

CT TEEN WILDERNESS FUND - [Donate here](#)

LOOK-UP ACTIVITIES & JOIN EMAIL LISTS:

BICYCLING - ct-amc.org/bicycling/

EAST OF THE RIVER - ct-amc.org/east-of-the-river/

EDUCATION - ct-amc.org/education/

FCG - ct-amc.org/fairfield-county/

FAMILY ACTIVITIES - ct-amc.org/family-activities/

FLATWATER - ct-amc.org/flatwater/

HIKING - ct-amc.org/hiking/

MOUNTAINEERING & CLIMBING - ct-amc.org/mountain/

NEW MEMBERS - ct-amc.org/membership/

NW CAMP - ct-amc.org/nwcamp/

TRAILS INFO & WORK PARTIES - ct-amc.org/trails/

WHITEWATER - ct-amc.org/paddle/

YOUNG MEMBERS - ct-amc.org/young-members/

**FOR ALL ACTIVITIES - CHECK IN ADVANCE
FOR REGISTRATION AND RESTRICTIONS!**

UNCLE AMC WANTS YOU!

GET INVOLVED! - www.ct-amc.org

GET TRAINED! - www.ct-amc.org/education

GET OUT, GET GOING - www.ct-amc.org

HIKE LEADERS - Like to be a Hike Leader? Contact Peg Peterson at: hikes@ct-amc.org

WORK PARTY COORDINATOR - A.T. Committee

seeks an internet savvy volunteer to post our scheduled work parties on the AMC activities data base and other outlets. Attendance at our monthly meetings is recommended, but not required. Contact Chair Dave Boone or Secretary Rich Cady with your interest or any questions: trails@ct-amc.org

VICE-CHAIR - Assumes the duties of the Chair when unavailable, includes: attending Inter-chapter gatherings, the Club's Annual Meeting, representing the Chapter on Club committees to which the Chapter Vice-Chair is a designated member.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE - We have two positions open for members who are familiar with our Chapter and have experience with the Exec Committee. These persons could be assigned projects as needed by the Chapter.

PROGRAM CHAIR - This person will plan and organize the Chapter's programs, including the Annual Gathering and Spring Dinner.

CONSERVATION CO-CHAIR - Organize, publicize, and direct conservation projects concerning the CT Chapter and works with allied organizations in these areas.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES CO-CHAIR - Organizer of an activity group for Chapter members with families. Promoting conservation and enjoyment of the outdoors.

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR - Represents the interests of all Chapter members. Plans programs designed to increase member involvement in all activities, updates list of members, answers inquiries and informs prospective and new members, provides data to activity leader lists.

YOUNG MEMBERS CO-CHAIR - Leads a peer group for Chapter members aged 21 to 39 that promotes conservation and the enjoyment of the outdoors. Organizes recreational and social events, and encourages members to take on leadership roles.

If you are interested in any of the listed positions above and would like additional information, contact the Chapter Chair Jocelyn Eppich at chair@ct-amc.org

ALL CT-AMC MEMBERS!

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

Share your experiences! Write up your stories, send in pictures, get published! Send to: ctamceditor@ct-amc.org.



MAJOR REROUTE OF APPALACHIAN TRAIL ON SCHAGTICOKE MOUNTAIN

After years of planning, review, and unanticipated setbacks, the A.T. route within the Schaghticoke Indian Reservation was finally relocated to National Park Service land on Schaghticoke Mountain this summer. Since at least the '90's, AMC-CT trail managers sought to move the Trail off of the tribal land. The Committee was concerned that the Tribe could prohibit use of the Trail if they felt compelled to do so, although generally the Tribe has been supportive of hosting the A.T. on their land. In 2013, the NPS began the process of acquiring land for the potential relocation. An agreement was reached with another Trail neighbor, the Preston Mountain Club, to exchange lands, enabling NPS to own tracts adjacent to the Reservation. The transactions were completed in early 2014, and soon after, Henry Edmonds, our Overseer of Lands, and Bill Schaffer, corridor monitor, sketched out a relocation proposal with a few alternative locations to avoid problematic or sensitive areas. The new route would end east of the Schaghticoke campsite. In the spring of 2015, the A.T. Committee presented the proposal to the New England Regional Partnership Committee: the first step in the review process. Over the next two years, the preliminary flagged route was modified by ATC staff. A botanical review was conducted. Questions regarding the mapped vs. the flagged route arose, and the route was reflagged by our Overseer

of Trails Jim Liptack, and mapped using GPS by Boundary Coordinator Chip Ward. As two winters had already passed, it was a challenge to find remnants of the original plastic flagging. In the fall of 2017, Denise Nelson, NPS Environmental Protection Specialist, walked the proposed route with Club volunteers. Denise reviewed the proposal for compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act. This was subsequent to an archaeological survey conducted by NPS archaeologist Joel Dukes. Joel did find some items of historical interest, and we agreed we would avoid those areas. Unfortunately, a fire on Schaghticoke Mountain in 2017 required yet another reflagging effort to replace many missing, melted, or otherwise toasted flags. The final hurdle in the review process was an on-site walk over in January, 2019 by representatives of the Club, ATC, NPS, and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation. The purpose was to allow reviewers to determine if the proposed route would impact any Native American structures of cultural significance. The CT and NY State Historic Preservation Offices were also invited to submit comments. With a sense that the time to approval was coming near, the Committee planned to have a summer crew composed of members of "The GreenAgers" from Great Barrington MA begin installing the new trail in 2020.

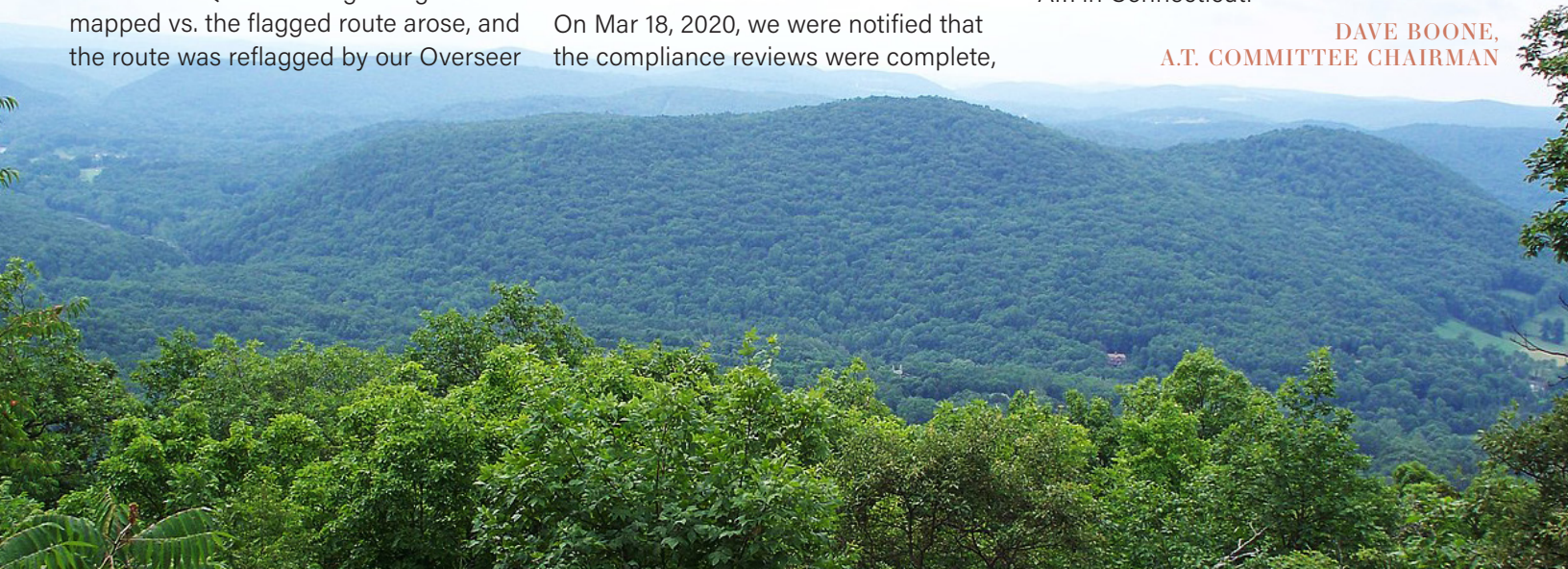
On Mar 18, 2020, we were notified that the compliance reviews were complete,

and the project was approved! Not long after, we were notified by NPS that summer crews would not be provided for, and furthermore, volunteer activity on the Trail was suspended due to the COVID-19 epidemic. We later received notification from NPS that the GreenAger's contract would be extended to 2021, but the GreenAger's COVID policies prevented them from working in a spike camp setting.

Eager to get the new relo off the launching pad, a number of volunteer work parties were scheduled during the summer of 2021. The new route was cut, brushed out, and blazed, and the old A.T. route painted out and brushed in. New signage was posted, temporary signs describing the relo were posted, and a new blue-blazed side trail to the campsite was constructed. Some rock work and side-hilling still needs to be built, and we are hopeful the GreenAger's will complete that work in the 2022 season.

The new Trail opened for business, and the old route closed, this past Labor Day weekend. The Indian Rocks view is not longer accessible, but we believe the new route provides better walking through a number of various landscapes and a scenic walk past falls near the new campsite side trail. The new route is 1.4 miles, slightly longer than the section it replaces. Make a point to hike this piece of Trail, which permanently protects the A.T. in Connecticut. ■

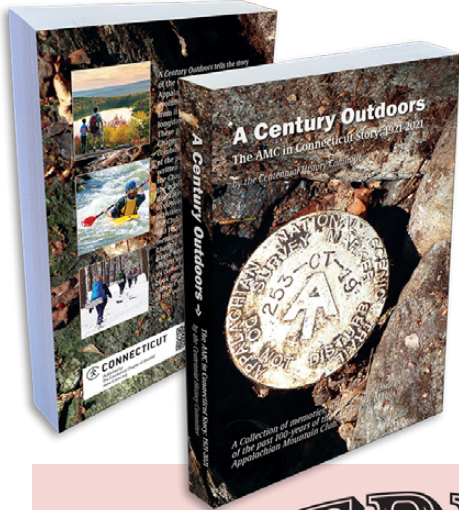
**DAVE BOONE,
A.T. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**



“A CENTURY OUTDOORS”

The AMC in Connecticut Story: 1921-2021

A Century Outdoors tells the story of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and its evolution over the last 100-years, from its inception to today’s longstanding, thriving membership. A Collection of memories, histories, and stories of the past 100-years of the CT Chapter



of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Books are available at all CT-AMC Chapter events.

For more information and availability, please write to the Centennial History Committee: ctamc100@gmail.com

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP

Our first **Zoom Presentation** featuring Dave Pressler on September 14 was a great success with over 80 attendees and a lively Q&A chat after the presentation. It felt like we were all together again!

We hope to welcome many of you to monthly presentations on the second Tuesday of the month.

Tuesday, October 12 @ 7 pm will be our next exciting presentation by world renowned adventurer, Explorers Club member, and an old friend of CT-AMC, Olaf Soot, who will present:

“THE SOUTHERN TIP: PATAGONIA”

hosted by Eleanor Sasso and Tom Carruthers

Any questions, contact Eleanor at easasso7@icloud.com

VIRTUAL ZOOM MOVIE NIGHT • TUESDAY OCTOBER 12
Opens at 6:30 pm for check in • 7 pm show time

PLEASE USE THIS LINK TO JOIN THE ZOOM VIRTUAL PRESENTATION:

<https://outdoors.zoom.us/j/82460911857>

TOM CARRUTHERS,
 CO-CHAIR, FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE



THE FAMOUS APPALACHIAN TRAIL

→• A.T. DAY WITH THE CT-AMC •←

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

Varying hikes along the entire 52 miles of the A.T. in CT and at Macedonia Brook State Park near Kent

Boundary Workshop & Trail Maintenance

Road Bike Ride close to the A.T.

Try-A-Climb on the A.T. at St. John’s Ledges

All followed by a “Grand BBQ” at Macedonia Brook State Park Pavillion

REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE BBQ ONLY.
 EMAIL TO YES21ATDAY@OUTLOOK.COM AND PUT “YES” IN THE SUBJECT LINE.



NEW MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

Adult/Youth: \$6 / Child: \$3

Details of all events including locations and meeting times via: www.ct-amc.org or e-mail hikes@ct-amc.org

Our 100th Anniversary Event a Grand Success

Thank you to all who attended our 100th-year celebration at Hubbard Park in Meriden, CT, on September 18. We had a wonderful day and a good turnout, especially from the Past Chairs of the Chapter.

To commemorate our Birthday, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz sent us her official statement:



By Her Excellency Susan Bysiewicz, Lieutenant Governor

Official Statement

I take great pleasure in offering my sincere congratulations to **Appalachian Mountain Club**

in celebration of its Connecticut Chapter’s 100th birthday. The Appalachian Mountain Club is a place that has brought multiple communities together and has aided the well-being of Connecticut. Since 1921, the club has been a stellar example of how to serve the community and put smiles on people’s face.

Happy birthday, and congratulations on this incredible achievement.

Signed this 18th Day of September, 2021



Susan Bysiewicz
 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

70TH ANNIVERSARY AND PERSEID METEOR SHOWER EXTRAVAGANZA

Even with the sweltering temperatures and thunderstorms, we had 14 people join us for our 70th-anniversary cookout and Perseid Meteor Shower Extravaganza.

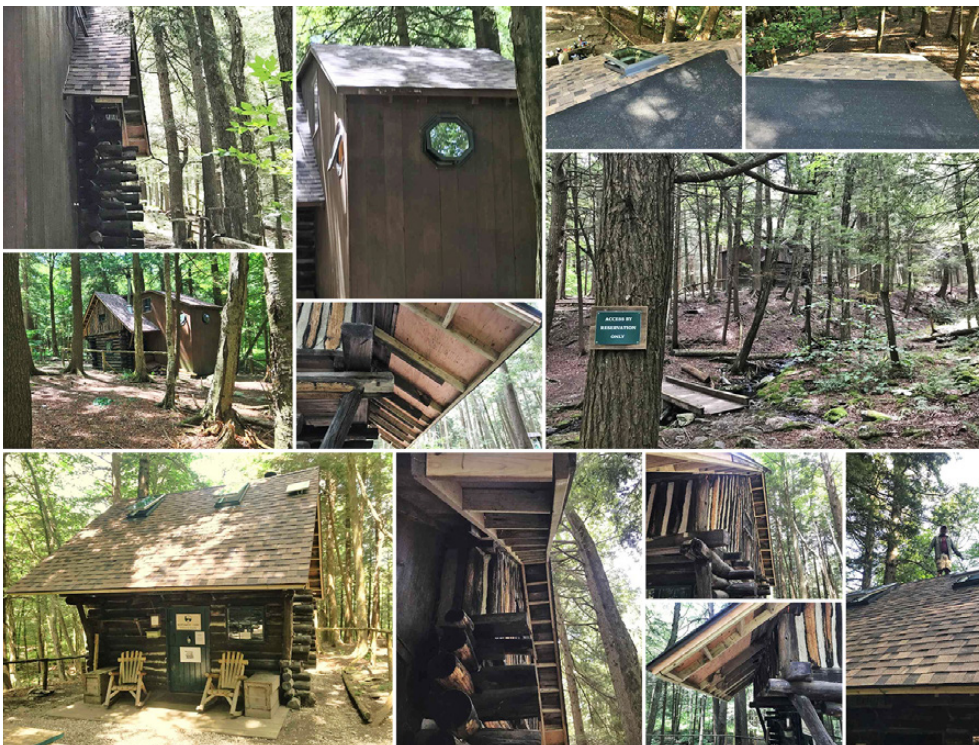
As hot and humid as it was at John Hicks' house at the bottom of the mountain it was at least 10 degrees cooler at NW Camp under the old-growth hemlock canopy. We arrived Friday to a cool cabin that needed serious sweeping, especially upstairs, where the bunks were covered with nails and shingle grit leftover from the roof installation. Don and I swept it, but we recognize that it needs a more thorough cleaning. Some lumber was left behind, but we quickly stored it in place. Looked in more detail about installing stretched octagon windows on the way up to the loft so as to add more light to the stairs.

Saturday, we had a special guest, Larry Burcroff who's mother Ann use to stay at the cabin many moons ago. Larry is Chair of the Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands Commission, and he thanked us all for keeping the cabin and surrounding area so pristine. He loved the new roof and said he is proud of us all for everything we do!



Saturday afternoon, a family of four arrived. Richard Lamagna has stayed at the cabin numerous times with two

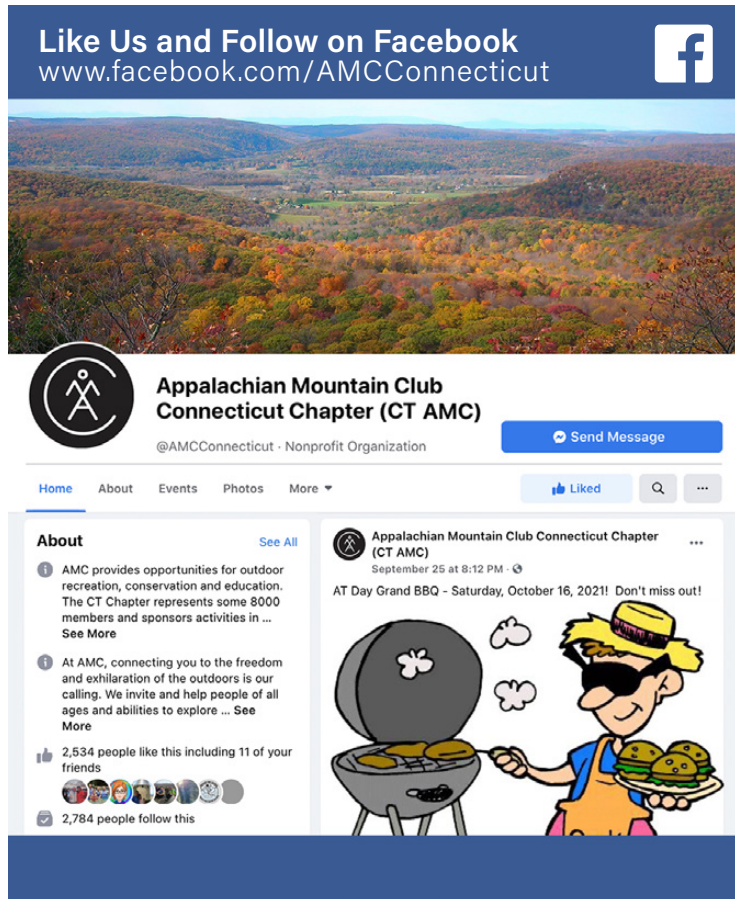
Aardvark Roofing on the job at NW Camp, July 27 — August 12, 2021.



The new roof on the Northwest Camp cabin, as of August 15, 2021.

of his sons, both Eagle Scouts - what a nice family. Carol Langley came with a tasty chocolate cake with the Happy 70th Birthday cabin illustration right on top. Dave "Silver" Kurtz, the Ridgerunner Coordinator extraordinaire, arrived and accepted our verbal appreciation along with a check for \$200.00 which will be used for a Ridgerunner Farewell Party. Professional singer/songwriter and "Cabin Monitor" Joel Blumert popped in and happily, strummed his 10-string guitar with a sweet seventy serenade as we dined on hamburgers. He has now hiked up Bear Mountain 526 times and is still counting. Don Klein arrived with two of his nephews who enjoyed the cookout and first-ever meteor shower. The Chair offered special and heartfelt thanks to Don Klein and John Hicks, who consistently monitored the roof project daily. John made 15 trips to the cabin to check on progress (or lack thereof) for the Committee. Big-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



AMC WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

Attention, Story Tellers!

Why do you love the outdoors?

Your tale could be published on the revamped outdoors.org and win some great prizes!

AMC is currently seeking ideas for essays, adventure narratives, trail work successes, conservation highlights, and other outdoor content that tells AMC's story from across our region. Professional editors will select the best ideas and work one-on-one with writers to develop gripping stories that may appear across numerous AMC channels—including social media, e-newsletters, print mailers, curricula, and even educational displays in our facilities. The year's best writing will be entered into a contest and eligible for some great prizes.

We are currently seeking stories to be published in September, October, and November. Here are a few reader-submitted stories we've published this summer:

- "Lessons from the Summit of Mount Eisenhower"*
- "Getting Back Out: A City-Dweller's Reflection"*

Pitch us your idea here!: [HERE](#)

Questions or feedback? Email Steve Holt, AMC's Senior Editor for Engagement Content, at sholt@outdoors.org.

Hello Hike Leaders:

We can use your help! Just a plain and simple appeal. In absence of a Program Committee Chair, we are calling upon our hike leaders to offer their knowledge and expertise in providing mini workshops to our chapter members and potential new members.

Here are some examples:

- Intro to day hiking series for folks new to hiking
- Carry the ten essentials & what to wear
- Choosing a route
- Personal health & safety
- Food & water
- Trail Etiquette
- Hiking with children & pets
- Map & Compass
- Winter Hiking Skills
- Basic Snowshoeing Skills
- Flora & Fauna on the trail

Workshops are to be offered September through March to members and potential new members.

We so appreciate your time and effort as a hike leaders. If this idea of providing educational workshops interests you, please write to: membership@ct-amc.org

**BARBARA BECKERMAN,
CO-CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

BRIDGE TO SAGES RAVINE CAMPSITE IS OUT!

Campsite is still open, hikers must wade the stream for access.

At most times, stream is shallow, but heavy rains may make for a difficult crossing.

Alternative Overnight Sites:

Northbound (MA):

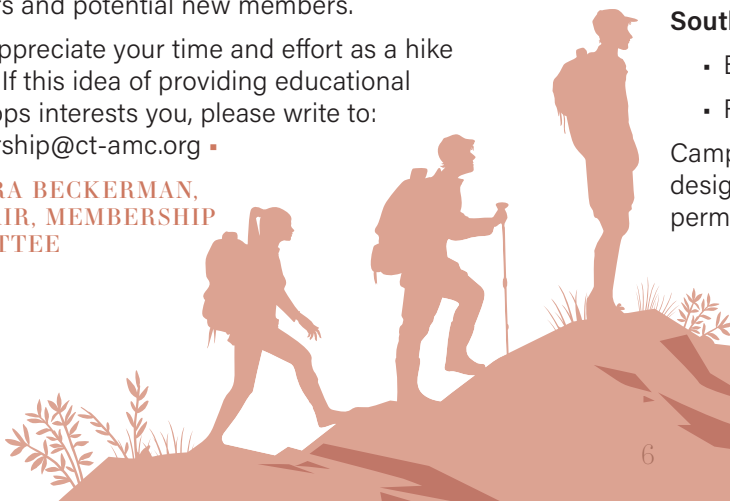
- Laurel Ridge Campsite 1.6 miles (no fires allowed)
- Race Brook Campsite 4.5 miles

Southbound (CT)

- Brassie Brook Shelter, 2.3 miles (no fires allowed)
- Riga Shelter, 3.6 miles (no fires allowed)

Camping in Massachusetts and Connecticut: **ONLY** at designated sites, "rogue" or "stealth" camping is not permitted, as to protect our natural resources

**COURTESY POST
MADE BY DAVE BOONE,
CHAIR, A.T. COMMITTEE**



CT-AMC 100TH ANNIVERSARY SWAG

The Connecticut Chapter is celebrating its centennial in 2021 with special trips, events and sharing some Chapter history. There is limited edition 100th Anniversary apparel and merchandise available in our new online store. We are looking forward to celebrating this historic milestone in the coming months as we look to the next century of the Connecticut Chapter.

SHOP HERE: www.amcvolunteers.threadless.com/collections



VFC ~ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Meeting. The top leadership role is the need for a vice-chair interested in becoming Chair when my term is finished.

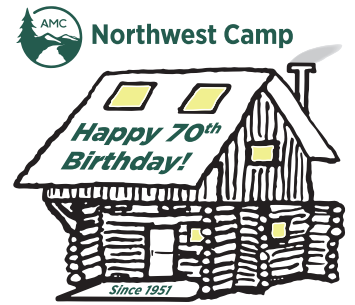
My favorite event, A.T. Day, is to be held this October 16th at Macedonia State Park in Kent. This is a wonderful event with hikes of different levels and a bike ride. The park is an excellent location for the BBQ at 2:30. Please register for the BBQ online (see page 1.) We also have our Annual Meeting to elect our new Slate of Executive Committee members on Sunday, November 14th. Please join us virtually and consider volunteering. ▀

**JOCELYN EPPICH,
CT-AMC CHAPTER CHAIR**

NWC TAKES A HIKE ON CT-AMC A.T. DAY

Saturday, October 16, 2021

CT-AMC A.T. Day Family Hike: Tour Northwest Camp, Salisbury, Connecticut, then hike to beautiful Sages Ravine, where the A.T. crosses the Schnob Brook. Approximately 4 miles total with one long ascent. Minor rock scrambling. Our special guest, naturalist Steve Messier, will share his insights and observations during the Camp tour and hike. Meet at 9:30 am at the Town Hall parking lot, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT. Carpool to the trailhead at 9:45 am. Open to sturdy hikers age 9 and up. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All adults are welcome. Bring water, hiking boots/shoes, and lunch. Dress for the weather. No dogs. Steady rain or thunder cancels. Option to join CT-AMC Chapter BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park afterward. For additional information or questions, contact Paul Thoma by Friday am: 203-874-5642 or thomapr@sbcglobal.net ▀



**ROD PARLEE, CHAIR,
NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE**

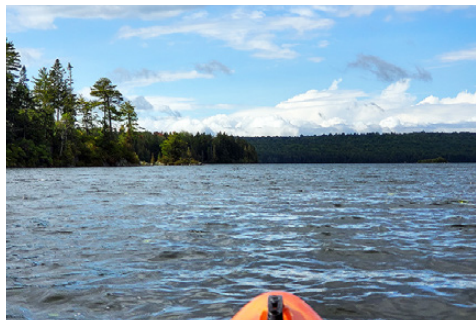
AMC LATE SUMMER ADVENTURE TO MAINE LODGES

Here are scenes from the trip I co-lead with Joe Snyder this September to the AMC lodges at Gorman Chairback and Medawisla located in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness. Our group of 13 enjoyed hiking, paddling, and just plain relaxation. Spectacular sunrises, sunsets, and nighttime skies enhanced the experience. This area is one of the few designated 'Dark Skies' in the U.S.! ▀

**CO-LEADERS JOE SNYDER AND
BARBARA BECKERMAN**



View of Gorman Chairback Cabin and Lodges on Long Pond.



Sunrise paddle at Medawisla.

On Long Pond, Gorman Chairback Lodge.



Our group gathers at the Gorman Chairback cabins. Photos courtesy of Barbara Beckerman.

“GIVE UNTO CESAR THAT WHICH IS CESARS”

In May of this year, Dan Bolognani, Executive Director of the Upper Housatonic Valley Natural Heritage Area, reached out to the CT-AT Committee with an unusual request regarding the Caesar Brook campsite. Dan informed us that students at the Salisbury School, as part of their local history curriculum, discovered that a somewhat wealthy free black man, George Cesar, owned a large parcel of land in Sharon, which is now within the Housatonic State Forest. They also determined that the correct spelling of the family name, Cesar, was often misspelled, such as Caesar, and Ceasar. Such errors are often uncovered in historical documents, and the name was spelled in differently ways in town records and other records. The students

maps and guide books. DEEP approved the name change for the campsite, and in August 2021 we hung a new campsite sign. ATC will make the change in future printings of their maps and guidebooks. The Committee also reached out to various A.T. related apps such as Guthook, who welcomed the update to their information.

The students were also able to examine, both in records and in the field, evidence of the Cesar farm. Impressions of their research and other commentary can be found here <https://atlanticblackbox.com/2020/12/15/cesar-family-project/> The reaction to the Committee's commitment to

installed: " It so happens that I was in the Smithsonian Af/Am History museum this today when you sent this, is that not fitting or what?... lol. Katherine Overton [note:a descendant of George Cesar and family historian] is over the moon, and her daughter, Katrina, wrote this: "Oh my goodness!!! I am crying . History corrected and preserved. In my lifetime, going through history knowing what was missing or misrepresented, I often did not say anything because I never thought there was anything that could be done it. Never in my lifetime did I imagine being able to watch history be corrected, but that I would be a part of it. My forever thankfulness!!!!"

The A.T. Committee is inspired and



Campsite sign with correct spelling of the Cesar family name. Foundation of a building at the Cesar farm location next to the A.T. in the Housatonic State Forest. Photos courtesy of Dave Boone.

determined, and with the concurrence of current family members, that Cesar was and is the correct spelling.

The Committee sought the advice of CT DEEP and the ATC (Appalachian Trail Conservancy) as to how to go about changing the name and also modifying

the name change was thrilling and heartwarming. Rhonan Mokriski, the teacher at the Salisbury School whose students conducted this project, sent us the following email when he received our notification that the old "Caesar" sign was removed and the new "Cesar" name

humbled that we played a small role in preserving a piece of local history and making it right for the Cesar descendants, and the motivated students of Mr. Mokriski's class. ■

**DAVE BOONE,
CHAIR, A.T. COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION

TRAILS

PADDLE

THE MARATHON DAY HISTORY STORY

as it was written for the CT-AMC A.T. Day Tenth Anniversary, 2016.

On a day in April 1960, eight teams of hikers were assigned by CT-AMC Trails Committee Chairman Seymour Smith to hike a specific section of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. Each team was to note any problems or deficiencies on the section they walked and report back at the end of the day when the teams reassembled. Using this early season first-hand information, the Trails Committee had a basis for determining and prioritizing what work needed to be completed on the Trail during the upcoming season. This was the birth of an annual Connecticut Chapter event known as "A.T. Marathon Day." The event proved to be so popular, in addition to collecting useful information, that the Trails Committee decided that a CT Marathon Day should be conducted each spring.

Marathon Day in 1961 proved to be even more challenging. 45 members did the CT section end-to-end, but this time relay fashion. As you might imagine, to complete the entire State within 24 hours required some of the teams to do night hiking, which made the day even more exciting to many members!

In 1962, Marathon Day became a Chapter event (instead of strictly a Trails Committee effort). It became a "Marathon Weekend" with a delicious Chicken & Dumpling dinner provided

to participants at Northwest Camp Saturday night. In 1966, the relay aspect was discontinued, and the section assignment hikes returned, although an end-of-the-day dinner still remained an essential part of the event.

By the 1980s, Marathon Day included hikes of the entire A.T. in CT. Followed by a social hour, potluck supper, and then an evening program, during which each leader or someone appointed by the leader would give a short oral report on the condition of the Trail as well as the names of any wildflowers, birds, butterflies, etc., that were observed during the hike. During that time, the potluck suppers were very popular. Still, over the years, the logistics involving such a large-scale event became too much, and in 1997, A.T. Marathon Day was replaced with the annual Spring work party event known today as "Give A Day to the A.T."

In 2006, Chapter Chair Beth Critton had (and continues to have) a fondness for all things Appalachian Trail, revived the idea of a one-day celebration of the A.T. in Connecticut in the manner of the old A.T. Marathon Day, having hikers on every section on our Trail. The hikes would regroup for some food (of course!) and fellowship at the end of the day. With the support and help of then Excursions Chair David Roberts, and then (and

still) A.T. Committee Chair Dave Boone and past Chapter Chair Dale Geslien, A.T. Day in its current form was created. David mapped out several hikes to cover the entire length of the Trail in CT and found leaders for each of the hikes, many of whom have led the same hike every year since. Since Macedonia Brook State Park included a part of the Trail (the Trail has since been rerouted), it was chosen for the after-hike celebration. David also gathered a group known as the A.T. Day All-Star BBQ Team to handle the post-hike picnic at the pavilion. Darcy Witham, our Newsletter editor, has created posters every year since to advertise the event. Since that first CT-AMC A.T. Day, the celebration has continued to grow. Other Chapter Committees, including Biking, Mountaineering, Flatwater and Whitewater, Young Members, and Family Activities, have hosted events on and near the A.T.

The CT-AMC A.T. Day party and appetites have grown each year and included over 150 people last year. It is the CT-AMC's largest outdoor event of the year. This year, our 10th anniversary, we are expecting... who knows? ... how many people. Hope to see you there! -

BY DAVE BOONE AND PEG PETERSON,
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
BETH CRITTON, STEVE BRACIAK,
AND DAVID ROBERTS, OCTOBER 2016.

CT-AMC MOUNTAINEERING Keeps on Climbing!

The CT-AMC mountaineering chapter *IS* currently running regular indoor climbing activities. These events take place at Central Rock Climbing Gym in Glastonbury, and are scheduled on the first and last Tuesday of every month, year-round. There is no CT-AMC fee to join these activities, but, a day pass to the gym is required to enter. These gym events can cater to all different levels of experience, from someone who has never climbed before and is looking to try it out, to a seasoned climber looking for a partner.

Registration through the CT-AMC website is required to join, a list of all our climbing events can be found under the "Mountaineering Activities" link on our chapters web page Climbing & Mountaineering: www.ct-amc.org/mountain/

Sign up for our mailing list: [HERE](#)

Write to us at: mountaineering@ct-amc.org -

CHRIS GRANATA, CO-CHAIR, MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE



AMC SUPPORTS THE TRANSPORTATION CLIMATE INITIATIVE (TCI)

The Appalachian Mountain Club supports efforts in Connecticut to pass the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI). This critical piece of environmental legislation would help reduce and/or mitigate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from transportation and lead to cleaner air. What the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) did to reduce GHG emitted by the power sector, TCI does for transportation.

Since its inception, RGGI has resulted in \$1.8 billion in lifetime energy bill savings and 2.5 million short tons of CO2 emissions avoided. (www.rggi.org)

Connecticut has cumulatively invested more than \$195 million in RGGI allowance proceeds toward programs and services dedicated to the deployment of energy efficiency



measures and renewable energy technologies (RGGI 2019 Annual Report.)

While RGGI is significant, the transportation sector in Connecticut

is, unfortunately, the largest source of GHG emissions produced by our state. For Connecticut to reach its climate goals, we must reduce emissions from the transportation sector. According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, TCI generated proceeds from allowance auctions would total \$89 million in 2023 and would increase to as much as \$117 million in 2032 for Connecticut. These funds would be reinvested in clean transportation options and infrastructure.

Please consider contacting your local legislators and asking them to support TCI in the next legislative session.

Find your legislator: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp> ■

**ANDREW MAY, CHAIR,
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

SOLO WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Two FULL days of instruction from SOLO instructors. Topics include:

- Patient assessment
- Shock
- Fractures
- Dislocation
- Long-term patient care
- Soft tissue injuries
- Environmental emergencies
- Splint improvisation and preparedness



NOVEMBER 6 & 7 at White Memorial Carriage House, Whitehall Road, Litchfield, CT. Cost is \$200 member / \$240 non-member. Includes instruction, lodging food: breakfast only - hot beverages and lite breakfast of bagels, fruit snacks etc. Lunch - bring your own. Dinner is not provided at this time. Local restaurants are available in the area. CPR is additional \$40.00. Enrollment is limited. Payment link emailed after registration.

For all the details and registration, please visit: www.ct-amc.org/education. Questions? Write to: Education@CT-AMC.org ■

KEITH SPAAR, CO-CHAIR, EDUCATION



Training from earlier this year in Mansfield. Students were engaged in a scenario where they are tasked with creating a shelter with the tarp.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Reductions in capacity are due to COVID restrictions, not due to demand! Leader training sessions fill up quickly. As of this writing, space is available in the one-day leadership training and two-day SOLO Wilderness First Aid training held at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield during the weekend of November 6-7. The club will be offering a train the trainer program November 12-14, likely in eastern Massachusetts. Registration has not yet opened. Consult outdoors.org for further information on that training. The Connecticut Chapter has successfully offered in-person training in the past year, primarily because we have made frequent use of state parks to conduct the training outdoors. Consult the education tab on ct-amc.org. for information on upcoming training sessions in 2022. ■

**JANET AINSWORTH,
CO-CHAIR, EDUCATION**

CT-AMC 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SLATE

- Chair: *Jocelyn Eppich*
- Vice-Chair: *Open*
- Secretary: *Martha Cain*
- Treasurer: *Al Puches*
- Past Chair: *John Grasso*
- Newsletter Editor: *Darcy Witham*
- Members-at-Large: *Janet Ainsworth / Open*
- Webmaster: *Keith Spaar*
- Appalachian Trail: *Dave Boone*
- Bicycling: *Susan Grant / Judy Borrmann*
- Communications: *Peg Petersen*
- Conservation: *Andrew May / Open*
- East of the River: *Ray Phillips*
- Education: *Keith Spaar / Janet Ainsworth*
- Excursions: *Peg Peterson / Phil Wisley*
- Fairfield County Group: *Tom Carruthers / Open*
- Family Activities: *Corey Mott / Open*
- Flatwater: *Barry Gorfain*
- Membership: *Barbara Beckerman / Open*
- Mountaineering: *Chris Granata / Jeffery Pipech*
- Northwest Camp: *Rod Parlee*
- Program: *Open*
- Whitewater: *Mark Schappert / Ed Yisnitsky / Troy Schinkel*
- Young Members: *Corey Mott / Open*
- Nominating Committee:**
Bruce Laroche, Chair

NWC ~ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

time kudos to Paul Thoma and Carol Langley, who planned the very well-organized and tasty cookout. After the cookout, we broke out the portable PPT projector and previewed the new CT-AMC CENTENNIAL HISTORY book, "A Century Outdoors," which is now available for purchase - *see page 4*. After the cookout, eight of us hiked to

and long (35 degrees) it left a shadow and a vapor trail! Four satellites were also counted, one (Unidentified) roving light in the Milky Way and another satellite that blinked twice at us. Before we descended to Mt Washington Rd, we walked over to the west side of Bald Peak were awarded an amazing view of an orange/red quarter moon setting over the Catskills. Then, someone noticed a headlamp coming up the peak



70th-Year Birthday Celebration of NW Camp and the annual Perseid Meteor Shower Extravaganza.

the top of Bald Peak with headlamps and pads and started counting Perseid meteors at 10:01 pm. The rock outcroppings we stretched out on were warm and the wind was brisk and refreshing after a hot day. By the time 11:00 pm arrived, we had seen and counted 29 meteors and started yelling for "THIRTY" over and over again, and at precisely 11:01 pm, a streaking meteor flew across our field of view to the east, from north to south, and it was so bright

from the parking lot, and before you knew it, The Riga Ranger Danny Brazze who we invited appeared almost from out of nowhere! He popped up from the ledge and shined his headlamp on his face, and announced his arrival. As it turns out, a shorter and much more direct trail goes right up the west side of Bald Peak, and Dan had to know it very well to arrive so quickly. ■

**ROD PARLEE, CHAIR,
NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS HIKES

Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth, CT

These hikes are for new members and/or for those folks thinking of joining CT-AMC to learn about the AMC and get outdoors. Easy to moderate 4.5 to 5 mile hike of various trails within the park. **New Membership Hikes will happen monthly.**

For information on future hikes, please write to Barbara: membership@ct-amc.org ■

**BARBARA BECKERMAN,
CO-CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**