

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



88th Anniversary

Annual Report

November 14, 2009

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

MISSION STATEMENT

Through our broad range of activities and programs, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that successful conservation depends on this experience. The Connecticut Chapter promotes the protection, enjoyment and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut as well as other trails, rivers and byways within the state in cooperation with other maintenance organizations. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the state. The members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect these areas and educate others as to their use.

Adopted May 1993

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Timothy Linehan</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rick Merritt Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Lee Andrew May</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Steve Braciak Nancy Mann</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chairs	<i>Debra Rich Eric Stones</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Members at Large	<i>David Bellemare Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Sandy Bartell Gini Kramer</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Co-Editors	<i>Maggie Grayson Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Howland Chris Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) has been holding its own in what has proved to be a challenging environment for both the club and its individual members. Our chapter has bucked the trend that has adversely affected many organizations; we expect to finish the year under budget – not that this is comes as a surprise since Treasurer Al Puches has made fiscal prudence a *regular* practice of our chapter, and our membership of approximately 8,200 has remained relatively stable throughout the year. When we “drill down” a little, it becomes apparent that 2009 has actually been a good year for the chapter.

First off is the creation of our new Family Activities Committee. Begun as part of the Excursions Committee, family activity offerings ramped up so successfully under the leadership of Eric Stones and Debra Rich that we decided to spin it off on its own, where it continues to sponsor an increasing number of events and attract increasing numbers of families.

Excursions (aka hiking), too, saw an increase in the number of individuals leading hikes and sponsored a record number of activities.

Mountaineering continued its successful endeavor to expand the scope of its efforts. Our chapter now offers a full suite of workshops and activities that advance one from a “newbie” climber to a multi-pitch climb leader on both rock and ice.

The Conservation Committee qualified several individuals to present the club’s programs on Climate Change at area schools and libraries. We have a proposal outstanding to acquire an energy monitor that will permit users of the device to determine their energy use and identify areas in which conservation is possible. We expect to feature a program in 2010 that will challenge chapter members to identify and reduce their energy use.

The chapter has been very busy working to improve and increase electronic delivery of activity listings and other communications. There are several initiatives underway and these efforts have taken on increased significance with the reduction in the number of issues of the club’s *AMC Outdoors* magazine. Excursions converted distribution of hike listings from paper to electronic. The Bicycling Committee is likewise in the process of moving their activity listing to electronic delivery. Young Members and Whitewater are using Facebook to encourage dialogue between committee members and participants. Our webmaster is nearing completion of a project to convert all committee web pages to a standardized format.

The Chapter newsletter, too, is moving toward increased electronic distribution. Here Darcy Witham, our hard-working editor, has been doing some excellent work in color and layout. It's amazing stuff.

At the club level, a great deal of effort has gone into enhancing the Member Center; we can now create and receive weekly activity digests – customized reports of upcoming activities, the newsletters of the other chapters, etc. – all of which takes some of the “sting” out of the loss of activity listing space within *AMC Outdoors*.

We're also working to ramp up youth activity programming. While we are still in formative talks with Joy Street to craft a Chapter Youth Program (CYP) structure that will prove flexible for AMC volunteers and partner organizations, we are confident that 2010 will see CYP programming of short hikes, nature programs, and trail maintenance.

A Harry Duren Scholarship was granted to a deserving individual who was able to participate in one of AMC's Teen Wilderness Adventures.

One of the more significant events for Connecticut hikers this year was the designation of the Mattabesett-Metacomet-Monadnock (MMM) Trail as the New England National Scenic Trail. Federal protection of this important pathway ensures that it will continue to delight generations of hikers to come. Kudos are extended to the AMC volunteers and staff, and to our friends and partners at Connecticut Forest and Parks (CFPA), who have been working this issue. It's a big win.

Our plan for next year is to pursue more of the same. We expect to see continued incremental enhancements to our programs and education offerings. We hope to have CYP up and running. We expect continued refinement of the chapter web site and other electronic distribution channels and we'll continue to encourage electronic delivery of the chapter newsletter, as that will save further print and postage costs as well as reduce our carbon footprint. Our Conservation Committee will be running a series of newsletter articles that will identify what we as individuals and families can do to improve our energy efficiency.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Executive Committee during this, my first year as Chapter Chair; I've enjoyed the lively debates and learned a great deal. Special thanks are due to Secretary Carol Hassett for her dedication to ensuring that we (read, “I”) am attentive to the tasks and calendar of the chapter. I particularly want to express my appreciation for the partnership of Chapter Vice-Chair Gene Grayson this past year; he continually offers wise counsel and a calm voice when these are most needed. We're very fortunate to have him on the team. You'll see in the 2010 slate of Executive Committee candidates some new names and note the absence of some familiar ones;

we welcome this transition as it allows our volunteers to “share the load.” Of special note is Beth Critton’s “retirement” from the Executive Committee. Beth has been very a very active contributor for several years in a variety of capacities – including serving as a prior Chapter Chair and most recently as Membership Chair; her energy, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness will be missed.

Best wishes to all for the coming year.

Tim Linehan

Connecticut Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2008

The 87th Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) was held on November 15, 2008, at MountainRidge in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Program Committee Chair David Bellemare introduced Chapter Chair Leo Kelly. Leo thanked Dave and welcomed everyone to the Annual Gathering.

Leo remarked that he had a respect for those who labor and persevere toward a common goal. One important goal was the creation of the Connecticut Chapter in 1921.

In April of that year, Dr. A.A. Grane of Waterbury and other Connecticut members of the AMC gathered for a meeting at Hubbard Park in Meriden to consider the creation of a Connecticut chapter. At that time, about forty people hiked to the top of West Peak.

It was mentioned that along the way a participant killed a good size rattle snake after several walkers had passed dangerously near without seeing it or hearing its rattle. Leave No Trace (LNT) principles had yet to be discovered.

Another participant on this trip 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 the succeeding half hour, and never were human beings any wetter than the members of the newly formed chapter and their companions.”

The very first annual meeting of the Connecticut Chapter was held in Hartford on Saturday, November 26, 1921. A hike of 5-7 miles was scheduled to Cathedral Rock. Those coming by train were directed to take the 12:30 p.m. from Hartford’s rail station out Farmington Avenue to the park entrance. Return was to be made by trolley or motorcar to the Colt Memorial Parish House for supper and a business meeting.

A quote from the meeting: “Our existence is still in the embryonic stage, and the volume of attendance and interest shown at this first annual meeting will be the index of our prospect for growth and usefulness.”

Leo said that, without a doubt, the audience’s attendance at the 87th annual meeting, and the additional 8,500 members of CT-AMC, attest to the fact that we have a proven usefulness within the AMC. Leo read the CT-AMC mission statement.

Leo said he was pleased to report that the chapter is healthy and, although the growth in new memberships has slowed, the enthusiasm within continues!

Leo urged the audience to take the time to read through the Annual Report and the Annual Gathering Program. He stressed that the CT-AMC's committees are full of dedicated volunteers who work very hard, do a superb job and receive little credit. He added that it had been a pleasure serving with so many competent and hard-working individuals.

There is always a need for more volunteers. Leo invited anyone who would like to become more involved in the chapter to talk to him personally so they can get in on the fun.

Leo outlined the evening's program and extended his best wishes to the audience for a happy and healthy 2009.

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of those CT-AMC members who passed away since the last Annual Gathering.

<i>Thomas Aitken</i>	<i>Jo L. Anderson.</i>
<i>George Bahamonde</i>	<i>Walter Florance</i>
<i>Lillian Gasper</i>	<i>Marge Hackbarth</i>
<i>Mark Humphrey</i>	<i>Wendell Jones</i>
<i>George Lowell</i>	<i>Dana J. McAvity</i>
<i>Ellen McGuire</i>	<i>Don Mitchell</i>
<i>Elsa L. Phin</i>	<i>Perley Robinson</i>
<i>Lisa Spencer</i>	<i>Anne Spring</i>

To save time, Leo did not read the names of the recipients of the 2008 Volunteer Stewardship Awards. He directed the audience to the Annual Gathering Program, which included a list of the award recipients, including the Trails Awards.

Leo introduced Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone, who described the Trails Committee Awards. He noted that volunteers expended 3,296 hours working on the Appalachian Trail (AT) in the past year.

Leo called Past Chapter Chair Dave Cullen to present the year's Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award.

Dave Cullen presented the Lifetime Service Award, via telephone, to Norm Sills who some call "Mr. AT in CT." He was active on the Northwest Camp (NW Camp) Committee then the Trails Committee, serving as chair of that committee. He was very involved in the land acquisition process for the AT and helped coordinate this effort for the AMC.

Dave Cullen presented the “Appie of the Year” Award to Program Chair Dave Bellemare who has worked tirelessly in the past several years to arrange chapter events, especially the Annual Gathering. He became a volunteer through the Young Members (YM) Committee. He is also a hike leader known for his long and challenging hikes.

Leo thanked Dave Cullen and asked for a round of applause for Dave Bellemare and Norm Sills.

Leo then recognized Connecticut’s fifty-year club members.

Mr. Ross Lanius of North Haven, CT

Mr. Ronald Perkins of Middletown, CT

Mr. Thomas Wall of Mansfield Center, CT

CT-AMC Membership Chair Beth Critton presented a fifty-year pin to Ross Lanius.

Leo asked those who had been members for 25 years or more to stand for recognition. He asked for a round of applause for the twenty-five and fifty year members.

Leo introduced a special guest, AMC Chapter Relations Manager Faith Salter. He invited Faith to the podium to address the audience.

Faith spoke about the effort of CT-AMC volunteers who raised \$10,000 for the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). She talked about new club developments such as the member center, electronic newsletters, and the online version of the *AMC White Mountain Guide*. She praised CT-AMC’s Eric Stones’s effort to initiate family hikes.

Leo called on Duren Scholarship Chair Dick Don who spoke about the scholarship. Dick said that it had been difficult to find scholarship candidates, adding that the fund was financially healthy. He read a thank you letter from this year’s candidate and closed by saying that Eric Stones will be taking over as Duren Scholarship Chair.

Leo thanked the members of the 2008 Executive Committee who served over the past year.

At 7:48 p.m., Leo called to order the business portion of the 87th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Leo called for a motion to accept the Secretary’s Report as presented in the 2008 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Leo then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented in the 2008 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next item of business was the election of the 2009 Executive Committee.

Leo called upon Bruce Laroche of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of nominees for 2009. He asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

Chapter Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Steve Braciak</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Education Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Tim Linehan</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Howland</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Chris Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

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

Leo asked the Past Chapter Chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and stand:

Beth Bryan Critton: 2006-2007
Dale Geslien: 2003-2005
Eric Stones: 2000-2002
Paula Burton: 1997-1998
Dave Cullen: 1995-1996
Mary Dorpalen: 1993-1994
Trish Niece: 1987-1988
Anne Bailey: 1985-1986
Judy Besancon: 1983-1984
Ledge Clayton: 1975-1976
John B. ("J.B.") Garner: 1965-1966

Leo asked the audience to give the Past Chairs a round of applause.

Leo asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 7:53 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Mountaineering Committee Co-Chair Gini Kramer announced the winners of the Silent Auction.

Dave Bellemare, Program Committee Chair, then introduced the program speaker, Sam Williams, a young man who rowed solo across the Atlantic Ocean to raise money for FARM-Africa.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hassett, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2008

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Cash at January 1	\$60,818	\$81,582
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	32,028	30,788
Program activities	21,927	23,650
Contributions	1,000	3,380
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	8,257	16,606
Local sale of memberships	3,827	4,744
Leadership training	6,530	7,450
Subscriptions and advertising	5,384	750
Merchandise sales	818	1,945
Interest income	<u>9,889</u>	<u>956</u>
Total revenue collected	\$89,660	\$90,719
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	24,261	23,284
Cost of merchandise	365	1,336
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	1,186	18,403
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,951	2,479
Conservation	1,779	1,392
East of the River	1,480	1,099
Education	5,584	6,200
Excursions	14	13
Executive	8,753	14,694
Fairfield County	419	170
Flatwater	—	15
Membership	3,008	3,163
Mountaineering	2,583	2,918
Newsletter	9,342	9,089
Northwest Camp	—	—
Program	12	0
Trails	6,451	4,833
Whitewater	1,299	1,056
Young Members	<u>409</u>	<u>61</u>
Total expenditures	\$68,896	\$90,205
Cash at December 31	<u>\$81,582</u>	<u>\$82,096</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 AND 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$81,582</u>	<u>\$82,096</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$20,770	\$19,858
Program activities	17,358	13,126
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	16,701	11,275
Local sale of memberships	3,016	2,034
Leadership training	6,490	6,394
Subscriptions and advertising	–	–
Contributions	680	1,000
Merchandise sales	551	862
Interest and investment income (loss)	<u>(1,688)</u>	<u>(13,684)</u>
Total revenue collected	\$63,878	\$40,865
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	16,892	12,793
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	4,361	4,747
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,755	1,188
Conservation	61	127
East of the River	714	640
Education	4,325	4,389
Excursions	13	0
Executive	5,038	4,972
Fairfield County	169	223
Membership	2,420	1,530
Mountaineering	1,307	923
Newsletter	7,319	6,235
Trails	2,404	4,666
Whitewater	106	1,528
Young Members	<u>61</u>	<u>227</u>
Total expenditures	\$46,945	\$44,188
Cash at September 30	<u>\$98,515</u>	<u>\$78,773</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
RESERVE FUNDS

⁽¹⁾ Reserve funds are cash set aside by the chapter for a specific future use or spending objective. Sources of such funds are often grants, gifts, or contributions, but can also include funds set aside from the chapter's operating budget. A summary of the chapter's reserve funds is as follows:

	<u>12/31/07</u>	<u>12/31/08</u>	<u>9/30/09</u>
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	11,683	11,683	10,342
Duren Memorial Scholarships	5,296	5,832	4,796
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	2,472	2,472	2,472
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,645	783
Whitewater Reserve	7,365	9,825	8,783
Maine Initiative Fund	1,417	0	0
Durr Donation	0	1,230	11,230
General fund	<u>49,773</u>	<u>49,773</u>	<u>52,902</u>
Total cash	<u>\$81,582</u>	<u>\$82,096</u>	<u>\$78,773</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

The season's last issue of the *AMCyclist*, our newsletter, was published for October-November rides. It is published from April through November and includes all of our rides and bike information on bicycle-related topics. Our goal for next year is to work toward online distribution, eventually eliminating the print newsletter. It will be available on our web site. Terry Pappagallo, who did a great job again this year, will stay on as newsletter editor.

JoAnn Hewett, our ride coordinator, did a great job again this year compiling all rides for our newsletter, *AMC Outdoors*, and maintaining our ride leader list.

Tom Ebersold did an outstanding job sending all rides to our short notice Yahoo! e-mail group list of about 300 names and also posting rides on our web site so bike leaders can send out last minute rides to both sites.

Judy Kunkel, in charge of the Monday program, had a very successful season, with a ride every Monday from April 1 through the end of October. She recruited coordinators who were responsible for each month's rides.

The Tuesday night rides ended September 1. There was a great turnout each night with an average of 60 to 80 cyclists of all ability levels. The rides ranged from 15 to 40 miles. Under Wayne Tursi's supervision, bike leaders David Waldburger, Rick Merritt, and Glen Orcutt led most of the rides. Leaders Ray Taksar, Agatha Pohorylo, Jim Gleba and MaryAnn Carr also stepped in to lead some rides.

From May through August, Finlay Ferguson and Barbara Rutigliano led the Thursday night rides, which were very successful. The number of cyclists averaged 20 to 30 each week. The rides were mostly hilly, with no cue sheet, and averaged 20 to 30 miles. Most of the participants had dinner together after the rides and they bonded very well.

We ran five successful trips to the following locations:

- Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, May 22-25, Ls: Lise Fortin, Rick Merritt, and Russ Pacino
- Cape Cod, Massachusetts, July 26-29, Ls: Terry Bludeau and Susan Whalen
- Vermont-N.Y.-Canada, August 16-20, Ls: Barbara Frey, Jeri Jaminet, and Jerry Jaminet
- Acadia National Park, Maine, September 6-11, Ls: Jeri and Jerry Jaminet

- Fairlee, Vermont, September 18-20, Ls: Finlay Ferguson and Doug McKain

Next year's trips will include Washington, D.C. and Gloucester, Massachusetts.

We added about 10 new ride leaders this year but need to find more people to step forward and encourage other bike leaders to lead more rides. This seems to be a problem with all bike clubs.

A ride was scheduled each Saturday and Sunday throughout the season, some days with more than one ride. Hopefully we can do better next year. We feel that offering more rides will attract new members and potential leaders.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

Jo Ann Hewett - Ride Coordinator

Terri Pappagallo - Newsletter Editor

Rick Merritt – Co-Chair

Wayne Tursi, Sr. – Co-Chair



Conservation Committee

Building on past success, such as our initiative last year to raise \$10,000 for AMC's Maine Woods Initiative (MWI) the CT-AMC Conservation Committee enjoyed another successful year. In response to what many people consider our greatest environmental challenge, Global Climate Change, two members from our committee were trained to give the Club's presentation, *What Climate Change Means to Outdoor Recreationists*. Trained committee volunteers gave the presentation three times this year, once to an adult audience and, most importantly, twice to school children.

Along with the presentations, CT-AMC is fighting climate change by continuing to be involved with a coalition of statewide conservation groups that promote clean energy by encouraging our members to sign-up for the "Clean Energy Option" on their electric bill.

Based on last year's partnership with Dr. Charlotte Pyle from the Connecticut Invasive Species Working Group, we continued to educate members and citizens about identifying and eradicating invasive plants. In this effort, we sponsored a lecture by Dr. Pyle and two invasive species hikes that were very well received. We plan to continue this partnership in the coming year.

Our committee is also involved, as is the club, as a partner in the Highlands Coalition, a coalition designed to protect land in the Highlands Region of Connecticut (Northwest Corner), New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In this capacity, we participate in statewide Coalition meetings and help promote the efforts to preserve land in the Highlands. Partly due to these efforts, land from the Ethel Walker School and from the Mad River headwater has been set aside for preservation. We hope to have hikes in these new jewels in the coming year.

With our friends from CT-AMC's Trails Committee and from Connecticut Forest & Park Association, we also helped celebrate the elevation of our beloved *M-M-M Trail* to the status of National Scenic Trail. We expect to have an award ceremony in the coming year honoring Rep. Chris Murphy for his foresight in spearheading this effort.

As successful as last year may have been, the Conservation Committee can never rest on its laurels. We welcome any input of time, energy and/or ideas that anyone is able to offer. It is a challenging, rewarding, and sometimes fun effort.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Janet Ainsworth
John Crist

Bob Andrews
James O'Rourke

Russ Charest

Jamie Lee – Co-Chair
Andrew May – Co-Chair



East of the River Committee

The East of the River (EOR) hiking group offers a wide variety of mid-week hikes each month, sponsors social events throughout the year, and plans one-day and overnight trips to hiking locations and AMC facilities outside the state. Among the annual offerings are several popular urban hikes in Boston, notable-tree, -resident and -author hikes in Hartford's urban parks and cemeteries, and beach walks in Rhode Island.

Two EOR hikes are planned for each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year - one more strenuous and generally longer than 5 miles, and another less than 5 miles in length and with more gentle terrain and less elevation change. Hike leaders often lend their particular expertise, sharing their knowledge of geology, birds, wildflowers and trees, and making such a hike a forum for outdoor education.

A host of dedicated volunteers contacts hike leaders to plan each month's hikes, serves as hike leaders, plans social events and trips, sends e-mail notices and provides telephone-access for hike information. Betty Robinson, instrumental in the founding of AMC's Connecticut EOR hiking group, edits and publishes the EOR newsletter. These are the people who make the EOR hiking group possible.

The East-of-the-River hiking group is an amazing, ever-changing gathering of people who love hiking and the outdoors. It is the source of wonderful, lasting friendships. As for many AMCers, EOR hikers find the camaraderie as enriching as the fresh air and exercise.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

Michelle Baughman

Ruth Griffin

Bob Nickels

Barry Resnick

Nola Currie

Carol Hassett

Bill Novoa

Betty Robinson

Dot Davis

Mary Ann Kouyoumjian

Carolyn Olsen

Zellene Sandler

Steve Braciak – Co-Chair

Nancy Mann – Co-Chair

Education Committee

A Train the Trainer workshop for prospective instructors was presented at the 2008 Chapter Annual Gathering. Although there was only one participant, he went on to attend Leadership Training School and become a bike leader. There was additional interest in the workshop by those who were unable to attend and the training is now available for future instructor prospects. The presentation has been made available to other chapters and the club's Outdoor Leadership Development Committee (OLDC). Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone completed the training later in the year and was welcomed as a new instructor on the committee.

The 2008 Leadership Training School (LTS), conducted November 21-23, 2008 at White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield, Conn., yielded 20 potential new leaders. Veteran instructors John Crist, Merri Fox, Jeff Hogan, Leo Kelly, David Roberts and yours truly, along with AMC's Leadership Training and Risk Management Manager Aaron Gorban, covered topics such as Trip Planning and Management, Leadership Styles, Group Dynamics, Leave No Trace Principles, Map and Compass, Leadership Opportunities, AMC Policy and Forms, Accident Scene Management, Risk Management and Leader Liability as well as experiential learning scenarios. Participant evaluations continue to be very favorable and one graduate of the July Leadership Training Session who became a leader opted to also take the weekend training for more in-depth training. Several LTS participants have already qualified to become leaders.

Refresher leadership or soft skills workshops are available to be scheduled to meet the needs of Activity Committee Chairs.

The Education Committee's SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and optional CPR training was held April 4-5, 2009, at White Memorial, Litchfield, Conn. The popular training continues to be sold out every year with 40 participants and a waiting list. Volunteers and committee members stepped forward to help with the logistics of the weekend. The training is so successful in part because the instructors are also AMC members/leaders and can directly relate to AMC participants.

The committee was represented in May at Give A Day to Trails. Committee members John Crist, Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly continued their involvement as instructors with the club-wide Mountain Leadership School in June.

The Leadership Training Session was held on Sunday, June 28, 2009, at Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden, Conn., where new instructor Dave Boone made his teaching debut. Two participants submitted articles about their experience for publication in the chapter newsletter.

The Education Committee is actively looking for new instructors to add to its roster.

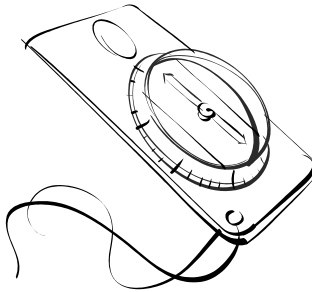
EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Dave Boone
Jeff Hogan

John Crist
Leo Kelly

Merri Fox
David Roberts

Dale Geslien – Chair



Excursions Committee

In the twelve months to the end of September 2009, CT-AMC Hike Leaders posted a record 621 hikes, an increase of 15 percent compared with the previous year. This is a remarkable achievement against a background of a weak economy, still high gas prices and poor weather.

Hikes and other Excursions' Committee events accounted for about 60 percent of all activities run by the CT-AMC during the year.

112 Hike Leaders led at least one hike compared with 100 in the previous year, demonstrating the depth of our group of Hike Leaders.

Over 60 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers have qualified for Chapter "recognition" awards as a result of leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more hours to support our efforts.

In addition to hikes led by Hike Leaders who are not part of a sponsoring group, hikes sponsored by Young Members, EOR, Family Hiking, and the Thursday Western CT Group again made a major contribution to these totals. EOR Midweek Hiking continued to sponsor four well-attended hikes each week, the Western CT Thursday Group sponsored one hike each week, and our Young Members group sponsored almost 30 hikes. The Family Hikes program, which was established just last year, has continued to build with 34 family hikes this year, and the Excursions Committee was pleased to see this initiative develop into a new Family Activities Committee led by Eric Stones.

The chapter is working hard to develop a Chapter Youth Program (CYP), which made great progress this year with Hike Leader Matt Secore taking on the role of Youth Program Manager.

In addition to local hikes, many of our Hike Leaders led backpacking and ski trips both inside and beyond the state, organized backpacking teach-ins, and also led AMC Major Excursions. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter-wide events such as National Trails Day, New Member Activity Day and our third AT Day.

Once again the Excursions Committee sponsored the AMC's Fall Hiking Week, now in its 125th year. Excursions Committee Leaders participated in Fall Hiking Week as well as August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events.

Once again, we thank the Education Committee for organizing the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield and a one-day Leadership Training Session, both of which were very well attended and which are extremely important in providing potential Hike

Leaders with high quality training. With their help we added a significant number of new Hike Leaders during the year.

The Excursions Committee was one of the first to build e-mail lists, to adopt the AMC's Activity Listing System and to develop these systems. Behind the scenes, several volunteers spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing e-mails and responding to many e-mails from hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

Our main e-mail list for distributing hike notices now has over 1,360 names, an increase of 10 percent from last year and, when we combine all of our hiking e-mail lists, we have almost 3,000 names receiving our hike notices. We continue to support other committees by including non-hiking events in our popular Weekly Upcoming Hikes List e-mail which has become a key element in promoting chapter events.

By using Internet technology, the Excursions Committee has eliminated paper from its systems in recent years and has also eliminated essentially all of its costs.

The Excursions Committee would like to thank all of the Hike Leaders for their wonderful contribution during the year as well as the volunteers who maintain our list. We would also like to thank Education Chair Dale Geslien, and Webmaster Jim Scheef for their support.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Dave Cronin
Eric Stones

Carol Hassett

Fiona Nicholson

David Roberts – Chair



Fairfield County Group

In the few years to 2008 the Fairfield County Group (FCG) increased the number of events it organizes from seven each year to twelve. These events involve a huge amount of effort by the FCG Committee and so it was decided this year not to increase the number of events even further. Instead FCG continued in 2009 with the same number and variety of events as sponsored in 2008. This program consisted of five speaker meetings and a Beach Party Clam Bake in Westport, four speaker meetings and a December Holiday Bash in Bethel, and an Annual Hike, Bike and BBQ Picnic in Redding

FCG's 2008/2009 season of five speaker meetings in Westport attracted a total audience of about 510 people or an average of over 100 people per meeting an increase of over 20 percent compared with the previous season. FCG's Westport meetings are well established, with attendees enjoying excellent presentations, a hot pasta dinner, dessert, wine, coffee and a great atmosphere. In the early part of the 2008/ 2009 season, however, FCG meetings in Westport were attracting record crowds of around 130 people per meeting with serious overcrowding and with a disproportionate increase in attendance by non-members. As a result, FCG decided to significantly increase the entry fee for non-members while keeping the fee for members unchanged. This has resulted in more manageable crowd sizes and a much better atmosphere.

Since FCG increased the number of speaker meetings in Bethel from two to four and moved to a new location about two years ago, FCG's Bethel meetings have continued to improve and to become increasingly established. The four speaker meetings in Bethel during the 2008/2009 season attracted crowds averaging about 50 people per meeting and our final meeting of the season attracted a record number of over 50 AMC members. FCG's Bethel meetings feature appetizers, wine, desserts and coffee, as well as great speakers.

FCG's speaker meetings feature a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, and in the 2008/2009 season included Romania, France, Antarctica, Costa Rica, Nepal, India, Tasmania, a presentation on "Hiking Around the World" and our first FCG Movie Night.

FCG's Annual Picnic at Putnam Park has now been running for several years and has established itself as a very pleasant outdoor event but unfortunately this year's event had to be canceled because of bad weather.

FCG's Third Annual Holiday Bash in Bethel, early in December 2008, featured live music and magic for the first time as well as holiday fare with around 50 people enjoying the event.

This July FCG held its Second Beach Party and Clam Bake at Compo Beach in Westport. Around 50 people enjoyed a great clam bake, swam, played games and generally had fun.

FCG's events not only help to retain members within the club but have also directly resulted in a significant number of people joining the AMC at FCG meetings.

FCG has continued to develop its communications efforts with posters and press releases for all its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed in *AMC Outdoors*, on the chapter web site and have been featured regularly in chapter newsletters. FCG e-mail lists now have over 640 names and we continue to collect names for these lists.

While FCG's main aim is to promote the AMC in southwestern Connecticut, FCG has also worked to do this in a cost effective way. Many of our speakers now present for no fee and we have controlled our other costs carefully.

During the past year, FCG has added new members to its wonderful committee and continues to enjoy the support of many other volunteers. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE:

Lorraine Cronson
Fiona Nicholson
Eleanor Sasso

Paul Garbarino
Al Puches
Jo Shields

John Hamlin
Tim Ryan
Darcy Witham

Tom Carruthers – Co-Chair
David Roberts – Co-Chair

Family Activities Committee

2009 was the first year for the Family Activities Committee that was formed in April 2009. Eight leaders led over 20 family hikes during the year, including two “special needs” family hikes; participation varied from 3 up to 60. Many of the hikes were also listed on the state’s DEP “No Child Left Inside” web site and those that were often drew 20 to 30 participants, (with more than half children).

FAMILY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

*Janet Ainsworth
Tobey Ritz.*

Merri Fox

Deborah Lewis

*Debra Rich – Co-Chair
Eric Stones – Co-Chair*



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

Thanks to committed leaders, we scheduled the following 35 events in 2009: 19 flatwater trips, 5 sea kayaking trips, 1 instructional/skills practice outdoors, and 10 pool sessions. Dale Geslien joined the ranks of our leaders and led a paddling trip in Maine. We partnered with Eric Stones to do our first family paddle. Barry Gorfain led the instructional/skills workshop held again at Lake Wintergreen. And our committee was enhanced with the addition of Jean Lange, who managed our table at Collinsville Canoe & Kayak’s demo day, hosted our meetings, and procured our speaker at the CT-AMC Annual Gathering.

Barry Gorfain, Deb Tedford and Jean Trapani cooperated to organize and guide three trips on the Last Green Valley’s Source to Sea program. All of them on the Thames River in eastern Connecticut, a difficult place to paddle due to almost certain winds, numerous ferries at the lower half, and the security zones around the submarine base and Electric Boat. We

coordinated with the CT DEP Boating Division, which escorted us past the submarine base, and signaled when the way was clear across the ferry channels. The Coast Guard held up ferry traffic on a separate trip from the western to eastern shores of the lower Thames to assure our safe passage. We are very happy for the success of the Source to Sea program and grateful for the state and federal cooperation.

Flatwater had a table at the Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound New Haven base Open House in June and at the Paddle Smart Safety Event in March. The committee conducted a paddle on AT day, in fog and rain. We also accepted the generous gift of a sea kayak from Clark Bowlen who led trips to Cobs Cook Bay for AMC some years ago, waters which were, and are, quite challenging.

Tom Ebersold repeated some successful itineraries from last year and added the East River to his repertoire for this year, a very beautiful venue. Robert White greatly updated and enhanced our web page, keeping us current with the chapter's progress, as well as leading sea kayaking trips. Our pool sessions had the added feature of a stand-up paddle board and paddle thanks to the Outdoor Sports Center in Wilton, Conn.

Bob White's major excursions canoe camping trip has been approved for next year, and he has been elected to the AMC Major Excursions Committee.

Our perseverance in a year with too much precipitation of all kinds caused our Flatwater e-mail list to rise to 153 members and our sea kayaking list climbed to 81. I thank all involved as committee members and leaders for their generous efforts in 2009!

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

Barry Gorfain
Robert White

Jean Lange

Debra Tedford

Jean Trapani - Chair



Membership Committee

The total count for CT-AMC membership as of October 1, 2009, was 8,204.

It has been a productive year for the Membership Committee. As Committee Chair, I responded to numerous e-mail and phone inquiries, introduced potential members to CT-AMC, helped new members get their bearings and addressed membership-related questions.

From October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, the Membership Committee sent 1,752 informational pamphlets (frequently stuffed with flyers for events such as Give a Day to Trails, the New Member Potluck Dinner, AT Day, the Annual Gathering, and Fairfield County Group presentations) to welcome our new and returning (after a lapse of greater than five months) chapter members. During the year, I updated the new member package to highlight information available on club and chapter web sites to encourage new members to sign up for electronic delivery of the chapter newsletter, and to add information about the chapter's new Family Activities Committee.

My daughter, Carrie, labeled and assembled the new member packages, which were mailed to new members within five business days of receipt of mailing labels from the Club. Shipman & Goodwin LLP, the IKON Copy Center, and my secretary, Gerry McConnell, helped with word processing and copying of the new member pamphlets and flyers.

I participated in meetings of Chapter Memberships Chairs and Club Membership staff at the Club's Annual Meeting in February and at the Fall Gathering in October, was a chapter representative at an inter chapter retreat at Cardigan Lodge in May, and organized a CT Chapter Outdoor Skills Welcome Weekend at the Highland Center in July.

With the assistance of volunteers from various activity committees, new members were offered an array of outdoor opportunities on New Member Activity Day, September 12. Unfortunately, rainy weather caused the cancellation of some activities and limited participation in others. On September 26, the Program Committee hosted the annual New Member Potluck Dinner.

Throughout the year, Fiona Nicholson and Peg Peterson actively and effectively recruited new members at Fairfield County Group events. Jim Scheef, our Webmaster, provided technical expertise for online memberships and Membership in a Bottle (MIB) sales on the chapter website. Marilyn Atwell efficiently handled our MIB program. Through the coordinated efforts of a variety of Executive Committee members, the chapter's remaining MIBs - 31 in all - have been delivered to Marilyn.

Dave Cullen ably coordinated the recognition of 25 year and 50 year members.

Betty Robinson assisted with questions pertaining to the membership roster, including confirmation of the current membership status of activity leaders.

Although our membership declined slightly in number in 2009, our chapter remains one of the strongest in the club in terms of membership renewal and retention.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Marilyn Atwell
Peg Peterson

Dave Cullen
Betty Robinson

Fiona Nicholson

Beth Bryan Critton – Chair

WELCOME

Mountaineering Committee

2009 was a busy year for the CT-AMC Mountaineering Committee. Whether their main interest was rock climbing, ice climbing or general mountaineering, members found lots of opportunities to enjoy the beauty and challenge of high places. In addition to taking part in AMC-sponsored events and activities, members fanned out across the country and beyond to climb. They brought back stories and pictures of adventures in places like Red Rock Canyon, Yosemite, the Bugaboos (Canada), Chamonix and Zermatt.

Recreation:

The Mountaineering Committee kicked off the winter season with our annual ice climbing opener the first weekend in December. This took place in the White Mountains, New Hampshire, and a large number of participants braved the single-digit temperatures to climb the headwall in Tuckerman Ravine. We also sponsored a Winter Mountaineering workshop on Mt. Washington as well as a Winter Presidential Traverse, which became a Carter-Moriah Traverse due to high winds in the Presidentials.

In February, we headed to the Adirondacks for an ice climbing weekend and to North Conway for the annual Ice Fest, sponsored by the International Mountain Climbing School. Our final winter trip in March - also to the White Mountains - attracted the largest group ever for a CT Mountaineering ice climbing trip.

But the North Country wasn't the only place where the ice was "fat". Because Connecticut was blessed with an unusually cold winter (well, ice climbers consider frigid temperatures to be a blessing), climbing outings were organized at local areas such as Thomaston and Canaan. We even heard reports of ice in Chatfield Hollow! Additionally, we continued our weekly indoor climbing program during the winter months at Prime Climb in Wallingford.

Beginning in April, we moved back outdoors to start the rock climbing season. Unfortunately, the weather was not so cooperative and the majority of our weekly Thursday evening climbs were rained out, as were some of our weekend trips. However, we were successful in organizing a few summer weekend activities such as climbing trips to the White Mountains, the Adirondacks and Acadia National Park and also instituted a new series of multi-pitch climbs, "Second Saturday at the Gunks" in New Paltz, N.Y.

Education:

The Mountaineering Committee really amped up its training courses this year with educational sessions that served to introduce new members to our activities and also enhance the safety and climbing skills of committee members. We began with our intro to ice climbing clinic in January. In a departure from our standard practice, we engaged the International Mountain Climbing School to lead the instruction. Several of the participants in this course went on to climb regularly at other events sponsored by the committee.

Our spring training season encompassed a full curriculum of workshops from beginner to advanced that attracted participants from other AMC chapters as well as CT-AMC. Classes offered included intro to rock climbing, intermediate climbing, top-rope set up, lead climbing and anchor building. New this year, was an advanced techniques class taught by Chuck Boyd, a professional mountain guide and AMC member, which served to hone the skills of established lead climbers. We also ran a self-rescue course along with a “refresher,” which was held later in the season. These training courses not only prepared newer climbers to participate in multi-pitch climbing activities but also resulted in a greater number of committee members emerging as first-time lead climbers.

Conservation:

Access continues to be an issue for the Connecticut climbing community. Members of the AMC worked with other organizations to try and open areas for climbing and thus take pressure off existing areas as the sport grows in popularity.

2010 Objectives:

The Mountaineering Committee’s goals for 2010 are as follows:

- Continue to recruit new members through our training classes such as intro to rock climbing as well as CT-AMC activities such as AT-Day and New Member Day.
- Continue to implement an intensive training program that focuses on climbing safety. We plan to keep a similar training program as last year but we will also be introducing a course on rope management.
- Continue to sponsor multi-pitch climbing events. With the influx of new multi-pitch leaders, we are able to have more of these activities. Weather permitting, we will also be organizing more local ice climbing activities in Connecticut.
- Continue to work access issues in concert with other organizations.

The Committee could not have accomplished so much without the dedication, support and enthusiasm of all the volunteers who contributed their time and expertise. We thank you!

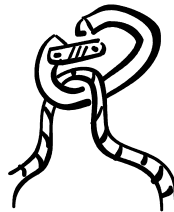
MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

Mike Adelson
Skip Frey
Tim Linehan
Gustavo Nava
Mark Sondeen
Steve Wall
Paula Zimbrea

Ron Curtis
Dominick Galletti
Art Morenz
Carole Phelan
Mark Spain
James Wolff

John DeAngelis
Bob Lener
Carol Morenz
Russ Sherwood
Audrey Suseno
Gary Zempel

Sandy Bartell – Co-Chair
Gini Kramer – Co-Chair



Newsletter

The AMC in Connecticut, our CT-AMC quarterly newsletter, reaches more than 8,200 chapter members through direct mail. *AMC in Connecticut* is also distributed to numerous advocates and supporters who subscribe via e-mail or who download the newsletter from the chapter web site. This electric distribution allows readers an easy way to reduce their carbon footprint while helping to defray printing and mailing costs for the club. The newsletter showcases CT-AMC member information, such as an update from our chapter Chairman, information about upcoming events, and many other stories/articles of interest to our constituents.

Each newsletter is always a group effort, so all submissions and comments are greatly appreciated. The goal of the newsletter is to foster greater CT-AMC membership and to recruit participants for upcoming events. The publication also works to persuade members to try new activities and encourages more members to volunteer and give of their time.

Darcy Witham is senior editor of the publication. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars and providing her highly creative design layout skills. Maggie Grayson is co-editor of the newsletter, providing copyediting and proofreading services. Both Darcy and Maggie also work on a number of additional CT-AMC-associated flyers, announcements, and letters, which are sometimes bundled with the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Maggie Grayson – Newsletter Co-Editor

Darcy Witham – Newsletter Co-Editor

Northwest Camp Committee

The NW Camp cabin and surrounding property are holding up well. Unlike many volunteer-managed facilities that have seen a downturn in reservations, NW Camp is ahead of previous year's bed nights. Most of this is attributed to the promotional efforts of the committee at AMC functions, word-of-mouth and the return of happy campers year after year.

In January, Sam Fernandez and members of Scout Troop 162 from Columbia, Conn., constructed and installed the first-ever mouldering privy out house at NW Camp. Sam raised \$450 with his troop by organizing a car wash to go towards the purchase of the building materials. On behalf of the committee, committee member and Scout leader Tom McGrath helped organize efforts with the scouts.

The spring work party consisted mostly of cutting downed limbs from a winter ice storm for firewood. In August, the committee organized a weekend of mushroom, old growth tree, and meteor shower hikes. AMC Director of Chapter and Volunteer Relations Roger Scholl joined us. He toured the cabin and found it to be in good shape. On Saturday, special guests Matt "Twig" Largess, a nationally known arborist, and mycologist Henry Smith led a hike down to Sages Ravine and back discovering a myriad of old-growth trees and colorful mushrooms along the way. The diversity of trees and mushrooms in the area was unbelievable. Later that night, we all hiked up Mt. Riga and we saw 20 meteors streaking across the summer sky. On behalf of the committee, the chairman donated \$200 to Matt Moore of the AMC ridgerunner program. The ridgerunners are valuable to the committee as they monitor the cabin and area during summer months.

Other accomplishments throughout the year include adding a self-addressed camp-user survey post-cards with every registration (Ron Zlotoff), customizing NW Camp Volunteer long-sleeved Tee shirts (John Hicks), updating the bylaws by the entire committee, and making many trips to the cabin to keep it safe (Caretaker Ryan Christensen, Craig Kennedy and Don Klein).

The committee elected the following officers for the next two years beginning in January 2010: Rod Parlee and Tom McGrath - Co Chairs, Sue Ives - Registrar, Paul Ives - Caretaker, Merri Fox- Secretary and Al Puches – Treasurer.

The NW Camp Committee scheduled the following events for 2010:

- January 30, AMC Annual Meeting, Danvers, Mass.

- February 10, NW Camp Committee Meeting, CFPA headquarters
- February 26 – March 1, Snowshoe Weekend at Cabin
- April 14, NW Camp Committee Meeting at CFPA Headquarters
- April 30-May 2, 2010 Spring Work Party at Cabin
- August 11, NW Camp Committee Meeting CFPA Headquarters
- August 13-16, Perseids Meteor Shower Weekend at Cabin
- September 9 – 13, New Members Weekend at Cabin
- October 13, NW Camp Committee Meeting, CFPA Headquarters
- November 5-8, 2010 Fall Work Party at cabin

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE:

*Alice Combs
Merri Fox
Paul Ives
Donal Klein
Trent Link
Tom Nichols
Jim St. Amand*

*Chuck Doll
John Hicks
Joni Kafka
Ken Kostak
Tom McGrath
Al Puches
Paul Thoma*

*Jim Edwin
Nicole Ives
Craig Kennedy
Carol Langley
Brandon Neupaver
John Rek
Ron Zlotoff*

*Rod Parlee - Chair
Ryan Christensen - Caretaker
Sue Ives – Registrar*



Program Committee

There was no Program Committee Chair until September. Dave Bellemare had resigned from the position a year earlier, due to work constraints. He was able to do enough for the committee to keep the dinner events going. Once his job became slightly less demanding, he assumed the Program Chair position once again and he's back in full swing.

On Saturday, April 18, we ran the Spring Dinner at the Cheshire Grange. Beth Critton and Carol Hassett were a big help running the Registration Table. Every available seat was sold. There was a problem with the vegetarian meals that resulted in a shortage of lasagna for some attendees who had ordered it. We need to do something so that this problem does not occur again in 2010. 14 additional people came for the after dinner presentation, *Hiking the Dolomites of Northern Italy* by John Sorbo. John is the founder of Beyond Limits Adventure Travel.

We ran the New Member Potluck Dinner on Saturday, September 26, at the Prospect Congregational Church. The guest speaker for the event was Sue Lach, whose program was *AMC Major Excursions What It's All About*. Sue presented lots of pictures from various AMC trips. The presentation was fantastic but the turnout was disappointing. Everyone who attended enjoyed the evening.

Now we are gearing up for the Saturday, November 14, Annual Gathering. This year we are back at the Rocky Hill Marriott. We have a full afternoon of workshops, committee/sponsor displays, silent auctions, and a very interesting after-dinner presentation about the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). The speaker is WWP New England area outreach coordinator; Linda Perry. WWP's mission is to improve the lives of the wounded young men and women returning home from war.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Peter Colonis
Lori Stethers

Wilford Parker
Wilda Wyse

Jerry Sitko

David Bellemare – Program Chair

Trails Committee

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

- 2009 represents the 60th year of the chapter's stewardship of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.
- 130 individual members of the chapter contributed 3,004 total hours to Trails activities.
- Early in the season, we removed numerous blowdowns in the Bear Mountain/Sages Ravine area following a severe December ice storm that affected the higher elevations.
- The Committee met with representatives of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation in regard to a tribe member's unauthorized activities, which were affecting the reservation and adjacent NPS lands.
- Needed boundary maintenance was completed in the Breadloaf Mountain area.
- A new mouldering privy was constructed at the Rte. 41 parking lot.
- The Plateau campsite was officially abandoned. The side trail to the spring near the campsite will remain maintained.
- Based on the recommendations of the Sharon Audubon study commissioned by the committee and the ATC, tree line thinning, appropriate grasslands mowing, and the installation of kestrel and bluebird boxes was completed at Bunker Hill. This was the first year of what will be a continuing effort to improve habitat for a number of rare and threatened species. In a related management effort, The Nature Conservancy completed its cooperative effort to remove invasive species in the Bunker Hill area.
- Another successful "Give A Day to Trails" saw 46 participants go out on 4 different projects. The après event continues to be a feature of the day!
- A Student Conservation Association summer crew completed substantial improvements at Limestone Springs
- During the summer ridgerunner season, 8,000 hiker contacts were made, with no major incidents.

- Efforts to revitalize our Natural Heritage program were successful. Several chapter members, including Debbie Poitras, who agreed to the task of program coordinator, stepped forward to volunteer for this program which monitors the health of rare, threatened, and endangered species along the AT. Volunteers received training from experts in the area through a joint training with the Berkshire Chapter AT Committee.
- The popular swing at Silver Hill was reconstructed.
- Three teachers from the Housatonic Regional High School were selected to participate in the National Park Service’s “Trail to Every Classroom” Program. The program is designed to assist teachers in educating and involving students in AT-related matters.
- The committee represented AMC-CT at the ATC Biennial Meeting/AT Festival at Castleton, Vt. At the meeting, Jim Liptack was recognized by the NPS as a twenty-five year Trails volunteer.

The Committee is grateful to our dedicated Section Maintainers, Boundary Monitors, Volunteer Guides, Natural Heritage Monitors, and Chapter members who participate on our work parties. Projects to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

TRAILS COMMITTEE:

Denise Badger

Phil Capaldo

Ted Cowles

Henry Edmonds

Gene Grayson

Paul Palmer

Debbie Poitras

Norm Sill

Dick Blake

Doug Christie

Walt Daniels

Harlan Jessup

Ian McCunn

Peter Passeeck

Walt Rinehart

Sue Spring

Hugh Broughel

Hugh Cobrain

Birge Dayton

Sanita Gingras

Elaine LaBella

Bob Poitras

Brian Sears

Ann Sherwood

Matt Moore - AMC Regional Trails Coordinator

Adam Brown - ATC Conservation Resource Manager

Dave Boone – Chair

Webmaster/Technology Committee

2009 Accomplishments:

- Held six training/coaching sessions to make our activity listings appear more consistent in *AMC Outdoors* and on the web.
- Implemented “opt-in” electronic distribution for the chapter newsletter.
- The web site design was extended to all remaining committees giving the chapter web site a consistent appearance.
- Created web pages for the new Family Activities Committee with an automatic activity list.
- Expanded the web page for the Membership Committee.
- Purchased software for chapter use

Online Trips System Training

Almost all chapter activities are published through the AMC Online Trips System, a database system provided by AMC for all of the chapters and Major Excursions. These hikes, backpacks, paddles, bike rides, ski trips, climbs, and social events are then visible on our chapter web site. More than sixty people are authorized to enter events in the system. Over the last year, our chapter offered 1,144 activities through this system. The training sessions varied from training people who had never seen the system to discussing the best approaches with seasoned veterans. The goal is to make our chapter listings consistent and easy to read so that members can find a hike or whatever they look for that suits their abilities.

New Web Site Design

The new web site design is finally fully implemented with all menus and formatting CSS-based. Designed for ease of use as well as easier ongoing maintenance, the design allows several committees to maintain their own web pages while preserving a common appearance.

Chapter Newsletter Electronic Distribution

Printing and mailing the chapter newsletter is one of the largest expenses for all of the club chapters. Unfortunately, growth in the number of members who “opt-in” for electronic distribution has been glacially slow. We added reminders to all of the committee newsletters and continue to publicize the effort in the newsletter. Please “opt-in” to receive your future chapter newsletters electronically. The “how to” is on our chapter web site at www.ct-amc.org/OptIn.

Chapter Phone Line

The chapter phone line continues to provide an easy “computer-less” means to pass out information about East of the River Tuesday and Thursday hikes. In addition, the phone line offers basic chapter, Membership, and Conservation Committee information.

Software Purchase

We purchased software for committee web page maintainers through TechSoup, a non-profit channel that offers substantial savings.

2010 Goals

1. Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
2. Find and implement a new calendar program that can be updated by each committee.
3. Improve integration with the AMC Activities Database system to make finding activities easier.
4. Expand utilization of the chapter phone line as appropriate.

Committee Page Maintainers

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

Jamie Lee

Robert White

Carole Phelan

Mark Schappert

Conservation

Flatwater

Mountaineering

Whitewater, Young Members

All other committees are maintained by your webmaster.

Jim Scheef – Webmaster



Whitewater Committee

In 2008-2009 the Whitewater Committee had the pleasure of bringing in new members to the AMC through whitewater instruction on the river and through pool and lake sessions. Again this year we had a good response to the Ottawa Kayak School trip in July with 19 participants. Our trip leaders led trips this year on the Kennebec and Dead Rivers in Maine, West River in Vermont, Fife Brook, Dryway, Millers Rivers and others in Massachusetts, the Farmington River through Tariffville Gorge and Collinsville and other rivers in Connecticut, plus many other rivers in the Northeast.

We had a nice turnout at our leader's appreciation day this year. Our trip leaders are the foundation for whitewater. In a sad note John Pilla, who had led a few trips for the committee, passed away this past year. He will be missed.

The Whitewater Committee would also like to give special thanks to Robert Forster and his family for their continued support in running the pool session in Bridgeport as well as their generous financial donation. We would also like to thank Ken Benjamin for his donations of kayaks and gear.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE:

Webb Carnes

Christian DeGraaf

Robin Pleshaw

Ed Chase

Paul Edwards

Dana Warner

Larry Cook

Jim Kilkenny

Patti Vaughn

Mark Schappert – Co-Chair

Dennis Wigg – Co-Chair

David Shoup – Trip Leader Coordinator



Young Members Committee

We have had another great year of activities and socials. We topped last year's 29 events with a total of 35 events this year. These events covered the areas of hikes, whitewater and socials. Our yahoo e-mail list has grown to 415 members. The year is not yet over and we have three more events currently on the calendar with an annual holiday and leader's dinner yet to be scheduled.

This year we started a Facebook page. We hope that this will provide a marketing tool to reach an audience that may not otherwise have heard about the events that we offer. Within the first week of setting the page up we have had 51 people join. We are optimistic about its future.

We are also actively seeking new hike and social leaders so we can continue to offer a wide range of activities throughout the state and beyond.

Our leaders this year, followed by the number of hikes led:

Ana Ketch (5)
Dennis McGlynn (3)
Mirela Postelnicu (1)
Debra Rich (2)
Bill Wheeler (10)

Nina Levenduski (3)
Erik Madsen (6)
Chris Rees (4)
Mark Schappert (4)

Jamie Howland - Co-Chair
Christopher Rees - Co-Chair
Ana Ketch – Prospective Co-Chair



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair or co-chair position with qualified volunteers. We are always looking for folks who are willing to give their time to AMC. There is one open position on the 2010 Executive Committee. Please consider volunteering to fill one of these spots. One doesn't need to be an "expert" to be a committee chair. Executive Committee members are always on hand with support and guidance.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Skip Frey
Paula Zimbrea

Bruce Laroche

George Schott

Barbara Beckerman - Chair



Nominations for the 2010 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Timothy Linehan</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Nancy Mann</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Education Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Debra Rich</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Sandy Bartell</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Art Morenz</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Ana Ketch</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Christopher Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

50-Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club! They have been invited to attend the Annual Gathering and banquet as guests of the chapter.

Mr. Edward Gore of Southbury, Conn.

Ms. Marcia Gore of Southbury, Conn.

Mr. Charles Grinnell of Stamford, Conn.

Ms. Clara Ellen Van Dorn of Kensington, Conn.

Mr. Philip Nelbach of Gavelston, Texas

