

1995 ANNUAL REPORTS

Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter—Appalachian Mountain Club

From the Chapter Chair

1995 was a year of change for the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter. In January, a formalized budget process was started. Costs were reduced in two important areas; our chapter newsletter and club-wide meeting expenses. These cuts will enable us to achieve a balanced budget. Reviews of the chapter budget are made at the May and August executive board meetings.

New Standing Operating Rules and revised Chapter By-laws were implemented by the 1994-1995 Executive Board. The new operating rules will help to end misinterpretations of Chapter By-laws.

Social events were changed and strengthened with a new central location for the Spring Fling and the addition of the Chapter Summer Picnic. Plans are underway for a Chapter Winter Festival for 1996.

Our activities continue to provide a wide diversification of trips at all levels of ability and interest. Chapter Hut Night, the Century Bike Ride, off-Cape and on-Cape local hikes were well attended. Chapter weekend trips had moderate success.

At the club level, the AMC has prepared a draft of Strategic Priorities for the years 1995-2000. Also in 1995 a Club Outdoor Leadership Committee was formed to study and recommend guidelines and requirements for the future. The formal application for the renewal of a 30 year permit to operate the AMC huts started this fall.

At this time I'd like to thank all volunteer members, trip leaders, the Nominating Committee and the 1994-1995 Executive Board who contribute many hours to make this chapter work so well.

Bruce Dunham
Chapter Chair

Hiking/Backpacking

77 Hikes offered in 1995, five cancelled for various reasons 350 Hikers as of 14 Oct 95, Chapter Hut Night

1995 has been another good year thanks to the strong core of active leaders in our Chapter. We have had hikes in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. We've hiked during all four seasons, yes, even during the winter up in the White Mountains when they truly are white.

In 1995, we formed a committee to look at leader's skills and to look at asking our hike leaders, especially four season leaders, to have more and better training, such as the AMC's Winter Mountaineering School and Solo's Wilderness First Aid course. The Chapter is willing to subsidize the cost as long as the leader agrees to actively participate in Chapter workshops and training sessions to share the skills the Chapter has helped them attain through the Chapter scholarship program.

This is my last year as hiking chairperson. November 4th, 1995, Dave Bennett will take over. We are very fortunate to have someone with Dave's motivation, enthusiasm, and love for the outdoors willing to step up when the Chapter calls. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with SEM hike leaders to keep the hiking committee moving forward. I feel very fortunate to have apprenticed under some of the Chapter's finest, like Bruce Dunham, Bob Bently, and Walter Morin.

I have only one thing to ask of the Chapter and that is to continue to give Dave Bennett the same awesome support you've given me the past three years.

Happy Trails,
Don Auclair

Communications Committee

The Breeze was published only 4 times this year instead of the 10 issues of recent years. This was mandated in order to cut the budget expenditures of the Chapter. *The Breeze* was the single largest expense (currently about 20 cents to print and 11 cents to mail a standard 4 page issue). Joy Street only returns \$4.50 of your dues to operate the Chapter and hasn't increased this sum in a number of years despite increases in all our costs including postage, printing and paper. This has hit smaller Chapters disproportionately hard.

At four *Breeze* issues per year, however, there is little space beyond that required for the activity listings which are then staler than those in AMC Outdoors rather than fresher as they used to be. So further changes in publication philosophy are called for in order not to waste the money that is spent on our newsletter. There are lots of issues of Club and Chapter governance which need to be presented to the membership, and the burning issue of how to get the new members out and participating in Chapter activities is still awaiting a solution. So there is a lot of important communicating yet to be done.

Such discussions and decisions will fall to the new E-board and a new Communications Chair since this is my last term. I appreciate the help that I have gotten from many people and I trust that the new *Breeze* editor and organization will be able to find the help needed to get on with the job.

Dave Shephard
Communications Chair

Treasurer's Report

The Chapter's fiscal year ends December 31, and the treasurer is required to make a report at that time which will be published in a future *Breeze*.

Membership Committee

Since the 1994 Annual Report, new members have joined our Chapter as follows:

Year	Month	Number of New Members
1994	September	41
	October	34
	November	58
	December	52
1995	January	22
	February	19
	March	27
	April	27
	May	28
	June	87
	July	26
	August	41

These new members were sent a welcome letter for the Chapter along with a *Breeze* and Membership Questionnaire. Many of the new members were also personally welcomed by phone, thanks to the efforts of 'old-time' members Dexter Robinson, Paul Farrington, Bruce Dunham, Carrie Dobson, Louise Desrochers, and Joan Luiz.

A fair number of these new members have returned the Membership Questionnaire regarding their activities of interest and this information has been forwarded to the appropriate Activities Chair (Hiking, Biking, Skiing, etc.) for direct contact purposes. Paul Farrington, Whitewater Canoeing chairperson, found this information quite useful in getting greater participation on trips.

As of August 31, 1995, our Chapter has an overall membership of 1,608 distributed as follows:

Category	Number of Members
Individual	1,056
Contributing	7
Family	429
Student Youth	19
Family Life	1
Supporting	1
Senior	59
Employee	3
Life	33

Suggestions for encouraging greater member participation in all activities are always welcome. If you have any ideas, call Diana Yohe (508) 947-5622 or Rich Iovanni (617) 770-7796.

Diana Yohe
Membership Chair

Conservation

One of the highlights of Conservation this year was the Earth Day hike and tree planting at Borderlands State Park. We started by planting an apple tree on the lawn of the mansion. We then set out on a two-hour hike through the park which ended at the groundbreaking ceremony for the newly constructed trail at Borderlands, the "Friends Trail". A few die-hards stayed on to hike the new trail.

Another important Conservation event this year was the Coastweeks Beach Cleanup held in early September at the Mattapoisett Town Beach and Ned's Point. A small group of 5 cleaned the entire beach and cataloged items found as part of a national effort for coastal protection.

Ongoing projects in Conservation issues include support for the Massachusetts Rivers Bill, which proposes to protect a buffer zone around all rivers in the state. Some members have joined in with the opposition of the New Bedford Expansion project, which, if constructed as currently proposed, may jeopardize the area's water supply.

I will be signing off as Conservation Chair in December, having fulfilled my two-year term. I've enjoyed working with you all and encourage you to continue your efforts and participation in Conservation.

Laura K. Judd

Flatwater Canoe

The 1995 flatwater paddling began on April 1 this year, somewhat earlier than in the past. An April trip was rained out, and a strong May wind drove us to a more sheltered location. Five scheduled trips were canceled for a variety of reasons. Perhaps April and May are just a little too iffy?

As of Oct. 11, a total of 506 members and guests paddled on 47 trips encompassing 71 days, on 29 different bodies of water. Two day trips remain scheduled. The 16 leaders of these trips did yeoman duty, and I wish to extend my profound thanks to all of you, without whom these waters could not have been enjoyed by so many.

Special plaudits to Clarence Burley, Al Meade, Dave Shephard, and Dave and Barbara Williams (Barbara's trip) for their overnight trips of three to seven days. Nothing but rave reviews from all attendees.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Upton, Chair

Education

The Education Committee began the year with the planning of a Leadership First Aid Training Conference. The conference was to be held during the last weekend of March at Grossman's, Sandwich, MA. The committee planned to bring instructors from 'Solo', the Wilderness and Emergency Medicine Center in Conway, New Hampshire. Unfortunately, no help was available for financing the program. The entire fee had to be borne by those interested. The fee was set at \$135.00. Unfortunately, at such a cost, few signed up to participate. Hence, the conference had to be canceled.

The second program planned by the education committee is set for November 18 at the Borderland Visitors Center. This will be a leadership training conference for leaders of any of the SEM/AMC activities. Mark Yerkes of the Joy St. office will be the presenter. Hopefully, this activity will spark widespread interest and be a success.

The rest of the training done in the chapter fell to the individual committees in the activities areas. Canoeing, hiking, and bicycling all scheduled training activities.

Raymond D. Butts
Education Chair

Trails

The Trail Crew completed 8 projects this past year including 2 trips to Lonesome Lake. One that filled up completely and one that only had 8 participants. Despite the lack of support on the second trip we managed to clean and rebuild over 100 water bars. A special thank you to all of you who came out in the pouring rain and had lots of fun. On both trips our gourmet chefs prepared an excellent Italian diner consisting of chicken Parm., minestrone soup, salad, brownies and lots of other goodies plus had lots of fun doing it. The total trail hours for the year was 605, not too bad considering the number of people that participated. For next year we have the same trips planned as this year but would really like to see a little more participation. The work itself is not very hard and something can be found for everyone to do. Remember that the trails do not fix and clean themselves for us to hike on; it takes lots of time and people to make it all happen. A special thank you to Paul Chartier, Walter Wells, Robin Grant, John Poirier, Steve Ouelett, Louise Desrochers for making both trips to Lonesome Lake and doing an outstanding job on both. Hope to see all of you back again in the spring.

Lou Sikorsky

SKI COMMITTEE

The 1994 - '95 season was great for X-C skiing. Several weekend long trips were planned ranging from mountain chalets and cozy bed & breakfasts to rustic cabins in the back woods. This season saw the introduction of a beginners x-c ski instructional weekend in New Hampshire. Several day trips were offered that helped our members round out an excellent year.

The 1995 - '96 ski trip leaders have planned an excellent season! They have organized two weekend trips to a fully appointed mountain chalet in Crawford Notch, the heart of New Hampshire's ski country. These trips feature cross country and downhill skiing with spectacular views of the Presidentials. The annual weekend trip to Applebrook B&B in Jefferson, NH includes excellent gourmet cooking at a casual country inn along with great x-c skiing at Bretton Woods. Look for a repeat of last seasons excellent instructional X-C ski weekend for beginners at Sargent Camp in Peterborough, NH. This trip provides "learn at your own pace" ski lessons from experienced instructors. If back country skiing is what your after, look no further. We offer four weekend trips to rustic cabins in Maine and New Hampshire where you can get your fill of back country skiing. As always, leaders choice day trips, both Cape and off-Cape round out the season.

See the current ski schedule and call the trip leaders for details.

The following people are your current ski trip leaders and co-leaders. Some have lead trips year after year and others are new to leading trips for the SEM/AMC. New leaders are formally recognized at the annual dinner with the presentation of a ski leadership patch. All leaders deserve your recognition and support for organizing ski trips for you and making the ski season as exciting and varied as it is, offering something for everyone. Your support is most appreciated and felt the strongest when you sign up for one or more of the ski trips being offered this season. If there is something else the club's ski committee could offer you, please call your ski chair or one of the ski trip leaders. All are interested in seeing you out on the trails: Mary DuBois-Leeson, Anne Chase, Bob

Bentley, Suzanne Scolamiero, Bob Scolamiero, Carolyn Crowell, Tina Dolan, Al Johnson & Nancy Wigley

The ski committee is looking for a vice-chair. If you ski at any level, have some administrative abilities and have been looking for a way to get more involved, your chance has arrived. Being an expert on skis and leading trips is not a requirement. Having enthusiasm and the desire to help organize an enjoyable ski season for others to enjoy is. Please contact me at 617-837-5537 or call Bruce Dunham with your questions.

Your Ski Chair,
Tom Waddell

Bicycling

The 1995 bicycling season was successful due to the consistent efforts of our leaders of many years.

Cape Cod riders had three regularly scheduled events each week to choose from throughout the summer months.

Bud Carter offered Cape Cod Rail Trail excursions every Tuesday morning. Alice Oberdorf coordinated the Tuesday evening rides. Al Johnson led the Cape Cod Canal rides every Sunday morning. Each of these rides provided leisurely riding with much socializing.

Tom Waddell, Marilyn Dunn and Rich Iovanni offered several South Shore area rides. Their 5th annual Plymouth to Provincetown (pannier-hostel-ferry) ride was enjoyed by all who participated.

Bill Rehill again offered three weekends in Townsend, VT for those interested in a potpourri of bicycling, camping, hiking and flea markets.

Mark Tisdale led two metric Cape Cod rides, a Martha's Vineyard circumference day, and the 14th annual Century Ride with assistance from Carol Swete and six member (1 non-member) volunteers. Thank you to one and all for your participation in this season's cycling events!

Mark E. Tisdale
Bicycling Chair