

Annual Report November 7, 1998



**Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

Chapter Chair Report

1998 was a good year for the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter. Our four major social activities: Winter Festival, Spring Fling, Summer Picnic and Annual Dinner, were enjoyed by 270 new and current members. A SOLO Wilderness First Aid Course was attended by 20 participants at Camp Lyndon in April. Chapter Hut Night at Pinkham Notch attracted 40 members and was great fun.

Many new people joined the chapter and lots of fun activities were held. In the works for 1999 are another SOLO Wilderness First Aid course in April and a Leadership Training Workshop in March, along with the myriad of outdoor activities that will be offered.

As you read the reports from the various committees, keep in mind that none of this would be possible without the dedicated work of many enthusiastic volunteers. I would like to thank each person who volunteered in any way, and stress that we always need new people to help out. Some of the ways you can get involved are serving on a planning committee, doing volunteer trailwork, helping out at a social function, leading activities or serving on the Chapter's Executive Committee or Nominating Committee. Remember that the more you put into your club, the more benefit you will receive from it.

You will learn new things, try new activities and meet new people who will become friends! It is definitely worth it to get involved! The names and phone numbers of the various committee chairs are published monthly in the AMC Outdoors, at the beginning of our Chapter's Activities Listings.

Please give them a call and get involved!

Louise Desrochers
Chapter Chair
Southeastern Massachusetts
Appalachian Mountain Club

January walk at the Audubon Society in Marshfield, MA was planned and all partook of a pot-luck dinner "extraordinaire" after the walk. Lest anyone be misled into thinking this was *only* a social gathering, be rest assured that the instructional videos of cross-country skiing helped us to remember to carry plenty of water and the downhill skiing by Warren Miller's gang got the downhillers in the group raring to go! Snowshoeing stories, (some without the snowshoes!) rounded out the evening to be one of merriment, memories and great anticipation of the winter adventures ahead.

During the peak season, approximately 120 AMCs participated in various forms of winter trips ranging from frolics in the snow for the day to 5 day overnight trips in the mountains with intermittent doses of instruction to keep everyone going and growing in their chosen winter activity.

As the days grew longer, skiers enjoyed a trip to Rowe, MA where they nestled into the quiet woods to have a peek at spring unfolding from a tucked away cabin in Western Massachusetts while others enjoyed the longer days, lingering snow and promise of spring at the Mountain Fare Inn in Campton, N.H. during a novice-intermediate instructional trip with the Narragansett Chapter

Leaders for the 1998-1999 season were Ski Chair, Mary DuBois-Leeson, Ski Vice-Chair Suzanne Scolamiero, Bob Scolamiero, Tom Waddell, Marilyn Dunn, Bill Sheehan, Anne Chace and Bob Kalchtlaler.

We Thank them for their efforts and expertise.

Mary DuBois-Leeson
Ski Committee Chair

Biking Committee

This past season was very active on Cape Cod. Thanks to Alice Oberdorf and Connie Austin there rides each Tuesday evening all Summer. Sunday morning rides were lead by Harry Dombrosk.

Richard Iovanni and Tom Waddell lead a 2 day trip from Plymouth to P-Town and Bike rides were part of the Spring Fling and Summer Picnic activities.

Carol Julien
Biking Chair

Canoe and Kayak

The 1998 Flatwater paddling began on March 26. After a scheduled hike at John's Pond in the Falmouth Region. Hardy Canoeists and Kayakers put to the water.

On May 17 the traditional spring lunch, with hikers meeting paddlers took place on Walkers Pond in Brewster. The Canoeists and Kayakers provided a gourmet lunch. At 4 PM many friends of Bud Carter attended his memorial service.

Approximately 600 members and guest registrations were recorded for 66 scheduled trips. A few trips were canceled due to inclement weather or lack of a leader.

Adequate parking space at put-ins and lack of leaders remain an increasing problem.

The last scheduled paddle is Saturday October 31.

Trips included; day, long week-ends, pot lucks, moonlight pot-luck and a week long paddle.

This past season has again seen more interest in Kayaking by present members and prospective members. AMC remains on the Internet with Canoe/Kayak trips listed.

I have decided not to continue as Canoe Chair due to health reasons. I have met wonderful friends through AMC and you all will remain close in my heart.

Thanks to all that led trips and those of you who helped with tide scheduling, paper work and phone networking. A sincere thank-you to my Vice-Chair, David Williams, who covered for me at board meetings and administrative chores.

Carrie P. Dobson, Canoe/Kayak Chair

Education Committee

The Educational Committee organizes educational workshops for the Chapter Membership and the general public in conjunction with other Standing Committees. The Chairperson enlists the aid of other Educational Committee members, as well as individual from other Committees for assistance on specific projects. In 1999, a Wilderness First-Aid Workshop and a Training Session for Activity Leaders are being planned

Hiking/Backpacking

1998 has been an exciting year for hiking despite fewer leaders and challenging weather! The chapter offered 129 hikes (11/1/97-10/1/98), 81 on Cape Cod and 48 local and Northern New England trips. These hikes attracted over 457 participants including 51 non-members.

I would like to thank the following people who volunteered to lead/co-lead hikes: John Abbott, Sarah Beard, Dave Bennett, Richard and Kristy Brech, Leslie Budd, Ray Butts, Meredith Censullo, Louise Desrochers, Mary DuBois-Leeson, Bruce Dunham, Charlie Farrell, Mary Gravel, Keith Jacobson, Ed Kingman, Jeff Lerman, Tim Payson, John Poirier, Suzanne Scolamiero, Brad Webb, Walter and Linda Wells. A special thanks to Charlie Farrell who led or co-led 14 hikes during this time and to Richard Brech who coordinated our family hikes.

I would especially like to thank Alice Oberdorf who coordinated the Cape Cod hikes, to Janet Kaiser and Harry Dombrosk who offered Thursday and Sunday "soft" hikes, and to the many Cape Cod hike leaders.

The Hiking Committee completed several goals this year. We found a new meeting location in the basement of the Middleboro UU church and established a regular schedule to meet (second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October). We completed and distributed leader first-aid kits, finalized hiking and backpacking lists, took inventory of our hiking committee equipment, and purchased new equipment. We had a successful winter hiking series along with winter and 3-season in-door workshops. A special thanks to my vice-chair, Walter Wells, who has been my right-hand man for our many activities.

Chapter Hut Night was a great success this year. The 42 participants enjoyed a glorious and colorful fall weekend at the AMC facility in Pinkham Notch, NH, with activities ranging from outdoor sketching, map & compass, and a variety of hikes. Many thanks to Anhe Chace, John Poirier, Sue Robinson, Walter and Linda Wells, for helping with the activities.

Our challenge for 1999 (as it seems every year) is to recruit and train more leaders. I am enthusiastic about some of the new people who have joined us and are in training. We can always use more. If there are any hikes or related activities you would like to have offered please call me or come to one of our hike planning meetings.

Dexter Robinson, Hiking Committee Chair

Annual Ski Committee Report

The snow fell abundantly in New England in the Winter of '97-98 and members of the Southeastern MA Chapter were joined by other Chapters ready, willing and able to enjoy every flake! The Ski Committee met in October and mapped out a winter schedule of events that included instruction in both down-hill, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing for novice, intermediate and expert winter outdoor enthusiasts.

The Season was off to a great start over the New Year's Weekend when a dozen members brought in the new year in style in Crawford Notch, N.H. At the nearby slopes of Attitash, Bretton Woods and Wildcat Mts., downhillers enjoyed the thrill of the hill while others cross-country skied and snowshoed on beautiful groomed and scenic backcountry trails in the pristine wilderness. A small party of skiers equipped with snowshoes on their backs skied up the Sawyer River Road; changed into their snowshoes and trekked into the Sawyer Pond Scenic Area for a treat of winter splendor. The 4 mile ski down to a warm fire and sumptuous dinner was well earned. A few pops of champagne bottles were being opened (well before midnight!) during a delightful slide presentation that took viewers to the wilds of Alaska and on a hike up to Paintbrush Divide in Grand Teton National Park.

Martin Luther King weekend brought 30 or more skiers and gourmet diners to the picturesque and cozy Applebrook Inn in Jefferson, N.H. to afford themselves of the Winter Wonderland. A Few hearty souls undertook the challenge of skiing down the lower part of the Mt. Washington Auto Road at the Great Glen Gulf's Outdoor Center and lived to not only tell about it but to recommend to others! Other skiers headed to the Balsams in Dixville Notch to experience the ambience of the Swiss Alps so invitingly close to home.

The more rugged members of our group skied out the back door of the Wonalancet Cabin nestled in the valley of Mt. Chocoma where 16 intermediate to advanced skiers braved the lack of amenities for a wonderful sojourn back in time where keeping the fire going and braving the elements were not optional. The skiing and snowshoeing was grand, the food was outstanding and the company even better, so much so that it was done all over again to celebrate the President's birthday in February.

For those wishing to stay closer to home, a mid-

Trails Committee Report

Participation in trail work events this past has been very good. We had a full crew of 20 last spring at lonesome lake. Many of our seasoned trail workers came along allowing an additional crew to perform some much needed brushing on the upper trail just before the junction with the Kinsman ridge trail. Thanks to all who participated.

Trails day at the Bentley loop was a banner year due to the hard work of the participants and another generous grant distributed by EMS in Taunton. The grant allowed us to purchase two new brush cutters. With the additional brush cutters four crews were able to brush out the entire Bentley loop beginning to end including a relocation due to high water. This is the first time this has been done in one trip. We finished up the day with a cook out.

The fall trip to lonesome lake was a great success. We had many new faces that I hope to see again. All the drainage was cleaned including the upper trail above the pond. There was additional work done near the dock at the hut. A scree wall was rebuilt and a bench was repaired.

I would like to give special thanks to David Costa, and Jeffery Lerman for attending both lonesome lake trips. In addition I extend extra special thanks to Pauline Jordan who attended all trail work events this year.

Thanks for all the hard work
John Poirier
Trail Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account

Opening Balance 1/1/98.....	\$4763.97
Income.....	\$15,764.92
Total.....	\$20,528.89

Expenses.....	\$12,866.32
Balance 10/14/98.....	\$7,662.57

182 Day Certificate of Deposit

Balance 10/14/98.....	\$5242.54
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Grand Total.....	\$12,905.11
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Membership Committee Report

New Members joining our Chapter each month since 1997 Annual Report as follows:

October.....56	April.....85
November.....78	May.....50
December.....60	June.....110
January.....27	July.....52
February.....43	August.....43
March.....152	September.....35
Total.....788	

1997 New Members....736
Retained.....1,752
Total Members.....2,488

1998 New Members....962
Retained.....2,185
Total.....3,872

I have mailed out fifty memberships in a bottle since the end of November, 1997. The Breeze, S.E.M. pamphlet, member interest survey was included in the bottle. The surveys that were returned were forwarded to Activity Chairs so that they might know the overall interests. Several Breezes were mailed out by request to prospective members and approximately 98% have joined the AMC.

The Web site has been very successful in recruiting new members, thanks to the efforts of Dexter Robinson.

Mary Gravel
Membership Committee Chair

Communication Committee

The communication Committee is responsible for publishing the Quarterly Chapter Newsletter. Our newsletter is mailed on or about March 18th, June 18th, September 18th and December 18th. Each Issue costs about \$720 to print and about \$300 per issue to mail. As of the Oct/Nov/Dec 1998 issue, 2,400 copies are being mailed to Members of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter.