

Appalachian Mountain Club



SEM Chapter Chair Message



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

2000 Annual Report

This was a great year for the South-eastern Mass. Chapter. In addition to our usual social activities (Winter Festival, Spring Fling, Summer Picnic and Annual Dinner) and outdoor offerings, we offered SOLO wilderness first-aid training and two leadership training sessions, one of which was designed for our Cape leaders. Two projects using AMC supplemental dues were approved and completed. We purchased a new computer for our membership chair who is now on-line. We also provided additional funding for Lonesome Lake trail work in May and September. Most of our goals for 2000 were achieved:

- We expanded our leadership program using our own resources, and more leaders were trained. We sent two of our leaders to AMC Mountain Leadership School.
- More backpacking trips were offered this past summer - an intermediate winter hiking series has been scheduled for this winter.
- The format of the *Southeast Breeze* was modified to include special articles and features.

Although we established some contact with local colleges and universities, we hope to do more next year to attract younger members. We reaffirmed our commitment to the three sections of the Lonesome Lake Trail that we have adopted and maintained for over 20 years.

The Executive Board had a busy and productive year. We filled all but one vice-chair position. We developed functions and responsibility descriptions for all board positions to help incoming board members and to assist future nominating committees in recruiting board members. We developed a policy statement and accounting form for chapter trips where fees are charged. Our work in this area led

to a club-wide review with many chapters developing similar policies. We closed out a special account held by AMC for many years and moved it to a short-term certificate of deposit with a higher rate of return. Our chapter website moved this year to a location with its own registered name: www.amcsem.org. Planning is underway for a special 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting in 2001, which will be held at the BR Monponsett Inn in Halifax.

Finally, I want to thank Board members and everyone who helped make our activities happen. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of many, we would not have had our many activity offerings. However, we can always use more volunteers so that we are not always depending on the same people all the time. Some of the ways you can get involved are serving on a planning committee, doing volunteer trail work, helping out at a social function, leading activities or serving on the Executive Board or Nominating Committee. The more you put into your club, the more benefit you will receive from it. So come on out and get involved!

Dexter Robinson
Chapter Chair

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account	
Opening balance @12/31/99	\$1,107.17
Income	<u>\$20,128.65</u>
	\$21,235.82
Expenses	<u>\$19,355.66</u>
Balance @10/15/00	\$1,880.16
Checkbook Balance	\$1,880.16
MMDA Account	\$4,747.36
6-month Certificate of Deposit	\$5,240.93
9-month Certificate of Deposit	\$5,261.02
9-month Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$17,000.00</u>
Total	\$34,129.47

Joey Gallus
Chapter Treasurer

Canoe and Kayak

October marks the "official" year-end for paddling, but a warm day and quiet winds will sometimes bring out enthusiasts for "just another" trip. Potluck planning meetings and trips were held both on- and off-Cape in an effort to reach new participants, and a few new paddlers were added. Again, kayaks seem to be more numerous on most trips, but canoes remain popular for trips through narrow brushy rivers with quick turns and the longer trips where more gear is needed.



Two Training/Safety sessions were held: Kayak on May 14 at the heated Sandwich HS Pool, directed by Bill Low and assisted by Dick Coveny and Bob Slott; plus a June 25 Beginners Canoe Day in Ashumet Pond led by Dave Shephard.

Two trips were scheduled weekly from the end of March through the end of Oct. Potlucks were offered occasionally and the Moonlight Evening Potluck and Paddle was offered again by Carrie Dobson. There were three longer, "wilderness" trips, including Dave Shephard's Connecticut River Trip, and one to Knubble Bay, thanks to Dave Shephard, Dave Williams and Art Hart, who also offered another trip in the Adirondacks of up-state New York.

Many regulars led trips, but a few stand out: Al Johnson, 7 trips; Art Hart, 5, including the wilderness trips; Dave Williams for Co-Chairing and for leading regular and wilderness trips; Max Sarazin for many trips and record-keeping over the years; Nancy Wigley for extra time helping with the scheduling/obtaining leaders as well as leading trips; Dave Shephard for being "a stalwart supporter" of the program, as well as for leading a number and variety of trips, including three wilderness trip; Dick Coveny, who not only led trips he signed on for, but also filled in a few times when a leader had to cancel at the last minute. New leaders were: Carol and Charles Rogers (off-Cape); Ken Twedell; Dave McGlone; and Mary and Tom Gelsthorpe. All paddlers can say it was another great year.

Muriel Thomas
Canoe/Kayak Chair

Biking

There were a total of 24 Saturday or Sunday bike trips from April through September. These included trips in Orleans, Mattapoisett, Cape Cod Canal, Dennis, Sharon, Somerset, Plymouth, Carver, Dighton, Martha's Vineyard, Rochester and Westport.

The popular Cape Cod Tuesday night rides also were offered, with an average of 15 participants per ride.

Thanks to all leaders for their time and willingness to lead trips, and also to our AMC members for their participation.

Connie Austin
Biking Chair

Skiing

Last winter ski leaders continued the tradition of offering a variety of outdoor activities for all the major holidays throughout the season. Ringing in the Millennium in the Crawford Notch area of NH, a small group of skiers and snowshoers found what snow there was and hiked where there was none.

Over Martin Luther King weekend, skiers had a choice between a B&B, complete with "hot tub under the sky," down-hilling, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing from a comfy ski house in the foothills of the Presidentials, or skiing and snowshoeing from the Wonalancet Cabin in the Chocorua area of NH.

One group outing combined skis and snowshoes, skiing up Sawyer River Rd. and shoeing into Sawyer River scenic area for a lovely winter lunch in a pristine setting. Over Presidents Day weekend, a group of about 25 explored the beautiful trails around Wonalancet Cabin in search of peacefulness and a hearty workout.

Overall, approximately 70 AMC members from a variety of chapters enjoyed the trips and instruction offered by SEM ski leaders. Special thanks to Sarah Beard, Tom Waddell, Marilyn Dun, Karen Reamsnyder and Wayne Taylor for their tireless efforts in providing the organization and leadership for quality, fun-filled and safe winter trips.

Mary DuBois Leeson
Ski Chair



Hiking and Backpacking

The 2000 season was a banner year for hiking and backpacking. This in spite of a very wet spring and summer. The Hiking Committee produced a total of 63 hikes this year, including 35 local hikes with 355 participants and 28 northern mountain hikes with 272 hikers participating. Six of these hikes were backpacking trips. The total number of people taking advantage of our hiking program was 627.

Once again, the Hiking Committee offered a beginner level Winter Hiking Program. Over 30 people attended the Winter Hiking Workshop, which was held on November 13, 1999. All of the five subsequent hikes were filled beyond capacity.



I would like to personally thank all of the members of the Hiking Committee who contributed the time and effort to make this past season so successful. The members of the Hiking Committee include Bob Bailey, Rick Barnes, Pat Balsan, Sue Bastoni, Dave Bennett, Erika Bloom, Ray Butts, Dick Carnes, Anne Chace, Linda Church, Louise Desrochers, Bruce Dunham, Patrick Holland, Rich Iovanni, Pauline Jordan, Richard Jussaume, Elsie Lavefty, Jeff Lerman, Cindy Letourneau, Bob McConnell, John Pereira, John Poirier, Dexter Robinson, Craig Smith, Wayne Taylor, Steve Tulip, Paul Vermette, Bob Vogel, Linda Wells, and Charlie Farrell, Vice Chair of the Committee.

Special thanks to the following leaders who led or co-led hikes: Charlie Farrell, 15 hikes; Bob Vogel, 15 hikes; Steve Tulip, 11 hikes.

The Hiking Committee also trained and qualified 14 new leaders this year. As described in the SEM/AMC Hike Leadership Requirements developed last year, leaders are required to take the Leadership Program produced by the Education Chair, and to co-lead varying numbers and types of hikes to qualify to lead different levels of hikes.

The highlight of the 2000 hiking season was Chapter Hut Night, held on October 14-15 at Mizpah Spring Hut in Crawford Notch, NH. Twenty-eight people participated in this event, which featured hikes to and over Mt. Eisenhower, Mt. Pierce and Mt. Jackson.

Walter L. Wells
Hiking Chair

Cape Hikes

Local Cape Hikes maintains a regular hiking program that enjoys continuing participation. Hikes are usually on Cape acreage with an occasional meander over the bridge. The Cape hiking season runs traditionally from September to May with the recent inclusion of two summer full-moon hikes. The final hike in May shares a gourmet picnic lunch on shore with canoe and kayak members.

Thursday and Sunday shorter hikes, numbering around 70 annually, draw an average of 15 to 25 participants, with the greater number attending on Sundays. Longer Cape Hikes on Saturday and Sunday will continue to be scheduled once or twice monthly. Tentative Spring plans are for off-Cape excursions to the Blue Hills and beyond for day hiking.

In previous years, two or three coordinators planned the hikes and submitted them for publication. The intensive and ever-increasing work of hike planning is now done by the Cape Hikes Committee and hike leaders. Established June 2000, the Committee shares among its members the tasks of planning the hiking program. Current members of the Cape Hikes Committee are Janet Kaiser; Chair; Janet DiMattia, Co-Chair; Blanche Greig, Secretary; Peter Selig, Education; and Paula Mayer, Communications.

Committee planning meetings are now held 5 times annually (on the first Tuesday of Feb., Apr., June, Oct. and Dec.) in the afternoon and are open to all members. Please contact Janet Kaiser (375-0574) or Janet DiMattia (394-9064) for meeting time and location.



On September 16, Leadership Training was conducted on the Cape by Bob Vogel and Steve Tulip of the SEM Education Committee, who joined Cape Hikes Committee members Peter Selig and Janet Kaiser to present the program of lectures and role-play scenarios. A total of 14 participants completed the Leadership Training program. Due to its success, the program will be offered on the Cape again next year for members who missed the opportunity in 2000.

Janet Kaiser
Cape Hikes Chair

Conservation

The Conservation Committee this year chose as its project the Flora B. Peirce nature trail located in the northern part of New Bedford. We first met in April on a rainy Saturday, and members picked up trash and laid bridges across very wet sections of the trail. We met again in May, looking over the entire trail and also moving more bridges (which were quite heavy). Plans were made to work on moving sections of the trail and dates were scheduled for June, July and August.

In addition, Hannah Driscoll from AMC in Boston contacted me and wanted to know how she could help our committee. She is suggesting a meeting with a speaker and will be back in touch with me after January 1.

Cindy Letourneau
Conservation Chair



Membership

New Members per month

November 99	89
December 99	87
January 00	23
February 00	71
March 00	107
April 00	71
May 00	40
June 00	80
July 00	60
August 00	34
September 00	<u>47</u>

Total **709**

Total Membership as of Sept. 2000

Contributing	8
Employee	3
Family	798
Family Life	1
Individual	1396
Junior	42
Life	51
Senior	<u>90</u>

Total **2,389**

From December '99 to September '00, I mailed out 47 Memberships-in-a-Bottle. With each I sent the latest *Breeze* issue, a brochure about our chapter and a short, handwritten note welcoming new members. During 2000, many people called me to ask about AMC and how to join our chapter. Many of them learn about us from our website and from talking to our members.

Jennifer A. Simmons
Membership Chair

Trails

The Trails crew had another good year for our adopted (Lonesome Lake) trail in New Hampshire, with both the spring and fall trip filling up. We got a lot accomplished despite the lack of enthusiasm and support of some people. However, our local trips had very little response, and three of them had to be canceled due to lack of participants. We did manage to get Myles Standish done on National Trails Day.

We had a 4 year-old along for three of our trips, and he worked his little heart out and had an excellent time. Of course it does help that he is my son Ryan. The point I am trying to make here is that anyone can come out and support the trails that we all hike on. If we do not take care of our local trails, then no one else will and eventually they will be very difficult to hike on.

My thanks to Ryan Sikorsky, Carol Flock and Bob Bentley for all of their help in this endeavor; it would not have happened with out them. I welcome and thank my new assistant Patrick Holland for his support on our last trip to Lonesome Lake. I would also like to thank all of the die-hards who made that trip a real success. Also a thank you to our Chapter Chair Dexter Robinson for procuring the needed funds to make this trip possible. We will be running several trips next year. I hope to see some more new faces with us then.

Lou Sikorsky
Trails Chair

Communications

There will be five issues of the *Southeast Breeze* published in 2000 as we have decided to publish on a seasonal, rather than calendar basis. Later this month, you will receive a Winter issue of the *Breeze* (which covers activities in December, January and February), followed in 2001 by a Spring issue in March, and so on.

We also have tried to modify the format of the newsletter over the past year to bring readers further useful information — not only about Chapter activities and events, but also about interesting trips our members have taken. We will continue to work on broadening the appeal of the *Breeze* and we urge you to give us your feedback or, better yet, submit a story about your last great adventure for publication. Photos are welcome.

Many thanks to Barbara Hathaway, Elsie Laverty and all who volunteered their time to the critical, but oft-forgotten task of putting mailing labels on the *Breeze*.

Wayne J. Taylor
Newsletter Editor