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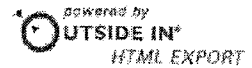
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2005 AMC SEM Chapter Annual Report

Presented to the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club's
Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter at the Annual Meeting
held November 5, 2005 at the Bourne Community Center

SEM Chapter members enjoy the fine winter weather atop Mt. Hedgehog in New Hampshire in January 2005 as part of the Chapter's always-popular Winter Hiking Series...

Committee Chair Report

2005 has seen a lot of change amongst chapter leadership and volunteers. Several valued volunteer leaders moved on to new endeavors during 2005: Denise Malenfant (Biking) returned to graduate school, Kathy Farren (Membership) moved to Maine, Linda Cronin (Secretary) retired to Florida, Elsie Laverty (Historian) to lead more local hikes for the chapter, and Dexter Robinson (Webmaster) retired only from this particular position and continues to be involved with the chapter and club as a volunteer and leader. We thank each of them for their valuable contribution to the chapter. To fill these big shoes, we were very fortunate that the following outstanding folks step forward to share their individual talents and energy: Victor Oliver and Joe Tavilla (Bicycling), Lucy Loomis (Historian), Mike Woessner (interim Membership as well as being Vice chair!), Chris Sampson (Secretary), and Susanne Piche (Webmaster). With the end of 2005 we also observe the retiring of the following Executive Board members: Dick

Coveney (Paddling), Heidi Moss (Cape Hikes), and Patrick Holland (Hiking). The chapter is indebted for the time and contributions they've made leading their respective activity committees and representing their leaders and members on the Executive Committee. Thanks also to Sue Chiavaroli and Erika Bloom for leading the Hiking group for the 2nd half of 2005. And finally, many thanks as well to the 2005 nominating committee: Erika Bloom, Bruce Dunham, Janet DiMattia, Elsie Laverty, and Martha Twombly. We are looking forward to building upon the great group assembled over the past year, along with newly elected members, for an exciting and successful 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smeaton, Chapter Chair

Membership

Over 2005, SEM chapter membership has held steady at approximately 3500 members, which includes approximately 930 family memberships having two or more people, and approximately 2,474 individual memberships. The spring Bonanza membership campaign -- where the Chapter got to keep 100% of the membership fee -- yielded nine new members. In the eight months from Jan.-Sept. 2005, 575 new members joined the chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Woessner, Acting Membership Chair

Treasurer's Report

I'm pleased to report that the Chapter continues to operate in the black and that most committees and activity chairs have stayed within their budgets. Special thanks to Dexter Robinson for all his computer assistance and for his work on the successful annual audit, which was accepted by AMC headquarters.

We have spent conservatively this year. Our major purchase was the SEM chapter fleece vests, which can be purchased by members (an action which will contribute positively to our cash flow). I would like to thank all activity chairs and committees for staying within their budgets and for forwarding their financial information to me in a timely manner.

I'm also pleased to announce that Mary Lodge has agreed to be our Assistant Treasurer and I look forward to working with her.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow officers on the Board, and especially Mike Woessner, for their help and support during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

William Ruel, Treasurer

Conservation Committee

Our chapter was represented at the Earth Eve AHA event celebrated in New Bedford in April. We handed out AMC Conservation Action Network (CAN) postcards, AMC brochures, and some fun eco-friendly toys, which were a big hit with children of all ages (thanks, Louise Anthony!). This was a well-attended family event with other conservation-minded groups participating, including Mass Audubon, The Coalition for Buzzards Bay, and Clean Power Now.

At the AMC Spring Gathering hosted by the Delaware Valley chapter in Honesdale, PA, conservation chairs from all chapters had a chance to meet and be brought up to date by the AMC Joy St. staff on the latest conservation issues.

An informative talk and discussion was held about Wind Power, with research performed by the AMC presented on this important and controversial energy source. You can look forward to hearing more about this topic in the future...

Thanks to everyone who helped monitor haze pollution through the Visibility Volunteer program when you hit the trails this past year. The data collection cards and sheets were made available to hike Leaders and Co-leaders for use by members. Results of the study for 2004 are available at www.outdoors.org/mountainwatch.

A draft proposal was given out at the well-attended Mass. Forest Reserves meeting on Sept. 20 at Myles Standish State Forest. EOE administrators spoke about the top priorities at Myles Standish, including prescribed burning to prevent future wildfires, management of native tree species, and harvesting to remove non-natives including Scott's Pine, Red Pine and Spruce. Practices that will promote biodiversity, maintaining high water quality, and replication of disturbance patterns will also be monitored and evaluated.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Robie, Conservation Chair

Education Committee

SEM educational activities this year included a Leader Training day on April 9th in Borderland State Park. Nine members successfully completed their leader training, making them eligible to co-lead chapter trips prior to becoming full-fledged trip leaders.

An SEM-sponsored SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification program is also scheduled for the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd at Camp Lyndon in Sandwich. 15 people have signed up for this important training.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Fordyce, Education Chair

Hiking Committee

The Hiking committee is coming together well and moving forward following a brief period of organizational difficulty. Many thanks to all the leaders who responded for our call for help and planned wonderful hikes for our members!

We were able to offer a Fall Mountain Hike Series, to be followed by our annual beginner Winter Hiking Workshop and Winter Hiking Series. The Thursday Daytime Hikes took a summer hiatus, but have had a wonderful following the rest of the year. The Tuesday Blue Hills Conditioning Hikes also continue to draw a small group together every week. The Wednesday Evening Hike Series attracted hikers into fall.

We continue to welcome new leaders and co-leaders and encourage all SEM hikers to get involved in some manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Bloom and Sue Chiavaroli, Hiking Committee Co-Chairs

Cape Hiking Committee

Cape Hiking lost much of the winter of 2005 to record snowfall. In places, trails were buried too deep to be seen. Parking areas remained unplowed until late winter, which kept us from hiking as the snows receded. Spring hiking was more successful with large turnouts of cabin-bound people glad to be back outdoors. We enjoyed a variety of two- and four-hour hikes over the Cape's diverse terrain of hills, bogs, beaches and pond shores. Sadly, we lost a

few good leaders this year due to retirement, a move off Cape, or a change of plans. To Jack Handlen, Bob Freeman, Barbara Hollis and Martha Twombly – thank you for the many wonderful miles on the Cape trails. We will miss you and wish you all the best.

Five people took shifts at our table at the Hyannis EMS' "Upgrade your Equipment Day" (formerly Club Day) on April 30th. Thank you to Barbara Hollis, Lilo Kimball, Michael Botvin, Susanne Laundry and Martha Twombly for giving their time to help pass out information and answer questions from passing shoppers. And thanks also to EMS for continuing to hold this event.

Participants in our three Summer Full Moon Beach Walks were treated to clear evenings with moonrise, and at the August walk, a glowing sunset behind the canal after a beach picnic.

We resumed a full schedule of three hikes a week was resumed on Sept 15th. We wish everyone fair weather and many miles of good hiking on Cape trails.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Moss, Cape Hiking chair

Paddling Committee

We set new achievements for everyone this year in paddling. For the first time, we had a wild weekend of whitewater kayaking on the Deerfield River, overseen by the instructors from Zoar Outdoors. Then, of course, there was that beautiful Saturday paddle, led by Dick Coveney, when a larger group paddled to the Atlantic opening at the end of Monomoy, escorted by seals which swam playfully beneath our kayaks. For the first time, we went to Wickford, RI and paddled this beautiful area of Narragansett Bay. Don Savino took charge of skill instructions; which was a great help in improving everyone's paddling skills.

Respectfully submitted,

Gifford Allen, Paddling Chair

Trails Committee

The Trails Committee organized four trips this year with three actually taking place.

Once again, National Trail Day, which was on June 4th this year, drew the largest group with approximately 30 SEM members participating in an extensive clean-up at Miles Standish State Forest in Plymouth.

Our trips to New Hampshire in April and July to maintain the Lonesome Lake Trail were good, but very short-handed. Much work needs to be done on our Chapter's adopted trail, and the Committee would greatly appreciate some additional help next year.

We had to cancel the September trip for a variety of reasons.

The Committee would like to remind fellow SEM members that trail work can be both fun and rewarding and encourages everyone to give it a try at least once.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Sikorsky, Trails Chair

Cycling Committee

The Cycling Committee ran a modest, but successful, series of rides this past year despite some organizational difficulties following the departure of former Chair, Denise Malenfant, who returned to graduate school.

Since my appointment as Cycling Chair several months ago, the Committee has accomplished the following:

- Increased the number of rides published within the AMC trip notification system and begun taking advantage of the SEM Short Notice Trip announcement system
- Vice Chairperson is in place to take over in 2006
- SEM 2000 Mile Club has been established and patches and certificates have been purchased and awarded

- Bike Leader list has been purged of inactive leaders
- Revised Leadership Training has been proposed and course contents developed
- Qualifications for Bike leaders have been developed
- Leader First Aid requirements and contents First Aid Kits for leaders have been published

The Cycling Committee budget request for 2006 includes line items to cover the costs of Bike Leadership Training materials, First Aid supplies, 2000 Mile Club mailing, and other related costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Oliver, Cycling Chair

Cross-Country Ski Committee

Due to the last of snow, several early season trips were cancelled. Sarah Beard's, always-fun Martin Luther King weekend trip also had a lack of snow. Luckily, Sarah was able to find a small local place where the skiing was good.

Barbara Hathaway led a trip to Notchview in western Massachusetts in late February. Conditions were very, very good. Finally! Very nice trails with options for x-c skiing or snowshoeing.

My two trips were both cancelled: one cancellation ironically was due to a big snow storm that made transportation dangerous, and the other due to lack of interest.

The Committee is looking forward to better snow this year and has organized a number of trips that we're very excited about, including several inter-chapter excursions.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Mark, Cross-Country Ski Committee Chair

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