

Appalachian Mountain Club Southeast Mass Chapter

2009 Annual Report

Presented to the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club's Southeast Massachusetts Chapter at the SEM Annual Meeting held Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Dan'l Webster Inn, Sandwich, MA



Chapter Chair Report

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Anderson, Chapter Chair

It was a pleasure to serve on the SEM Executive Board as Chapter Chair this past year and work with a great group of folks. We had a full board for 2009 with all positions filled – the success of the chapter is a result of the hard work from each committee chair and their respective committees.

The chapter is in healthy condition providing many opportunities and a variety of activities to fulfill most everyone's appetite. One of my goals this year was to encourage more participation from as many members as possible and to attract new faces to join in some outdoor event. With the aid of several of our leaders, I believe we were successful and I hope to expand upon this success in 2010. We had a good turnout for our Spring Bash held at Camp Burgess which offered hiking, biking, and paddling trips, as well as our first Family Camping Series spearheaded by Mike Woessner. National Trails Day saw a great turnout at Myles Standish State Forest as did the Critical Treasures event held the same day.

Our website has seen its content updated and refreshed this year thanks to those who served on the ad-hoc Website Committee. We'll look for more dynamic activity on the website next year.

Even during these tough economic times we were able to sustain our membership numbers and that is a great testimonial to all of our members and their support for recreation, education, and conservation.

The 2009 season finished on a high note with a very successful Chapter Hut Weekend held for the second season in a row at Cold River Camp. Thanks to Jim Plouffe for all his hard work in making this a memorable event. Please review each committee report for the full scope of activities run and see how vibrant our chapter was this past year.

I would like to thank all committee Chairs for their dedication and support – a special thanks to my ghost writer for helping me articulate my Breeze articles – and a special thanks to Claire Goode, our Chapter Vice Chair, for her behind the scenes work.

Please join me in welcoming the new SEM board for 2010 and another successful year.



Treasurer's Report

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Carson, Treasurer

Many thanks go to Claire Goode, my predecessor, for all her hard work and the many hours spent going over figures and inputting data for the past two years' annual audits for Joy St. The audits have gone smoothly as she has been meticulous in her record keeping. Without her help and guidance, the transition into this position would not have gone as smoothly as it did. She continues to offer her support and expertise and for that I am very grateful.

This year we are transitioning from using Quicken to QuickBooks to align the accounting practices/procedures with Joy St. and the other chapters. Utilizing this program should ease the auditing process. The transition to QuickBooks will be completed before the end of the year. We continue to operate in the black, not spending above our means and the committees and activity chairs continue to be cognizant of expenditures.

Printing and postage for our quarterly newsletter, *The Southeast Breeze*, continue to be our largest expenditures. To help decrease our costs, we are encouraging members to sign up for the electronic version of the *Breeze*. We have also begun accepting paid advertising in *The Breeze*. For some of our major events, such as Chapter Hut Weekend, we have been able to garner revenue.

Despite the bleak economy, the financial status of the Chapter continues to be sound and we look forward to another year of stability.



Membership Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Len Ulbricht, Membership Chair

The number of memberships has increased slightly over the past 12 months, from 2336 in Oct. 2008 to 2365 in Oct. 2009, a 1.2% gain compared to a club wide 1.7% loss. About one third of our membership is on Cape Cod (including about 50 on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket), nearly 1000 are families, 74 are lifetime, and 7 are out of state. Overall, SEM has over 3300 members.

About 800 new members received a welcome letter and a copy of the *Breeze*. A new member workshop was held during the Spring Bash, and initial contacts were made with outdoor clubs at several local colleges to hopefully engage students in SEM activities.

I want to thank all our leaders who have encouraged individuals to join, taken new members under their wing, promoted events suitable to their abilities, and led events tailored to new members. Your efforts were instrumental in making SEM a vibrant and growing organization.

The Breeze

Communications Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Lathrop, Communications Chair

This year the Communications Committee produced its usual four quarterly issues of the chapter's newsletter, *The Southeast Breeze*. However, 2009 saw the initiation of a second *Breeze* – a full-color electronic version with additional content. Now two versions of the *Breeze* are produced each quarter – the extended, color, electronic *Breeze* sent out via the new Kintera system (~200 subscribers) and the 12-page black and white paper *Breeze* sent out via snailmail (~3000 subscribers).

Also new for 2009 was the introduction of paid ads in the *Breeze* for activities that support the mission of the AMC. These ads provide additional revenue, but are mostly a service to AMC members. The electronic *Breeze* introduced ads where members can sell or swap gear.

The SEM Join-the-Club brochure was rewritten and updated, and is now available on the SEM website in either black and white or color and in three formats. Each of the various versions can be downloaded when needed, and printed or copied "on demand", thus saving wasted printing costs and guesswork.

A "Communications" area for the SEM website was created (click on "Communications" in the top banner). This provides a place to put *Breeze* and Outdoors deadlines, *Breeze* advertising policy, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). Old Annual Reports and *Breezes* were rounded up and stored in an archival area on the website to preserve our history.

An ad hoc Website Committee was created by the SEM Executive Board to oversee the much needed updating of the SEM website during 2009. The Communications Chair was an ex officio member of this committee, as was the SEM Webmaster. In the October Executive Board meeting, the ad hoc Website Committee was dissolved, and the SEM website and SEM Website Committee were moved under the Communications Committee for its permanent home. (Please be sure to view our updated chapter website: amcsem.org)

Thank you to all SEM members who submit articles and pictures for the *Breeze*. A special thank you is extended to Ann McSweeney, as Assistant Editor of the *Breeze*, who edits and rewrites many of the articles submitted, and makes everyone look like a good writer! Another thank you to the new Website Committee for getting the website updated – and to Susanne Piche (Assistant Webmaster) for implementing all their changes.



Canoe / Kayak Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Bill Fischer, Canoe/Kayak Chair

This year the Canoe/Kayak group held our planning meetings on Dec. 7, 2008 and March 1, 2009. We scheduled 62 trips for the months April through October 2009. All of our trips were scheduled to run on Wednesdays and Saturdays, starting at 10:30 AM for the 7 month period. The trips varied in length from about 5 miles to 14 miles.

During the 2009 paddling season we had a total of 18 different leaders. The 62 trips this year included 20 that were off Cape. The size of the paddling groups on the trips varied from 3 or 4 on some of the early trips to 12 to 15 on the summer trips. About 5% of the trips had to be canceled due to weather.

The help of all the leaders is very much appreciated. A special thanks to Bob Zani for hosting the planning meetings and everything else he does for the group. Also, a special thanks to Max Sarazin for his help on our group communications.



Cape Hiking Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, John Gould, Cape Hiking Chair

Since the last Annual Meeting our Leaders met for three quarterly planning meetings and scheduled over 100 hikes. We also gained three new Leaders: David Selfe, Claire Goode and Joanne Jarzobski, and now have 20 active Leaders, perhaps an all-time high.

Pam Carter and Janet DiMattia hosted the annual Christmas party in December, and Janet and Richard Kaiser held their annual chili party at the end of January, after a brisk hike led by Maria Sylvester. Both parties were great fun. Unfortunately, because of severe icing conditions on the trails this past winter, a number of hikes had to be cancelled because hiker safety is our most important goal. The first two of the three summer Full Moon hikes were well attended and led by Nancy Braun, and Janet and Richard Kaiser. Because of the threat of thunderstorms and fog, Gary Miller's August full moon hike had to be cancelled.

In addition to the above Leaders, I would like to thank the others who led hikes over the past year: Linda Church, Elissa Crowley, Janet DiMattia, Hilary Hunt, Todd Kelley, Farley Lewis, Heidi Moss, Pat Sarantis, Peter Selig, Nancy Wigley, and Bill Zimmer.

The SEM Board made a change in the requirements to become a Cape Hiking Leader and any new Leaders will now have to have the same training as a Class I Hiking Committee Leader.

Pat Sarantis will become the Chair of Cape Hiking at this Annual Meeting and we look forward to her leadership in the coming years. We still need a vice-chair and Pat will be looking for someone to fill that role.

Finally a very special "Thank You" to all of the hikers who came on our hikes. You participated safely, and you added much to each and every hike.



Conservation Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Frederick E. Yost, Conservation Chair

In response to Joy Street's desire to spread the word about climate change, SEM Conservation sponsored presenter training for the Climate Change Challenge developed by AMC staff. This was attended by members from several different AMC chapters, including SEM. On-line training sessions (in webinars) were held and attended by additional SEM members.

Two outings and the first climate change presentation were provided by Conservation during the SEM Spring Bash. Bill Ruel led an Earth Day clean-up at the Cape Cod Canal. This is an annual activity run by the AmeriCorps and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which Bill has been helping with for years. Todd Kelly added an interpretive edge to his walk at Wakeby Mashpee Ponds.

This spring, the first Critical Treasures Event was held at Myles Standish State Forest. This was co-sponsored by SEM AMC, the Friends of Myles Standish State Forest and the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation. A variety of activities ranging from a long hike to a forestry talk were enjoyed by over 60 participants. Without the help of many people from DCR, TNC, the Friends group, and SEM AMC this would have never taken place. Thank you all.

Two new conservation leaders set up trips this year. Joanne Jarzobski had a good turnout for her June whale watching trip out of Plymouth, MA. Claire Goode set up a nature walk at Red Brook; however this had to be canceled due to construction. The North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery tour was repeated again this year with a similar response as in previous years.

During the Summer Picnic, a nature walk was provided. The picnic was held at the Lloyd Center in Dartmouth again this year. This is a fantastic facility with great natural history exhibits set in a beautiful location.

I want to extend a special thank you to Joanne Jarzobski for becoming the Conservation Vice Chair this year and for her interest in becoming the Conservation Chair for 2010. Joanne was one of the instrumental people in the success of our Critical Treasures Event. Thanks to the AMC staff and members for all the suggestions, assistance and opportunities that you have provided this year. I am looking forward to learning and continuing to work with the Conservation Committee in the future.



Biking Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Tavilla, Biking Chair

The SEM Chapter had scheduled rides throughout Southeastern Massachusetts which includes the following areas:

- The Massachusetts South Coast – Wareham to Seekonk
- The South Shore – Hingham to Plymouth
- Cape Cod – Bourne to Provincetown

The biking program consisted of both recurring rides and scheduled rides.

Recurring Rides:

- Monday Rides – late day/early evening in the South Coast area
- Tuesday Rides – late day/early evening on Cape Cod
- Thursday Rides – late day/early evening in the South Coast area
- Weekend Ride – enjoy the spectacular New England seasons on your bike

Scheduled Rides:

- 4C Ride (College Cafe Cycling Series) which features a lunch stop at a college campus in Southern New England.
- Special Event Rides - which feature a lunch stop at a local community event
- Follow-The-Leader Rides where all riders stay together at a group pace

There continues to be growing interest in the *2000 Mile Club*. Riders report their monthly mileage and all who achieve a cumulative total of more than 2,000 miles in a calendar year are recognized and receive a specially designed *2000 Mile Club* embroidered insignia.



Cross Country Skiing Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Hathaway, Skiing Chair

Our chapter revitalized its cross country skiing activities in 2009 under the leadership of Chair, Barbara Hathaway and Vice Chair, Farley Lewis. Trip leaders, Bob Bentley, Art Paradise and Marc Bober also played a major part in its success. A total of six local day trips and overnight trips were scheduled.

The season began with a successful instructional workshop at Great Brook Farm in Carlisle on January 3 led by Bob Bentley.

During the MLK weekend from January 16-19, two separate overnight trips were offered. The traditional long weekend at Applebrook B&B in Jefferson, NH, was held as an Inter Chapter trip with the 40+ Boston Chapter. Barbara Hathaway and Wayne Cardoza led 20 avid skiers on groomed trails at Bretton Woods on Saturday and Sunday, and Ken Jones led most of the same group on a short snowshoe activity on Monday. We enjoyed lots of snow, great trail conditions and a very compatible group of people who had such a great time that most of them are coming back again next year.

Art Paradise, Marc Bober and Bob Bentley led five enthusiastic skiers on a 2 ½ day back country ski adventure on the Catamount Trail in West Dover, VT, during the same weekend.

Barbara and Farley and two participants enjoyed the ambience of the Franconia Inn in New Hampshire, Feb. 10-12. The Inn's trail conditions were marginal on the day of arrival and the group opted to ski at Bretton Woods the following day. Would you believe the temperature was 51°!

A trip to Windblown in New Ipswich, NH, on January 24 was canceled because of a devastating ice storm that necessitated closing the trails for most of the season. Icy conditions also caused Bob Bentley to cancel his back country skiing at Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth on January 31.

I invite all of you cross country skiers to participate in our 2010 activities. See the Breeze, Outdoors and online trip listings for details.



Hiking Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, James Plouffe, Hiking Chair

The 2009 hiking season has seen a great success, from our newly developed Parent, Grandparent and Child hiking series, to the perennial Summer, Fall, and Winter hiking series. The Hiking Committee has broadened its horizons through 4 weekly hiking programs that included weekdays, weeknights and weekends. All in all, the committee has sponsored 115 hikes and saw over 1246 participants at these hikes. This is a significant increase in activity over previous yearsⁱ. Our committee has travelled to New Hampshire (15 hikes), Maine (4 hikes) and Rhode Island (2 hikes), in addition to our own territory of Massachusetts. Leading these hikes, in these locations, were 21 different Hiking Leaders with the assistance of 19 different Co-Leaders.

On average, we saw 14 participants per hike with participant levels ranging from 2 through 23. Their ages ranged from 1 year to members in their 80's. The most popular destinations were within the local area at both Borderland State Park in Easton and The Blue Hills Reservation in Milton.

Our 2009 hikes were broken into 4 categories: Class 1- Local Hikes; Class 2 – Day hikes with significant elevation gain; Class 3 – 3-season overnight backpacks; Class 4 – Winter hikes. From January 2009 through September 2009, our leaders led 95 Class 1 hikes, 8 Class 2 hikes, 5 Class 3 hikes and 7 Class 4 hikes. Of these hikes, all of the Class 2, 3 and 4 hikes occurred in either New Hampshire or Maine. Our Class 1 hikes were primarily conducted in Massachusetts with a couple occurring in Rhode Island and a couple occurring in New Hampshire.

The breakdown of hikes per month is summarized in the following tableⁱⁱ:

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
7	9	9	6	7	10	7	7	9

Recently we have revised our leader categories. In our old system of classification, all winter hike leaders were Class 4. We have now separated Class 4 leaders into Class 4 leaders and Class 5 leaders. The Class 4 Leader category is now solely for winter day hike leaders. The Class 5 category is for winter backpack leaders. (All prior Class 4 leaders have been grandfathered into the new Class 5 classification.)

Overall, the 2009 hiking year has been extremely productive and seems to be expanding. We currently have 26 participants signed up for the Winter Hiking Series Workshop in Sandwich. Both our 2009-2010 Winter Hike Series and Winter Snowshoe Series have been planned and listed on the online trip system. With any luck, we will see the numbers of both leaders and participants grow even larger in the next twelve months—at least that is the goal of the Hiking Committee!

My thanks go out to our extremely active leaders and co-leaders and also to Christine Pellegrini, my Vice-Chair of Hiking who has assisted in many visible and invisible ways.

ⁱ Based on review of available numbers in previous SEM Hiking annual reports.

ⁱⁱ Does not reflect the weekly RLBH series or the Tuesday Morning Conditioning series.



Trails Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Mulligan, Trails Co-Chair

The SEM chapter actively participated in a number of events sponsored at the national and local levels over this past year. Member participation is growing, and our efforts are well recognized at the Blue Hills, Myles Standish, and Borderland parks as well as our adopted trail (Lonesome Lake) in the White Mountains. Collaborative efforts in conjunction with local walking and hiking groups, the Boy Scouts of America, and other chapters throughout New England continue to keep the trails groomed and well maintained for all to enjoy. In total, chapter members contributed over 300 hours of volunteer service.

Blue Hills (120 hrs) – Leaders: Dexter Robinson / Ken Jones

Lonesome Lake (100 hrs) – Leaders: Lou Sikorski / Bill Ruel

Borderland (43 hrs) – Leader: Bob Vogel

Myles Standish (100 hrs) – Leaders: Lou Sikorski / Bill Ruel

Our top ten volunteers were: Lou Sikorski, Ryan Sikorski, Bill Ruel, Dexter Robinson, Wayne Anderson, Ken Jones, Kevin Mulligan, Kevin Ryan, Ellen Correia, and Chris & Bill Pellegrini. The following members adopted trails in the Blue Hills: Bob Flagg, Walt Granda, Ken Jones, Cheryl Lathrop, Chris and Bill Pellegrini, Dexter Robinson, Bob Vogel. Wayne Anderson adopted a trail in the White Mountains.



Education Committee Report

Respectfully submitted, Hagit Moverman, Education Chair

2009 was another successful year in the education and training for our AMC SEM members and the public. The committee offered various programs:

The 2009 Leadership Training was held April 18 at Borderland State Park in Easton, Ma. Nineteen participants completed the course and some went on to become leaders. Many thanks to: Chris Pellegrini, Fred Yost, Mike Woessner, Dexter Robinson, and Roger Scholl, who shared their passion for the outdoors with the hope to inspire/educate our new leaders.

The annual Wilderness First Aid course (WFA) took place on the weekend of September 12-13 at Borderland State Park in Easton. Aaron Gorban, AMC's leadership training and risk management manager, provided this training. Twelve SEM trip leaders and other participants finished this course successfully.

At the AMC SEM Spring Bash held in Sandwich, Cape Cod, in April, Fred Yost, Conservation Committee Chair, gave a presentation on "Climate Change". The presentation outlined the climate change in the Appalachian Mountain region, the anticipated effects on recreational users, and encouraged recreationalists to take action and help. A series of nature-related presentations is planned quarterly by the Education Committee.

The Education Committee thanks all who helped and shared their enthusiasm with the hope to educate others for the wise use of the beautiful Appalachian region.

2009 Executive Board & Vice Chairs

Chapter Chair	Wayne Anderson, chair@amcsem.org
Vice Chapter Chair	Claire Goode, vicechair@amcsem.org
Past Chapter Chair	Mike Woessner, pastchapterchair@amcsem.org
Treasurer	Leslie Carson, treasurer@amcsem.org
Secretary	Susan Salmon, secretary@amcsem.org
Biking	Joe Tavilla, bikingchair@amcsem.org
Canoe/Kayak	Bill Fischer, paddlingchair@amcsem.org
Cape Hiking	John Gould, capehikingchair@amcsem.org
Cape Hiking (Vice)	Pat Sarantis, capehikingvicechair@amcsem.org
Communications	Cheryl Lathrop, communicationschair@amcsem.org
Conservation	Fred Yost, conservationchair@amcsem.org
Conservation (Vice)	Joanne M. Jarzowski, conservationvicechair@amcsem.org
Education	Hagit Moverman, education@amcsem.org
Hiking	Jim Plouffe, hikingchair@amcsem.org
Hiking (Vice Chair)	Chris Pellegrini, hikingvicechair@amcsem.org
Membership	Len Ulbricht, membershipchair@amcsem.org
Skiing	Barbara Hathaway, xskichair@amcsem.org
Skiing (Vice Chair)	Farley Lewis, farley@comcast.net
Trails	Bill Ruel, trailschair@amcsem.org
Trails (Co-Chair)	Kevin Mulligan
Webmaster	Scott Haigh, webmaster@amcsem.org
Asso. Webmaster	Susanne Piche

CHAPTER HUT WEEKEND 2009



Chapter Hut Weekend this way !



Chapter members enjoying the weekend

The 2009 AMC SEM Annual Report was prepared by the SEM Communications Committee.

(Many thanks go to the various eagle-eyed proofreaders!)

An electronic copy can be found at amcsem.org under "documents."