



# AMC Southeastern Massachusetts Annual Report 2015

Presented to the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter at the SEM Annual Meeting, November 7, 2015



Dear AMC SEM Members,

As I finish my first year as the Chapter Chair I can report that the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club is vibrant and strong. Our financial position is stable with savings invested in AMC - managed investments. We have a volunteer Executive Board composed of 14 voting members which met 8 times this year electronically and once in-person. This year, as a chapter, **we led 326 activity trips** for our SEM members and the general public.

**The 326 activity trips this year were led by 56 volunteer activity leaders.** They are the force that makes the AMC a great organization and I am proud to work with them in my role as Chair of the SEM Chapter. We ran **42 bike trips, 53 cape hikes, 2 conservation events, 3 education events, 171 hikes, 48 paddles, 4 ski trips, 2 social events** and **1 trailwork event.**

Chapter-wide we had a busy, successful and fun year too! In January members of my Executive Board attended the **Annual Summit** of the whole AMC in Norwood with me. We attended workshops to share ideas and learn new things. In March, after that memorable winter, the Cape Hikers and

Paddlers had a **Welcome Spring Potluck**. This spring the Chapter hosted an **Open House** to introduce the public to the AMC, a **Leadership Training** day to train our members who want to become activity leaders and a **Wilderness First Aid** weekend to learn how to treat injuries in areas far from medical assistance. In August the SEM Chapter hosted a **Leave No Trace Training** to teach us how to lessen our impact on the environment when outdoors and in September the Chapter came together at Cold River Camp for its **Annual Chapter Hut Weekend**.

Running an AMC Chapter takes many volunteers and many hours. I want to thank my Executive Board for doing the necessary work to keep the SEM Chapter running smoothly. **John Pereira** as Secretary keeps all of our documents and files in order, **Patricia Rottmeier** as our Treasurer keeps all the finances in line and **Cheryl Lathrop** as our Past Chapter Chair gives us wisdom and continuity. I also want to thank the **Communications Committee** for publishing our newsletter, **The Breeze** and keeping all of our members informed about what is happening in the Chapter.

I want to thank all of my **Activity Leaders** and **Co-leaders** for leading such great trips. I want to also thank our other volunteers who take registrations at events, take photographs, buy the supplies for events, serve on special committees, write articles for The Breeze, and many other small duties that make this Chapter a warm and friendly place to be.

In recognition of our leaders efforts we began the **Volunteer of the Month** award to an activity leader which came with an award certificate and an REI gift certificate. The Chapter also hosted a **Leader Recognition Weekend** at Noble View Camp for activity leaders to relax, have fun and swap stories.

The SEM Chapter is always looking for new volunteers to help us in our goals of education, conservation and recreation. Please consider joining us as a volunteer of AMC SEM in 2016 – we would love to have your help.

***See you outdoors.***

*Respectfully submitted by Maureen Kelly, AMC SEM Chapter Chair*

## Biking Committee

Biking in New England is a real treat. We have such beautiful vistas and lots of interesting places to experience. We always welcome new ride leaders and places to explore! This year Biking began working on technology resources and here are a few:



Biking webpage: <http://amcsem.org/biking.html>

-Leader's favorite bike trips: <http://leadersfavoritebikes.blogspot.com/>

-Keep up with the biking committee (and others) here:

<http://sem-monthlycommitteereports.blogspot.com/>

We had many new and different bike trips this year. A few to mention were:

- The Annual SEMAMC New Year's Day Ride – Not this year in New England!
- SEM Spring Open House-beginner group cycle
- Martha's Vineyard overnight
- Many other Cape rides including the change of season rides
- Full Moon Canal / Cape rides
- East Bay Bike Path ride
- Head of Westport River ride
- Mother's Day Muffin Ride
- Westport Rivers Vineyard ride



Southeastern Mass Chapter AMC 2,000 Mile Club: Our unique 2,000 Mile Club was founded by Jack Jacobsen to recognize Southeastern Mass AMC member's accomplishments of cycling 2,000 miles or more in a calendar year. 2015 marks the 12th year of the 2K Club. For additional information about the 2,000 Mile Club, contact Bernie at [thosemeggisons@gmail.com](mailto:thosemeggisons@gmail.com).

A big thanks to all the biking leaders that contributed to us having a great year: Paul Currier, Jack Jacobsen, Joe Silva, Jodi Jensen, Linda Church, Claire Braye, Jeanine Audet, and John Adams.

*Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Washwell, Biking Chair  
Photos courtesy of Jeanine Audet*

## **Chapter Youth Program (CYP)**

In January, the AMC eliminated CYP due to low participation. At the time, the SEM CYP was the only active Chapter. They planned to reorganize the program to make it more user- friendly. I agreed to work with Jess Wilson on a pilot when it was ready. The pilot program has not materialized.

Our Chapter, under the leadership of Cheryl Lathrop and Maureen Kelly, was incredibly supportive of CYP. I truly appreciated all of their help! Since AMC no longer recognizes CYP, the SEM Executive Committee has recommended that the CYP Committee be eliminated from the SEM By-Laws.

Trained CYP Leaders are encouraged to consider leading Family Hikes. At the April Chapter Open House in Borderland, Karen Singleton and I led a Family Hike. Thirteen adults and children participated. Several parents requested more family activities.



Learning to determine age, height and health of trees.

*Respectfully Submitted by Sally Delisa, CYP Chair*

## Cape Hikes

Our Hiking Season goes from September to May. This past year was interrupted by heavy snow in January and February. Fall and Spring hikes were well-attended. Looking forward to getting out on the trails after a long summer break. Our first Fall hike went off on Sept. 17th with 8 participants.

We have started to use the Hikes Planning List on the SEM website. This seems to be going well for our leaders, and is a very useful tool. We now plan all our hikes online, which means no more in-person meetings. Good and Sad.

A warm welcome to three new leaders: Debbie Hayden, Barbara Gaughan and Robin McIntyre. Looking forward to being out on their hikes!

A fond farewell to Dave Hayden and Frank Battles. You are much missed by Cape Hikes. Thanks to all who lead and participate...You make it happen!



Fall hike to Coast Guard Beach. Eastham

*Respectfully Submitted by Farley Lewis, Cape Hikes Chair*

## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has a lot going on. Our chapter website is the hub of all SEM information! Start there to find links to anything you need! [www.amcsem.org](http://www.amcsem.org)

*The Breeze* is published each month, with the exception of the combination July/August newsletter. Thus, you can expect to receive our electronic newsletter 11 times a year. The focus of our articles has been on getting stories from leaders and members that interest all of our SEM readers.

The Blast is an email notification we send out approximately once a month highlighting important events and notices for our membership. It is a great way to share important information.

Our SEM Short Notice Email List (SNEL) continues to function smoothly due to the hard work and constant attention of our SNEL administrators, Erika Bloom and Bob Vogel. The SNEL conveniently gives those that sign up email notification of the latest changes, additions, or deletions in our OLTL activity schedule.



The Communications Committee also produces the Annual Report.

SEM is on Facebook and Twitter! As you can see there are plenty of ways to stay in touch with our membership!

Respectfully submitted by  
Gina Hurley, Communications  
Chair



## Conservation Committee

In January the Conservation Committee launched a "Conservation Patch Program" to SEM members. This program asks that each participant/family complete one conservation act from 5 different categories over the course of a year. All Conservation Patch Program information and tracking sheet can be found on the SEM conservation webpage, which was also



updated in January; this page has been a work in progress this year. New information links have been added so SEM members have more resources to practice conservation in their town. In addition to the SEM Conservation webpage, a "Conservation Corner" Blog has been created, along with increased posting on the SEM Facebook page.

The Conservation Committee sent a representative to sit in on the Freetown State Forest Stakeholders meeting in June. This meeting incorporated all interested parties along with politicians eager to bring the forest management plan up to date. We plan to attend further meetings and lend a hand in any efforts we can. Rattle Snake

Brook restoration is the most pressing issue in need of immediate action.

August 15<sup>th</sup> the Conservation Committee hosted a Leave No Trace Trainer course in Foxboro, MA. Three SEM Executive Board members attended, along with four non-AMC members interested in gaining and sharing Leave No Trace knowledge. This training was a foundation to better implement conservation throughout the SEM Chapter and its activities. The Chapter Chair, among other Executive Board members have put great effort in making conservation a part of SEM.

The Conservation Committee is also looking to reach out to other conservation organizations, as it has all year, and see if we can collaborate on events. The Buzzards Bay Coalition and The Nature Conservancy are just a couple of the organizations we have been in contact with.

*Respectfully submitted by Joshua Tefft, Conservation Chair*

## Education Committee

2015 was an exciting and productive year for educational opportunities offered through the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter. We had 21 attendees at the Leadership Training program held in April at the charming and convenient Chapel Meeting House in Foxboro, MA. This was an impressive turnout signifying a vibrant interest in leading and participating in chapter trips. We are grateful and indebted to the current chapter trip leaders who volunteered their time and expertise to mentor the new leaders who took this course. As always, this training is offered free of charge for interested chapter members.

Wilderness First Aid was once again a popular and well attended two day hands-on, practical seminar taught by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO). SOLO continues to provide for us a comprehensive, but manageable program that engages participants in a challenging and entertaining review of outdoor activity first aid principles. CPR training is offered as an optional add-on to wilderness first aid. This year, we offered the WFA course in May, which allowed interested SEM members to update their first aid training and also allowed a good number of non-AMCSEM participants to enroll in the training. This spring offering ensures a fully subscribed training as many people look for a WFA training in preparation for outdoor summer jobs.

Wilderness First Aid was held at the Foxboro Recreation Department Rec Hall, at the same location as the Chapel Meeting House. These are pleasant and practical venues that are appreciated by both presenters and trainees. Both Leadership Training and WFA programs have morning coffee and lunch included which make for an enjoyable and satisfying experience.

Other educational programs were offered by the Hiking and Conservation Committees. May 2015 saw the Intro to Hiking and Intro to Backpacking workshops, both well attended. In August, the Conservation Committee sponsored the Leave No Trace trainer workshop. Check out the reports from those committees for more details.



*Respectfully Submitted, Doug  
Griffiths, Education Committee Chair*

*"Patient" Paul Miller. Photo by Doug  
Griffiths*



## Hiking Committee

The SEM Hiking Committee was very active in 2015 with a full schedule of local day hikes and a variety of both single- and multi-day trips "Up North" and in western Massachusetts. As always, this was only possible due to the support of our wonderful hike leaders, who go out of their way to offer a good mix of trips for hikers of all levels – from newcomers, to those who look to the 4,000 footers in NH, Maine, and Vermont for challenges.

The committee would like to thank the leaders of our ever-popular "Series" hikes, including the Red Line the Blue Hills (RLBH) Series, Thursday Morning Series, and Borderline Full Moon Series, since these provide regular (and often very social) hiking opportunities for our members close to home. This past year, we also started an "intro" series in Blue Hills for newer hikers and a Summer Hiking Series, with progressively more challenging hikes. We also restarted a Backpacking Series for those SEM members looking for a bit more of a challenge. A day-long workshop event provided participants with the appropriate information for summer day hiking and backpacking.

This year's Winter Hiking Series was another big success, with strong participation and some newer winter hiking venues to "mix things up". For our Winter Series Overnight trip, we returned to the beautifully situated and recently renovated AMC Zealand Falls Hut, where we enjoyed our usual camaraderie, a variety of hikes, and wonderful group meals.

The committee also recently supported our 2015 Chapter Hut Weekend at the Cold River Camp in Evans Notch with a variety of hikes.

Thanks in part to the fine leader training workshops provided by our chapter's Education Committee and dedicated mentoring by established hike leaders, we've gained several new hiking leaders this year and several SEM hike leaders have progressed to higher levels, which will increase the number of leaders who are now qualified to lead more challenging hikes with significant elevation gain in NH, Vermont, and Maine.

Several SEM hikers have also earned and are proudly displaying their SEM "100-mile" hiking patches this year.

This past year, we held three of our four quarterly hike planning meetings as dial-in meetings. The spring meeting, a joint hike planning meeting/leader appreciation dinner provided an opportunity for hike leaders and co-leaders to meet, socialize a bit, enjoy a nice dinner, and plan our summer hikes.

*Respectfully submitted by Paul Miller, SEM Hiking Committee Chair, and  
Leslie Carson, Vice Chair*

## Membership Committee

Memberships have grown over the past year from 3,742 in August of 2014 to 3,863 in August 2015. Our efforts focused on trying to bring in the "armchair" participants, those who are members but who have not joined in an AMC sponsored activity.

The highlight for the Membership Committee was a very successful open house at Borderland State Park on April 18 from 10-4pm. The weather could not have been more perfect for a spring day in New England. A variety of activities were offered including beginner and intermediate hikes, beginner cycling, a family hike, a naturalist led hike, a conservation presentation, boot tying demonstration, and a free lunch to all participants and leaders. All activities were well attended. We had many enthusiastic volunteers for this event who helped set up, lead activities, serve lunch, staff the membership table, and clean up. Many of our first-time participants have since gone on to participate in other AMC activities, including our Annual SEM Chapter Hut Weekend. Everyone agreed... we will do this again next season. Stay tuned!

Thanks to Ellen Thompson, Sue Chiavaroli, and Karen Singleton who represented the SEM chapter at the Bristol Aggi Spring Expo in Dighton, MA, in May. They enthusiastically spread the word about upcoming SEM activities. In addition, our hiking committee did a great job scheduling intro hikes later that month in the Southeast region.

*Respectfully submitted by Jodi Jensen, Membership Chair*



Open House  
activity

## **Paddling Committee**

The Paddling Committee has lost a fair number of leaders over the last several years. This has put an extra burden on the current seven leaders, and of those only five led more than two trips this season. Fortunately those five really came through and led more than their share of trips.

In the past, early April trips often had to be cancelled due to cold, windy weather so we didn't schedule our first trip until the 3rd week in April. Although we had open dates in June and July, the rest of the year was full. All of our trips have been on Cape Cod and include fresh water ponds as well as salt water bays and estuaries and have covered the Cape from Buzzards Bay to Nauset Bay. This year we paddled Lake Wequaguet, a site we haven't paddled in over ten years, and plan to make that a regular paddling venue in future years.

There's been an increase in participation in our trips compared to the last two years and I hope that this will result in some of those paddlers moving into a leadership position. Almost all our trips now require preregistration. This gives the leader a lot more flexibility to make last minute changes/cancellation when the weather requires it as he only has to notify a relatively small number of people.

We were saddened by the sudden and unexpected death in February of then Paddling Chair Betty Hinckley. A Memorial service was held for her on Saturday, July 11 and attended by many of her paddling friends. There was no paddling trip that day.



*Respectfully  
submitted  
by Ed  
Foster,  
Paddling  
Chair*

Betty Hinckley

A Flotilla of  
Kayakers on  
Mashpee/  
Wakeby Pond

## **Ski Committee**

During the MLK weekend, January 16-19, 2015, Wayne Cardoza of the 40+ Chapter and I led our usual trip to the White Mountains. The trip was attended by 20 avid skiers who stayed at Applebrook Bed & Breakfast in Jefferson, NH. We began the weekend on Friday by socializing at the B&B, dining on salad and pizza and enjoying our favorite beverages.

On Saturday we enjoyed a fine day of skiing at Bretton Woods followed by a visit to the Mt. Washington Hotel for a beverage and snacks. On Sunday we skied at Bretton Woods again, but it began raining around noon and ended our skiing for the day.

On February 7 & 8, Jodi Jensen led a group of skiers and snowshoers for a weekend at Noble View Outdoor Center, the AMC facility in Russell, MA.

On February 28, Jodi led a day trip to Notchview, a Trustees of Reservation facility, in Windsor, MA. Chris Pellegrini was her co-leader and became qualified to lead cross country trips. Yeah, Chris!

Wayne Cardoza of the 40+ Chapter and I led a successful trip to the Old Field House in Intervale, NH the weekend of March 6-8. We enjoyed great weather and skiing conditions at Great Glen and Bear Notch.

As chair of the cross country ski committee I invite all of you skiers to participate in our 2016 activities. You can help rejuvenate our cross country skiing activities by volunteering to co-lead and train to be a leader, as well. If you are interested, please contact the Ski Chair through e-mail or at the Annual Dinner. Watch the *Breeze, Outdoors* and online trip listings for details of both cross country and downhill skiing. And don't forget the short notice and e-mail blasts for "last minute" activities. See you on the trails!!

*Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hathaway, Ski Committee Chair*

## Trails Committee

On April 25, the SEM Chapter hosted a Trail Maintenance Workshop at the Brookwood Farm Conference Center in Canton. We had a presenter from the AMC North Country, Molly Higgins, who began with a discussion of tool safety and discussed the different tools that are used in trail work. (Hazel hoe, loppers, Pulaski, pick mattock, long handle shovel, double bladed swizzle, bow saw and handsaws).

After the tool demonstration we hiked over to the trails behind the conference center to do some trail maintenance including: clearing blowdowns, trimming branches, and cutting and removing trees that were covering the trails.

Following lunch, we hiked across the street, tools at the ready, to a section of trails that had been earmarked by the FOBH for some trail work. We brushed back and removed several small white pine trees. We continued on the trails removing blowdowns and trimming branches. Our biggest project was clearing and reconfiguring two drainage ditches in order to prevent further trail erosion.

We ended the day back at the Conference Center discussing all the skills and techniques that we learned and discussing future opportunities for trail maintenance work.

Cathy MacCurtain was the leader and Pat Achorn was the co-leader of the workshop.

*Respectfully submitted by Cathy MacCurtain, Trails Chair*



## **Treasurer's Report**

We continue to operate in the black due to controlled and conservative spending. 2015 began with a successful Annual Financial Audit of the 2014 books by Joy St. The committee chairs have had a busy year with a Spring Wilderness First Aid & CPR Training, Leadership Training, Trail Work Workshop, Membership Open House, Conservation "Leave no Trace" training, Nobleview Winter Weekend, Chapter Hut Weekend at Cold River Camp, and a Martha's Vineyard Bike Trip, to name a few programs. We were able to provide 10 of our members scholarships with WFA training & 2 members the Barry Farnsworth Memorial Scholarship for Map & Compass training. This year we have focused on recognition of Board & Committee members and their dedicated work in their committees with gift cards from REI. We continue with productive virtual E-Board meetings on-line, which has been a cost savings in facility rental and food, and the SEM board had one real person to person meeting before the summer season kicked off. All of these programs were close to break even with regards to revenue and cost, ending the year with a potential small surplus.

Chapter Committees reported net expenditures as follows:

- \$237 for Communications/Website
- \$886 for Conservation meetings and "Leave no Trace" Workshop
- \$141 for Cape Hike planning meetings and First Aid Kits
- \$285 for Biking committee planning meetings
- \$3,053 for Education: WFA, Leadership training & Scholarships
- \$1,640 for the Hiking Committee – winter workshop & First Aid Kits
- \$314 for the (CYP)Chapter Youth Program – Final expenses for CYP.
- \$156 for the Membership Committee – Spring Open house
- \$574 for Trails Committee Trails Workshop
- \$8,660 for Administrative – Insurance, Board & Committee Member Recognition Gift Cards, E-Board, Annual, and Clubwide Meetings

I want to thank the Board and the Committee members for their support and efforts during the past year. I look forward to another financially successful year for the Chapter.

*Respectfully submitted by Patty Rottmeier, Treasurer*