Chapter Chair Message

I am pleased to announce the 1997 Nominating Committee. Serving on the Committee will be John Abbott 644-5626 Assonet, Nancy Ellis 240-0147 Orleans, Janet Kaiser 375-0574 Yarmouthport, Tom Waddell 617-837-5537 Marshfield and Dave Williams 238-3638 So. Easton. There will be 13 Nominees to be presented at the Annual Meeting on November 1. The positions are Chapter Chair, Chapter Vice-Chair, Secretary, four Activity Chairs, (Biking, Canoeing, Hiking, Skiing), plus Education, Conservation, Communication, Membership, and Trails. These Executive Board positions are chosen by ballot, however if there is but one nominee for an office, election will be by voice. If you are interested in serving or if you have a suggestion for the 1997 Board: please contact one of the Nominating Committee members listed above. An Executive Board is essential for a Chapter and provides the many activities we all enjoy.

Chapter Annual Meeting
The Southeastern MA Chapter Annual Meeting will take place on November 1 at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro. Our Speaker will be Michael Tougias who will present a program on the “Quiet Places of New England.”

Annual Chapter
Summer Picnic
Saturday, August 2
Borderland State Park In Easton
Cost $5:00 Adults Registration: Pay-at-Door
Kids $2:00 (14 and under) Sign up by July 31
Call Bruce Dunham 508 587-0679 (6-9 p.m.)

Schedule
Canoeing - Training by Certified Instructor
Call Carrie Dobson 430-9892
Biking-Meet at Park Visitor Center at 1:30 p.m.
for 15 mile ride L. Carol Julien 617 293-1100
or a 30 mile ride in Dartmouth, L. Louise
Desrochers 673-9752
Orientation for new members, plus slide show
about the Southeastern MA Chapter - 2:00 p.m.
Hiking-Meet at Park Visitor Center - 3:00 p.m.
ends about 4:00 p.m. L. Ray Butts 880-8597
Family Hike - Leader Richard Brech
, 747-6517 work or home 746-8189-3:00 p.m.
Social Hour - 4:00 p.m.
Barbecue - 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs,
Salad & Ice Cream. Veggie Burgers available,
but let us know if you are a vegetarian when
you register. Please bring a LAWN CHAIR
If you have to drop out - Please Call back!!
Non-Members Welcome

From I-ct. of Rte. 123 & 106 (Shaw's Plaza) in Easton. Go .5 on 106 West
and turn left onto Poquanticut St. Go 1.3 Mi. passing a farm. Turn left after .1
pass Farm onto Massapoag Ave. Go 2.2 Mi. to ent. on right. Take first left
and follow Visitor Center Sign.
Biking
Chair, Carol Julien 617 293-1100


Sat., July 12. Country Ride in the Carver area. Possible Ice Cream Stop, 20-30 miles. L. John Poitier 822-1372 7-9 P.M.

Sat., July 19. Country Ride in Halifax, 1 P.M., 20-30 miles possible volleyball. BBQ at L. Carol Julian house - (617) 293-1100

Fri., August 1. 6 P.M. Bike Planning Committee Meeting. L. Carol Julian (617) 293-1100.

Sat., Aug. 2. Chapter Summer Picnic Ride in Dartmouth, 15-20 miles on back roads through farmlands and saltmarshes. Mostly flat with a few gradual hills. L. Louise Desrochers 673-9752

Sat., Aug. 9. Meet at Wampatuck State Park. Leisurely 40 mile ride through Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate. Group determines pace, stops. Bring lunch, swimsuit, camera, etc. L. Rich Iovanni (617) 364-2221 7-9 P.M.


Sat., Sept. 6. Martha's Vineyard. Helmets highly recommended. L. Alice Oberdorf 508 771-8261


Sat., Sept. 20. ANNUAL RODMAN RIDE FOR KIDS. Fundraiser for Children at risk. Options for 25-50-100 miles. For Information call Biking Chair. Carol Julien (617) 293-1100. or RODMAN RIDE 1-800-395-RIDE

Tues., Aug. 26. Meet at Rte. 134 off Rte. 6 at the start of the Rail Trail for ride to Fisherman's Landing in Brewster.

Tues., Sept. 2 Meet at Friendly's for Northside Canal Ride.

Tuesday Evening Bike Rides
SE Mass. Chapter offers bike rides on Tues. eves., May 27-Sept. 2. All rides start at 6:00 P.M. Rides are easy and vary between 14-20 miles. Helmets highly recommended. L. Alice Oberdorf 771-8261 CL Connie Austin 428-1502

Tues., July 1. Meet at parking lot of Veteran's Beach in Hyannis, entrance on Ocean St. at Gosnold St., for ride to Dowse's Beach in Osterville.

Tues., July 8. Meet at A&P parking lot in Chatham (there are two A&P's on Rte. 28 in Chatham. Meet at 2nd one from Harwich) for ride to fish pier, lighthouse, coves, etc. Blue Hydrangeas in full bloom.

Tues., July 15. Meet at Gray's Beach, Yarmouthport for coastal ride.


Tues., July 29. Meet at Nickerson State Park, Rte. 6A in Brewster for ride to Rock harbor and into Eastham.

Tues., Aug. 5. Meet at Dennis Town Hall parking lot for ride to Mill Pond and Scargo Tower.


Tues., Aug. 19. Meet at Rock Harbor parking lot in Orleans which is right off Orleans Rotary for ride to Visitor's Center and out to beach in Eastham.

Bike Touring Weekends
Thurs.-Sun., July 3-6. Ever want to try bike touring but were concerned about the high mileage? We will ride 30-45 miles a day on roads with bicycle lanes or on quiet country back roads. Our route will follow rivers and take us past villages, country stores and dairy farms. Expect rolling to hilly terrain. Stay in Hostels and riverside condo. Cost of $160.00 includes lodging and all meals, except lunch. Helmets are required. Trip limited to 10. Register by June 1 with non-refundable $100.00 deposit. Call L's Tom and Marilyn Waddell at 617 837-5537 before 8 P.M. Refundable if spot is fillable.

Fri.-Mon., August 29 - September 1. Labor Day Bike and Hike Weekend. Enjoy the scenic beauty of rural N.H. in the Mt. Chocorua area. Saturday bike 40 miles through small New England Villages and relax by the lake in a state Park or try the longer 60 and 80 mile routes. Expect hills, multi-gear bikes recommended. Sunday, hike up Mt. Chocorua or bike, depending on your interest. Cabin has cold running water, full kitchen, dining room, bunkroom and outdoor facilities. Showers available nearby. Weekend includes meals and lodging for $40.00. $20.00 deposit required. L Melinda Lyon, CL Tom Waddell. For Details call CL at 617 837-5537 before 8 p.m.

Safe Trips
All trips involve some risk. Participants assume responsibility for their own welfare. Discuss your abilities with trip leader prior to the trip.

Note: All phone numbers are area 508 unless 617 is specified.
Canoe & Kayak

Chair, Carrie Dobson 430-9892
Vice-Chair, Dave Williams 238-3638

Non-members will be charged $2/person/day.

Trips other than Wed. or Thurs: Please call and register for time and directions with Leader, Canoe Chair 430-9892 or Canoe Vice-chair, 238-3638

PFD’s mandatory in boat all year and must be worn Sep 15 to May 15

Wednesday and Thursday Trips:
Start at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted. (*) Bring lunch, drink, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Canoe/Kayak rentals for AMC trips: $6/members; $15/non-members. Easton, canoe: Dave (238-3638); Sandwich, canoe: Carolyn (888-4923); Harwich, Canoe: Carrie (430-9892)

Thurs., July 10. Swan River, Dennisport clipper Ln off upper County Rd. to pkg. lot area at end.


Thurs., July 17. Waquoit Bay, Fallmouth, W on Rte 28 (approx 3.5 mi) from Mashpee Rotary to S on Seapit Rd. (just E of Childs river bridge) to Town landing on left.


Thurs., July 24. Prince Cove, Cotuit. R on Prince Ave. (just East of Rte. 149 on Rte. 28) 0.5 mi. to Town Landing on L. Wait for PARKING instr. L Connie Austin Pot Luck 428-1502.


Thurs., July 31. Indian lakes, Marston Mills. S from exit 5 on Rte. 149 to "Indian Lakes" sign on R to Pkg.


Thurs., Aug. 7. Wellfleet Harbor. W on Main St. from Rte 6 to L on Commercial St. to Public Beach Launching and Pkg. at far end.


Thurs., Aug. 21. Swan River, Dennisport Clipper Ln. off upper County Rd. to Pkg area at end.


Thurs., Aug. 28. Ryders Cove, Chathamport. Ryders Cove Rd. off Rte. 28 to Town Landing. Pkg. across Rte. 28 S


Thurs., Sept. 4. Herring River, West Harwich. Park E side Herring River Bridge on S side of Rte. 28.


Wed. Sept. 10. Gray’s Beach, Yarmouthport. Old Church St. of 6A to Centre St. to Pkg Lot.


Wed. Sept. 17. Mashpee River. S on Quinacisset Av. off Rte. 28 for .7 mi to R on Mashpee Neck Rd. to Launching Ramp.

Wed. Sept. 24. Herring Pond, Bourne Dale. From Sagamore Rotary SW on Rte. 6 approx. 5 mi. to R at lights on Bourne Dale Rd. then 1 mi. to R on Herring Pond Rd. to Pkg lot on L side.

Cottage for Rent on Onset Island on Cape Cod Canal. 12 ft. Skiff available. $500 per week. $1600 per month. Carrie 508 430-9892

Help Wanted
LEADERS
for
Canoe/Kayak Saturday Trips
FUN & EASY
Call
Carrie Dobson 430-9892
Dave Williams 238-3638

Thursday Rain Days
Canoe/Kayak Videos at Carro’s
Hiking

Chair, David Bennett 222-6943
Vice-Chair, Dexter Robinson 294-8840

Hike Rating: First character indicates distance in miles. Second character indicates leader’s pace. (average terrain). Third character indicates terrain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#Miles</th>
<th>Pace</th>
<th>Terrain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A=1-3</td>
<td>1=m.</td>
<td>v=strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A=9-13</td>
<td>2=m.</td>
<td>a=strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B=5-8</td>
<td>3=slow</td>
<td>b=average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C=5-</td>
<td>4=leisure</td>
<td>c=easy</td>
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Hikers unsure of their ability should try only one level higher than previously completed.

NOTE: NO PETS without permission from the trip leader. Individuals under 18 must obtain prior consent from the Trip Leader.

Local Hikes on Cape Cod


Thurs. Sept. 11. Banstable, Deacons Farm. Exit 5 off Rte. 6, go N. Park behind Fire Station on R. L. Nancy Wigley 548-2362, CL. Harry Dombrosk 385-9502

August Day/Evening Hikes

Sat., Aug. 2. Chapter Summer Picnic Hike at Borderland. See Page 1

Wed., Aug. 6 Evening Hike. Blue Hills. (C3C) L. John Poirier 822-1372


Sat., Sept. 6 Mt Carrigan via the Signal Ridge Trail (A3B). An early start for this long day hike with great views. L. Dexter Robinson (617) 294-8840 7-9 p.m. E-Mail: ndr@idx.com CL Charlie Farrell 508 822-2123.

Sat., Sept. 20. Mt. Chocorua. L. Walter Wells 586-3777, 6-9 P.M.

Sat., Sept. 20. Borderland State Park in Easton (B3D) Bruce Dunham 587-0679 6-9 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 27. Myles Standish State Park. (B3C). Hike through pine woods and around blue ponds to begin the fall season. L. Ray Butts 880-8597 CL Charlie Farrell 822-2123

July Day/Evening Hikes


Tues., July 15. Evening. Hiking Committee meeting to plan Fall Hikes. call David Bennett 222-6943 7-9 p.m.

Wed., July 16. Evening Hike. F Gilbert Hills State Forest Forest (C3C) L. John Poirier 822-1372

Wed., July 30. Evening Hike. Moose hill. (C3C) pleasant Hike in Audubon Sanctuary. L. David Bennett 222-6943 7-9 p.m. E-Mail: dbennett@tp.net

Sat.-Sun., July 19-20. Beginner's Back-pack to the North and South Hancock's (A3C). Enjoy views of Signal Ridge and the Sawyer River Valley at an easy pace. 9.8 miles via the Hancock Notch and Loop trails. L. Dexter Robinson (617) 294-8840 7-9 p.m. E-Mail ndr@idx.com CL. Walter Wells 586-3777

Sat.-Sun., July 26-27. Intermediate Backpack to the North and South Kinsmans (A3C) 15.3 miles via Kinsman Ridge, Fishin' Jimmy and Lonesome Lake trails. L. David Bennett 222-6943, 7-9 p.m. E-Mail dbennett@tp.net. CL Walter Wells 586-777.


Sun. Oct. 5. Mashpee River Woodlands. From Mashpee Rotary go E 0.4 mi. on Rte 28 to R on Quinquisset Ave., 0.7 mi. to R on Mashpee Neck Rd to pkg area at 1.1 miles on R. L Nancy Wigley (548-2362) CL Alice Oberdorff (771-8261).


Note: All phone numbers are area code 508 unless indicated otherwise. All trips involve some risk. Participants assume responsibility for their welfare. Discuss your abilities with trip leader prior to the trip.
“Summer Smorgasbord”

Hiking in the White Mountains, August 2-9, 1997. Hike, swim, and canoe in the beautiful White Mountains! We will explore the Presidential's and their foothills on search of peaks, ridges, valleys, waterfalls and remote lakes and ponds. Daily excursions of 8-12 miles, with elevations gains and losses of over 2,000 ft. will be geared for intermediate hikers. A two-day Presidential traverse is possible. Less strenous hike for advanced beginners will be offered.

Spend “lay-over” days swimming and canoeing in the crystal clear Saco River. Evenings will include forages into the Mt. Washington Valley in search of entertainment, AMC presentations and good food. Lodging will be at a modern and charming mountain home in Crawford Notch. Cost of $280.00 includes 7 nights lodging, 7 breakfasts and 4 dinners with Happy Hour. Size is limited. Register with Leader Mary DuBois-Leeson 997-4489.

Bay Circuit Trail

The Bay Circuit trail is a Massachusetts trail that needs support from chapter members in bringing the dream of a 200 mile trail to fruition.

Since its founding in 1989, the Bay Circuit Alliance has served as the catalyst for building the trail. The goal of the Alliance is “to create a permanent recreation trail by the year 2000 that is accessible to all, linking the parks and open spaces surrounding metropolitan Boston.” The planned trail will extend from the North Shore to the South Shore, from Plum Island to Kingston Bay. he Alliance is specifically looking for local support from the Communities of Pembroke, Easton, Bridgewater, Halifax, and Kingston.

Those with an interest in the project should call the Bay Circuit Alliance at 508 470-1982 and ask for Al French or write Bay Circuit Alliance, 3 Railroad Street, Andover, MA 01810.

Mead Bradner

Mead Bradner, 82, died Sunday, May 25, 1997 at home. He was active in maintaining the trails and leading hikes on the Warner Trail that runs from the Blue Hills in Milton to Diamond Hill in Cumberland, Rhode Island. Mead was a member of the AMC for many years. A dedication will be held for Mead Bradner July 19th at 10:00 a.m. at High Rock in Wrentham. A Plaque will be permanently affixed to High Rock commemorating the 40 plus years that Mead had dedicated to maintaining the Warner Trail. The Warner trail is a hiking trail which winds its way southwest of Boston from Canton to Rhode Island approximately 36 miles. Mead has spent countless hours maintaining the trail, relocating portions of the trail taken over by Home Developers, coordinating with AMC Chapters, and working with state and local conservation officials. Mead’s efforts have kept this a viable trail network. Up to the age of 79 years, he was still leading hikes every Spring and Fall. He was also instrumental in organizing The Friends of the Warner Trail to take over this love of the Trail for years to come. Cards of thanks can be sent to Mead at 30 water Street, Foxboro, MA 02035. Directions to Dedication: .3 mile south of Rte. 140 on Route 1, left onto High Rock Road, follow to parking lot.

Chapter Membership Count

Hingham has the largest number of members with 76, followed closely by Plymouth with 70. Duxbury has 54 members. Futher to the west, Brockton has 48, Taunton-44, Attleboro -44. To the South, Fall River has 23, New Bedford has 25.

On Cape Cod, the town of Brewster has the largest number of members with 43, East Falmouth -33, Orleans -29, Sandwich-25. The total number of memberships is 1853 with approximately 70 per cent living in Bristol & Plymouth Counties and 30 per cent living on Cape Cod & the Islands.

White Mountain National Forest Parking Fees

On May 1, 1997, hikers and visitors to parking areas in the White Mountains noticed the presence of white signs announcing the implementation of the Forest Service recreational fee pilot project. Effective May 24, 1997, people who leave their cars in the parking lots within the forest are required to display a special “Passport” on the drivers side of their dashboard.

A one-week passport costs $5.00, a year-round pass costs $20.00. The fees are part of a national pilot program to raise money for the parks and forests. The revenue from the passports will be used in the forest where it is collected, rather than going into a general fund. Passports purchased at one national forest cannot be used in another, but each one is good for two vehicles. However, both vehicles cannot be parked in the forest at the same time.

To obtain the passport mail a check for either $20 (yearly fee) or 5 (weekly fee) to the following address:

Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest
719 Main Street
Laconia, NH 03246
Attn. Fee Program

Be sure to include one or two license plate numbers. If you send only one license plate number, it is possible to write in another after you receive the passport. The passports can also be purchased at district ranger stations, some retails stores, and at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center.

Exempt parking lots include Pinkham, Appalachia, lots in Franconia Notch State Park and AMC Crawford Notch Hostel. Passports are required on vehicles at the Carter, Zealand and Galehead trailheads (as well as at many other trailheads).

Trail adopters for the Whites will receive a free permit. The Forest Service can fine violators, but agency staff members say they will focus more heavily on education than on enforcement in the program’s early stages.

wdicircuit@juno.com
Conservation Update

Many on going conservation related issues affecting our region of Massachusetts need support by us citizens. The best way to address the causes most vital to us will be by the actions of contacting our local legislators by phone or personal letter. The Massachusetts Rivers Bill is presently going through a comment period open to June 13, 1997, formalized by August 7th. Massachusetts old growth Forest issue will accept comments to June 11, 1997. The Eel River issue in Plymouth has gone to Town Meeting but reconsideration may be in progress at this time.

Nationally, the air quality, Power Deregulation Bills, the Northern Forests, and National Parks issues need our personal input if the public is to be effectively served. It is not too late to write or call our Congressmen.

Comments or questions can be directed to your Conservation Chairman - 947-9176 Luke Leonard, Jr.
123 Howland Road, Lakeville, MA 02347.

Membership in a bottle

For $40, you'll receive an AMC Nalgene water bottle with a $40 individual one year membership enclosed along with a temporary ID card which you must forward to AMC Headquarters for a permanent ID Card, a $10 gift certificate to a AMC lodging, workshops, and books, and an AMC window decal. Your one year membership also includes 10 issues of AMC Outdoors and the Breeze, the Southeastern MA Chapter's newsletter. The Southeastern MA Chapter will also benefit from every bottle sold through the Chapter.

To receive your Gift membership, send your Name, Address, City/State/Zip Code and Phone Number, and the name and address to which you would like to have the bottle sent, along with your check for $40.00, payable to SEM/AMC to:
Anne Silva,
140 Summerfield Street,
Fall River, MA 02720.
For more information call Anne Silva at 508-675-2809 or at the E-mail address of orange@ultranet.com

Lonesome lake Trail Work Weekend

Summer & Fall Trail Work Schedule

Camp Dodge
July 11 & 12. Stay at Camp Dodge to give a hand to the crew destination for work unknown for details call Lou 508-678-3984 limit 8 people.

August 15 & 16. Stay at Camp Dodge to give a hand to the crew at Dodge, Destination unknown for details Call Lou 508-678-3984 limit 8 people.

Lonesome Lake
September 12,13,14. Lonesome lake. Lets give them a show they will not forget. In the past, the September trip has been weak. We have 20 bunks reserved at Lonesome Lake Hut as lots of folks have told me they would go again. Well, lets see it happen.

The cost is a deposit of $20 from which $10 will be returned on your arrival. (unless you choose to donate it to the trail crew). What's included is three excellent meals, lodging at the Hut and our leaders usually offer a day hike on Sunday before departing. The Lonesome Lake Trail has been this Chapter's adopted trail in the Whites since 1980. Call ahead of time as we need an exact count before August 15. Call John Poirier 822-1372. On the May 23-25 Trip, 22 people worked on the lower part of the trail putting in waterbars and steps.

I want to say Thank-you to those volunteers who worked on the Lonesome Lake Trail. Great Job by Everyone!!

Warner Trail
September 27. Warner Trail. We will meet at 9am for a full day of work. Call Lou Sikorsky 508-678-3984.

Bentley Loop
October 11. Bently Loop Myles Standish. Meet at Rangers station at 9 A.M. Please Call Lou or John to confirm.

Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Awarded $1,000 Grant.
The Southeastern MA Chapter recently received from Lowe Alpine, a grant of $1000.00 to buy Trail tools.

Thanks to Fred Abrams, Manager of Eastern Mountain Sports in Taunton for telling Chapter Chair Bruce Dunham about the opportunity to apply for the grant money. Without his assistance, the trail grant would not have been possible.

The check arrived just in time for National Trails Day on June 7th. The new tools were put to good use on the Bentley Loop in Myles Standish State Forest. New Tools purchased included a chain saw, brush clearing machine, loppers, chaps, lumberjack helmets, hazelhoses, and 4 spuds.

On National Trails Day, over 2 dozen volunteers worked on the Bentley Loop. In Borderland State Park, volunteers helped pick up litter through out the Park.
1997 CHAPTER HUT NIGHT

Where: Carter Notch Hut
When: Saturday, October 18th

COST: $29.00 per person including happy hour, dinner, & Sunday breakfast) Chapter Hut Night has been an annual event since 1988. This fall it will be held at Carter Notch Hut, located between Wildcat Ridge and the Carter-Moriah Range. Two separate bunkhouses accommodate 40 guests. Mattresses, pillow, & blankets are provided, along with the use of a fully-equipped kitchen.

Call the trip leaders for information about equipment, trails, and car pooling.

LEADERS:
David Bennett, (508) 222-6943, 7-9 p.m.
Dexter Robinson, (617) 294-8840

PLEASE REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 30

GROUP SIZE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE

REGISTRATION FORM for CHAPTER HUT NIGHT

Mail by September 30th with non-refundable check payable to S.E.M./AMC to David Bennett
47 Wamsutta Road
Attleboro, MA 02703

Name______________________________
Address____________________________
City_________________ State____ Zip Code____
Telephone_________ E-Mail________________
Number of Registrations______ Amount enclosed____________}

(Continued on page 8)

History of the Formation of the Southeastern MA Chapter

This article is from the historic records of the Southeastern MA Chapter.

The development of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter stemmed directly from the formation of the Boston Chapter.

The formation of the Boston Chapter was initiated by members of the Club living in the Boston area in conjunction with the Club's membership Committee. In the process of forming the Boston Chapter, it was not known at the onset whether the geographic area should include all or only a portion of eastern Massachusetts. The Southeastern Massachusetts area became a focal point for further consideration. In the process of discussing this question with Club members who resided in the latter area, it came to light that there was a significant feeling that a chapter or chapters should cover all Boston and Southeastern Massachusetts areas, that is, those parts of Massachusetts not already included in chapter areas. It was also noted that the formation of a chapter or chapters would have enormous impact on the Club. All persons involved were concerned with the potential impact of the new chapter(s) on the Club and on other chapters already existent.

In August 1974, a questionnaire was sent to all Club members residing in eastern Massachusetts areas not already covered by a chapter requesting a statement of interest in the formation of a chapter in the area. A notice was printed in the Bulletin (now called AMC Outdoors) informing members of this upcoming questionnaire. This poll proved useful in determining that not one chapter but two chapters might be preferable. Four-out-seven expressed preference for the formation of two chapters, one centering around Greater Boston and the second in Southeastern Massachusetts. Two-out-seven expressed preference to have one large eastern Massachusetts chapter and one-out-seven felt no new chapter(s) should (Continued on page 8)
Continued from page 7

be formed. From this poll, it was evident that a second poll to only those members to only those members residing in Southeastern Massachusetts should be made. In January 1975, D. Bruce Langmuir, Chairman of the recently formed Boston Chapter of AMC, sent a questionnaire to the 720 members in the Southeastern MA area comprising the counties of Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Nantucket, and Duke. He asked for a response to such questions as: “Do you favor a S.E. Mass. Chapter?”; “Will you serve as an officer or on a committee?”; and Suggestion?”

A sufficient number of members responded to prompt Bruce to organize an Ad Hoc Start-up Committee. He did this by personally telephoning to a number of respondents to ask their assistance.

On October 8, Charlie Culler, Paul Brodeur, Sam Raymond, Dr. Arthur Robinson, Lee Rodgers, and Howard Shearer met at Jim Fox’s home in Halifax to discuss organization procedures. Bruce Langmuir and Doug Prescott, Chairman, Club Membership Committee, also attended. Bruce and Doug outlined some suggestions for the formation of a chapter. They alerted the committee to its responsibilities and how to establish a list of priorities. Without their assistance it is doubtful whether sufficient progress could have been made in a little over three months to have assured an election of officers in January, 1976.

Culler was elected coordinator and Fox secretary for the Ad Hoc Committee.

During the next three months, seven more meetings were held either in Halifax or North Falmouth, and gradually other AMC members joined the committee to assist in the decision-making process. These included Susan Anderson, Bob Bentley, Bill Brown, Ed Kelly and Russell Ottey.

Sam Raymond and Paul Brodeur edited two informative newsletters to keep area members aware of the progress being made in their behalf. Gradually, the slate of initial officers and committee members was prepared after dozens of telephone calls to potential candidates, a list of possible chapter names was suggested, and plans were finalized for an initial chapter meeting with an election of officers and the signing of a petition to the AMC Council.

During this gestation period, the period, the officers of the Council (now Club Board of Directors) at 5 Joy Street received copies of all minutes of meetings of the organization committee.

Bruce Langmuir, by now the Chairman of the new Boston Chapter, continued to act as mentor and, while the committee occasionally hit some whitewater, he was always there to help. Doug Prescott was also of much assistance and prompt in responding to a call for information vital to progress.

On January 21, 1976, an organization meeting was held at the East Bridgewater Congregational Church to which all Southeastern MA members and others interested in forming a Chapter were invited. There 152 members present.

Members of the AMC were asked to sign a petition requesting the authority to establish a Southeastern MA Chapter. The importance of the occasion was highlighted by the presence of Bruce Langmuir and Robert Wagner, Vice-President of Chapters.

Several members of the organization committee gave reports and there was an extended question and answer period. The name “Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter was finally selected by voice vote from a list containing such possibilities as “Pilgrim Chapter”, “Sachem Chapter”, and “Massasoit Chapter”. The AMC members then voted for an initial slate of officers to serve for a one year period.

The Chapter formation petition was presented to the AMC Council at its February 1976 meeting, where it was warmly received and approved.

The Slate of Officers elected were:
Chair - Ralph Poole, Jr.; Vice-Chair - Paul D. Brodeur; Secretary - William Rasche, Phillips Whitford; Membership Committee - James Fox, William Moss; Excursion Committee - Charles Culler; Canoe Committee - Leon Rodgers; Bicycle Committee Chairman - Bob Bentley, David Wilson; Trails Committee Chairman - Ed Shoenly. Conservation Committee - Chairman - Edward Kelly.