



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS

October 2014



View from the Chair

By Cheryl Lathrop

I just returned from our annual SEM Chapter Hut Weekend—held this year at the AMC Highland Center in NH. Melissa Powers, our Social Director, organized a fabulous weekend for us. And our Hiking Committee, led by Chair Paul Miller and Vice Chair Leslie Carson, planned a wonderful array of hikes—something for everyone. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend a great success. And to all the 50 attendees who made it great fun.

In addition to our usual fall lineup of hikes, bikes, and paddles, we have our SEM Annual Meeting and Dinner coming up Nov. 1. First you get to choose your chapter officers for 2015. And then you get to enjoy dinner, raffles, awards—and a very special speaker this year: Laura Waterman. See the signup sheet on page 9. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot now!

This will be my last *View from the Chair*, as my 2-year term as SEM Chapter Chair ends November 1 when we elect a new Chair. It has been an honor to serve the chapter these past 2 years. But, I couldn't have done it without the selfless volunteerism of the entire Executive Board and all of our volunteer Activity Leaders. You all made it fun and interesting.

See you all on the trails, roads, and waterways!

Got something to say? Got a good idea? Want to volunteer?
Feel free to contact me anytime about anything! chair@amcsem.org

Chapter Chair



Chapter Officers needed—

- Chapter Vice Chair—In training to take over as Chapter Chair.
- Chapter Secretary - Take notes at monthly Executive Board meetings.

Committee Chairs needed—Manage the committee and leaders.

- Education Chair
- Skiing Chair
- Trailwork Chair

Committee Vice Chairs needed—Help the Committee Chair. In training to take over when their term ends.

- Biking
- Communications
- CYP
- Conservation
- Education
- Skiing
- Social
- Trailwork

Additional leaders for all sports needed—Watch for our next Leadership Training course in the spring!



2014 Executive Board

Chair	Cheryl Lathrop	Education Chair	Len Ulbricht
Chapter Vice Chair	Maureen Kelly	Education Vice Chair	Open
Secretary	Karen Singleton	Hiking Chair	Paul Miller
Treasurer	Patty Rottmeier	Hiking Vice Chair	Leslie Carson
Past Chapter Chair	Jim Plouffe	Membership Chair	Jim Casey
Biking Chair	Cheryl Washwell	Membership Vice Chair	Ed Miller
Biking Vice Chair	Open	Membership Vice Chair	Ellen Thompson
Cape Hiking Chair	Farley Lewis	Membership Vice Chair	Kristen Yngve
Cape Hiking Vice Chair	Peter Selig	Paddling Chair	Betty Hinkley
Communications Chair	Gina Hurley	Paddling Vice Chair	Ed Foster
Communications Vice Chair	Open	Skiing Chair	Barbara Hathaway
Conservation Chair	Joanne Jarzobski	Skiing Vice Chair	Open
Conservation Vice Chair	Open	Trails Chair	Open
CYP Chair	Sally Delisa	Trails Vice Chair	Wayne Anderson
CYP Vice Chair	Open		

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Other Chapter Contacts

Social Director	Melissa Powers
Social Vice Chair	Open
Family Events Chair	Chris Pelligrini
Family Events Vice Chair	Bill Pelligrini
Social Networking Moderator	Susan Franconi-Salmon
Webmaster	webmaster
Breeze Editor	Gina Hurley
Blast Editor	Gina Hurley

Contact Chapter Chair at chair@amcsem.org if you are interested in any open position.

Upcoming Executive Board Meetings:
October 8, November 12,
January 14, February 11

Save the Date

- [Fall Gathering \(AMC\)](#)
October 17-19, Jefferson, Maine
- [SEM Annual Meeting and Dinner](#)
November 1
- [Wilderness First Aid](#)
November 8-9
- AMC [Annual Summit](#)
Jan. 2015

Important Chapter Information and Links

Find activities (hikes, bikes, etc.)

1. Links in the monthly *Breeze*
2. [Online trip listings](#)

Pictures and Article Submissions

We encourage SEM members to submit articles and photos for both the *Breeze* and our website. Materials will be edited at the editor's discretion.

Submissions must be copy ready.

Title and credit for all photos must be included.

Send to breeze.editor@amcsem.org

Breeze Deadline

On the 15 of the preceding month.

Sign-up for the Breeze

Call 800-372-1758 or email

amcinformation@outdoors.org

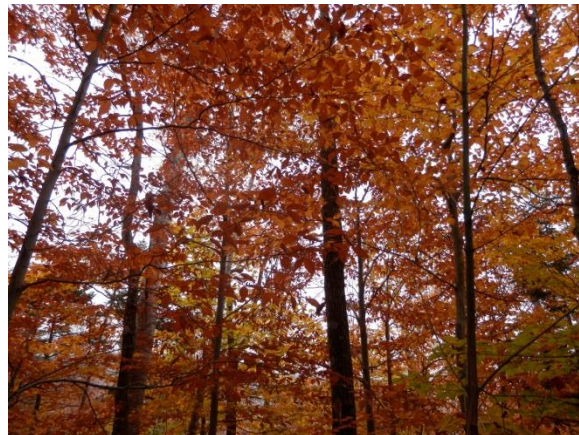
Where to find [Breeze newsletters](#)
(current and past).

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteer for the Executive Board. Do you have skill and want to see where you fit? We have volunteer positions open! Contact chair@amcsem.org

Want SEM activities delivered right to your email inbox?

Sign up for AMC "digests". Access the Member Center from our [homepage](#) or call 800-372-1758.



Fall Foliage
(Photo courtesy of Gina Hurley)

SEM ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Schedules -- QUICK-CLICKS

The QUICK-CLICK links below are connected to the AMC query results, providing instant access to currently scheduled activities for AMC and AMCSEM. With no parameters to input!

[Biking](#) | [Cape Hiking](#) | [Hiking](#) | [Paddle](#) | [Skiing](#) | [Trails](#) | [Conservation](#)

[CYP](#) | [Family Events](#) | [Social](#) | [Education](#) | [Membership](#) | [Executive Committee](#)

[All SEM activities](#)

[All AMC activities](#)

[Sign up for the AMC Activity Digest](#)

[SEM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Where else can you find SEM activities listed?

[Links in SEM e-Breeze newsletter](#)

Short Notice Email List

[UNDER THE "UPCOMING EVENTS" TAB AT AMCSEM.ORG](#)

(also includes community events and activities from other AMC chapters!)

Short Notice Email List (SNEL)



Sign-Up Now!

Receive email about short-notice trips, cancellations, changes, and announcements.

Sign up now! Go to: <http://www.amcsem.org/schedules.html>

[Instructions for posting SNEL trips](#)

Activity Participation Policy

"AMC encourages involvement in its mission and activities, through its membership, programs, policies and procedures. Our goal is to be a community that is comfortable, inviting and accessible for people of any age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. Some AMC programs are designed for a certain age range of members or for a special activity or topic. However, any person who meets the minimum qualifications (skills, experience, fitness) established by the trip leader(s) for an activity is eligible to attend, if space is available."

SEM COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BICYCLING**

-WANTED: Ride Leaders and Co-Leaders. Are you enthusiastic about cycling? Do you like showing other riders your favorite roads? If yes, then why not share your enthusiasm and routes w/ your fellow AMC members? Contact Bike Chair (bikingchair@amcsem.org) for more info.

-AMC SEM 2,000 Mile Club. AMC SEM has a unique 2,000-mi Club. Certificates of achievement and embroidered award patches are presented annually to members who ride 2,000 mi or more per year. Contact the bicycling chair to register your mileage and for more info. (bikingchair@amcsem.org)

-Tues. Rides. Turn Those Tires on Tues. Rides scheduled all year long, weather permitting. 25 mi of road or 15 mi of mountain biking. Tues. at 2 p.m. Flat to hilly. Intermediate pace. Riders and bicycles in top shape; tires and riders pumped and ready to roll; helmets and water required. Contact Paul Currier (508-833-2690 8am-7pm, paulbcurrier@comcast.net)

***CAPE HIKES**

Always looking for additional leaders to lead hikes on the cape! Contact the capehikingchair@amcsem.org

***HIKING**

-IMPORTANT: No pets w/o prior permission of trip leader. Individuals under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult, and obtain prior consent from leader. Those accompanying a minor are responsible for minor's actions.

-Get your 100-mile patch! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org.

***PADDLING**

Always looking for additional paddle leaders! Contact the canoe/kayak committee at paddlingchair@amcsem.org

***SOCIALS**

Looking for leaders to lead social events. Contact: socialchair@amcsem.org

***TRAILS**

Looking for leaders to lead trail work events. Contact chair@amcsem.org.
Looking for a trails chair.

NEW: AMC SEM Trips Can Appear in Your Email--Daily!

- An easy and convenient way to always know what's coming up!
- Go to the AMC Member Center (get there via amcsem.org, right-hand side).
- Then "Subscribe to Activity Digests" (choose hike, bike, paddle, etc.).
- And choose daily (or weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly).



The screenshot shows a web form for subscribing to activity digests. It features two dropdown menus: "Activity:" with options "Backpacking", "Bicycling", and "-Evening"; and "*Email Frequency:" with options "Daily", "Weekly", "Bi-Weekly", and "Monthly". The "Daily" option is selected. Below the frequency menu is a checked checkbox with the text "*Yes! I'd like to receive a periodic digest of Group activity listings." and a "Review" button.

Conservation Tip

Turn off your computer at night. By completely shutting down your computer (as opposed to leaving it in sleep mode) you can save 40 watt-hours per day. In monetary terms, this translates to saving 4 cents per day, and about \$14 per year. **That doesn't seem like a whole lot, but if everyone takes part, it amounts to a huge difference.** If you don't turn it off all the way because you don't want to have to wait for it to start up, you can set it so that it turns on automatically just before the time you know that you will need it.

What is Trail Magic?

By Gina Hurley

Trail Magic can be simply defined as an unexpected act of kindness given to a long-distance hiker. My husband Mark and I have been supporting Appalachian Trail thru-hikers with trail magic for several years. For the past few years we have picked a day late in August, set up at the Ripley Falls/Ethan Pond trailhead off of Route 302 in New Hampshire, and provided a cookout for the AT hikers making their way to Katahdin. We pick this spot, as it is the beginning of their ascent of the Presidentials, and Mt. Washington. Not only are we able to feed them, but can offer a bit of information as to what to expect on the trail, and at the summit of Mt. Washington. Cars, trains, and a cafeteria are not always expected by hikers that have been out on the trail for 4-5 months. Our simple cookout of hotdogs, chips, pickles, cookies, and drinks are so appreciated by the hikers, that it even brought one hiker to tears this year. However, the joy is just as great for us. Sitting with the hikers, listening to their stories, finding out where they are from

and how their journey is going, is a great experience. This year we met a young man from my childhood town, and ironically his family members are friends with my family members. It really is a small world! For many hikers, their thru-hike has been a dream of theirs. If we can play a small roll in helping a stranger achieve their dream, then that is a gift to be had. Mark and I were blessed with trail angels on our thru-hikes and the idea of paying back, and forward, is something we plan to do each year!



Two A.T. thru-hikers getting close to the end!

Fall walking Weekend: October 10-13

Fall Walking Weekend is sponsored by the Cape Cod Pathways. It offers hikes and walks of all types. Please visit the Cape Cod Commission Website at: www.capecodcommission.org and click on Walking Weekend.

“Reunite With Old Friends and Make Some New Ones”
All SEM members, potential members, spouses and friends are
welcome!

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Of the Appalachian Mountain Club

Invites You to the

Annual Meeting

Followed by the

Annual Dinner

Saturday, November 1, 2014

[Salerno's](#) in Onset

4:30 pm – Registration and Cocktail Hour – (cash bar) no charge

5:30 pm – Annual Meeting – no charge

6:30 – pm Buffet Dinner - \$20 per person/\$30 after October 18th

Distinguished Service Award, Raffles, Other Awards, SEM Green
Vests for Sale

Special Guest Speaker & Prolific Author: Laura Waterman
Laura will do a reading from one of her many books
followed by a Q&A

Click [here](#) to to view the [flyer](#) and find out how to register!

Hiking in Switzerland, Italy, and France! (Part 2 of 3)

By Gina Hurley

(Photos courtesy of Gina Hurley)

Part two of my trip took us from the mountains of Switzerland to sea level in Italy. We took the train from Zermatt to Rome, as we wanted to tour the Vatican, and some other sites in Rome. After spending a few days camping in Rome, yes, you can find camping in Rome (www.ecvacanze.it/en/), we headed to the Ligurian Sea, and Cinque Terre. Cinque Terre is a rugged portion of coast comprised of five villages: Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola, and Riomaggiore. The five villages are surrounded by cliffs, stunning ocean views, and vineyards. The villages are connected by a trail that takes you through the rugged hillside. There are no cars allowed in the villages, so the only way to get from by village to village is by train, boat, or trail.



(Monterosso Beach from the trail)

We were staying in Monterosso, so planned to hike from Monterosso to the next village, Vernazza. The trail to Vernazza leaves Monterosso along the beach, then begins to climb up and out of the village. The views of the water, vineyards, and colorful old village structures are stunning.



(Views of the trail)

The trail is well marked, and easy to climb. There is a fee, but nominal. Many tourists hike this trail for the beautiful scenery. After the climb out of Monterossa the trail weaves through vineyards, and curves exposing amazing cliffs and ocean views. The trip to Vernazza is not long, and although not a difficult trail, the heat (over 90 degrees that day) made it a bit warm. After about an hour of hiking we started the descent, and beautiful views of Vernazza appeared. Vernazza is a lovely village with plenty of restaurants and shops perfect for summer tourists.



(Views of Vernazza from the trail)

We spent the day in Vernazza, swimming, eating, and enjoying this quant village. Although the walk back would not have been long, the heat of the day, and the ease of the ferry all worked together to make an easy trip back to Monterosso. If you are thinking of a trip to Italy, consider Cinque Terre. With some options for hiking, beautiful ocean views, and wonderful seafood dinners, it is a place well worth visiting.



(Ferry leaving Vernazza for Monterosso)

Vermont Outlaws Handheld Cell Phone Use While Driving
Click [here](#) for more information.



The Massachusetts Walking Tour on the Bay Circuit Trail

By Kristen Sykes

(Photos courtesy of Kristen Sykes)

This summer I joined a band of intrepid hikers for most of their journey along sections of the Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway (www.baycircuit.org). The Greenway, envisioned almost ninety years ago and now nearly complete, curves its way along more than 230 miles of trail from Plum Island on the north shore of the Massachusetts Bay to Kingston Bay on the south shore, passing through 34 towns.

The hikers were a group of traveling musicians known as the Massachusetts Walking Tour (www.masswalkingtour.org). Since 2010, folk musicians Mark Mandaville and Raianne Richards, have been organizing an annual “bi-pedal tour” of free community concerts for towns throughout the Bay State. Last year they were joined by two more musicians, Mark Killianski and Amy Alvey, along the Massachusetts stretch of the New England National Scenic Trail. And in 2014, after some persuasion by Charlie Tracy from the National Park Service, the troupe set its sights on the Bay Circuit Trail.

The tour began with a free concert on June 17th at the Spencer Pierce

Little Farm, a Historic New England property in Newbury. We then set off across the salt flats of Newbury, up a steep overgrown portion of the trail in Rowley and into Rowley town center where the troupe played to a sold out concert at the public library. Passing through Ipswich, Boxford, North Andover, Lowell, and Acton, the troupe was guided on the trail by the people who built and still maintain the trail.

On a particularly hot and muggy day in Acton we encountered a fellow on a bike with a child in a baby seat. After a short exchange, this firefighter from Lowell offered to buy us all iced coffee at the local Dunkin Donuts. We gladly accepted and hauled our heavy packs to the air-conditioned coolness of New England’s ubiquitous coffee shop. Here we were greeted by patrons asking “where we were going” and “what the heck we were doing?” We stood out even more than the average backpackers as I wore a large, antique external frame pack and the Walking Tour musicians had their instruments strapped to their packs. We told the customers where we were headed and handed out postcards with the dates and locations of the free community

concerts. This type of 'trail magic' greeted us at nearly every turn.



The MA Walking Tour playing a free community concert at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson, MA



The MA Walking Tour hiking on the Bruce Freeman Trail stretch of the Bay Circuit Trail in Acton, MA

Due to the close-to-home nature of the Bay Circuit Trail we would often find ourselves walking down a suburban street and would have a chance to tell the neighbors, out mowing their lawns, that we were hiking the Bay Circuit Trail from Newbury to Kingston. Although the trail ran right by their houses, many people were unaware of the span of the Bay Circuit Trail.

Our travels also took us down historic paths. We walked along the Jenkins Road in Andover past stops on the Underground Railroad. We followed the Acton Minutemen's "Line of March in 1775", which ended at the North Bridge in Concord. The concert that evening was in the shadow of the Old

Manse, a Trustees of Reservations property that was home to many transcendentalists including Emerson, Hawthorne and Peabody.

Leaving the Old Manse we followed the trail past Henry David Thoreau's cabin site and on to an eagerly anticipated dip in Walden Pond. Later we enjoyed a home-cooked meal by another 'trail angel' and chair of the Bay Circuit Alliance board. We continued through Lincoln, Wayland, and into the Nobscot Scout Reservation in Sudbury where a rousing concert, that included 5 musical acts, made for a fun evening. Thanks to the help of a Bay Circuit Trail maintainer and his wife we skipped down to the South Shore to East

Bridgewater where we had a day off that culminated with a concert around the campfire at dusk.

As we made our way to Kingston Bay we were treated with more hospitality at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson and participated in the dedication of a protected cranberry bog, known as the Alton J. Smith Reserve or "Smitty's Bog." This 103-acre bog with amazing views was protected through the Town of Hanson and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and is truly one of the jewels of the Bay Circuit Trail.

After a stay at the Silver Lake Sanctuary in Kingston we made the last leg of our journey accompanied by Alan French, Bay Circuit guru and driving force behind the trail. It was with mixed emotions that we ended our nearly

3 week, 110-mile journey with a concert at the Jones River Landing in Kingston. In all, the Walking Tour played 17 free community concerts along the trail. But we'll be back! We had such an incredible time on the Bay Circuit that the Mass. Walking Tour plans to finish the rest of the Bay Circuit Trail next summer.

So it is with incredible gratitude to all those who love and care for the Bay Circuit Trail, the many people and trail angels we encountered along the way, and the kinship of the Walking Tour that we rest, till next year's trek.

Kristen Sykes is Director of Conservation Strategies for the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Director of Operations for the Bay Circuit Alliance.



The MA Walking Tour plays their final concert at the southern terminus of the Bay Circuit Trail in Kingston, MA.

North Presidential Range Hut-to-Hut Aug 24 - 27, 2014

By Len Ulbricht

(Photos courtesy of Len Ulbricht)

This multi-day trip covered the last sections of the Presidential range aborted last year due to continuous rain and threats of thunderstorms. This time clear skies favored us. The first day goal was to hike up the beautiful Ammonoosuc Ravine trail to Lakes of the Clouds hut in the morning, then drop our packs for a quick jaunt up nearby Mt. Monroe. Views from Monroe were fabulous, all the way back to Eisenhower, Pierce and beyond, views that didn't exist last year in the rain and cloud cover. Upon returning to the hut a few hikers cooled off in the nearby lake. Yes some folks even brought suits to go for a frigid swim. After a relaxing dinner hikers were drawn to the west facing hillside behind the hut for nature's sunset treat.



Madison Spring Hut



Trailside berries

Day 2 was a long grueling rock pile hike. First up Mt. Washington, then the Gulfside trail to Mts. Clay, Jefferson, and Adams to reach the Madison Springs hut. These peaks are all above tree line, and are all just piles of boulders, as if a huge dump truck in the sky dumped loads upon load of granite rocks. Ankles and knees ached with every step. But we had fabulous views in all directions to make up for the soreness.

On day 3 we awoke to cloud emersion. There were a few souls who woke before sunrise to climb from cairn to cairn to the summit of Madison for their cloud enshrouded sun spectacular. The rest of us went after breakfast, still cloud enveloped, to a peek into grayness at the top. As we all gathered for our descent via the Air Line trail, the sun broke though and gave us a fourth day of captivating views from the high peaks of New Hampshire.



Beautiful Sunset



View from Mt. Monroe



Views along the Ammonoosuc trail

AMC'S FALL GATHERING 2014

Hosted by the Maine Chapter
October 17-19, 2014
Camp Wavus, Damariscotta Lake,
Jefferson, Maine

- **REGISTER BY OCTOBER 1, 2014:** Lodging/Tenting options and Day Rate available, including meals, activities, and registration fee. For more information or to register, visit www.amcmaine.org/fall
- **Come enjoy this club-wide event hosted by the Maine Chapter!** www.amcmaine.org/fall or www.outdoors.org/fallgathering

AMC-SEM Chapter Hut Weekend 2014

By Melissa Powers

Chapter Hut Weekend 2014 was a huge success. We had 49 attendees! Some longtime members and lots of new ones. What a great way to meet people and really become active with the Chapter.

We stayed at the Highland Center at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. The lodge was large enough to accommodate our group and, most importantly, it was in close proximity to many trails and peaks—making it the perfect location for our annual chapter weekend.

Some folks opted for a 4-day weekend, but most joined in the fun from Friday to Sunday. For those who arrived on Thursday evening, they enjoyed a variety of informal hikes on Friday.

The weekend officially kicked off with a Social Hour hosted by The Highland Center in the Washburn Room. We had a chance to get to know one another over a drink and some appetizers while enjoying the amazing photography by Bradford Washburn.



Hadley Donaldson and Julieanne Capone



Liz Monteiro, Sally DeLisa, Barbara Manuelpillai



M. Baby, P. Miller and B. Doherty



Cheryl Lathrop, Chapter Chair, Welcoming all



Group Photo (Courtesy of Ken Carson)

After dinner on Friday night we enjoyed a presentation on **“Lightweight Backpacking & Experiences from Long Journeys on the Trail”** by Jeremy Day.

Jeremy "Beowulf" Day talked to us about the newest technologies, designs, and methodologies of lightweight backpacking that he learned by hiking on the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, Long Trail, and John Muir Trails.

In his talk, he covered Cuben Fiber versus Cordura backpack designs, minimalist shelters and hammocks, lightweight footwear and its importance, cottage industry gear manufacturers, eating for light weight backpackers, and simple, inexpensive ways to ditch weight and make your hike more enjoyable. He taught us that you CAN get your base weight down to 10-12 pounds! Also, he shared the importance of Hiking Your Own Hike (HYOH).



Jeremy "Beowulf" Day



Jeremy talking to the group

Saturday was for hiking in the wilderness and being together. Paul Miller, Hiking Chair, will be sharing more details on the hikes that he and his committee organized and led. They did a fabulous job offering hikes of different levels and different varieties.

In the evening after our Social Hour and group dinner, Sally Delisa organized an impromptu lecture and discussion on "How to Pack your Pack" that was delivered by Sue Chiavaroli.



Sue Chiavaroli talking to the group on Saturday Night

Later that evening, Jodi Jensen led a rousing game of “spoons.” Additionally, some folks got to enjoy the beautiful night sky loaded with stars while others sat in the Living Room enjoying each other’s company and making new friends.

At breakfast on Sunday it was a time to swap emails and numbers and make plans to meet up at future hikes and chapter outings. Some took part that day in a hike led by the Highland Center while others enjoyed Zip Lining at the nearby Bretton Woods Ski Area. Others simply meandered around the beautiful grounds of the Highland Center.

We were sad to leave on Sunday. The weekend flew by but the experiences we had and the memories we made will last a lifetime.

There truly was something for everyone to enjoy over the weekend. Mostly, we had plenty of time for hiking, socializing, fun, and laughs. If you didn’t get to join us this year - please join us next year. It’s our goal to make it even bigger and better and with you there we will certainly accomplish that!

Check out our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to see more pictures from the weekend. Also, check out the photo gallery on our Chapter site (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/amcsem/sets/>).



Like us on [Facebook](#)



Follow us on [Twitter](#)

SEM Hikers on Crawford Notch for Chapter Hut Weekend

By Paul Miller, SEM Hiking Committee Chair

With almost 50 enthusiastic SEM Chapter members (mostly hikers) signed up for our annual Chapter Hut Weekend up at the AMC Highland Center in beautiful Crawford Notch, NH, your Hiking Committee found it a bit challenging to come up with a full program of hikes. Our initial goal was to offer "something for everyone;" from eager entry-level hikers, to experienced Cape and Blue Hills hikers, to several hikers who have scaled all 48 4,000-foot peaks in NH!

The fact that only a small handful of "Class 2" (NH hike-rated) hiking leaders had signed up for the weekend made this even more challenging; and with one leader coming down with a bad head cold at the last minute and having to reluctantly cancel out for the weekend, we had to do some additional last-minute scrambling. But based on all the smiling faces we saw during the weekend and the many gracious compliments received afterwards, it appears that we managed to pull this off!

Apparently, quite a few people took advantage of the option to come early stay at the Highland Center for a third night (Thursday), because bright and early on Friday morning Leslie Carson led a group of almost 20 hikers up to the 3,430-foot summit of Mount Avalon via the Avalon Trail. This starts virtually at the back door of the Crawford Depot, part of the AMC's modest complex of facilities in Crawford Notch.

According to reports, it was a glorious sunny day with comfortable temperatures and a nice breeze. Once at the summit of Mt. Avalon, after enjoying the spectacular views, hike participants performed a careful self-assessment, with several hikers wisely deciding to descend back down to the Highland Center and the rest of the group continuing on to summit both Mounts Field (4,340 feet) and Willey (4,285 feet) before descending to the Willey House Site back down in Crawford Notch, where they had spotted a car prior to the hike.



Down the ladders on Mt. Willey and the Summit of Mt. Fields (Photos courtesy of Ken Carson)

Following a little shuttling around in cars, the whole group made it back to the Highland Center in time to join us for the 5:00 pm social hour in the Washburn Room prior to dinner in the dining room. This was a challenging, approximately nine-mile long hike involving two 4,000 footers and significant elevation gain and loss. Kudos to those hikers!

Saturday morning, we were able to offer a choice of two different hikes: Maureen Kelly's easy-to-moderate "Sugarloaves" hike and a more challenging Eisenhower/Pierce hike led by Leslie and me. While the weather forecast for the higher peaks ("in the clouds," high winds, with a chance of rain in the afternoon), the forecast for the valleys was pretty good (partly sunny, breezy, and mild...).

Twenty-one hikers joined Maureen for this hike, which first required a short car ride up Crawford Notch road to the Zealand Road in Twin Mountain. After a short jaunt up the Zealand Road past the popular campground, the group hit the trail up to Middle Sugarloaf. From this modest peak, the group enjoyed fine views in several directions, including nice views of nearby North Sugarloaf and more distant Mt. Hale.



On Middle Sugarloaf (Photo courtesy of Barry Young)

For the "more challenging" Saturday hike, I had planned out an app. 8.5-mile long loop that would take us up the nearby Edmands Path (trailhead accessible via the Mt. Clinton Rd. which started in eyesight of the Highland Center...), to the summit of 4,761- foot high Mt. Eisenhower. On a clear day this offers spectacular views in all directions, including up the Crawford Path to the summits of Mt. Monroe and Mt. Washington and beyond to the Northern Presidentials (Mounts Jefferson, Adams, and Madison). From the top of "Ike," we would follow the Crawford Path for several (exposed) above-treeline miles and jog up to the summit of Mt. Pierce before "cruising" back down to the Highland Center via the Crawford Path. Once back at the Highland Center, the plan was to hop into a car or two and retrieve the rest of our cars at the Edmands Path trailhead. It was a great plan and I'm sure this would have been a wonderful hike; but not one that fit in well with the ominous higher peaks forecast for that particular day!

Instead, we did a familiar 8.2-mile loop hike that started at the trailhead for the historic Crawford Path (the oldest continuously maintained hiking trail in the US...). From the trailhead, located directly across from the Highland Center, we hiked up the Crawford Path to the Mizpah Cutoff. From here, we took the Cutoff through some very pretty woods to the AMC Mizpah Hut where we stopped for a short break and took advantage of the "facilities." Then we took the sporadically steep Webster Cliff Trail up to 4,321-foot summit of Pierce before returning to the Highland Center via the Crawford Path.

This route made a lot of sense considering the high winds and low visibility, since the Crawford Path remains largely within treeline and thus not exposed to the worst of the elements until just below the summit of Pierce. (This is why we often do this same loop as part of our Winter Hiking Series.) "Plan B" worked out just fine, providing everyone with a nice, if not overly challenging, hike to the summit of a Presidential 4,000 footer, a chance to check out an AMC high mountain hut while it was still open for the season, and have lunch on the windy the summit, which we shared with several other groups of hikers. Unfortunately, while the summit of Mt. Pierce often offers excellent views, on this day the weather forecasters were right on, since we indeed were "in the clouds." Also on the positive side, we got back down to the Highland Center in time to take hot showers prior to the 5:00 pm social hour, followed by dinner and more socializing!

On Saturday afternoon, Maureen led a group of about 18 hikers on an easy, but scenic hike up to nearby Arethusa Falls, the highest waterfall in the White Mountains! From all reports, the Falls were beautiful, and the group got to enjoy viewing some early fall foliage up at the Falls.

While we couldn't offer any "official" hikes Sunday morning, several SEMers chose to do some hikes on their own to nearby locations, including another small group that headed up to Arethusa Falls to check it out.

While it would have been nice to be able to offer more entry-level hikes, all in all, it was a great hiking weekend with a great group of people!



Arethusa Falls (Photo courtesy of Barry Young)

AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

November 14-16, 2014

Visit some of the most exciting places in the world as the leader of an AMC Adventure Travel trip! This workshop provides important training to people who have AMC chapter leadership experience (no beginners) to transition from leading weekend chapter activities to more complex and longer trips, domestically and overseas. Previous outdoor leadership training is necessary. Emphasis is on planning, cost estimating, marketing, trip management, people skills, risk management, and reporting. Includes procedures and guidelines for researching, proposing, and leading AMC Adventure Travel trips. Exchange ideas, problems, and solutions with some of AMC's most experienced and skilled leaders. Small group size assures abundant discussion and access to instructors. Cost: \$75 incl. 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and Saturday dinner at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, CT. Download registration package at: <http://snebulos.mit.edu/majorexursions/training>. Please register by October 25th. For details contact Registrar Merri Fox, merri.fox@pw.utc.com

Congratulations Gary!!



Gary Forish, AMC Berkshire Chapter, has had a trail named after him at the AMC Noble View Outdoor Center, in honor of his many contributions to Noble View

Paddling Trip Report

By Betty Hinckley

Mashpee/Wakeby ponds – Saturday September 13, 2014

Paddlers: Jean Orser, Leader, Paul Corriveau, CL, Ed Foster, Louise Foster, George Wey, Gary Robinson

We left the put-in on Mashpee Pond on calm water heading in a clockwise direction; there was some chop before the narrows but very doable. After the narrows into Wakeby Pond we paddled around Pickerel Cove and headed for the beach at the end of the Wakeby pond for lunch arriving at 11:50 am. We were delighted to see 5 new large picnic tables on the back of the beach each under a tree - perfect for us. After lunch we continued circling back to the put-in. The ponds were quiet with little boat traffic. Sighted were a coyote, many ducks and an osprey. Mileage reported ranged from 7.35 - 7.5 miles depending on how closely one hugged the shore.



(Photos courtesy of Pictures by Jean Orser.)