



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**22 NOVEMBER 1980**

## Chapter Chairman's Report

During the past 5 years, the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter has not had an Annual Report. As a result, those of you who are interested in our Chapter's functions and operations have been unable to learn of accomplishments for the preceding year. We, therefore, are instituting the Annual Report this year in an attempt to keep you better apprised of our past endeavors and future aspirations.

I'd like to report that 1980 was a good year. We saw an increase in both the variety and number of activities and participants. Programs ranged from a spaghetti feed to district meetings, day hikes to beginner backpacking, and canoeing to (some) ski touring. I would like to express my appreciation to our officers and trip leaders for making this year so successful.

Our Committee Chairpersons have, over the past years, been doing an admirable job. This is especially true when you understand that most of these chairs do not have active committees working with them. (The exceptions are excursions and Canoeing.) As a result, activities are curtailed and areas of interest cannot be fully pursued. The Chapter is run by people for the good of the members. We can't run as well when only a few of the 720 members do the work. I urge you to get involved. If you'd like to help, please contact any Committee Chairperson or myself.

Thanks for a good year and let's all work for an even better 1981!

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Bentley  
Chapter Chairman

### Treasurer's Report

#### INCOME

Dues - from AMC - Boston	1821.00
Interest income	211.38
Program receipts	744.00
Miscellaneous income	<u>179.43</u>
TOTAL	2955.81

#### EXPENSES

Travel	200.00
Operating	16.00
Printing	513.00
Office supplies	10.00
Postage and Shipping	285.00
Committee	57.00
Rental	150.00
Workshop and Program expense	800.00
Promotion and Advertising	<u>350.00</u>
TOTAL	2381.00

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph MacAllister  
Treasurer

Slow but steady progress sums up Excursions Committee programs for 1980.

The most snow-free winter of the century had predictably disastrous effects on our ski activities, nearly wiping out a big Washington's Birthday weekend at Pinkham and certainly cutting down attendance at the annual end-of-February Borderlands Bash.

But after that unfortunate start, spring, summer and fall activities have been increasingly successful, at least if success is judged by growing attendance.

Regular, frequent day hikes on the Cape have been a highlight of excursions within the Chapter area. These trips explored open lands in the National Seashore, Nickerson State Park and other reservations, town beaches and conservation areas.

Off Cape day hikes visited World's End in Hingham, Whitney Woods in Cohasset and the Norris Reservation within the Chapter area and such places as the Warner Trail (Norfolk County), Blue Hills Reservation, and the Mid-State Trail.

Short (two-hour) Thursday morning walks on the Cape, led by Colonel John Dalton and Harry Dombrosk, have been a popular new venture this year.

A combination of planning and publicity has paid off in a small but successful program of weekends.

This applies particularly to Bob Bentley and Steve Driscoll's summer beginner backpacks. After a warmup day hike in the Blue Hills they went to Mts. Owl's Head, Chocorua and Isolation (NH) in June, July and August and capped the series with a Labor Day weekend trip to Baxter State Park (ME), climbing Mt. Katahdin and others. Significantly, this series, which had to be cancelled for the two previous seasons due to lack of interest, filled up quickly this year.

A late September joint weekend with Berkshire Chapter, of camping in Truro featuring biking, dunes hiking and canoeing, was poorly attended but so enjoyed by those who did participate that they urged a repeat. A hiking weekend at Cardigan Lodge Little House, in early November, also was booked solid and also got high ratings from participants.

Except for the likelihood that awareness of Southeast Chapter's existence is growing, both within the Chapter and within the Club, I don't know how to account for the numbers. But I can point to two things which certainly helped: 1) a dedicated and imaginative Excursions Committee which includes Carolyn Crowell, Dick Sawyer, John Smart and Pam and Bud Carter and 2) good publicity, thanks to Pam.

Our pool of leaders has grown somewhat, I'm happy to report, since they are the essential element of the excursions program. Our leaders are excellent and their commitment is heart-warming. I

would hope as participation in Chapter activities grows, some additional leaders would be found to increase the pool still further.

I think car-pooling will be an increasingly important element in the excursions program. I've been trying to encourage it and find people respond favorably when asked, but for the near future they'll have to be asked - they don't always volunteer.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Fitzgerald  
Excursions Committee Chairman

#### Canoe Committee Report

The Chapter's canoeing program was well represented during the year. There were mostly day trips scheduled from March to November. The Chapter had a week-long trip to the Grand Lakes in Maine in August and a weekend trip to Knubble Bay Lodge. Both were very successful.

I would like to hear from people in the Chapter who would like to get involved with a more challenging aspect of canoeing - Class I and II white water. I would also like to hear from those who have held ratings from other chapters in the Club and would be willing to help get a white water section within the S.E.M. Chapter.

I would like to personally thank all the trip leaders for making the program a success for the S.E.M. Chapter. Anyone who would be

willing to be a leader or co-leader for next year, please contact Ruth Irwin, 85 West Street, Whitman, MA 02382 or myself.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Ottey  
Chairman, Canoe Committee

#### Membership Committee

As of Sept. 1980 the membership of the Southeastern Mass. Chapter was 720. In the 1st 9 months of 1980, we gained 140 new members, but lost 400 members, for an assortment of reasons. The sad fact is that many new members drop after their first year. Some of the reasons given are: change of address, lack of money and time, but we think that with a small effort, we can improve our retention.

Besides distributing applications and keeping membership records, the Membership Committee is responsible for the Outreach Program of the A.M.C. Outreach includes three important responsibilities:

1. Reaching out to potential member.
2. Involving new members
3. Suggesting new ways for experienced members to participate in the Club.

Each one of us is, or should be, an arm of the Outreach Program. If you have friends who enjoy the kinds of activities offered by the A.M.C., ask them to join. If you know of someone who has recently joined, ask her/him to accompany you on your next outing - or just call to say "welcome." Get your friends involved - get involved yourself. How long has it been since you've joined a hiking, biking or canoeing group in the SEM Chapter?

Whether you're a new or experienced A.M.C. member, the Southeastern Mass. Chapter wants and needs your support and participation.

We're reaching out to YOU. Give us a hand.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Spake  
Membership Chairman

#### Bicycle Committee

The bicycle committee has an active following on many of its trips. Phyllis Whitford and Russ Blanchard are the co-Chairpersons and the leaders for many of the trips in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Some of our favorite trips include the Picturesque Peddling Premier, which is held in April. This exciting trip of 20 miles surveys the Cape Cod Canal. We hope you will join us for this trip!

The Chatham Harbor Highlights trip is another delight. Chatham and its environs are explored at a leisurely pace, including lunch at a picturesque spot.

The Myles Standish Meander, another moderate trip, brings out cyclists of all abilities. A large group usually joins us on this trek.



Many other bike trips are held throughout the season. Scenic areas such as Truro, Duxbury, Plymouth, Falmouth, Dartmouth, and Carver have been explored. We are always looking for new areas to discover. We hope you will join us on all of our trips. Why not run a trip in your own locale? Please contact the bike committee chairmen for trip information, or for details on leading or co-leading a trip.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Blanchard and Phyllis Whitford  
Co-Chairmen, Bicycle Committee

#### Publicity Committee Report

According to a large percentage of those coming out on our outings here on Cape Cod, "We read it in the newsletter," or "We saw it in the newspaper." Hence, I am encouraged with the fact that people pay attention to the publicity given Southeastern AMC activities in two weekly papers and one daily, as well as, of course, to the Newsletter!

We ask the printer to run off 700 copies with each issue; he does so plus a good several dozen more at no charge; we like to have the extra on hand to give non-members on request should they show an interest in one day becoming an AMC member.

I LIKE being publicity chairman! And because people have a tendency to like NEW things, I believe it is important to put out a newsletter often...probably 11-12 per year; it can thus serve as a reminder of forthcoming activities as well as a TOOL to keep our members "in tune" with what's going on on the business end of the club... the factual...the leaders...the officers....but, too, it should carry some warmth. People like a human touch!

As news editor I am learning! I need and appreciate comments/criticism. For instance: "It's a good newsletter, but watch the 'typo's," suggested Barb Spake. My reaction: "Gee, someone is paying attention; she's right about typographic errors! Makes a newsletter look sloppy." A recent criticism: "You misquoted what I was trying to say!" And how right Bob Bentley was! Trying to read something into what he was saying...to make it look more 'pretty'...I completely goofed his whole message. So there! I learned not to play around with words without first checking with the speaker!

It is encouraging to know that people pay attention to the newsletter. Many voices have replied to a statement one of our leaders made...that Cape Cod District of the SEM Chapter could very well disband as far as Cape activities are concerned IF more members did not support them! But along with those questioning voices we find that a good percentage of those now appearing on our scheduled outings are, indeed, AMC members!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Carter  
Publicity Committee Chairman

## Conservation Committee Report

There have surfaced many conservation involvements affecting AMC... among them the BOTTLE BILL! I try to encourage anyone and everyone I can that AMC believes this is the only certain way to really clean up the landscape. Other members agree with me that Maine has been most successful with it and Florida too...the latter which sells soft drinks with deposits, thus, no more discarded bottles and stores saying, "No problem!"

I would badly like to emphasize to ALL Southeastern Chapter AMC'ers that it is up to each of us to pressure for its passage...to sign any petition and tell our state representatives how we feel!!!

Recent Chapter hikes have been a real pleasure of late here on Cape Cod when we were able to point out to non-members especially how rewarding it is to be able to now hike for instance on Sandy Neck where dunes have finally been closed to ORV's (which are confined to the beach), allowing access to HIKERS like us!

We like to point out that the U.S. Dept. of Interior has a "Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service," called HCRS which is studying all aspects of trails. AMC has contributed suggestions to them and some of them have been incorporated into their master plans since their main object is to get cooperation at State and local levels with trail clubs. (They showed great interest in Nickerson State Park's bike path...which WE often use on our

Chapter outings as a HIKING trail!)

It is SO VERY IMPORTANT for our members to express their opinions to our legislators about items such as the Bottle Bill, hiking trails and the A.T.'s protection. Unfortunately, as the A.T. comes into focus, land value goes up, BUT WE MUST CONTINUE TO APPLY PRESSURE ON OUR LEGISLATORS TO CONTINUE ITS WORK...and especially because we can all be encouraged with the fact that 1980 has been an awareness year for conservation...and much has been accomplished in the right direction!

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Carter  
Conservation Committee Chairman

#### Trails Committee Report

We are looking for trails in the Southeastern Mass. area to help maintain or establish, as well as members for the Trail Comm.

While we are contemplating working on the Club Adopt-a-Trail program in 1981, we would appreciate learning of member's interests in this before we commit to helping the Club maintain a trail (probably in the White Mountains). Please contact us!

