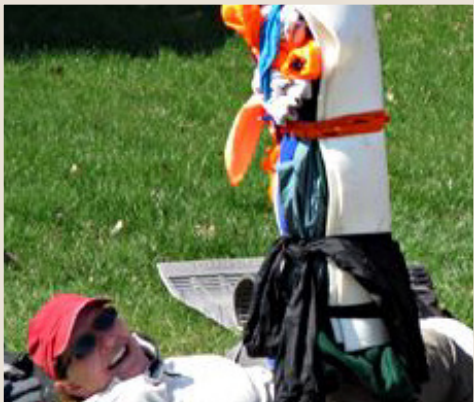




ANNUAL REPORT

Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter (SEM)
of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

2013





*“We are strong;
we have heart;
and we are com-
mitted to the ideals
of the AMC”*



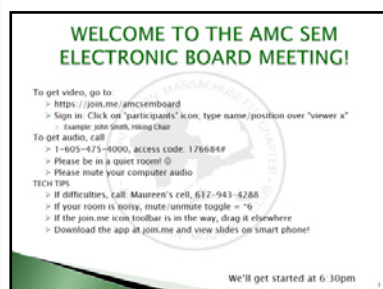
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Respectfully submitted by
Cheryl Lathrop, Chapter Chair

Dear Chapter Members,

I have had the exquisite good luck to inherit the chapter from so many capable Past Chapter Chairs who left a firm and solid foundation upon which to build. And I, on behalf of the entire chapter, thank them for their service—because it was only when I inherited this office that I realized how much hard work they did!

I became Chapter Chair last November. The first thing that I saw that the chapter needed was to jump more into the 21st century. Not with both feet, but a little at a time. So, we started with the Executive Board. We had our Treasurer on Nantucket Island, our Paddling Chair on Martha’s Vineyard, and others strung out along the cape. And the mainland half of our chapter had people from the canal out to Medfield! Our monthly board meetings were simply too logistically difficult.



The first thing changed was the location of the monthly executive board meetings—no longer a long trek to a middle point between on-cape and off-cape—but now “electronic,” attended from the comfort of your kitchen table, using your laptop and phone. We use freeconferencecall.com for the audio portion (free); we use join.me for the video portion (\$99/year non-profit rate). I run the meeting from my computer and display PowerPoint slides on my screen that are ‘shared’ across the internet and appear on every board member’s computer screen to follow along. We all had to learn “netiquette” (internet etiquette) so we were polite and respectful and didn’t all talk at the same time. Tech magic!

After we mastered that and got everyone more tech savvy, I asked the board members to submit their monthly committee reports to a “blog” on BlogSpot.com (free). Again this took some teaching and training, but now with a little typing, a nicely formatted (and searchable) compilation of reports happens, courtesy of Google’s BlogSpot. Everyone can see anyone’s reports at any time! And we’ve made them available to the entire chapter with a link in the center of our chapter web site (www.amcsem.org). The Board Secretary also adds the blog entries to the minutes of the meeting each month. [The blog link is:

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Blog Archive

- ▼ 2013 (39)
- ▼ September (7)
- Education Committee
- Hiking
- Family Events
- Biking
- Cape Hikes
- Communications Committee Report
- Chapter Youth Program
- June (3)
- May (4)
- April (7)
- March (5)
- February (7)
- January (6)
- 2012 (3)
- November (2)
- October (1)

monthlycommitteereports.blogspot.com

We now use a shared google calendar to keep track of board events of importance (free). And google docs, now google drive, for sharing documents that all need to read and comment upon (free). No longer do things get emailed around and around; all access the same document in the same place. [www.google.com] We use evite.com (free) for invitations to events and let it keep track of the RSVP responses. And we've bought a (used) laptop and software from TechSoup that supplies technology to non-profits; and a small portable projection screen this benefits our teaching and training events (PowerPoint slides), our social events (movies!), and the Annual Meeting (voting).

I'm encouraging our various committees to also adopt new technology concepts to make their life easier. Hiking seems to be the bravest so far! They have lately been experimenting with using our telephone conference line to hold some of their quarterly electronic Hike Planning meetings. The Thursday Morning hiking series has for a few years been using EditGrid to sign up to lead the weekly hikes; formerly it involved a complicated flurry of emails crisscrossing and duplicating. The Thursday Night Red-Line-the-Blue-Hills (RLBH) has for years been using EditGrid to keep their attendance charts. And all hikers can access an EditGrid to record their hiking mileage and earn their 100-mile patch. EditGrid is free and all can easily access the spreadsheets in one place. And, of course, the Thursday Night RLBH series has had its own website for 8 years (hosted on the SEM web server). [www.amcsem.org/RLBHWS] The hiking committee now enters their hiking trip reports into a blog; now all can search for a hike and see what others have said about it.



DATE	LEADER	HIKE LOCATION
9/5/2013		
9/13/2013		Gold River Camp (Chapter Hut Weekend)
9/26/2013	Elle MacPherson	Blue Hills - Brantree Pass Path
10/3/2013	Cathy MacCartan	Shedden BCT and Rock Hammers
10/13/2013	Lean Urbrecht	Gilbert Hills
10/17/2013	Joanne Stanek	Borderland State Park/BCT
10/24/2013	Deborah Leggett	Borderland State Park/BCT
10/31/2013	Eve Bonosity-Jones	Went's End-Hingham
11/7/2013	Cathy MacCartan	Blue Hills - Watch Path
11/14/2013	Clare Brian	Borderland State Park
11/21/2013	Hans Lowell	Powassett Farm, Dover/MMA
11/28/2013		Thanksgiving
12/5/2013	Cathy MacCartan	Blue Hills - Ponkapog Pond
12/12/2013	Joanne Stanek	Warner Trail, Wrentham
12/19/2013	Deborah Leggett	Blue Hills-Buck Hill



“encouraging our various committees to also adopt new technology concepts”

But, enough about technology! Your chapter is strong and vibrant because of the people in it (technology just helps us manage it all).

I want to thank the chapter officers for their support and encouragement this past year as we have been blazing new trails! I couldn't operate without my Chapter Vice Chair, Maureen Kelly, who is my shadow and fills in the holes I leave. We have a strong Treasurer in Patty Rottmeier, who has her finger on every penny



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“I am looking forward to watching where our SEM chapter goes in 2014”



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DATE LEADER HIRE LOCATION

9/10/2013		Gold River Camp (Chaco Lake Weekend)
9/10/2013		
9/10/2013	Elke West-Pearson	
9/10/2013	Carly MacLean	Blue Hills - Brainerd Pass Path
9/10/2013	Lee Moxley	Shoshone NCT and Beaver Narrows
9/10/2013	Joanna Damstra	Island Mt.
9/10/2013	Demetrius Lopez	Blackfoot State Park/CTC
9/10/2013		
11/19/2013	Carly MacLean	Blue Hills - West Path
11/19/2013	Carmie Eklund	Blackfoot State Park
11/19/2013	Hans Lundell	Prosser's Farm, Cowee Mts.
11/19/2013		Thundering
12/16/2013	Carly MacLean	Blue Hills - Prosser's Farm
12/16/2013	Joanna Damstra	Hance Hot. - Headwaters
12/16/2013		

in our Treasury. And Karen Singleton, our Board Secretary, keeps our board meetings straight and records all of our actions.

And then there is the Executive Board, made up of the chairs of the activity committees. It is wonderful to hear all voices and all points of view in our lively Board (electronic) discussions. In addition, they manage their activity leaders. And who can say enough about our AMC volunteer leaders! These already-busy people take time to organize and carry out great outdoor activities for the chapter all year long. They are the heart and soul of our chapter. A giant thank you to each and every one of them! I am proud to be the chair of such a great group of outdoor enthusiasts—You all make it a fun job!

I am looking forward to watching where our SEM chapter goes in 2014! We are strong; we have heart; and we are committed to the ideals of the AMC. See you outside!



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Cape Hiking

Respectfully submitted by
Farley Lewis, Cape Hiking Chair

We have resumed our hikes on Cape Cod as of September. We have maintained our usual schedule of walks and hikes that run from Fall to Spring. We usually have 2 to 3 hikes listed per week.

In 2013, we gained one new leader, and are about to fully qualify another. Cape Hikes is very fortunate to have a great group of dedicated leaders and hikers that keep us in business year after year.

One planned activity other than hiking this Fall is a First Aid Course. It is being offered by the Harwich Fire Department. All leaders are encouraged to attend this one night session on Oct. 23rd.

We are finding that sharing the many responsibilities of running Cape Hikes works very well. Vice-Chair Peter Selig and Co-Chair Janet DiMattia have helped lift the load of holding Hikes Planning Meetings and sending in the Hikes to the Approver. Many thanks to them!

Finally, the strong support that comes to us from Cheryl and Maureen is so appreciated. Huge improved communications and enthusiasm for all of us in the SE Chapter! Kudos!

Communications

Respectfully submitted by
Andrea Holden, Communications Chair
Gina Hurley, Communications Vice Chair

Responsibilities for Communications Committee are coordinator/designer for AMC SEM monthly e-newsletter Breeze and Blast, webmaster, social media communications involving sharing of our chapter's developments and increasing and motivating our wide audience through channels such as social media tools [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#), and [Flickr](#) and also by utilizing our website [amcsem.org](#). In addition, develop the [AMC SEM Annual Report](#) and slideshow at the end of each year for the Annual Meeting and Dinner.

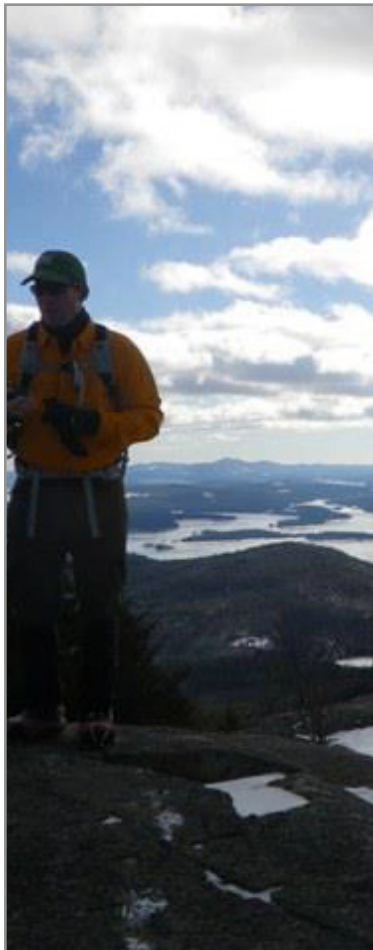
One of 2013 goals was to increase young membership and multi-cultural interest in the SEM Chapter. In addition to raising awareness across a broad spectrum demographic, was an attempt to develop or create interests in a Young Member Committee. Unfortunately this project never took off for several reasons.



*“Huge improved
communications
and enthusiasm
for all of us”*



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“We were able to obtain a strong presence and in just a short span of 6-7 months time”

In order to reach out to younger generations, in this case 20's & under, Communications decided the best avenue was [Social Media](#); a tool most frequented by younger generations. By focusing on AMC SEM's Social Media presence, by developing and increasing AMC SEM's audience reach over electronic forms of social media communications, we were able to obtain a strong presence in just a short span of 6-7 months time.

2013 Accomplishments

- ↑ [Facebook](#) Likes from 40 to 412 in 7 months*
Result: increased by **371 Facebook Likes**
- ↑ [Twitter](#) Followers from 38 and 134 tweets to 190 followers & 1211 tweets*
Result: increased by **52 Twitter Followers** and **1077 Tweets**
- ↑ [Linkedin](#) from 8 connections to 40 in 3 months*
Result: increased by **32 LinkedIn Connections**
- ↑ **Unique visitors** to click [Breeze](#) link in email newsletter from 185 to 298
Result: increased by **113 Breeze Monthly Visits**
- ↑ **Breeze Subscribers** from 1488 to 1803
Result: increased by **315 Breeze subscribers**
Oct-Nov 2012 +132 subscribers
Nov-Dev 2012 +11 subscribers
Dec-Jan +20 subscribers
- ↑ [Calendar](#) monthly views from 102 to 162*
Result: increased by **60 Calendar views**
- ↑ **User Navigation to Breeze** on [amcsem.org](#) from 365 to 568
Result: increased by **203 Breeze Viewers**
- ↑ **Blast Subscribers** (member only) from 3094 to 3169
Result: increased by **169 Blast Subscribers**
- ↑ [Flickr](#) **All Time** photo and video views Jan 2012 = 5,928 compared to Oct 2013 = 11,195
Result: increased by **5,267 Flickr Views**



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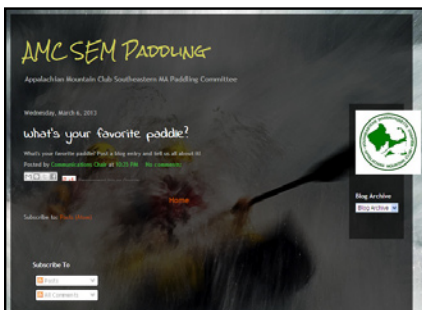
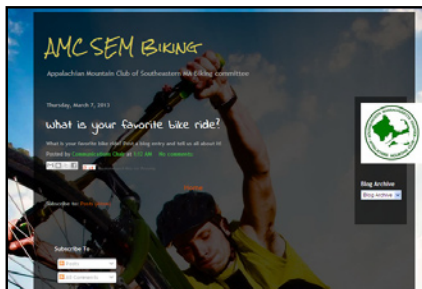


- Introduced [Hiker FAQ](#) for new hikers and new AMC members who might be interested in hiking for the first time
- Started **archiving Breeze** content to FTP server
- Started **archiving photos** for marketing, promotions and publications using [Facebook albums](#)
- Send submitted contribution **photos to Flickr** for archiving*
- Manually updated website [Airset](#) **calendar** activities and events leading to increased visitor ratings*
- **Development** of automated website calendar feed update from outdoors.org to [Airset](#) calendar - unfinished project.
- **Designed** postcard marketing materials and a few flyers
- Rekindled Breeze AMC SEM **Chapter Member Interviews**
- Added Word Search, Did you Know?* and more to Breeze
- Added [amcsem.org](#) to search engines such as Google, Bing and more using [Submit Express](#) and [Site Ground](#) to increase audience and unique visitors to get word out about our chapter

*Activity requested stopped June 2013.

Figures obtained Oct/Nov 2012 – Oct 2013

New this year as well was designing and implementing “Leader’s Favorite” **Chapter Committee Blogs** by Google’s [blogger.com](#) sometimes named [blogspot.com](#). New Google accounts were created for each Committee to utilize their own Google drive, docs and other great opportunities. Although the blogs have not taken off just yet we are well on our way down the technical advancement path and feeling the waters.



[Biking/Cycling](#)

<http://leadersfavoritebikes.blogspot.com/>

[Cape Hiking](#)

<http://leadersfavoritecapehike.blogspot.com/>

[Paddling](#)

<http://leadersfavoritepaddle.blogspot.com/>

[Hiking](#)

<http://leadersfavoritehikes.blogspot.com/>

Interested in blogging?

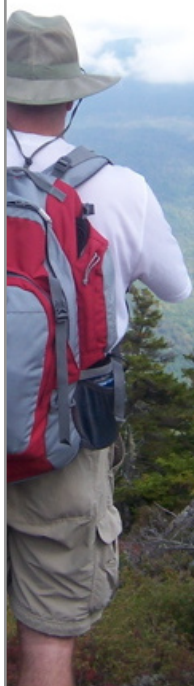
Contact chapter chair at chair@amcsem.org.



“ 315 NewBreeze subscribers this year and Facebook likes increased from 40 to 412 in 7 months”



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*“extremely proud
to become part of
the AMC SEM
Chapter”*

Without the dedication and hard work of many individuals who faithfully offered content, information, and suggestions, the Breeze would not be what it is today; a visually appealing and member content driven publication.

The following individuals deserve a thank you for their commitment and efforts for a variety of tasks including monthly Breeze contributions, sharing content on social media, proof reading, making suggestions and offering guidance.

AMC SEM Committee Members

Gina Hurley – Vice Chair Communications, for writing and sharing her journeys, photos, hiking experiences, rekindling member interviews, adding word search to the Breeze, proof reading a variety of materials. For her guidance, neutrality, openness, suggestions, thoughts and ideas; Gina is a skilled, resourceful and successful individual.

Paul Miller – Hiking Vice Chair, for continued efforts to communicate activities, events and photos and writing interesting and knowledgeable articles.

Len Ulbricht – Education Chair, for consistent involvement, sharing activities, writing about your many events and sharing photos.

Chris Pellegrini – Family Events – for uploading and sharing photos/events on Facebook; ranking our highest page visits following her efforts.

Walt Granda – Hiking Chair and **Paul Miller** – Hiking Vice Chair, for embracing and developing Hiker FAQs

AMC SEM Member and Leader Volunteers

Susan Salmon for moderating our Social Media, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn

Jon Leaver for your fantastic job of proofreading the Breeze

Bill Pellegrini for your continuing ongoing efforts handling Flickr photo uploads

Paul Currier for your photos and consistent communication of events

AMC SEM Special Members

Ray Anderson – [blog](#) writing and photos

[Yahoo! CapeCodPaddling Group](#) led by Betty Hinkley and Max Sarazin where we were able to obtain fantastic photos, excerpts, articles and tid-bits from **Bill Fischer, Margot Fitch, Ed Foster, Nancy Wigley**

Jean Orser – for all of your wonderful photos

Jim Casey – all your efforts, writing and photo contributions

Louise Riemenchneider Foster – writing and photo contributions

Eva Borsody Das – writing and sharing photos

Erika Bloom – [Yahoo! Short Notice List](#) (SNEL)



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Bob Vogel - [Yahoo! Short Notice List](#) (SNEL)

Doug Karlson – writing and photos

In Nov 2012 I was elated and extremely proud to become part of the AMC SEM Chapter as Communications Chair. I was especially excited since Cheryl Lathrop was unable to find a replacement for herself for a few years while in this position. I felt my experience in project development/management, application support/training, marketing/promotions/graphic design coupled with my high level of energy and excitement would be welcomed by SEM's board so I hit the ground running.

This diverse and fluctuating role was truly unique and satisfying, I've decided to end Board involvement and stick to pursuits to challenge myself and seeking opportunities to support my eagerness, energy and varying interests. I've enjoyed designing and coordinating the AMC SEM's monthly- e-newsletter, the Breeze, each month and I hope to continue to do so into 2014.

Please send contributions, suggestions and ideas for the Breeze to editor.breeze@amcsem.org. My goal as editor is to make the publication exciting, flexible and suitable for our current and future readership by creating engaging content to share with AMC SEM and AMC.

I am truly thankful for the opportunity to put my best efforts forth in completing the variety of expectations with integrity and respect.

Wishing my predecessor and AMC SEM Committee luck in the future.

Andrea Holden

I have enjoyed the vice chair position since February. I have especially enjoyed writing an article each month on many varied topics.

Thank you Andrea and Cheryl for the experience and support.

I am always looking for trip leaders to interview for future newsletters. If you are interested please email me at communicationsvicechair@amcsem.org.

Gina Hurley



*"always looking
for trip leaders to
interview"*





“2014 our focus will be on including even more conservation education”



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Conservation

Respectfully Submitted by
Joanne Jarzowski, Conservation Chair

Each year, AMC-SEMers participate in the annual Cape Cod Canal Cleanup Day; this year's event was held on Saturday, April 20. Canal Clean-Up is an Earth Week volunteer event organized in partnership between the Army Corps of Engineers and AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Every year since 2000, over 200 volunteers come annually to walk along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal and pick up hundreds of pounds of trash, including volunteers from AMC-SEM.

The Cape Cod Canal is the widest sea-level canal in the world! It is 480 feet wide and cuts through about 7 miles of land, and makes Cape Cod technically an island. It is maintained and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Many people walk, bike, and fish along the Canal's service roads and shores, and it provides many recreation opportunities for the Upper Cape community.

Canal Clean-Up offers AMC-SEMers a great opportunity to serve the community, but it's also a lot of fun and past clean ups have featured live music, environmental education booths, face painting, tie-dyeing, and refreshments for volunteers. Mark your calendars for April 2014!

In 2014, our focus will be on including even more conservation education, weaving conservation themes into every area of our membership, allowing us to continue our message and do our part in "leaving no trace." We will be advertising events for our members to participate in and encourage you to share events you think AMC-SEM would be a good fit to take part in.

CYP - Chapter Youth Program

Respectfully Submitted by
Sally Delisa, CYP Chair

This past year has been exciting and disappointing.

Five people have expressed an interest in becoming CYP Leaders. However, all five were unable to attend the August training session in Southeastern Maine. Hopefully, another course will be offered soon. (Two years ago, SEM hosted a course in Duxbury.)

Finding qualified groups, who would like to work with us and can also fulfill the required insurance provision, has been difficult. AMC Staff are aware of this

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issue and are working to find ways to streamline the process for us. For instance, an annual insurance agreement might occur at the scout council level.

During the past year, one CYP Leader was available to work with a Marshfield Girl Scout Troop at their meeting. Topics covered were, "Staying Found" (what to do if you do become lost in the woods) and Leave No Trace. The Scout Leader was also provided with information on hiking safety. The plans for an approved hike were cancelled due to the winter storms and resulting delays in the troop's schedule of events.

This Fall, we are planning to work with two groups:

A. We will partner with the AMC Youth and Family Outdoor Community Coordinator, Libby Stockwell Deegar. She is working with the Framingham Housing Authority Youth and we will be assisting with a local hike.

B. A Cadette Girl Scout Troop in Wareham would like assistance in working on a new badge, Trailblazing. The badge is a perfect match for CYP. Hopefully, several current CYP Leaders will have time to work with the girls.

Importantly, we need a CYP Vice Chair to assist in planning, in attending some of the monthly phone/online Executive Board meetings and to work with the current Chair. Please contact the Chapter Chair (chair@amcsem.org) or Vice Chair (cypvicechair@amcsem.org) or CYP Chair (cypchair@amcsem.org) if you are interested.

To all members: Share your hiking enthusiasm with youth! We cover a large territory and have a need for more CYP Leaders. Contact the Chapter Chair or Vice Chair or CYP Chair, if you have some time to share. Vice Chair (cypvicechair@amcsem.org) or CYP Chair (cypchair@amcsem.org)

EDUCATION

Respectfully Submitted by
Len Ulbricht, Education Chair
Barry Farnsworth, Education Vice Chair

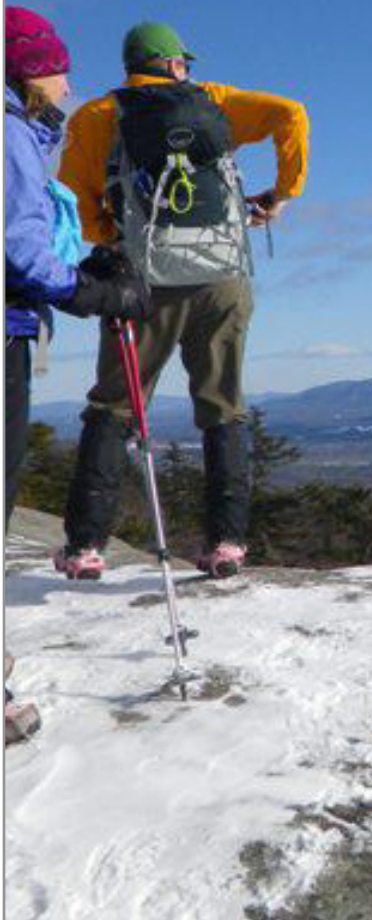
This year three training sessions were offered. Wilderness First Aid in the spring and fall, and Leadership Training in the spring.

Spring WFA and CPR were offered at AMC's Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA for the third year in a row. Both the Double and North cottages were



*"Staying Found"
 (what to do if you
 do become lost in
 the woods) and
 Leave No Trace"*

“strong interest in WFA skill training for personal outdoor activities”



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reserved for the trainees, instructor and chef service, as meals were provided. Additional available space was offered to hikers as a “Ramble” social weekend to take in the Nobel View spring experience. Fall WFA and CPR is being held locally at the Chapel Meeting House in Foxboro, MA. SOLO was engaged to teach both WFA courses. Both offerings were fully subscribed and wait listed. Most attendees came from the SEM chapter, a few from other nearby AMC chapters, and several were not AMC members. Of those from SEM about half were not currently active hiking leaders, indicating a strong interest in WFA skill training for personal outdoor activities. Fees charged were sufficient to cover all expenses and provided a small surplus.

Leadership Training was offered in the spring at Borderland State Park in North Easton, MA to ten attendees with the course presentations by senior leaders from Southeast MA chapter and Jess Wilson of AMC Outdoor Leadership Training. This course is traditionally offered at no charge to the chapter attendees.

Hiking

Respectfully submitted by
Walt Granada, Hiking Chair

Thanks to all the volunteer leaders for providing great hiking opportunities during the 2013 season. Our chapter has 40 hike leaders who have done an outstanding job bringing our members to some of their favorite trails. Through their efforts, they have scheduled 125 hiking trips ranging from local walks to more strenuous events in the White Mountains.

This past year two people completed the requirements to lead hikes. Additionally one of our leaders completed requirements to lead Class 4 hikes (winter day hikes, all types of terrain, including snowshoe hikes).

The series hikes have been a great success in attracting new members to get out and walk all types of trails. This year series hikes consisted of:



Red Line the Blue Hills (RLBH)
Thursday Morning hikes
Full Moon Borderland
Winter Series
Fast and Hilly
Blue Hills Conditioning
Monthly Introductory hike



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RLBH

What is “Red Line the Blue Hills”? It’s trying to put your boots on every inch of every trail in the Blue Hills, Milton, MA – and red lining your map with a red marker to track your progress. Bob Vogel first started this series in 2006 and it has become so popular that, at times, we had to limit the participants.

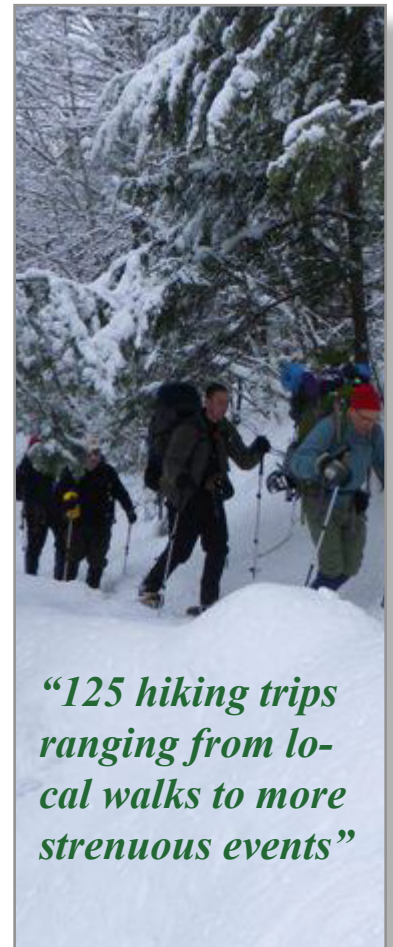
We had 82 people who hiked with us at least once and 21 who did more than 10 hikes.

Totally for the season we had 24 hikes and the following people attended twenty or more:

Bill Doherty	22 hikes
Nancy Coote	21 hikes
Cathy MacCurtain	20 hikes

I would like to thank and recognize the volunteers who helped make the program so successful especially Joe Keogh who, for the last five years, has played a lead role in keeping the program running. Since 2006 the following people contributed to the success of the program:

Joe Keogh	Bob Vogel
Maureen Kelly	Dick Carnes
Michael Swartz	Cheryl Lathrop
Ellen Correia	Fred Watson`
Nancy Coote	Jim Plouffe
Linda Glynn	Aleta Plouffe
Jerry Yos	Jodi Jensen
Jim Casey	Sue Chiavaroli
Bill Vickstrom	
Dexter Robinson	Red *
Maureen Yachimski	Red
Jim Plouffe	Red
Fred Wason	Red
Cheryl Lathrop	Red, Blue
Joe Keogh	Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow
Maureen Kelly	Red
Bob Vogel	Red
Walt Granda	Red, Blue, Green, Orange
Michael Swartz	Red, Blue, Green, Orange
Bill Vickstrom	Red, Blue
Sue Chiavaroli	Red



“125 hiking trips ranging from local walks to more strenuous events”



“patches to hikers who have completed all the trails in the Blue Hills.”



“Thursday morning hikes have developed into an important part of our chapter’s activities”



Nancy Coote	Red
Ellen Correia	Red
Jerry Yos	Red
Bill Doherty	Red, Blue
Alan Greenstein	Red, Blue

Anne Duggan	Red
Charles Wohlers	Red

Jodi Jensen	White
Cathy MacCurtain	Red
Jim Casey	Red



*Red-First time hiking all trails
 Blue-Second time hiking all trails
 Green-Third time hiking all trails
 Orange-Fourth time hiking all trails
 Yellow-Fifth time hiking all trails
 White- hiked all trails during the winter.

Thursday Morning Series

Like the RLBH, these Thursday morning hikes have developed into an important part of our chapter’s activities. The hikes start in September and end the last Thursday in May. The hikes, which range from four to six miles, are mostly done on local trails with an occasional hike in central Massachusetts or Southern New Hampshire. These hikes have given our members many exciting places to visit that may have been overlooked in the past. A few examples of the trails we visited:

Monastery Grounds RI	Joes Rock
Rocky Woods	Noon Hill
Blue Hills	Gilbert Hills
Borderland	Tully Trail
Moose Hill	Eleanor Cabot Bradley Estate

Many thanks go out to all our active leaders and co-leaders and a special thank you to Paul Miller, the Vice-Chair of Hiking, who has assisted in so many ways. Paul has provided valuable input for many of our events and has written some exciting articles for our chapter’s newsletter, [Breeze](#).

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The hiking committee started two new programs this year:

The 100 Mile Club

SEM members can earn a patch for hiking 100 miles. Members need to sign up with the Hiking Chair or Vice Chair and record their miles on a spreadsheet.

Leader’s Trip Report Form

Hike leaders can have the trip reports posted to a blog. This will give leaders easy access to past reports by going to this link: <http://amc-semhikereports.blogspot.com/Ficast Cat>

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Paddling

Respectfully submitted by
George Wey, Paddling Chair

The paddling group scheduled 51 trips for the 2013 season. These trips were scheduled in December of 2012 for the paddling season that extends from the first of April to the end of October 2013. This year, because of adverse weather conditions during May and June, eight trips were cancelled. The summer brought better weather for paddling. The 2013 season was successful with approximately 300 people participating in paddling trips along the coast, ponds and rivers of Cape Cod.

The success of this paddling group is due largely to the dedication of trip leaders. The 2013 leaders were: Paul Corriveau, Bill Fischer, Ed Foster, Louise Foster, Betty Hinkley, Jean Orser, Don Paladino, George Wey, Nancy Wigley and Bob Zani.

Special thanks go out to Betty Hinkley for sending out the trip notifications and trip reports, Louise Foster for writing interesting articles for the Breeze and Jean Orser for taking photos of the trips and sharing her delicious brownies.

Treasurer

Respectfully submitted by
Patty Rottmeier, SEM Treasurer

As we approach the end of 2013, I am pleased to say we can expect to have another year with a surplus due to conservative Committee spending and being well below budget. We started 2013 with another successful Annual Financial Audit of 2012 books by Joy St. For 2013, we have had an opportunity to invest in long term equipment such as a portable projector, AMC Logo display boards & tent for professional presentations of our chapter, and a Laptop for communications. This year we have had very productive virtual E-Board meetings on-line, which have been a cost savings in facility rental and food.

Other Chapter highlights in Program spending have been Spring Leadership training, Trail work weekend at Lonesome Lake, 2 Wilderness First Aid Training classes and the Hut Overnight at Nobleview. We also ordered 200 "100 mile" patches to be awarded to hikers who have hiked 100 miles. We awarded 14 Scholarships to our members who participated in the WFA & CPR Courses this year. After all is said and done, all of these programs were close to break even with regard to revenue and cost, leaving us with a potential surplus of \$5,000 for this year.



*“success of this
paddling group
is due largely to
the dedication of
trip leaders”*



*“Once again we
have had another
successful year”*



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Chapter Committees reported net expenditures as follows:

- \$572 for Communications/Website
- \$1424 net spending for Education: includes WFA, Leadership Training & Scholarships
- \$504 net spending for the Hiking Committee
- \$246 for the Membership Committee – Spring Open House for new members
- \$392 for Trails Committee
- \$3,594 for Administrative – Insurance & Office Exp, E-Board Mtgs & Annual Meeting & equipment

Once again we have had another successful year, and I want to thank the Board and the Committee members for their support and efforts during the past year. I look forward to another year of financial stability for the Chapter.

Biking

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Washwell, Vice Chair Biking

A year in review – 2013 almost to a close, but still lots of riding to do!

Biking in New England is a real treat. We have such beautiful vistas and lots of interesting takes to experience. If you have some special rides you would like to share with us please contact me. We always welcome new ride leaders and places to explore! You can schedule regular weekly or monthly rides or maybe just some on short notice! We even have a way to offer special rides on our short notice ride listing that is available on our biking link.

We are working on our aspect of technology resources and here are a few:

[Biking](http://www.amcsem.org/biking.html) webpage: <http://www.amcsem.org/biking.html>

[Leader's favorite](http://leadersfavoritebikes.blogspot.com/) bike trips: <http://leadersfavoritebikes.blogspot.com/>

A couple of our seasoned ride leaders have shared a bit about what they have done this year:

Hello fellow AMC'ers!

My name is Jack Jacobsen and I'm from the little town of Fairhaven located on the south coast of the state. I've been leading bicycle rides for the AMC for about 10 years and I'd like to share some info on my favorite rides.

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One of my favorite rides is actually right in my hometown of Fairhaven. It's a 27-mile ride that's very easy to do which makes it a good ride for beginners. It's also a very safe ride traveling a lot on the Phoenix/Mattapoisett Rail Trail and on quiet back roads. The ride has no hills on it - just flat, easy riding all the way. Beautiful ocean views of Buzzards Bay, New Bedford Harbor and West Island make this a really nice, scenic ride. A mile before the end of the ride we usually stop at Simmy's Restaurant for lunch. Check out the AMC schedule and don't miss out on this great ride. I like to do this one 6 or 7 times a year.

My 2 cents – Jack is too modest...when you go to Simmy's you have to try the seafood 'chowdah' because Jack makes it for them. CW.

Another old favorite ride is the Dighton Rock State Park ride. It's a 35-mile ride that starts in Lakeville and passes through the quiet country towns of Freetown and Berkley. The highlight of the ride is the stop at Dighton Rock State Park overlooking the beautiful Taunton River. There's a little museum that houses the Dighton Rock with the ancient inscriptions carved on it. Originally the rock was sitting in the Taunton River but was lifted out in the 60's and placed in a museum. No one knows for sure who wrote the inscriptions but there are 4 different theories. It could have been the local Native American Indians or either Viking, Portuguese or Phoenician explorers who sailed down the river hundreds of years ago and left their marks on the Rock. The museum is free and open only by appointment so call ahead of time. Another good feature of the ride is availability of rest rooms and waters either here or at another stop we make at the Freetown State Forest.

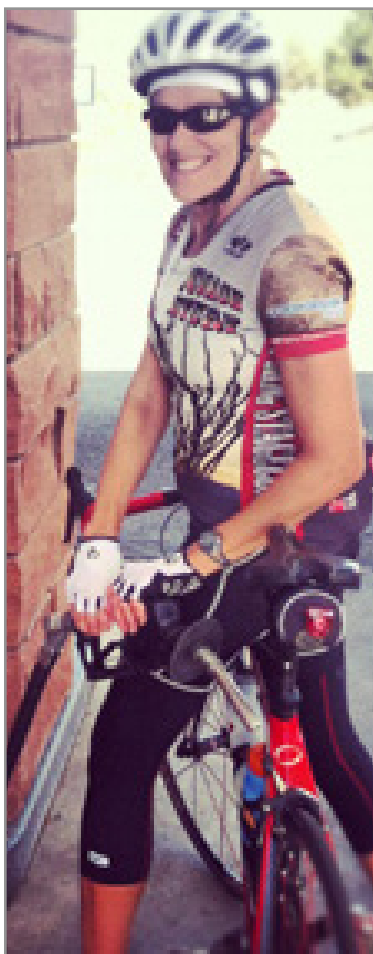
Another highlight of the ride is a stop at a mini Fenway Park in Freetown. There's a Little League ball field in Freetown that's an exact replica of Fenway Park, the home of the Red Sox. It's got the Green Monster in left field and looks just like Fenway only on a smaller scale. The ride also features a couple of thrilling downhill runs that are always fun to do. Well that's all for now and I hope to see you at the rides. Jack Jacobsen cyclejac51@yahoo.com

Southeastern Mass Chapter AMC 2,000 Mile Club

Our unique 2,000 Mile Club was founded by Jack Jacobsen in 2003 to recognize Southeastern Mass AMC member's accomplishments of cycling 2,000 miles or more in a calendar year. After a minor nigggle in the early years, the club was successfully revived in 2007 by our then interim chair, Victor Oliver. Since then we have grown steadily and increased our membership every year. We started with less than a handful of members early on but have grown to 30 participants in 2012 alone.



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“2013 marks the 10th year of the 2K Club”



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Mileage

2013 marks the 10th year of the 2K Club, as the first year of recording our mileage was 2004. Mileage must be accurately logged and recorded and may be a combination of road cycling and mountain biking miles. Send your mileage quarterly to our new registrar, Bernie Meggison at thosmeggisons@gmail.com. Thanks again to Dan Egan for serving as registrar for the past four years.

Embroidered Award Patch



Embroidered patches of recognition are awarded to first time members only. To receive your patch, e-mail your name, AMC Number, first year of qualification, and mailing (USPS) address to Paul Currier currierpaul@comcast.net. For additional information about the 2,000 Mile Club, please contact Bernie, Jack at cyclejac51@yahoo.com or me, Paul.

Scenic Cycling

By Paul B. Currier, SEM AMC Bicycling Leader

It is around 10AM on January 1, 2013 and I watch a slow but steady procession of vehicles with racks of road bicycles pulling into Plumb Corner at Rochester Center. The temperature is already in the 40's with the high 50's predicted. What better weather could we have for my 11th Annual SEMAMC New Years Day Ride? We are not always so fortunate weather wise; in fact once recently we didn't ride until mid-February. But today is one the best to kick off our cycling season and our individual quests to attain 2,000 miles to qualify for the SEM AMC 2,000 Mile Club.

Until recently, I did not know that I had been leading rides for 11+ years. When asked how long I had been leading, I guessed at 7 or 8 years; planning the upcoming NYD ride proved me pleasantly incorrect. Since the founding years, I have brought my annual schedule of leading rides up to about 65 a year: New Years Day, a Sunset/Full Moon ride every month; Tuesday rides all year long, and First day of spring, last day of summer and last day of fall thrown in for good measure. It is a long schedule involving much time and effort to plan and produce but for the most part it is rewarding to do so; at times, though, I'll admit, it does become a tad overwhelming.

I've done my Century and a few Metrics; but am now enjoying shorter 25-35

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mile rides that offer chances to appreciate this most beautiful place in which we live. From (and including) Rhode Island through our South Coast towns, Cape Cod, and the South Shore, we are offered one the most interesting and scenic places to ride. And it is in constant change – the ocean, sky, birds, animals, flowers, plants, trees, and marshes. Toss in our spectacular architecture dating from the colonial to modern and the package is complete! Except for sunset at Skaket, eagles in Tihonet, the huge red moon of late summer rising under, through, and finally over the Sagamore Bridge, Sun dogs over Craigville Bach, the Boch Llama “farm”; Menemsha; the fox taking a few steps away but curiosity making him stopping to look back at us; the coyote patiently sitting and watching us pass by; the triple rainbow on the canal; the osprey splashing out of the water with fish in talon; whales off Herring Cove Beach; the Provincetown street performers; deer at Scusset; The Cliff at Sagamore Highlands; the smell of the marsh at First Encounter Beach; Chatham in bloom in mid-July; the Red Tail Hawk high in a dead tree scanning for lunch.

Knowing that my rides do not fit everyone’s taste, our co-vice-chair-biking Cheryl Washwell and I would be willing to guide you along to share your favorite rides (faster, slower, shorter, longer, etc.) with us. Submit your route to Cheryl @ cawashwell@gmail.com for approval and we’ll set a date for you to co-lead/navigate the ride. And soon you will feel the pride and pleasure of leading cycling rides and sharing your knowledge of your favorite areas with us.

I am grateful to have such an awesome team of bike leaders. Thank You to all the leaders and participants that enjoy and appreciate what the South East Massachusetts Chapter of AMC offer.

Come ride, come lead, come enjoy.

Ski/XC Skiing

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Hathaway, Ski Chair

January 19-21, 2013, Bob Bentley and Art Paradise led the Catamount Backcountry Ski Trip to Londonderry, VT, with 2 nights’ accommodations at the Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry. There were 10 participants and 2 leaders.

On Saturday, January 19, they skied approximately 8.5 miles of Section 7 of the Catamount trail.

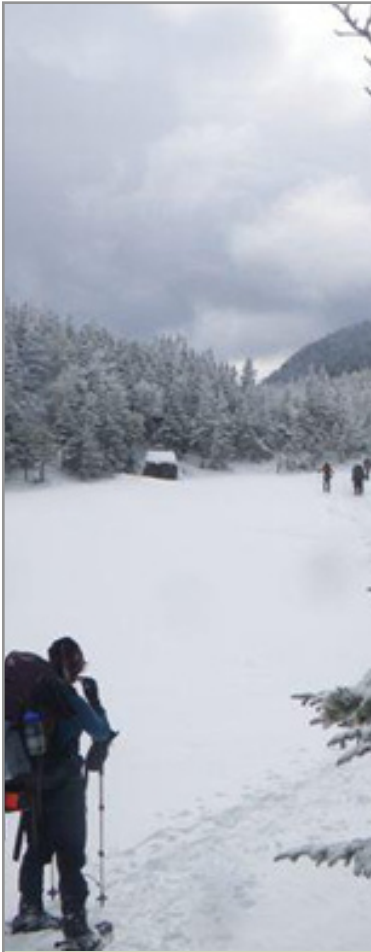
On Sunday, January 20, the original plan was to ski Root Beer Ridge, a side trail



*“feel the pride
and pleasure of
leading cycling
rides”*



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*“new leaders
that will help to
expand our xc
ski program”*

to Section 8 of the Catamount, but the morning brought a high wind advisory with 40 MPH winds likely and snow showers resulting in skiing a modified, sheltered, route about 7 miles.

Monday, January 21, dawned clear and very cold. Skiers headed south to where section 7 crosses Route 11. After about 4.1 miles, they arrived back to the vehicles and said goodbyes.

January 18-21, 2013, Barbara Hathaway of the SEM chapter and Wayne Cardoza of the Forty Plus chapter led the trip to Jefferson, NH. Twenty participants and 2 leaders stayed 3 nights at Applebrook B&B in Jefferson, NH. Meals included Friday pizza and salad, Saturday 4-course gourmet dinner, Sunday soup, salad, and hearty bread supper and 3 delicious breakfasts.

Saturday, January 19 – Great Glen Trails at the foot of the Mt. Washington Auto Road was the venue for the day. Although it was windy in the open, the ski trails in the woods offered protection and the temps were in the 20s.

Sunday, January 20 – Some people decided to snow shoe and the rest of the group enjoyed skiing the many trails of the Jackson Ski Touring Foundation. Again, the weather was great and temps were in the 20s and low 30s.

Monday, January 21 – Temps dropped into the single digits and there were no planned activities. Some people went straight home and others braved the cold and skied on their own on the way home.

Feb. 4-6, Len Ulbricht led a trip to the Highland Center. Six skiers participated in the XC and downhill mid-week ski trip. They enjoyed XC at Bretton Woods and the Jackson Ski Touring Center, and downhill at Waterville Valley, Attitash and Bretton Woods. The two night stay at Shapleigh bunkhouse including apre ski time and Highland Center meals.

March 1-3, 2013 – Wayne and I led the second trip to Applebrook B&B in Jefferson, NH. Nine participants and 2 leaders stayed 2 nights at Applebrook B&B in Jefferson, NH. On Friday afternoon I – and three others who arrived early – went snowshoeing on the golf course and on a trail in the woods behind the B&B. We used a snowmobile trail on the way out, but broke trail on the return in over a foot of snow.

That evening after everyone had arrived we dined on salad and pizza and then retreated to the living room to relax and socialize. Everyone was so comfortable that they were not interested in the optional snowshoe activity that had been planned.

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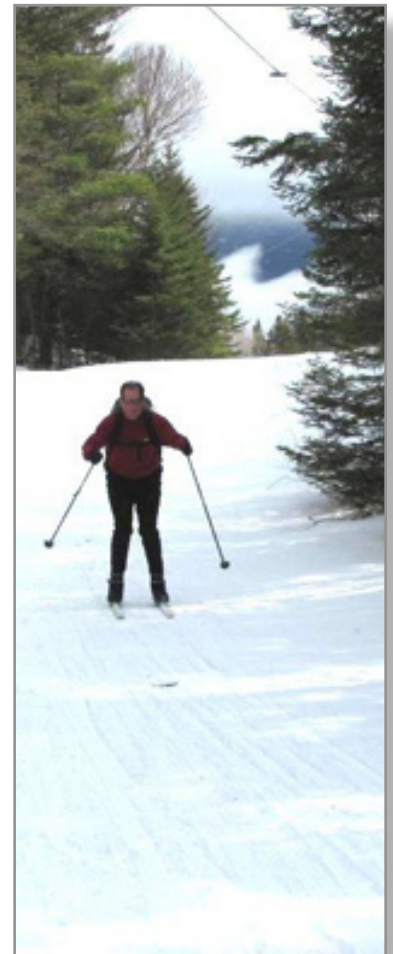


Saturday we skied at Bretton Woods. The temps were around 30 degrees and a light snow fell all day long. Trail conditions were great. The faster group got to see a cow moose and her calf on the trail. We all enjoyed après ski at the Mt. Washington Hotel, then returned to the B&B for appetizers, wine, and a 4-course dinner. We played games and socialized to end the evening.

Before leaving for home on Sunday seven of us bushwhacked through the woods on snowshoes and ended up having to retrace our steps because we couldn't find the way to return by the golf course! The entire weekend was a great success.

As chair of the cross country ski committee I invite all of you skiers to participate in our 2014 activities. Let's revive our chapter's participation in cross country skiing. Plans are in place to train four new leaders that will help to expand our xc ski program. You can help 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!!



*"Let's revive
our chapter's
participation in
cross country
skiing"*

