



# AMC SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT 2014



*Presented to the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club  
Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter at the SEM Annual Meeting,  
November 1, 2014*



Dear Chapter Members,

I became Chapter Chair 2 years ago, and have now reached the end of my 2-year term. It was my good fortune to inherit the chapter from the strong past Chapter Chairs. And it has been my privilege to serve the chapter during my term.

I am happy to report that the chapter is in very good shape—strong and vibrant. That's not to say perfect, as we are always a work in progress. Such is the nature of a volunteer organization.

The location of our monthly executive board meetings has been changed—no longer a long trek to a middle point between on-cape and off-cape—but now attended electronically/virtually. 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. And we discuss the agenda via phone conferencing. Tech magic! This is working well, I am happy to report.

I ask the board members to submit their monthly committee reports to a blog; so now a nicely formatted (and searchable) compilation of monthly committee reports happens. The Board Secretary then adds these blog entries to the minutes of the meeting each month as part of the permanent record. We now use Google drive, a collaborative workspace, for sharing documents that all board members need to read and comment upon; no longer do things get inefficiently emailed around and around. Your board has gone high tech. And is using tech to its advantage to better serve you.

I constantly encourage our various committees to also adopt new technology concepts to make their life easier. They are having telephone conferences for some of their planning meetings. Leaders are using Google collaborative spreadsheets for activity sign ups. Participants are using Google collaborative spreadsheets to record mileage to earn patches. Trip reports are being entered electronically into a searchable blog. Some series activities have their own website. Your committees are going high tech. And using tech to their advantage to better serve you.

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

Many of our committees remain strong due to their solid base of reliable volunteers, established procedures, and repeat/series activities. Others have struggled with a lack of volunteers, but have come into their own this past year as SEM members step forward to volunteer. And others could prosper even more with additional volunteers. I encourage you to read all of their reports in this document.

Additionally, SEM enjoys a good relationship with Joy St.—the AMC club central office located at Joy St. in Boston. We have gotten many compliments that our chapter is easy to work with because we are so organized, and so responsive.

I want to thank the chapter Executive Officers for their support and hard work these past 2 years— Vice Chair Maureen Kelly, Treasurer Patty Rottmeier, and Secretary Karen Singleton. I think we have made a superb team! And I couldn't have done it without you.

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 electronic board meeting 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 2015! We are strong; we have heart; and we are committed to the ideals of the AMC. And I leave you—starting tomorrow—in the very capable hands of incoming Chapter Chair, Maureen Kelly.

See you outside!

*Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Lathrop, Chapter Chair, AMC SEM  
(2013-2014)*



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Another year has come and is almost gone! As we approach the end of 2014, we can expect to have another year with a surplus as a result of controlled Committee spending and budgeted programs that were not done. 2014 began with a successful Annual Financial Audit of 2013 books by Joy St. For 2013, SEM had another year with productive virtual E-Board meetings on-line, which has been a cost savings in facility rental and food and the SEM board had one real person to person meeting before the summer season kicked off. Plenty of AMC administrative work was accomplished by our Chapter Chair and Vice Chair, who both attended the 2014 Summit in January, networking with other chapter chairs. They attended the AMC Chapter Retreat, and also attended the October Fall Gathering at Camp Wavus in Maine. As SEM's Treasurer, who lives on an island, I'm thrilled to say that I was also able to participate in the SEM Chapter Hut Weekend at the AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch NH, and also a wonderful biking trip with the Biking committee who put it together on Nantucket.

Other Chapter highlights in Program spending have been Trail work weekend at Lonesome Lake, a fall Wilderness First Aid Training class and the Hut Overnight at Noble View. We plan to award \$1,080 in Scholarships to our members who participated in the WFA this year. After all is said and done, all of these programs were close to breakeven with regards to revenue and cost, leaving us with a potential surplus of \$6,000 for this year.

Chapter Committees reported net expenditures as follows:

- \$275 for Communications/Website
- \$810 net spending for Education: includes WFA & Scholarships
- \$869 net spending for the Hiking Committee – including a winter workshop
- \$193 for the (CYP)Chapter Youth Program – CYP Leadership Training in April
- \$377 for the Membership Committee – Bristol Aggie Exhibitor booth in April, AMC 25 yr pins, & AMC -SEM intro to AMC postcards
- \$275 for Trails Committee
- \$3,303 for Administrative – Insurance & Office Exp, E-Board Mtgs & Annual and Clubwide Meetings

All in all, we have had a productive year, and once again I want to thank the Board and the Committee members for their support and efforts during the past year. I look forward to another financially successful year for the Chapter.

*Respectfully submitted BY Patty Rottmeier, Treasurer*



## BIKING COMMITTEE



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

- Biking webpage: <http://amcsem.org/biking.html>
- Leader's favorite bike trips: <http://leadersfavoritebikes.blogspot.com/>
- Keep up with the biking committee (and others) here: <http://sem-monthlycommitteereports.blogspot.com/>

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

- The Annual SEMAMC New Year's Day Ride
- Blackstone River Bike Path in Rhode Island
- Martha's Vineyard
- Nantucket Weekend
- The Phoenix/Mattapoisett Rail Trail
- Dighton Rock State Park Ride

As always, we had our weekly series bike rides. Paul Currier held his Cycle Tuesdays, Paul's Full Moon rides, his change of season rides, and mid-week rides!

### **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. 2014 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the 2K Club. For additional information about the 2,000 Mile Club, please contact

Bernie at  
[thosemeggisons@gmail.com](mailto:thosemeggisons@gmail.com).



See our trip reports in the November Breeze newsletter! We are planning many trips for next year, including a weekend cycling on Martha's Vineyard in September and one on Nantucket in June so stay tuned!

A big thanks to all the biking leaders that contributed to us having a great year: Paul Currier, Jack Jacobsen, Jodi Jensen, Linda Church, Nancy Beach and co-leaders Bernie Meggison and Patty Rottmeier.

*Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl Washwell, Biking Chair*

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### **CAPE HIKES COMMITTEE**



Cape Hikes had a good year overall. Winter weather was challenging to us all. But we have many hardy hikers here on the Cape that stayed on the trails throughout the worst of the season. We successfully recharged our First Aid Kits, and now well into the Best of All: Fall. Many thanks to all the Members of the SEM Board for making this Chapter so successful. Cheryl Lathrop has been so supportive and helpful with all the various technological challenges: No problem too big, or small! Looking forward to another active year on the Cape.

*Respectfully submitted by Farley Lewis, Cape Hiking Chair*



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



The Communications Committee has gone through some changes this year. Andrea Holden stepped down as the chair, and Gina Hurley, the vice-chair, became the chair. We are still in need of a vice-chair for 2015.

Our chapter website is the hub of all SEM information! Start there to find links to anything you need! [www.amcsem.org](http://www.amcsem.org)

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

The Breeze no longer includes the listing of activities. We will always provide the website link for the activities. This is the most up to date way of providing you current information.

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

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

The Communications Committee also produces the Annual Report.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Gina Hurley, Communications Chair*

## Chapter Youth Program



This past year our number of Chapter Youth Program (CYP) qualified leaders increased from six to sixteen active leaders. Three more are on temporary leave. Our increase in leaders has given us the latitude to plan for more activities with groups of children. Prior to training new leaders, we led hikes and also provided 'in house' activities with a Cadette Troop of Girl Scouts and a group from a housing authority. Plans were made for some of our new leaders to complete co-leads with the two agencies at the Celebrate the Blue Hills event, but those activities were cancelled due to weather.

In July, we held our first leader retreat. Six leaders participated in a planning session overlooking the Atlantic. We shared activities for working with agencies and discussed materials for recruiting new groups. We brainstormed good, child friendly trails in each of our regions. Most importantly, we started to develop the group dynamics which are critical for working together with groups of children.

At this time, we are working to expand the number of agencies for our program. Currently, we have one new approved agency and another is in progress. Our goal is to have enough agencies for our enthusiastic leaders, but not to extend ourselves beyond our ability to commit to hikes. Identifying and working with approved agencies has continued to be challenging. One difficulty has been in time of day/week. Sometimes, when an agency needs our leaders, there have simply been no leaders available to lead the children. Another challenge has been paperwork: Some agencies have been unable to obtain the required AMC Certificate of Insurance. And, although we have ten fabulous new leaders, they need to complete co-leads with the seasoned leaders.

Another challenge has been attendance at planning meetings. Telephone conference calls may be the best method for leaders from our large region. This past year we held two telephone conference call meetings, the July retreat and a meeting during Chapter Hut Weekend in September.



CYP Leadership needs a Vice Chair. One member had volunteered but that became temporary due to a work change. That temporary assistance was gratefully accepted and appreciated!

*Respectfully Submitted by Sally Delisa, CYP Chair*

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## **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

The Conservation Committee was a little short staffed this year with no Vice Chair and no leaders. However, we are still committed to our mission! We scoured the internet for local conservation activities held by other organizations, entered them into our OLTL system (with a non-chapter activity qualifier), and then advertised them via the SEM SNEL (Short Notice Email List).

The Conservation Committee participated in one hike. One Red Line the Blue Hills (RLBH) Thursday night series hike was renamed the "Trash Hike." Hikers each brought a trash bag and the Hike Leader handed out protective gloves and hand sanitizer. Some hikers came early to gather the immense amount of trash at the trailhead. Others gathered trash along the trail. A good incentive was the prize given out at the end for the most trash gathered: an AMC best hikes book.

The Conservation Committee is always looking for those interested in leading a conservation activity. Additionally, the committee is happy to provide conservation expertise to other chapter activities wanting to incorporate a conservation component (e.g., providing Leave No Trace information at a hiking trailhead before the hike). Contact the Conservation Chair: [conservationchair@amcsem.org](mailto:conservationchair@amcsem.org). As always, the chapter continues to collect old sneakers for the NIKE Reuse-a-Shoe project and old fleece for AMC's Youth Opportunities Program (YOP).

*Respectfully submitted by the Conservation Committee*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Ten SEM members attended Leadership Training this past spring, eight at our Borderland State Park training session and two, due to scheduling conflicts, at LT offerings by Boston and Berkshire/Worcester chapters. With the assistance of AMC Leadership Development several improvements were made to our curriculum to actively engage attendees. These improvements were successful and will be carried forward into our next offering in 2015. SEM continues to offer Leadership Training at no cost to chapter members.

Our fall offering of WFA/CPR in Foxboro is almost fully subscribed and is expected to be wait listed as in past years. SOLO is engaged to offer professional training. Fees were budgeted to break even or gross a small profit and not generate income for the chapter. The spring session at Noble View was undersubscribed and had to be canceled.

The Executive Board approved creation of a scholarship to encourage map and compass training. The Barry Farnsworth Map and Compass Scholarship awards up to \$100 toward the cost of any AMC or non-AMC M&C training to any chapter member. The scholarship recognizes the late Barry Farnsworth, Education vice chair, who took a special interest in promoting M&C training.

A backpacking seminar was organized for attendees at the chapter's annual Chapter Hut Weekend, this year at the Highland Center. The speaker, Jeremy Day, drew on his personal experiences hiking the PCT, AT and several other treks to present "Lightweight Backpacking and Experiences from Long Journeys on the Trail". The seminar was well attended and well received.

*Respectfully submitted by Len Ulbricht, Education Chair*



## HIKING COMMITTEE



The SEM Hiking Committee was very active in 2014 with a full schedule of local day hikes and a variety of both single- and multi-day trips "Up North," plus a few trips in western Massachusetts. As always, this was only possible due to the support of our wonderful hike leaders, who as a rule, go out of their way to offer a good mix of trips for hikers of all levels – from newcomers, to those who look to the 4,000 footers in NH, Maine, and Vermont for appropriate challenges.

In particular, the committee would like to thank the leaders of our ever-popular "Series" hikes, including the Red Line the Blue Hills (RLBH) Series, Thursday Morning Series, and Borderline Full Moon Series, since these provide regular (and often very social) hiking opportunities for our members "close to home."

This year's Winter Hiking Series was another big success, with strong participation and some real winter conditions for a change (for example, minus 4 degrees at the trailhead for the Monadnock hike, and minus 6 degrees Friday night in the unheated bunkrooms during the Lonesome Lake overnight). For the upcoming Winter Hiking Series, we've planned a whole new lineup of hiking locations and several of our winter hike leaders have planned additional winter trips that promise to be a lot of fun. We've also started discussing plans for a new backpacking series, which will include an educational workshop similar to the one we hold for the winter series. The Hiking and Skiing Committees once again held a successful "multi-sport" winter weekend at Noble View this year, providing ample opportunities for skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking, and eating.

The committee also recently supported our 2014 Chapter Hut Weekend with a selection of fun hikes up in beautiful Crawford Notch (and is already working on plans for next year's event, which will return to the AMC Cold River Camp in Evans Notch).

Thanks in part to the fine leader training workshops provided by our chapter's Education Committee and dedicated mentoring by established hike

leaders, we've gained several new hiking leaders this year, with a couple more people poised to earn official hike leader status. Way to go! Several SEM hikers have also earned and are proudly displaying their SEM "100-mile" hiking patches, having entered the prerequisite AMC hiking information into our collaborative spreadsheet (easily accessible from the hiking page on our chapter website). Also on the technology front, several leaders have begun to directly enter their post-trip hike reports onto the committee's blog site created to record the relevant information and provide a convenient, searchable resource for SEM hike leaders while planning their future trips.

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

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## **PADDLING COMMITTEE**



We scheduled 48 trips this year, from April through October on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Two trips were off-Cape; the rest were on the Cape, ranging from Truro to Falmouth. Average trip length was about 8 miles, although there was variation depending on the venue and conditions. Trips were held on lakes, rivers, bays and coves, with a few forays out to Nantucket Sound. All trips launched at 10:30 AM and most ended between 2-2:30 PM. We stopped for lunch around noon. In addition to just being outside and on the water, with unique views of the Cape, we observed wildlife along the shores and in the air and saw many other interesting "boaters" on the water. Some trips were cancelled due to weather, but most trips took place as scheduled. Wet/dry suits are required in April, and PFD is required for all trips. Most paddlers use a spray skirt, and it is required for most trips – especially if windy or on the bay or Sound. There was an average of 7 paddlers per trip. We did attract some off-Cape paddlers on some trips, and hope they continue to come, as well as new on-Cape members.



Thanks to Ed Foster for doing the scheduling duties for this year, and thanks to all our Leaders for their expertise and willingness to lead trips:

- |                 |                  |              |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Ed Foster     | • Jean Orser     | • George Wey |
| • Lousie Foster | • Paul Corriveau | • Haven      |
| • Bill Fischer  | • Don Palladino  | Roosevelt    |

*Respectfully submitted, Betty Hinkley, Paddling Chair*

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## **SKIING COMMITTEE**



On Sunday, January 5, 2014, Jodi Jensen co-led a trip to Great Brook Ski Touring Center in Carlisle, MA. This event attended by me as a leader and five other skiers enabled Jodi to become a qualified leader for our chapter. We had great weather, trail conditions and participants. Jodi did a great job planning the trip, registering skiers, and mapping the route.

During the MLK weekend, January 17-20, 2014, Wayne Cardoza of the 40+ Chapter and I led our usual trip to the White Mountains. The trip was attended by 18 avid skiers who stayed at Carlson's Lodge in Twin Mountain, skied at groomed facilities in the area and dined at local restaurants.

Bob Bentley and Art Paradise led a back country ski trip to the Catamount Trail in Vermont from January 18-20. Eight participants and two leaders stayed at the Combes Family Inn, Ludlow, VT and skied section 11 of the Catamount trail, Ninevah Four Corners to Tin Shanty on Saturday and section 10, from Patch Brook Road towards Buttermilk Falls on Sunday.

Wayne Cardoza of the 40+ Chapter and I led a successful trip to the Old Field House in Intervale, NH, the nights of February 28 and March 1, 2014. We were joined by 12 participants and skied at Great Glen and Bear Notch. Trail conditions and the weather were great.

As chair of the cross country ski committee I invite all of you skiers to participate in our 2015 activities. You can help rejuvenate our cross country skiing activities by volunteering to co-lead and train to be a leader, as well.

If you are interested, please contact the Ski Chair through e-mail or at the Annual Dinner. Watch the *Breeze*, *Outdoors* and online trip listings for details of both cross country and downhill skiing. And don't forget the short notice and e-mail blasts for "last minute" activities. See you on the trails!!

*Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hathaway, Skiing Chair*

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### **Trails Committee**



The trails committee led a trail work trip to Franconia notch in May to do routine maintenance on "Around Lonesome Lake Trail". We enjoyed an overnight at the Lonesome Lake Hut. SEM has officially adopted this trail and Wayne Anderson will take the lead on planning these twice a year work trips. We can always use more members to help us with this work.

*Respectfully submitted by the Trails Committee*

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### **SEM VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY LEADERS AS OF 10/23/14**

The SEM chapter would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteer leaders for their contributions of hundreds of hours in 2014.

Gif	Allen	Richard	Carnes
Wayne	Anderson	Leslie	Carson
Jeannine	Audet	Jim	Casey
Sandra	Barber	Trails	Chair
Nancy	Beach	Sue	Chiavaroli
Bob	Bentley	Linda	Church
Erika	Bloom	Nancy	Coote
Marc	Bober	Ellen	Correia
Nancy	Braun	Paul	Corriveau
Claire	Braye	Paul	Currier
Antoinette	Breed	George	Danis
Paul	Brookes	Eva	Das

Sally	Delisa	Robin	Melavalin
Janet	DiMattia	Gary	Miller
Anne	Duggan	Paul	Miller
Julie	Early	Karen	Newberger
Bill	Fischer	Jean	Orser
Ed	Fopiano	Don	Palladino
Jon	Fortier	Bill	Pellegrini
Ed	Foster	Christine	Pellegrini
Louise	Foster	Sheila	Place
Catherine	Giordano	Aleta	Plouffe
John	Gould	Jim	Plouffe
Walt	Granda	Melissa	Powers
Muriel	Guenthner	Dexter	Robinson
Jane	Harding	Haven	Roosevelt
Art	Hart	Pat	Sarantis
Tim	Hart	Stephen	Scala
Barbara	Hathaway	Peter	Selig
Betty	Hinkley	Karen	Singleton
Gina	Hurley	Laura	Smeaton
Jack	Jacobsen	Joanne	Staniscia
Joanne	Jarzowski	Kathleen	Stanley
Jodi	Jensen	Michael	Swartz
Bryan	Jones	Maria	Sylvester
Ken	Jones	Joe	Tavilla
Janet	Kaiser	Mark	Tisdale
Richard	Kaiser	Len	Ulbricht
Maureen	Kelly	Bob	Vogel
Joe	Keogh	Luther	Wallis
Larry	Kornetsky	Cheryl	Washwell
Cheryl	Lathrop	Fred	Wason
Elsie	Laverty	George	Wey
Deborah	Lepore	Nancy	Wigley
Farley	Lewis	Mike	Woessner
Hans	Luwald	Amy	Wood
Catherine	MacCurtain	Sui-Wen	Yang
Ellie	MacPherson	Jerry	Yos
Bernie	Meggison		

