

*Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter*  
Appalachian Mountain Club



1976—2001



**25th Anniversary  
and Annual Meeting**

November 3, 2001

**Anniversary Banquet**

*BR's Monponsett Inn, Halifax, MA*

**Cash Bar and Hors d'Oeuvres**

**Exhibits**

*Bruce Dunham*

**Master of Ceremonies**

*Bob Bentley*

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

**Toast**

**Dinner**

**Introduction of Special Guests**

*Members of SEM/AMC Start Up Committee*  
*Sue Cerullo, Regional Counselor*  
*Andy Falendar, AMC Executive Director*

**2001 Annual Meeting**

*Chapter Chair Dexter Robinson presiding*

**Annual Reports/Leader Recognition**

*Activity Chairpersons*

**25 and 50 Year Members Recognition**

*Joseph Gazzola (50)*  
*David Babin (25)*  
*Cornelius Dahill (25)*  
*David and Genovefa Pleau (25)*  
*Walter Morin (25)*  
*Sidney Bamford (25)*

**Election of Officers / Activity Chairs**

**Nominating Committee Report**

*Richard Iovanni, Chairperson*  
*Louise Anthony*  
*Paul Anthony*  
*Keith Jacobson*  
*Muriel Thomas*

**Slate of Officers**

Chapter Chair: *Anne Chace*  
Vice Chair: *Bob Vogel*  
Treasurer: *Donna Desrochers*  
Secretary: *Barbara Vogel*  
Hiking: *Erika Bloom*  
Cape Hikes: *Janet DiMattia*  
Biking: *Nancy Beach*  
Canoe/Kayak: *Vacant*  
Skiing: *Barbara Hathaway*  
Trails: *Patrick Holland*  
Education: *Steve Tulip*  
Conservation: *Louise Anthony*  
Membership: *Linda Cronin*  
Communication: *Wayne Taylor*

**Program Introduction**

*Anne Chace, Chairperson Elect*

**Multimedia Program**

*"Breezin' Through the Years"*  
Producers  
*Bob Bentley*  
*Anne Chace*  
*Wayne Taylor*

**Distinguished Service Award**

**Dancing**

*Rose Wharf Band*

# 2001 Annual Report

## Chapter Chair Message

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter had another solid year in 2001. We built upon our successes of last year and completed most of our 2001 goals.

At a brief business meeting during Spring Fling, we voted unanimously to amend the chapter by-laws to create a new board position for the Cape Hikes Committee that will provide for greater inclusion of Cape hikers in SEM programs and access to funding.

In 2001 we had many more trip offerings, particularly for hiking. Several of our leaders attended training with Outdoor Explorations, an organization that assists those with disabilities to participate in outdoor activities. Perhaps for the first time ever, we started offering sessions in rock climbing and bouldering.

We received partial funding from AMC Supplement Dues Allocation for two projects: the purchase of first aid kits for all activity leaders and "Leave No Trace" course tuition for up to 8 leaders.

Finally, we formed a committee that has been busy working on preparations for Spring Gathering 2002, an all-club event hosted by our chapter. This event, titled as "a Cape Cod Caper" will take place at Camp Burgess, April 26-28, 2002. It will take the place of Spring Fling that year.

I would like to thank all of those who have worked with me on the Executive Board for the past two years. They gave of themselves to keep our chapter going as well as expand and improve our programs and training. I want to give special thanks to Anne Chace, who coordinated the SEM 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting. I wish the very best to her as the incoming chapter chair.

I also want to thank all those who have led an activity, labeled the Breeze, helped with a social event, served on an AMC club-wide committee, or attended an AMC meeting to represent our chapter. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of many we would not have had the many activity offerings. However we can always use more volunteers so that we are not always depending on the same people. In particular, we need more volunteers for trailwork and conservation related projects. The more you put into your club, the more benefit you will receive from it. So come on out and get involved!

*Dexter Robinson*

## Hiking

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. Life sure goes by quickly when you're having fun. The Hiking Committee produced a total of 60 hikes or trips this year, including 28 local hikes with 276 participants and 34 northern New England hikes with 250 participants. Six of these were backpacking trips. Total hiking participants: 526.

The Committee also offered a beginner level Winter Hiking Program, with over 30 people taking advantage of the workshop. This series of winter hikes gets progressively more difficult and finishes with an overnight backpack. All of the day hikes and the backpack in the series were filled to capacity. This series is now going into its 5th year. One effect of the winter series is that our number of winter certified leaders has increased to 10, which has allowed us to run several intermediate level winter day hikes and backpacking trips.

I would like to thank all the Hiking Committee members for volunteering their time and efforts to make the past season so successful. They are Bob Bailey, Rick Barnes, Dave Bennett, Erika Bloom, Richard Brech, Ray Butts, Dick Carnes, Anne Chace, Linda Church, Louise Desrochers, Bob Emery, Charlie Farrell, Patrick Holland, Pauline Jordan, Richard Jussaume, Bill Markson, John Pereira, John Poirier, Dexter Robinson, Bill Ruel, Laura Smeaton, Craig Smith, Wayne Taylor, Steve Tulip, Paul Vermette, Bob Vogel, Linda Wells, and Mike Woessner. This may be the largest leader group we've ever had. Most of these leaders led or co-led between 4 and 9 trips this year. Special thanks go to Bob Vogel who led a total of 18 trips.

This year we also introduced rock climbing as an SEM activity, thanks to the efforts of John Pereira. John organized and held six events, and so far the response has been great.

Chapter Hut Night (Oct. 6-7 at Carter Notch Hut) was the highlight of the year, despite a heavy rain on the way up. We had 25 participants, including Bobby (age 11) and Matt Vogel (age 9), who completed their 48th and final 4,000 footer by summiting Carter Dome.

I would like to thank Erika Bloom and Charlie Farrell, who have been Committee vice chairs for the past two years, for all they have done, and I extend a warm congratulations to both as they become Hiking Committee chairs in 2002.

*Walt Wells*

## Cape Hikes

A regular schedule of Thursday morning and Sunday afternoon hikes was held on the Cape from Sept. to May. Attendance on these hikes ranged from 12 to 38 participants. There was an increase in the number of longer all-day hikes, averaging two a month, as well as three moon-light hikes during the summer.

Three new Cape leaders were trained at the SEM Spring Leadership Workshop at Borderland State Park, and 12 prospective and current leaders attended the Leadership Workshop in Hyannis in Aug. Four Cape leaders also completed wilderness first-aid training.

Cape Hikes became an official part of SEM in May as a result of a change in Chapter by-laws, which was received with enthusiasm by Cape hikers. Hiking/social activities included a picnic lunch to kick off the season in Sept, a Christmas after-hike party, a chili party on a chilly day in Jan., and the annual May picnic for hikers and canoeists.

The committee includes: Chair Janet Dimattia; Co-chair Heidi Moss; Secretary Blanche Greig; and Education Chair Peter Selig.

*Janet DiMattia*

## Trails

The Trail Crew was very successful in completing all of its planned trips this year, but unfortunately did not get to all our adopted trails. However, we were at our Lonesome Lake adopted trail 3 times instead of the normal 2 trips. We did our section of the Warner Trail and on National Trails Day with only 6 people we cleaned the whole Bentley Loop.

I would like to thank all who participated this year and made it possible for SEM/AMC to help in the upkeep of the trails that lots of us hike on. A big thanks to Patrick Holland for being vice chair and now agreeing to be the new trails chair. I hope that everyone that has helped me in the past will help Patrick.

Also a big thanks to our newest trail crew member, Ryan Sikorsky, who participated in all but 1 trip. Pretty amazing for a 5-year-old, which goes to show there is something for everyone to do from picking up trash to building bridges. I know Patrick has plans for lots more work next year. I plan on being there and hope to see lots more new faces. Again my thanks to all that took the time to come out and help.

*Lou Sikorsky*

## Biking

There were 25 Saturday or Sunday trips from Mar. through Nov. run by nine leaders: Linda Church, Frank Wagner, Sheila Place, Paul Ligor, Paul Currier, Jim Kilpela, George Byron, Elsie Laverty and Nancy Beach. Elsie and Nancy led a total of 14 trips. Many thanks.

Tues. night Cape Cod rides were led by Alice Oberdorff, with a total of 14 trips between May 22 and August 28. Alice has loyally led these trips for many years. A huge thank you.

Also, thanks to the many biking participants.

*Connie Austin*

## Canoe/Kayak

The Canoe Committee officially became the Canoe/Kayak Committee when a chapter by-laws change was approved in May. The change recognized the increasing popularity of kayaks, especially on the tidal waters and bays of Cape Cod and southeastern Mass. This year 60% of participants on our trips were kayak paddlers.

In November Art Hart, Dave Williams and Dave Shephard attended the Interchapter Paddling Committee meeting at Noble View Lodge in Westfield. At our committee meeting in January, attended by 18 members, plans were made for the year and the Spring schedule set.

The chapter sponsored Art Hart to attend a leadership training program at Outdoor Explorations, which provides outdoors programs for people with disabilities. Part of the course covered ways to modify equipment such as canoes and kayaks, if necessary, so people with disabilities might participate in our trips.

In April, we held a pool session on kayak safety. It was organized by Muriel Thomas and conducted by Dick Coveney with the help of Jeri Housley and Bob Slott. Rescue from another kayak and self rescue were demonstrated and practiced by a full program of 15 paddlers.

Members assisted the Lake Nippenicket Assn. in Bridgewater with their annual cleanup, and Jeff Tubman led a Spring weekend trip to Tully Lake in Athol to help set up the camping area for the season.

Muriel Thomas and Nancy Wigley co-led the annual event at Walker's Pond when the paddlers share lunch with the hikers.

Dave Shephard led paddling and camping trips on Memorial Day weekend to the Deerfield and Connecticut Rivers and to the Rangeley Lakes for a week in September.



## Canoe/Kayak continued

Rick McNally, a trip leader, completed the Leadership Training and Wilderness First Aid courses conducted by the chapter. Jeri Housley and Ed Foster were first time trip leaders this year. Deb Sager co-led her first trip.

I want to thank Vice Chair Dave Williams for his support and all our leaders and members who helped to make this a successful year, especially Dick Coveney, Dave Shephard and Jeff Tubman, who all led 5 or more trips, and Max Sarazin, our most active paddler, who led several trips and maintains our roster of paddlers.

Art Hart

## Education

For the second Spring in a row, SEM conducted and taught our own leadership training at Borderland. Fourteen members were trained in this all-day event, which featured lectures as well as role plays to help future leaders learn how to run AMC events. A special thank you to Walter Wells, Patrick Holland, Erika Bloom, Janet DiMattia and Steve Tulip for helping to teach.

This Summer the chapter held our first "Leader's Car Camp." This was an event planned to allow leaders to get away together, relax, and share some of their experiences with each other.

This Fall we also conducted our second Leadership Training program on Cape Cod, held at the Hyannis EMS. Eleven participants attended and again were trained by a combination of Education Committee and Cape Hikes leadership. Thanks to Steve Tulip and Janet DiMattia.

In September, we sponsored wilderness first aid (WFA) training, taught by SOLO, at Camp Lyndon on the Cape. Fifteen participants were

trained in avoiding and treating wilderness emergencies.

Additionally this year we have run more of the "My First AMC Hike!" hikes. These hikes are designed to help new members, or others concerned about where to start, by offering easier hikes and lots of handouts and question answering. If you aren't sure where to start, come on out and try one!

Bob Vogel

## Membership

New Members Per month	Total Members as of Sept. 2001
Nov.'00	140
Dec.'00	67
Jan.'01	35
Feb.'01	98
Mar.'01	162
Apr.'01	64
May'01	101
Jun.'01	67
Jul.'01	40
Aug.'01	38
Sept.'01	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>847</b>

Between Oct.'00 and Sept.'01, I mailed out 57 Memberships-in-a-Bottle. With each, I sent the latest *Breeze*, a brochure about the chapter, and a short, handwritten note welcoming new members. Many people called me to ask about AMC and how to join our chapter. Most people learn about us from our website and from talking to members. Linda Cronin will be taking over as the new Membership Chair. Her number is 781-447-2597.

Jennifer Simmons

## 1976: SEM/AMC is formed

The development of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter stemmed directly from the formation of the Boston Chapter. The formation of the Boston Chapter was initiated by AMC members living in the Boston area in conjunction with the Club's Membership Committee. In the process of forming the Boston Chapter, it was not known at the outset whether the geographic area should include all or only a portion of eastern Massachusetts.

The southeastern Massachusetts area became a focal point for further consideration. In the process of discussing this question with Club members who resided in the latter area, it came to light that there was a significant feeling that a chapter or chapters should cover all Boston and southeastern Massachusetts areas; that is, those parts of Massachusetts not already included in chapter areas. It was also noted that the formation of a chapter or chapters would have an enormous impact on the Club. All persons involved were concerned with the potential impact of the new chapter(s) on the Club and other chapters already existent.

In August 1974, a questionnaire was sent to all AMC members residing in eastern Massachusetts areas not already covered by a chapter requesting an indication of interest in the formation of a chapter in the area. A notice was printed in the Bulletin (now called AMC Outdoors) informing members of this upcoming questionnaire. The poll proved useful in determining that not one chapter, but two chapters might be preferable. In fact, four-out-of-seven expressed preference for the formation of two chapters, one centering around greater Boston and the second in southeastern Massachusetts. Two-out-of-seven expressed preference to have one large eastern Massachusetts chapter and one-out-of-seven felt no new chapter(s) should be formed.

From this poll, it was evident that a second poll to only those members residing in southeastern Massachusetts should be made. So in January 1975, D. Bruce Langmuir, Chairman of the recently formed Boston AMC Chapter, sent a questionnaire to the 720 members in the southeastern Massachusetts area, which comprised the counties of Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Nantucket, and Duke. He asked for responses to such questions as: "Do you favor a Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter?"; "Will you serve as an officer or on a committee?" and "Suggestions?" A sufficient number of members responded to prompt Bruce to organize an Ad Hoc Star up Committee. He did this by personally telephoning a number of responders to ask their assistance.

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

Over the next three months, seven more meetings were held either in Halifax or No. Falmouth, and gradually other AMC members joined the committee to assist in the decision making process. These members included Susan Anderson, Bob Bentley, Bill Brown, Ed Kelly and Russ Ottey. Sam Raymond and Paul Brodeur edited two informative newsletters to keep area members aware of the progress being made. Gradually the slate of initial officers and committee members was prepared after dozens of telephone calls to potential candidates, list of possible chapter names was suggested, and plans were finalized for an initial chapter meeting with an election of officers and the signing of a petition to the AMC Council. During this gestation period, the office of the Council (now called the Board of Directors) at 5 Joy Street received copies of all minutes of meetings of the organization committee. Bruce Langmuir, by now the Chairman of the new Boston Chapter, continue to act as mentor and, while the committee occasionally hit some whitewater, he was always there to help. Doug Prescott was also of much assistance and prompt in responding to calls for information vital to progress.

On January 21, 1976, an organization meeting was held at the East Bridgewater Congregational Church to which all members residing in southeastern Massachusetts and others interested in forming a chapter were invited. There were 152 members present. Members of the AMC were asked to sign a petition requesting the authority to establish a Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter. The importance of the occasion was highlighted by the presence of Bruce Langmuir and Robert Wagner, Vice-President of AMC Chapters. Several members of the organizational committee gave reports and there was an extended question and answer period.

The name "Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter" was finally selected by voice vote from a list containing such possibilities as "Sachem Chapter", "Pilgrim Chapter," and "Massasoit Chapter." The AMC members then voted for an initial slate of officers to serve for a one year period. The Chapter formation petition was presented to the AMC Council (now AMC Board of Directors) where it was warmly received and approved in February 1976. Ralph Poole served as the Chapter's first Chairperson. ▲



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## Past Chapter Chairs

Ralph Poole  
Robert Bentley  
Vicki Fitzgerald  
Linda Thomas  
Paul Murphy \*  
Russ Ottey  
Walter Morin  
John Abbott  
Suzanne Scolamiero  
Bruce Dunham  
Louise Desrochers  
Dexter Robinson

## Anniversary Committee

Anne Chace, Chairperson  
Bob Bentley  
Donna Desrochers  
Louise Desrochers  
Pauline Jordan  
Paula Remick  
Dexter Robinson  
Patti Ryder  
Wayne Taylor

\* Deceased

## Multimedia Show

*Breezin' Through the Years*

## Photography and Videography

Chapter archives  
John Abbott  
Anne Chace  
Bruce Dunham  
Walter Morin  
Dexter Robinson  
Suzanne and Bob Scolamiero  
Dave Shephard  
Wayne Taylor  
Walter Wells

## Voices

Bob Bentley  
Carolyn Crowell  
Bruce Dunham  
Russ Ottey  
Walter Morin  
John Smart

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