



AMC SEM Chapter 2007 Annual Report

Presented to the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club's
Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter at the SEM Annual Meeting
held November 3, 2007 at Johnson & Wales Inn, Seekonk, MA

Chapter Chair Report

As I look back over the past 11 months I can see that our Chapter is in good shape and still improving. I would like to point out a few highlights here.

Our National Trails Day event at Myles Standish was well attended and we completed much work on the Bentley Loop. This was due to the efforts of Bill Ruel and Lou Sikorsky.

Our Winter Festival was once again held at Wampatuck State Park in Hingham thanks to Sue Chiavaroli and Walter Mark.

This year's Spring Fling was held at the Bourne Community Center. It was a very informative event. Claire Goode organized the event with the help of many Board members.

Maura Robie, Fred Yost and Nancy Wigley lead a conservation Hike in June.

Walter Deeter had another successful Leadership Training Day in April, which resulting in many more members becoming hike leaders.

Joe Dodge Lodge at Pinkham Notch was the site of our annual "Chapter Hut Night." Many participants were lead up Mt. Washington by Dexter Robinson. Others hiked Lowe's Bald Spot and Glen Boulder. Many thanks to Wayne Anderson for organizing the weekend.

Our summer Picnic was held at the Lloyd Center in Dartmouth, thanks to Pauline Jordan and D'Arcy MacMahon of the Lloyd Center.

I am very proud and happy to pass on the following list of chapter highlights:

- The past year we have had two New Member pot-luck dinners each with a guest speaker thanks to the efforts of Claire Goode and Kathy Shaw.
- We have initiated PayPal on our web site to pay for up-coming events thanks to Susanne Piche' and Claire Goode.
- We have invested \$20,000.00 in the AMCs' Endowment Fund.
- Bob Zani has stepped forward as our new Paddling Chair.
- We have developed a relationship with the Lloyd Center for Environmental Education.

In addition to the above events, we also offered a winter and summer hiking series (with thanks to Jim and Aleta Plouffe) and assorted hikes in the Whites, plus very popular and well attended paddling events (thanks to Bob Zani). Our Cape Hikes are well attended, thanks to John Gould and Farley Lewis. We have a unique 4C's series of bike events, thanks to the imagination and appetite of Joe Tavilla.

On April 18-20th, our chapter will be hosting the clubwide AMC Spring Gathering. Members of all chapters in the AMC will be converging on the South Shore YMCA Outdoor Education & Conference Center in Sandwich for this event. We are still looking for many volunteers to help us with this.

All in all, business is good and it has been my pleasure to serve with these wonderful people as the Chapter Chair.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mike Woessner, Chapter Chair*

Membership

The Membership committee hosted two Potluck Dinners during 2007. For the January dinner, Bob Vogel explained all about hiking for newcomers with the AMC. At the second dinner in October, John Gould gave a wonderful presentation on Cape hiking. In June, Nancy Wigley graciously lead a nature hike for us at the Benjamin Nye Homestead, including portions of the old game farm and former fish hatcheries. We had great turnouts for all these events, and plan on having similar events in 2008.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Shaw, Membership Chair*

Treasurer

I'm pleased to report that the chapter continues to operate in the black and we have stayed within our budget. Special thanks to Bill Ruel for his assistance in the transition of treasurers, to Dexter Robinson for another successful annual audit, to Suzanne Piche for all her hard work on getting our online payment system established, and to Mike Woessner for his support.

Chapter highlights for 2007 include the opening of a \$20,000 invested reserve account with AMC Joy Street headquarters, opened a \$5,000 interest-bearing savings account, and established an online payment system.

Chapter committees report expenditures as follows:

- \$2,054 for the Hiking committee
- \$1,322 for education which included:
 - 20 First Aid Training scholarships
 - 12 Wilderness First Aid scholarships
 - 12 Leadership Training scholarships
 - 5 CPR training scholarships
- \$1,244 for the Membership committee
- \$728 for the Trails committee

Chapter programs report expenditures as follows:

- \$5,842 on our quarterly newsletter "The Breeze" for printing and postage
- \$3,811 for the Winter Festival, Spring Fling, Summer Picnic, and Annual Meeting

I would like to thank the Board and fellow officers for their help and support during the past year and look forward to another year of financial success.

*Respectfully submitted,
Claire Good, Treasurer*

Conservation

We held two new events this year: a birdwatching walk at Fowl Meadows in the Blue Hills in June and a tour of the North Attleboro Fish Hatchery in July.

The fish hatchery tour was a unique learning experience. The facility, run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, works to restore Atlantic salmon to the Merrimack, Connecticut, and Pawcatuck Rivers. Thank you to Fred Yost, a biologist at the hatchery, for being a great tour guide.

We hosted a Conservation table at the Spring Fling, providing information on ways to contact legislators, recycle, and conserve energy. CFL's (compact fluorescent light bulbs) were given to participants in exchange for a pledge to turn heat down or A/C up 1 degree, drive 2 mph slower on highways, and try to replace at least 3 lightbulbs with the energy saving CFL's.

I would also like to thank Fred Yost for stepping into the role of Conservation Chair. I have enjoyed getting to know other people committed to conservation and see all of the great steps being taken for a healthier environment.

"...inWildness is the preservation of the World." – Henry David Thoreau

*Respectfully submitted,
Maura Robie, Conservation Chair*

Education

The Education Committee held two successful events this year.

Fourteen people attended the Spring Leadership Training program at Wompatuck State Park in Hingham. Many have gone on to become Class I leaders. Special thanks to Steve Tulip and several other SEM leaders for all their help.

Fifteen people completed the Fall Wilderness First Aid Training weekend at Camp Lyndon in Sandwich taught by Aaron Gorban, the AMC's leadership training and risk management manager.

*Respectfully submitted,
Walter Deeter, Education Chair*

Hiking/Backpacking

Our chapter's Hiking/Backpacking groups have been very active. Our activities run year round, starting with a New Year Hike, usually at Borderland State Park.

January through March the Winter Hiking Series is in full bloom with hikes mostly in NH. Another group of hikers have local morning hikes. We also have our Tuesday Morning Blue Hills Hikes and our Thursday evening Red Line Blue Hills series, which runs through spring, summer, and fall. This year, we also had both Summer and Autumn Hiking Series'. Finally, we have a challenging AT in Western Mass. Series.

We have been blessed with new leaders who have been eager to learn from our experienced leaders. Our Hiking Meetings in March, June, September, and December have been well attended and we've been planning out our hikes on a huge calendar to avoid conflicts.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sue Chiavaroli, Hiking Chair*

Cape Hiking

The Year 2007 began with a good show of Winter Hikes and reasonable trail conditions for most of the season.

New for 2007, was a First Aid Course organized by Heidi Moss. There was an excellent turnout of 20+ hikers for this event.

Unfortunately, a few of our best leaders are on the disabled list right now, resulting in a less-than-full schedule for winter season. We have seen an increase in new members turning out for our hikes. The SEM online listings have helped bring in more folks from both on and off-Cape.

I would like to thank all the Cape Hike leaders for their ongoing support of the AMC. They have given very generously of their time in both planning and leading hikes. They are "The Best." Also thanks to Mike Woessner for his leadership.

Current vice chair, John Gould, will be taking over as Cape Hikes Chair. He is a great hike leader, and I am looking forward to his tenure as Chair. He brings many talents to the SEM Board.

*Respectfully submitted,
Farley Lewis, Cape Hiking Chair*

Paddling

The Paddling Committee has had a very good year. Planning meetings for this year's trips were held in March and May with a complete schedule of trips laid out from early April to the end of October. Unfortunately, many of the early trips had to be cancelled because of inclement weather. However, through the beginning of September 29 trips were undertaken with a total of 342 paddlers for an average attendance of just under 12. This is great since the first seven trips never got out of single digits. The largest showing was on July 26th with 23 people paddling on Long Pond in Brewster.

We tried hard to schedule off-Cape trips but there have not been enough qualified leaders available with the result that almost all the trips were on Cape Cod. We have some new potential leaders and are hopeful that the next year will be more productive for the off-Cape paddlers.

All new leaders are now required to attend at least one wet exit/rescue training session and we are setting one up for next January. So far, 16 people have shown an interest in that session and some of those are definitely potential leaders.

In January we will also get down to business for the next year's schedule. All interested paddlers will be invited and we hope to be able to start the year off with a bang.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Zani, Paddling Chair

Trails

The chapter trail crew had an excellent turnout for National Trails Day in Myles Standish State Park. We replaced eight water bars and built three additional water bars while another crew brushed back the entire trail and removed blow downs.

Thank you to Dexter Robinson and other chapter members who did all the fine trail work in Blue Hills.

The usual "die hards" and several newcomers turned out for the annual trip to our adopted trail in New Hampshire, the popular Lonesome Lake Trail. Even with this small group, we still managed to clean up our assigned section. Next year, we're planning trailwork trips to Lonesome Lake in May, National Trails Day in June, and possibly additional trips to Lonesome Lake in July and September. If you're interested in helping out, please contact either Bill Ruel or myself.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Sikorsky, Trails Chair

Cycling

The SEM Chapter continues to enjoy an active and varied cycling program throughout the South Shore, the South Coast and Cape Cod.

The cycling program is comprised of both recurring rides and scheduled rides.

Recurring Rides:

- Turn Those Tires On Tuesday - a late afternoon ride that appeals to those who want an after work activity
- Sunday Afternoon Ride - enjoy the spectacular New England fall season on your bike.

Scheduled Rides:

- 4C Ride (College Cafe Cycling Series) which feature a lunch stop at a college campus in Southern New England.
- Special Event Rides - which feature a lunch stop at a local community event
- Follow-The-Leader Rides where all riders stay together at a group pace.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Tavilla, Cycling Chair

Cross-Country Skiing

Lack of snow continues to limit our XC skiing activities, but we still managed to pull off two modestly successful trips this year.

For the annual Martin Luther King Weekend trip to Applebrook Bed & Breakfast in NH, lead by Barbara Hathaway, enough snow appeared over the course of the weekend to allow some reasonable skiing on Saturday and Sunday.

Art Paradise's backcountry skiing trip to Vermont in February was a big success with 16 people showing up and good (if not great) snow cover conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Mark, Cross-Country Ski Chair

2007 Annual Report prepared by Paul Miller,
AMC SEM Communications Chair



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