



AMC SEM Chapter 2008 Annual Report

Presented to the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club's Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter at the SEM Annual Meeting held November 1, 2008 at Johnson & Wales Inn, Seekonk, MA

Chapter Chair Report

The past two years have gone faster than I expected and I've received much more enjoyment from the experience of chairing the board than I thought I would. This is directly due to the members of the board. I've enjoyed working with every single one of them. They are why I have chosen to stay on the board a little longer, although in a different capacity.

I was never so proud of our chapter and our volunteers as I was during the club wide, Spring Gathering we hosted this past April. I still get compliments from AMC members who attended. This was a lot of work on everyone's part and it showed. (The wonderful weather didn't hurt either...)

We continue to produce quality events for our members. Along with our many Cape hikes and paddles, we offer a large selection of local hikes throughout the Southeast Massachusetts area as well as our White Mountain hiking/backpacking trips. Our cycling group has 19 people registered in the 2000-Mile Club. Conservation and trails continue to get the public out and involved in their local environment. Our education committee has trained 16 new potential leaders this year and 20 leaders have completed Wilderness First Aid to make our outdoor events safer for all involved. Our chapter continues to remain fiscally sound. We have set up a reserve fund and invested it with the well-managed, AMC Joy St. funds.

Over the past year, we have partnered with several other outdoors-oriented organizations. These include L.L. Bean, which provided us with space in front of their new store in Mansfield during their grand opening where we were able to promote our

club. We also formed associations with the Lloyd Center for Environmental studies, The Taunton River Watershed Alliance, the U-Mass Dartmouth Outing Club, and the Massachusetts Great Parks Pursuit.

In conclusion, I feel our chapter is in great shape. The new board is anxious to get going with new ideas and more events for the coming year. It has been an honor to serve this chapter. I wish the new board members the best and urge every one in the chapter to help out in any way you feel appropriate.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mike Woessner, Chapter Chair*

Treasurer's Report

I'm pleased to report that the chapter continues to operate in the black and most committees and activity chairs have stayed within their budgets.

Some significant chapter revenues for 2008 include:

- \$1,012.00 Spring Gathering
- \$412.00 Joy Street Invested Reserve
- \$11.00 SEM Summer Picnic

The most significant chapter expenditure continues to be the postage and printing of our quarterly newsletter, *The Southeast Breeze*. This totaled \$7,025.00 for 2008.

I'd like to thank everyone for their help and support during the past year and wish my successor all the best.

*Respectfully submitted,
Claire Goode, Treasurer*

Conservation

This winter, we initiated a partnership with the Taunton River Watershed Association (TRWA) to further our common goals. This provides TRWA members with an opportunity to get out and enjoy SEM events within the watershed, and AMC members with an opportunity to participate in TRWA events and gain knowledge about the Taunton River watershed.

At the request of Mike Gildesgame, the AMC's Southern New England policy manager, the chapter started identifying areas in Southeast Mass. as possible Critical Treasures. We recommended ten areas and we've been asked to provide greater detail on eight of these. Many thanks to Bill Ruel, Jim Plouffe, John Gould, and other folks who took time to contribute their thoughts and suggestions.

We led two conservation outings during the SEM-sponsored Spring Gathering. Bill Ruel provided a wonderful walk along the Cape Cod Canal and up Sagamore Hill. Nancy Wigley had the Four Pond Conservation Area parking lot in Pocasset filled well beyond capacity for her wonderful interpretive nature walk. I am regularly impressed with the knowledge and skills of AMC members.

Once again this year, we ran a Foul Meadows birding outing and a tour of the North Attleboro National Fish Hatchery.

We also ran a nature walk during the Summer Picnic at the Lloyd Center in Dartmouth again this year. This is a fantastic facility with great natural history exhibits set in a beautiful location.

Thanks to the AMC staff and SEM members for all the suggestions, assistance and opportunities provided this year. I look forward to learning and achieving a higher standard next year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Frederick E. Yost, Conservation Chair*

Education

The Education Committee held two successful events this year.

On May 3rd, we held a Leadership Training day at Borderland State Park in Easton for 16 new SEM leaders-to-be. Many thanks to all the experienced leaders who helped out that day.

On the weekend of September 6-7th, we held our annual Wilderness First Aid (WFA) program, also at Borderland State Park. Aaron Gorban, the AMC's risk management and leader training manager, provided this important training for 20 SEM trip leaders and other interested participants.

*Respectfully submitted,
Hagit Moverman, Education Chair*

Hiking/Backpacking

The 2008 hiking/backpacking season has been very active with a wide variety of trips and instructional series providing hikers of all capability and experience levels with many opportunities to get out and kick some mud around. The chapter has seen an increase in new leaders who have provided new energy and activities and provided a wonderful complement to the leaders who have been supporting our Chapter for years

The winter season included both a snowshoe series and a continuation of the winter hikes series. This concluded with a stay at the Carter Notch hut. The Red Line the Blue Hills series continues to be active with a dedicated following.

We launched the summer season with an AMC hut-to-hut familiarization tour for a handful of hike leaders. This included stays at Mizpah, Lakes of the Clouds, and Madison huts. In addition to the traditional summer series, there were several hikes to the summits of 4000 footers in the Whites. The 2008 season also offered a backpacking series to Western Massachusetts and Vermont as well as an AT series that focused on Western Mass. We also offered many local hikes in southeastern part of the state. The Fall

series should be well underway at the time of this writing.

Our leaders led three hikes during our annually Chapter Hut Night, hosted by the good folks at AMC Cold River Camp in Evans Notch. The pinnacle trip was a circle over the Baldfaces, which offered a unique above tree line experience.

I would like to thank all the leaders for their continued support and dedication to the AMC and it's mission and providing many opportunities for people to get out and experience the wilderness. Also, many thanks to hiking vice chair, Jim Plouffe, for his work and support.

*Respectively submitted,
Wayne E. Anderson, Hiking Chair*

Cape Hiking

The year began with the well-deserved "retirement" of Farley Lewis after two years as cape hiking chair, and two years as vice-chair. Thanks Farley, for all of your help with the transition, and for your years of service and leadership.

Our leaders met for quarterly planning meetings and have led about 100 hikes over the past year. We gained four new Leaders: Todd Kelley, Hilary Hunt, Jim Alerdice and Bill Zimmer, and our active Leader roster now numbers seventeen.

Pam Carter and Janet DiMattia hosted the annual Christmas party in December, and Janet and Richard Kaiser held their annual chili party at the end of January, after a brisk hike led by Maria Sylvester. Both parties were great fun. Three summer Full Moon hikes were well attended and led by Nancy Braun, Farley Lewis and Heidi Moss. In addition to the above leaders, I thank the others who led many hikes over the past year: Linda Church, Elissa Crowley, Betty Donaghue, Gary Miller, Pat Sarantis, Peter Selig, and Nancy Wigley. In particular, Linda, Hilary, Todd, and both Nancy B. and Nancy W. developed some new hikes, and in May, Peter led a new 12-mile trek to the end of Monomoy.

Cape Hiking now has its own separate web page which makes it much easier to navigate our hiking schedule. Now, our full schedule of upcoming hikes can be found with one click. The other SEM activities soon adopted our "one-click" access to their schedules. We still need a cape hikes vice chair, and urge members to consider volunteering.

Finally a very special "Thank You" to all of the hikers who came on our hikes. You participated safely, and added much to each and every hike.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Gould, Cape Hiking Chair*

Paddling

The canoe/kayak group held two scheduling meetings this year, one in January and one in early April. From these meetings, we scheduled a total of 63 trips running from the beginning of April to the end of October.

This was big year with a total of 46 trips and 501 paddlers; an increase of 59 paddlers over last year. Ten trips were also cancelled because of the weather forecast. There were a total of 19 different leaders on the trips and we have seven trips still to run this month before the scheduled season closes. Some paddlers will continue through the winter months but their trips will only be announced via the short notice list. In January, we held a kayak rescue and recovery session for eight paddlers at the Hyannis YMCA pool. The session was excellent and two new leaders were qualified during the session. They both led trips during the season.

We will start off the new season with a scheduling meeting in December to set up the early trips from April through June.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob Zani, Paddling Chair*

Trails

The trails committee had a light, but productive, schedule this year. We had a good turnout at Myles Standish State Forest

on National Trails Day, June 7th, where we re-routed a section of the Bentley Trail (no small feat) and installed three new water bars. Thanks to Lou Sikorsky and the Boy Scouts and their parents, without whose help this couldn't have been accomplished. Also thanks to Bob Bentley who obtained new tools for the DCR to use at MSSF.

Thanks also to Dexter Robinson and his crew of 13 trail adopters (mostly SEM members) who are maintaining trails in the Blue Hills. They have logged over 600 hours, including reblazing the entire Skyline Trail. I'd also like to thank Bob Vogel who, with his volunteers, had done much work at both Borderland State Park and in the Blue Hills. And thanks to John Gould and his workers for logging more than 105 hours on the Cape Cod trails.

In closing, I'd like to thank Mike Woessner and the entire executive board for their support. I hope we can get even more accomplished in 2009.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bill Ruel, Trails Chair*

Cycling

The SEM Chapter had scheduled rides throughout Southeastern Massachusetts, including the South Coast (Wareham to Seekonk), the South Shore (Hingham to Plymouth,) and Cape Cod (Bourne to Provincetown).

The cycling program consisted of both recurring rides and scheduled rides.

Recurring rides include:

- *Turn Those Tires On Tuesday* - late afternoon rides for after work
- *Sunday Afternoon Rides* – a great way to enjoy the New England seasons

Scheduled rides include:

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

Interest in our 2000 Mile Club continues to grow. Riders report their monthly mileage and all who achieve a cumulative total of more than 2,000 miles in a calendar year are recognized and receive a specially designed 2000 Mile Club embroidered insignia.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Tavilla, Cycling Chair*

Communications

The SEM Communications Committee (co-chair Cheryl Lathrop and myself) put out four 12-page issues (Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall) of the *Southeast Breeze* newsletter this year, plus this modest annual report. We also had the pleasure of providing communications support for the well-attended, 2008 AMC Spring Gathering that our chapter hosted for the entire club in Sandwich, MA this past April.

This ends my very satisfying tenure as your Communications Chair. It has been a real pleasure working with the board and getting to meet so many different SEM chapter members (especially out on the trails...). I've also enjoyed learning a little bit more about how this amazing, mostly volunteer-run, 90,000 member club operates.

I leave the *Breeze* and other communications chair tasks in Cheryl's very capable hands.

*Respectfully submitted,
Paul Miller, Communications Chair*



www.amcsem.org