



Annual Report 2012





“Overall, the year was successful for its new and infant programs.”

Throughout the past year, the Southeast Massachusetts Chapter of the AMC has continued to provide a significant amount of great trips, new programs and has established a number of traditions which will sustain the chapter for many years to come.

SEM has continued to work on the D.W. Fields Park project in Brockton by having a number of trail maintenance days which included a professional trail workshop taught by the AMC. Going into 2013, the project will take a leap towards trail mapping and marking as well as additional trail maintenance which will allow for a continued improvement for the City of Brockton and the SEM Community.

This year, a number of traditions were continued and new ones formed. For the fifth year, the Chapter met for its annual Chapter Hut Weekend at Cold River Camp in Evans Notch, New Hampshire. The number of attendees was less than previous years which allowed for even more amazing meals than previous years, though it wasn't realized this was possible due to the amazing meals of usual by the camp chef.

The chapter continued its bi-annual Wilderness First Aid program at the Noble View Outdoor center in Russell, MA, and added a social weekend which turned out to be an amazing time for all who attended.

New this year, the chapter hosted, at Noble View, its first annual Family Weekend. Attended by three families, the weekend was a significant success and has already been scheduled for the New Year.

Overall, the year was successful for its new and infant programs. With locations already reserved for 2013, the Chapter is set to be successful in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Plouffe
Chapter Chair

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Conservation Committee

Respectfully submitted by
Maureen Kelly, Conservation Chair

The SEM Conservation Chair teamed up with the SEM Chair to work on the Revitalization Project at D.W. Field Park in Brockton, Massachusetts. Both chairs met with the D.W. Field Park Association and the City of Brockton Parks Commission to talk about ways we could improve the park. About 20 different volunteers contributed to three trailwork days that widened and brushed trails and opened up better views to Thirty Acre Pond. The third trailwork day was a great training opportunity put on by 2 AMC volunteer trailwork crew leaders.

AMCSEM also participated in the D.W. Field Park 8th Annual Triathlon. The all-female team made a good showing and had a good time. The

Conservation Chair collected old sneakers to be chewed up and made into running surfaces through the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program. The “Red Line the Blue Hills” hikers were the people who brought in the sneakers. Ellen Correia graciously took most of the sneakers to the Nike store in Wrentham.

The Conservation Chair participated in the Ocean Conservancy’s CoastSweep Program. She helped to clean up Nelson Beach in Plymouth.

Treasurer

Respectfully submitted by
Patty Rottmeier, SEM Treasurer

I would like to thank the Executive Board, and Leslie Carson, my predecessor, for taking me under their wings and helping me take over the reins as the new Treasurer and mak-

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Carolyn Crowell, a member since 1962, received the SEM Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting

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“Programs were close to breakeven with regard to revenue and cost”

ing this year a financial success. We started 2012 with the Annual Financial Audit of 2011 books, and they were found to be in good order, and now as we begin to wrap up 2012, we continue to operate with a surplus, thanks to our committee’s conservative spending and being within budget, as well as the savings from our E-Version of our newsletter.

This year we have seen the full cost savings of implementing the electronic version of our newsletter, The Breeze, in the last quarter of 2011. Printing and postage costs, in the past, had been one of our larger administrative costs, which ran about \$7,000 per year. This year’s spending for the E-version of The Breeze will be about \$300.

Other Chapter highlights in Program spending have been the Chapter Hut Weekend, a Spring Hut Overnight at Lonesome Lake, First Annual Family Camping Weekend at Nobleview, a Map & Compass Training with REI Outdoor School, Leadership Training at Foxborough Recreation, and 2 Wilderness First Aid Training classes. We also awarded 4 scholarships for participants of our WFA Training. I’m happy to note that all of these programs were close to break even with regard to revenue and cost, leaving us with a potential surplus of \$3,000 for this year.



Chapter Committees reported net expenditures as follows:

\$200 for the Biking Committee
\$171 for the Cape Hiking Committee
\$300 for the Communications
\$103 for the Chapter Youth Program
\$1,497 net spending for Education: Includes WFA, Map & Compass, Leadership & Scholarships
\$2,842 net spending for the Hiking Committee
\$339 for the Membership Committee for welcome mailings & Open House
\$574 for Trails Committee
\$2,057 for Administrative: Insurance & Office Exp, E-Board Mtgs & Annual Meeting

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 year of financial stability for the Chapter.

Hiking Committee

Respectively submitted by *Walt Granda*, Hiking Chair

Thank you to all the volunteer leaders for providing great hiking opportunities during the 2012 season.

Our chapter has 39 hike leaders who have done an outstanding job bringing our members to some of their fa-

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favorite trails. Through their efforts they have scheduled 130 hiking trips ranging from local walks to more strenuous events in the White Mountains.

This past year five people completed the requirements to lead hikes. Four of the leaders qualified to lead Class 1 local hikes and the other person completed the requirements to lead Class 2 hikes (hikes in the White Mountains). We also had one Class 1 leader who is now qualified to lead Class 2 hikes. Additionally, four more people are now training to become leaders and two of our current leaders will soon be able to lead Class 2 hikes and Class 4 winter hikes.

The series hikes have been a great success in attracting new members to get out and walk trails ranging from easy local hikes to more strenuous ones. This year series hikes consisted of:

- Red Line the Blue Hills (RLBH)
- Thursday Morning hikes
- Full Moon Borderland
- Winter Series
- Snowshoe Series
- Fast and Hilly
- Blue Hills Conditioning
- Wapack Trail

Monthly Introductory hike 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. The series was first started in 2006 by Bob Vogel, and it has become so popular that, at times, we had to limit the partic-

ipants. Over the course of seven years, we had a number of volunteer leaders who made this a huge success. These include but are not limited to:

- Bob Vogel
- Dick Carnes
- Jerry Yos
- Jim Plouffe
- Fred Wason
- Cheryl Lathrop
- Joe Keogh
- Michael Swartz
- Maureen Kelly

During this period, we also had additional volunteers to assist in other tasks such as record keeping, co-leading, planning, attendance, webmaster and registrar.

Joe Keogh, a volunteer since 2008 provided the following information about the 2012 RLBH season:

“We had 91 people who hiked with us at least once and 22 who did more than 10 hikes. Alan Greenstein and Randy Mills tied for the most hikes at 22.”

There also was a summer picnic and a year-end dinner, which 25 people attended. The end-to-end skyline hike on October 20th and Fowl Meadow on Oct. 27th completed our 7th season.

This has been a team effort and without Michael Swartz, Maureen Kelly, Jodi Jensen, Ellen Correia and Nancy Coote’s leadership and help this year, this hike series would have been very difficult to keep going. We also had a number of other volunteers helping

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“We started an Intro to AMC Hiking” series this year, with easier local hikes”

this year including Jerry Yos, Cheryl Lathrop, Bob Vogel, Jim Casey, Sue Chiavaroli and Bill Vickstrom. This year we started giving out RLBH patches to hikers who have completed all the trails in the Blue Hills.

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. Sally Delisa provides a great description of a Thursday hike in May:

“The theme of the season’s final Thursday morning hike was conservation. Our wildflower list included more than 100 pink lady’s slippers in prime flower, starflower, Canada mayflower, sheep’s laurel, sarsaparilla, bellwort, buttercups, goats-beard, lance-leaved violets, toadflax, blue flag, cinquefoil and an aquatic bladderwort. We heard several Baltimore orioles high up in the tree canopy, but only spotted one. Other birds included an unidentified warbler, blue jays, robins, redtail hawk and red-wing blackbirds. Five snakes spotted included a three-foot long black racer and a small garter snake. Two unidentified turtles topped our list. It was a real treat to be able to observe one in the process of laying eggs in the middle of a sandy patch on the trail!”

Dexter Robinson	Red *
Maureen Yachimski	Red
Jim Plouffe	Red
Fred Wason	Red
Cheryl Lathrop	Red, Blue
Joe Keogh	Red, Blue, Green
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
Nancy Coote	Red
Ellen Correia	Red
Jerry Yos	Red
Bill Doherty	Red
Alan Greenstein	Red
Anne Duggan	Red
Charles Wohlers	Red
Jodi Jensen	White

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

Finally, in an attempt to get more inactive SEM members to join us out on the trails, we started an “Intro to AMC Hiking” series this year, with easier local hikes that we hoped would attract new participants. While these intro hikes have met with varied success to date, we plan to continue the series and give it a chance to “germinate.”

Without the dedication of all the past and present volunteers, the SEM Chapter could not provide us with such great and exciting events. We are always looking for new volunteers and if you can help please consider attending one of the quarterly hike planning meetings. My thanks go out to all our active leaders and co-leaders and also a special thank you to Paul Miller, the Vice-Chair of Hiking who has assisted in many ways. Paul has provided valuable input for many of our events. Paul

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has also spent many hours developing a system for entering leader hike reports online. After the system is tested, we'll send the details out to all our hike leaders.

Canoe / Kayak Committee

Respectfully submitted by
George Wey, Canoe / Kayak Chair

The paddling group scheduled 61 trips for the 2012 season. These trips were scheduled in December of 2011 for the paddling season that extends from the first of April to the end of October 2012.

This year, because of adverse weather conditions during May and September, eleven trips had to be cancelled. The summer brought better weather for paddling.

The 2012 season was a success with approximately 300 people participating in paddling trips along the coast and ponds of Cape Cod and Southeastern Massachusetts, the South Shore of Boston, and Boston Harbor.

In addition to the 61 trips, Gifford Allen conducted a kayaking skills clinic in July.

The success of this paddling group is due largely to the dedication of trip leaders. The 2012 leaders were: Gifford Allen, Paul Corriveau, Wesley Ewell, Bill Fischer, Ed Foster, Louise Foster, Betty Hinkley, Jean Orser, Don Paladino, Haven Roosevelt, George Wey, and Nancy Wigley.

Chapter Youth Program

Respectfully submitted by
Sally Delisa, CYP Chair

The Chapter Youth Program (CYP) accomplished two significant milestones this year. We held our first CYP leadership training and we assisted Girl Scouts in completing a Camping Interest Project.

On a snowy and blustery day in February, Jess Wilson came down from New Hampshire to train five potential new CYP Leaders. Walt Granda used the session as a refresher. Three of the trainees have completed their paperwork: Sue Chiavaroli, Anne Duggan and Joyce Wallis.

The Chapter Youth Program found a good match with Girl Scout Troop 268 in Marshfield. Throughout the year we provided assistance for their Camping Interest Project. Walt Granda demonstrated a variety of packs along with information about essential clothing and pack contents. George Danis taught the girls how to use a compass and trail maps. Joyce Wallis, with assistance from husband, Luther, demonstrated cooking with a reflector oven and making ice cream. Sally Delisa provided training in Leave No Trace, Hiking Safety and Lost in the Woods.

For our grand finale on June 11, 2012, we led the Girl Scouts on a hike in Nelson Memorial Forest in Marshfield. The girls ate a brown bag supper while overlooking the North River. CYP Leaders Eva Borsody-Das, Joyce Wallis and Sally Delisa provided thirteen girls and

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“Over 200 welcome letters were sent to new SEM members introducing them to the chapter and club”

their four adult chaperones with song, plant identification and development of individual awareness while in the forest environment. Our hike was modified for pace and distance to accommodate a physically challenged scout; her father joined the group so that he could carry her for part of the distance rather than use her electric scooter.

The Girl Scouts were a good match for us this year. It was amazing that only one of the girls had walked in those beautiful woodlands in their hometown!

Membership Committee

Respectfully submitted by
Jim Casey, Membership Chair

Our 2541 memberships are up 5% from one year ago and overall the number of SEM members remains in excess of 3600.

With the help of my Vice Chair, Vickie Beaulieu and Julieanne Capone, a successful Open House was held in March with over 35 attendees enjoying a potluck supper. A brief presentation from current leaders and a slide show of various SEM activities was also presented. The night was filled with socializing and lots of laughs. Several membership articles were also introduced through the Chapter Newsletter, *The Breeze*, informing new members of various opportunities and activities. Special thanks to Julieanne for some captivating articles.

Twenty-six SEM members were award-



Team Acadia 2012

ed AMC's 25 year pin in recognition of their continuous uninterrupted membership for that period.

Membership information tables were displayed at the LL Bean Boot Mobile at Boston Common and W.D. Field Park in Brockton for new potential members and SEM received their new custom AMC canopy for future events and information tables.

Finally, over 200 welcome letters were sent to new SEM members introducing them to the chapter and club as part of our new approach to help new members get active and quickly involved with the AMC.

Ski Committee

Respectfully submitted by
Barbara Hathaway
Ski Chair

During the 2012 winter season, the following cross country skiing activities took place.

Two very popular and successful overnight cross country trips to the White Mountains with lodging at Applebrook

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Applebrook Weekend March 2012

B&B were led by Barbara Hathaway of SEM and Wayne Cardoza of the 40+ chapter. The traditional Martin Luther King weekend filled the B&B with 22 participants.

The second trip, the first weekend in March, also led by Barbara and Wayne surprisingly also drew 22 avid skiers and once again filled the Applebrook B&B. Both weekends began with a Friday night pizza and salad social followed by snowshoeing on the golf course and woods behind the inn. The



Applebrook Weekend March 2012

coziness and charm of Applebrook, the camaraderie, fun and games, and the musical talents of Jeannine Audet in March resulted in a great time with a great group.

The day trip to Great Brook in Carlisle scheduled for the end of January

was canceled because of lack of snow. Although the alternate location was the Weston Ski Track, there was only enough snow on the teaching area – 5 km – and it wasn't worth the price of the trail pass.

As chair of the Cross Country Ski Committee I invite all of you skiers to participate in our 2013 activities. Let's revive our chapter's participation in cross country skiing. You can help by volunteering to co-lead and train to be a leader. 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!!

Education Committee

Respectfully submitted by
Len Ulbricht, Education Chair

This year four training sessions were offered. Wilderness First Aid in the spring and fall, Leadership Training in the spring, and also in the spring and new this year, Map & Compass Training.

Spring WFA and CPR were offered at AMC's Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA for the second year in a row. Both the Double and North cottages were reserved for the 15 trainees, instructor and chef service, as meals were provided. Additional available space was offered to 8 hikers as a social weekend to take in the Noble View spring experience. Fall WFA is being held locally at Borderland State Park

"A one day Map & Compass course was offered to 8 SEM attendees"



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“The chapter moved from paper communications to electronic communications; it also moved into social media”

in Easton, MA. SOLO was engaged to teach both WFA courses.

Leadership Training was offered in Foxboro, MA to 17 attendees, including 2 from the Narragansett chapter, with the course presentations by senior leaders from Southeast MA chapter and Aaron Corban of AMC Outdoor Leadership Training. This course is traditionally offered at no charge to the chapter attendees.

At the request of several chapter members, a one day Map & Compass course was offered to 8 SEM attendees at Rocky Woods in Medfield, MA. REI was engaged to present the course, which covered compass fundamentals, terrain reading and following a bushwack course to reach a destination.

Cape Hiking Committee

Respectfully submitted by
Pat Sarantis, Cape Hikes Chair

This past year’s hiker participation in Cape Hikes remained level with the last three years. Five people attended the leadership training this past Spring. Two have successfully completed their required co-leads and are presently list-



Winter Hike



SEM's First Annual Family Weekend 2012

ed for Fall and Winter hikes. One of our highlights continues to be the annual winter hike and chili party.

Communications Committee

Respectfully Submitted by
Cheryl Lathrop
Communications Chair

I finished my three-year term as Communications Chair: 2009, 2010, 2011. And, as no one was available to fulfill the position in 2012, I agreed to do another year. This was voted upon at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

My contributions to the chapter as Communications Chair for three years are well documented in the 2011 Annual Report. The chapter moved from paper communications to electronic communications; it also moved into “social media” (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

In 2012, the move-to-electronic took on more of the flavor of trying to get chapter members to use the new way of communicating. We have a continual campaign to add to our Facebook “likes” and our Twitter “follows”. And to get the electronic Breeze (e-Breeze)

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Cape Hikes

to more and more members (due to spam rules, members must access the AMC "Member Center" and specifically ask for the electronic Breeze).

Our monthly 40-page newsletter, the e-Breeze, is published every month. Additionally, the e-Blast, a quickie email full of links, goes out every month. The



Fort Hill

SEM chapter brochure is available in 8 print-on-demand formats on the chapter website, amcsem.org. The Communications Committee also writes the SEM Annual Report with input from the Committee Chairs. It is available on our website (amcsem.org) and on the AMC main website ([\[org\]\(http://org\)\). The Communications Committee manages the "Short Notice Email List" \(SNEL\); it is hosted on a Yahoo "group" and provides additional advertisements of chapter activities. The SNEL activity notices are replicated on Facebook and Twitter.](http://outdoors.</p>
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Finally, our chapter website, amcsem.org, hosted at web.com, has become the center of all chapter communications. The new AMC-mandated templates are attractive and professional looking. The SEM Twitter 'feed' appears on our home page. Access to all SNEL notices and all Facebook postings is also through our home page.



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*“Even with rain
over 90 rides
were led as of
November 1st”*

Each committee has its own area for communicating its information. And links to AMC “Joy St.” information also appear here.

The Communications Committee has a lot of different responsibilities; and the Communications Chair sincerely appreciates the efforts of all of the communications staff to keep the chapter communications functions running smoothly.

You can find additional information regarding the Communications Committee on our chapter website, amcsem.org. Click on “communications” in the committee navigation list on the left side.

Our social media stats for the end of 2012 are:

Facebook like-ers = 276
Twitter follow-ers = 38
MySpace friends = 0
LinkedIn contacts = 8
e-Breeze subscribers = 1488

This completes my fourth year in this position. I have enjoyed every minute of working with my committee mem-



Farewell dinner at Lompoc Cafe

bers and working with the Executive Board. However, it is time to turn the committee over to someone new with new ideas and enthusiasm. My successor is just such a person. She’s “really into” social media! I introduced you to Twitter; she’ll get you to actually tweet! 2013 looks to be an exciting time for the chapter to move forward and embrace new ways of communicating!

Biking Committee

Respectfully submitted by
Jon Fortier
Biking Chair

2012 saw a new set of leaders for the biking committee. Jon Fortier, Biking Chair and Dan Egan, Vice Chair. The year started out great with Spring like riding weather early on, but the rain set in for an extended period and rained



Jordan Pond Hike

out most rides in April and May. Even with the rain, over 90 rides were led as of November 1st.

Two new ride leaders joined the ranks this year, Barry Gallus and Bernie Meggison.

Paul Currier and Jack Jacobsen continued to be our most prolific leaders with Paul’s Tuesdays at Two and Full Moon

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series and Jack's Thursday and Saturday rides.

We held a pot-luck BBQ in late July where we showed our appreciation to Joe Tavilla for leading us as the Chair for the last 6 years. Thanks again Joe!

A few noteworthy rides were Dan Egan's Martha's Vineyard ride this summer, his couple of urban rides in Boston, and Joe Tavilla's very popular Summer Solstice ride. By all accounts all were a great success.

The 2000 Mile Club remains popular with 24 riders as of Q3 in reach or over 2000 miles ridden this year.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the leaders who led or co-led rides this year.

Trails Committee

Lou Sikorsky
Biking Chair

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter performs trail work on local trails as well as the chapter's adopted trail, the Lonesome Lake trail in New Hampshire.

We usually have three trips to Lonesome Lake each year, May, July and September, where we clean water bars, rebuild scree walls, clean culverts, and repair/reset numerous bog bridges.

Trail work consists of clearing and pruning branches, removing blown down trees (known as "blow downs"), cleaning and rebuilding water bars, painting blazes and other trail maintenance. The work is not really difficult and projects can be found for all abilities.

We need your support to keep our trails in excellent condition. The trails do not clean and fix themselves; it takes lots

of time and people to make it all happen. And if you participate in three or more work days, you earn a handsome SE MA AMC Trailworker patch. Wear it with pride!

The trips to Lonesome Lake combine work with pleasure. We car camp at Lafayette campground, have a hot shower at the end of the day and enjoy a campfire in the evening. Meals are cooked at the campsite or we head into Lincoln for some hearty fare. This is a beautiful area in the White Mountains. The surrounding views (26K) can be terrific!

The chapter also organizes trail work days within our chapter area. We always have fun and local trail work can be a great way to learn about what's involved in doing trail work. All abilities welcomed.

In an effort to give back to the trails you love, please consider giving a few hours of volunteer service to help keep our trails safe and secure.

"We always have fun and local trail work can be a great way to learn"

Paddling trip on 30-Acre Pond at D.W. Field Park

