



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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CHAIR REPORT



photo by Lisa Robitaille

The Southeastern Massachusetts chapter is vibrant! We had a very active year with hikes, bike rides, paddles, skiing, trail work, educational events and more. Over 325 activities were posted, up from 275 last year. All of our committees are active. We have more than 50 active leaders. Over 25 of those leaders posted at least 10 activities! We have more than 20 new leaders in 2022, many being certified following the Spring 2022 in-person leader training.

The incoming Executive Committee is experienced. Every person on the 2023 Slate has served as an Officer, Chair, or Vice Chair in 2022. And most importantly, SEM is continuing our culture of being welcoming to all. Please read the full Annual Report to learn more about SEM's many achievements.

We are surpassing the goals set earlier this year (described in the May Breeze newsletter). The Executive Committee encourages our leaders and volunteers to help meet our chapter goals. AMC-SEM is a volunteer-run organization. Volunteers choose what work they want to do and what activities they want to lead. I am heartened that so many have contributed so much to make our chapter even better.

Our first goal is to increase awareness of, belonging with, and inclusive participation in SEM by a wide variety of activities and outreach in our region. Our actions to meet the goal included:

- More weekend activities: From July through September 2022, SEM posted 76 activities compared to 55 in the same time period in 2021.
- Reach new people: SEM has expanded use of MeetUp. SEM Meetup has 754 members, up from 224 in March 2021. More than 30 events have been posted on Meetup this year, versus 13 last year.
- Expand activities for affinity groups: SEM has offered 6 new member beginner hikes in 2022. Five family-friendly activities were posted. SEM held two hikes for 20's & 30's.
- SEM Open House: SEM held an open house at Wompatuck in September, our first large chapter-wide outdoor gathering since 2018. This event was promoted via multiple online venues throughout SEM's region.

Our second goal is to fight climate change. Our actions to meet this goal included publishing monthly articles in the Breeze newsletter and having the annual meeting speaker topic be related to climate change.

I look forward to an equally vibrant 2023. Thank you for being an AMC-SEM member.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diane Simms
AMC-SEM Chapter Chair*

TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2022 our chapter continued to make post COVID overall gains with more in-person outdoor activities driven by our committee chairs and outstanding group of leaders. We all became more proficient during the pandemic with the use of tools like Zoom which aided in the facilitation of administrative meetings and team discussions with the challenge going forward to find the right mix between in-person and online activities. Our membership in the chapter remains strong after rebuilding from a slight reduction in 2020 due to COVID.

We started the year by successfully supporting the annual financial audit of our chapter's accounting records and in adherence to AMC policy. We developed our 2022 Plan expecting to use some of the 2020/2021 budget surplus and the remaining \$5.3K of our previously withdrawn invested reserve funds for special projects. On a cash basis, our 2022 budget therefore reflected a planned deficit of \$6.5K for the year. As we now have just several months of 2022 activity ahead of us it's apparent, driven by low spending in the special projects area, that we will again have a surplus for the year of approximately \$1.0K.



1 K

SURPLUS

Several key investments and activities continuing in 2022 worth mentioning are:

- The return of the Noble View Winter Weekend
- The return of the in-person Annual Meeting & Dinner in early November
- The return of 2 sessions of in-person Leadership training classes
- Our annual donation to the Friends of Blue Hills
- Developing and celebrating new leaders and Volunteer recognition
- Ongoing administrative expenses such as chapter insurance costs, Zoom, Meetup and QuickBooks Memberships

Looking ahead, planning for 2023 is well underway and we're anticipating a strong year with focus on membership growth and increased project activity in our SEM area.

On a note of thanks, I completed my transition into the Treasurer position in June of this year and want to thank outgoing Treasurer Dave Yampanis for all his help in getting me up the speed. I also want to thank the Executive Committee and all Committee members for welcoming me to this great team.

*Respectfully submitted,
Earl Deagle
AMC-SEM Treasurer*

20's & 30's REPORT

The SEM 20's & 30's group kicked off the season with new leadership, welcoming a Chair and Co-Chair to build out our programming. After planning and onboarding during the winter, we hosted a hike at Lind Farm Conservation Area in late spring. Our summer outdoor social event was unfortunately canceled due to lightning! But the group was represented again at FallFest in September with a hike at Wompatuck.

Our final event of this season will be a joint hike with New Members scheduled for November. We hope to offer quarterly events in the coming year, including outdoor and educational opportunities. To support additional activities, there is a need to develop 20's & 30's activity leaders in our region, so this will be a primary focus for the group moving forward.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shannon G
AMC-SEM 20's & 30's Chair*

EDUCATION REPORT

The Education Committee has been hard at work in 2022!

In January Vice Chair, Doug Griffiths and I welcomed our first ever committee members, Eva Borsody Das and Diane Hartley.

In February the committee hosted Dexter Robinson in a presentation of his Travels in Iceland. With his usual enthusiasm and preparation, Dexter fascinated our audience with details of his trip and splendid photographs! Thank you, Dexter!

In April we held our first two day Basic and Expanded Leadership Training session in Rochester, Massachusetts. With input and curriculum added by Stephen Conlin, we were able to train 22 new SEM Leaders! Thanks to our facilitators: Paul Brooks, Maureen Kelly, Barry Young, Leslie Carson, Robin McIntyre, Cathy Giordano, Doug Griffiths, Diane Hartley, Eva Borsody Das. Thank you also to all the SEM leader mentors, the program was a huge success. After only 6 months we have already yielded 12 fully qualified hike leaders, 1 paddle leader, 1 bike leader, and 4 committee members!

Additionally, there are many more Leaders in Training who have contributed as co-leaders and who are close to achieving full leader status! Our hope is that several of our new leaders will continue with our winter hiking, snowshoeing, and XC ski programs and become level 3 and ski leaders as well! Surely, this group of talented leaders will be contributing to the chapter for years to come!

In June, the committee sponsored Introduction to Backpacking Workshop. Missionary Point at the Blue Hills reservation proved to be an inspiring spot to teach basic backpacking skills. Thank you to Leslie Carson and Diane Hartley who shared their knowledge and training with our participants!

In October, SEM again offered Basic Leadership Training.

In 2023 the Education Committee plans to continue training new leadership! In addition we hope to offer other educational offerings and repeat our Backpacking workshop. A WFA class is planned for the fall of 2023.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anne Duggan
AMC-SEM Education Chair*

BIKING REPORT

The year has seen significant change in the Biking Committee. Bill Trimble was appointed as Biking Chair. Susan Rollins, Len Ulbricht, Ann Hargleroad, and John Nery qualified as Biking Leaders this year, joining Jeannine Audet, Jodi Jensen, and Jack Jacobsen. Thanks to all our great volunteers for planning and leading the rides this past year. Biking Committee leaders led 14 rides in locations from Wompatuck State Park to Little Compton, RI and places in between.

We continued the purchase of an annual club membership in RidewithGPS.com (available for all current AMC-SEM members at no charge). The AMC-SEM RidewithGPS club membership includes free GPS access with cue sheets, verbal turn-by-turn directions, and a complete list of AMC-SEM rides in the region. The app runs on both iOS (Apple) and Android smart phones. In September, we started a monthly biking challenge on RidewithGPS where members can track their miles and meet a 50 mile challenge for a month. Other monthly challenges will be posted throughout the year.



AMC-SEM ride RI; photo by Bill Trimble

Next year, the Biking Committee hopes to have regularly scheduled rides at different locations but on the same week and day of each month (e.g. 3rd Saturday). We would also like to have a series of themed rides. The Westport Biking and Brews rides have been well attended and we would like to include local brewers in other areas. Let Bill know if you would like to include your local brewery. We can design a ride around that area. Other ideas for themed rides are ice cream rides, winery rides, lighthouse rides, full moon rides, or coffeshop/bakery rides.



Jack and Sue ice cream special; photo by Susan Rollins

Another area where we hope to increase our outreach is in bicycle touring. This spring we will have an introduction to bike touring ride from the Borderlands State Park area to Standish State Forest with an overnight camping stay and return to Borderlands the following day.

If you have a suggestion for a ride or would like to be a bike leader, Bill can be contacted at bikingchair@amcsem.org.

*Respectfully submitted,
William Trimble
AMC-SEM Biking Chair*

CAPE HIKING REPORT

2021-2022 was marked by the impact of the worldwide pandemic and easing restrictions. The Cape Hiking Season runs from Labor Day to Memorial Day annually. We schedule hikes on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sunday afternoons. The Saturday hikes tend to be slightly longer in length 3-5 hours. Our hikers and leaders are primarily retirees but we welcome all age groups.

This past year we offered 58 hikes with twelve cancelled. We had 680 participants in Cape Hikes over the course of our hiking season.



Shaw Farm Trail and Nasketucket State Reservation hike: photo by Robin McIntyre

We currently have 25 hike leaders including those in training with 13 actively leading during the past year. We have 2 individuals who have completed leadership training and are at different stages of becoming qualified. We pull from a pool of about 60 individuals who participate in our hikes annually. Our major challenges are supporting some of our leaders to feel comfortable during the pandemic. Our other challenges are dealing with an aging population of hikers so safety becomes a concern and finding and scouting new places to hike. We are continuously encouraging new candidates for leadership training.



Dunes hike; photo posted to Facebook

Our Volunteers of the Month this year were Robin McIntyre and Richard Kaiser -- many thanks for leading activities and stepping up to the plate often for Cape Hikes!

In July, a hike leader meeting was held at Jane Harding's house with 18 leaders and leaders-in-training participating. Jane and Robin reviewed relevant materials from recent Board meetings and the upcoming Fall Fest at Wompatuck in addition to welcoming leaders back to the 2022-2023 Cape Hike season.

Cape Hikes has actively contributed to several chapter wide endeavors. Cathy Giordano and Robin McIntyre presented at the spring and fall SEM Leadership trainings. For Fall Fest at Wompatuck, 4 hikes were supported by Cape Hike leaders with a total of 8 volunteers for all activities.

Stay tuned for the upcoming season!

*Respectfully submitted,
Jane Harding and Robin McIntyre
AMC-SEM Cape Hikes Chair and Vice Chair*

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The SEM Communications Committee had another busy year. As usual, in addition to producing this Annual Report for the chapter, the committee:

- Produced and distributed the ten scheduled monthly issues of our electronic Breeze newsletter (no newsletters in July and August)
- Sent out monthly e-mail announcements on items of interest to chapter members
- Coordinated with SEM webmistress and social media administrator
- Provided general communications support for chapter activities

This year, we had approximately 2,000 recipients of The Breeze and our email. Our average open rate for The Breeze is 51-62%. The website averages about 1,930 unique visitors a month.

Maureen Walsh continued as The Southeast Breeze editor (a.k.a The Breeze, the chapter newsletter that you can view on our website). Marie Hopkins, our e-mail editor, sent out a monthly message from your Executive Committee, in addition to the newsletter link, to keep members up-to-date on opportunities to stay involved. Webmistress Cheryl Lathrop kept www.amcsem.org a one-stop place to find current announcements and other information about the chapter. Lisa Robitaille and Alanna Halloran worked to keep our Facebook and Instagram pages up to date.

Thank you to the Executive Committee, activity leaders, and all the SEM members who contribute articles and photos to the Breeze and our other communications vehicles. This helps share the fun, adventure, and camaraderie of the many and varied activities and events we offer every year.



Southeast Breeze Issue



E-mail



www.amcsem.org home page

Respectfully submitted,
The Communications Team,
Victoria Holland
AMC-SEM Communications Chair

CONSERVATION REPORT

The Conservation Committee is responsible for education and programs regarding climate change, trees, shrubs, pollution, invasive plants, and leave no trace ethics, among many other topics. Conservation is a cornerstone of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and without ongoing conservation efforts, being able to enjoy our favorite outdoor areas would not be possible.

We held several committee meetings in 2022 via Zoom in order to coordinate several programs, articles in the Breeze Newsletter, and promotion of our conservation patch. All committee members contributed monthly articles to the Breeze Newsletter, with several articles submitted on composting, climate change, trash and recycling, native plants, and wetland buffer zones.

We held a walk at Crocker Neck in Barnstable guided by Gil Newton, who provided great insights on the ecology of the area and provided attendees with copies of his book. We also held a 'Tic(k) Talk' with Barnstable County Entomologist Larry Dapsis, that provided great detail to an audience of over 40 people on ticks, their habits, and what outdoor enthusiasts can do to prevent tick bites.

Our 'Talking Trash' presentation by Keep America Beautiful was well attended as well and provided many great insights and tips regarding waste and recycling in Massachusetts.

We began planning and outreach to schedule a presentation by Leave No Trace, and one for alpine flowers, and will continue these efforts for 2023.

In 2022, we welcomed new members Kris Atkinson and Laura Lamar to the committee, who both jumped in with great ideas and input on current and future initiatives.



Conservation Corner Talking Trash: Reducing & Reusing Waste

By Shana Brogan

Trash is becoming more expensive and complicated to process these days. Think about all the single use containers you discard: sauce jars, detergent and soap jugs, beverage bottles, condiment jars, snack bags and pouches, produce bags, egg cartons, bread bags, plastic wraps. The list goes on and on! Have a look in your trash and recycling: How much is plastic? How much is glass?

Massachusetts creates 5.5 million tons of solid waste per year. Three million tons are burned in incinerators; 1.6 million tons are transported out of state; and just under one million tons are buried in landfills. The decomposition process in landfills creates methane, which accounts for ten percent of our greenhouse gas emissions, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

It is no secret that municipal transfer stations are expensive operations. One of the greatest expenses is the cost of taking trash from your town to the incinerator or landfill, which is based on the weight of the trash. What is the greatest contributor to the weight of your trash? Food scraps! Organic material accounts for 28.1% of the contents of our trash, according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.



Courtesy photo from recyclesmartma.org

Some tips to start your waste reduction journey:

Inventory your recycling to see what plastic and other single-use containers you are recycling each week. Start doing this before every trip to the transfer station, so you can see what you recycle and use most, and watch the amount decline over time.

Make a change with the single-use item that is the most abundant in your recycling. For single-use water bottles, buy larger jugs of water. Better yet, use a refillable bottle. If it's soda or other drink cans, buy a larger soda or beverage bottle.

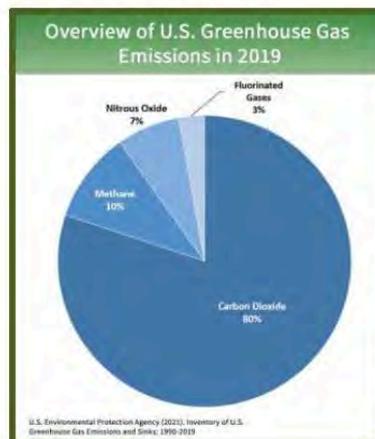
Use reusable grocery bags on display at check out. You often get a discount using them, so they will quickly pay for themselves.

Start composting! Some transfer stations sell small bins and large outdoor compost bins. You may even have something around your house you can use. Ask your transfer station gate attendant if they accept food scraps. If not, you can either create a compost bin in your yard or buy a compost container.

Get Educated: Join us!

Wednesday, April 27th, at 6:30 pm online for a Trash Talk and Discussion on Recycling.

[Register here.](#) Every bit makes a difference!



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Thank you to the following organizations we partnered with this year: Keep Massachusetts Beautiful, Barnstable County Cooperative Extension Service, and the Barnstable Land Trust.

We also thank our committee members: Kris Atkinson, Bill Cannon, Nancy Coote, Laura Lamar, Ellen Thompson, Kate Sullivan, and Barry Young.

Respectfully submitted,
Shana Brogan
AMC-SEM Conservation Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION REPORT

The SEM DEI Committee is working to make our chapter more accessible to people who have not traditionally been members of AMC. Our main focus is on the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) population. To attract members from urban areas with high BIPOC populations, SEM leads monthly hikes in the Fall River Bioreserve and semi-monthly hikes in D.W. Field Park, Brockton. These hikes attract new hikers who are not current members and some of whom are BIPOC. We have not been able to bring many of these participants to become AMC Members, but we continue to work on it.

The SEM Chapter included a section on DEI education at our Leadership Training Program in April for the first time. All members who want to be activity leaders take this training and we took this opportunity to raise awareness of DEI issues with all new incoming leaders.

The SEM DEI Committee became an ad hoc committee of the SEM Executive Committee in May this year which means that the committee chair attends board meetings to voice opinions, but has no vote. The DEI Committee is a committee of three members, listed below. We meet monthly to discuss ways to improve DEI in SEM. We publish a column in *The Breeze* called "DEI Insights" in which we review articles on DEI topics that we think will interest our members. We include links to books, nature programs and webinars as well.



Hike in the Fall River Bioreserve; photo by Diane Simms

As the Chair of the DEI Committee, I lead conversations with the SEM Executive Committee at their monthly meetings about DEI issues and seek feedback from them. I also attend monthly DEI meetings with the AMC DEI Volunteer Committee. This group is composed of Chapter representatives and other AMC staff members interested in this topic. We discuss DEI at the AMC Club level and share best practices.

The SEM DEI Committee has plans to host at least one activity next year based on a DEI topic. We will continue our work toward improvement in our receptivity to all people who want to join us outside.



Beginner Hike at D.W. Field, Brockton, by the old water pump; photo by Maureen Kelly

*Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Kelly, AMC-SEM DEI Chair
Ken Cohen, Member
Ashley Stehn, Member*

HIKING REPORT



Mount Moriah; photo by Unknown Hiker

The SEM year started in November 2021 with our Winter Hiking Workshop. For the second year in a row it was an online event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again it was well attended with almost 70 people participating via video. Following the workshop 35 participants were introduced to the joys of winter hiking with a series of progressively harder hikes on the first Saturday of each month, culminating in a fun overnight for 20 of us at Zealand Hut. We also provided snowshoe hikes with two weekend getaways.

Locally, our ever-popular Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills series began late December with weekly hikes on Tuesday mornings. Averaging 16 hikers each week, and 41 unique participants, they hiked almost 80 miles during the 13 weeks of winter. For those wanting more, in January we started a series of 6 winter conditioning hikes in the Blue Hills. Participants on these strenuous hikes met every other week and hiked 7-10 miles with approximately 1,300 feet of elevation gain. For those wanting to experience night hiking, our series of Full Moon hikes started up in November and ran through March. In February we rented both cottages at Noble View and 28 of us enjoyed a weekend of winter hikes, great company, and home cooked meals.

In April we put on a Spring Conditioning Series. Based around the skyline trail in the Blue Hills each week we added distance or elevation. Averaging 15 hikers per week and 28 unique participants we got newer hikers ready for the Summer Hiking Series where we hike the big mountains in New Hampshire.

Our Trail Trace the Blue Hills series started up again in April and continued through September with 23 hikes averaging 16 participants every Thursday evening, and on one week 31 participants. In total over 90 miles of the Blue Hills were hiked. In July they had their potluck picnic, everyone helped reduce the amount of trash generated with just 1 small bag for 20 people. This is the 17th year this series has run and as in past years these hikes continue to introduce a lot of newcomers to our chapter.

Our Thursday morning local hikes series run all year except for the summer months of June, July, and August. Thirty-one hikes took us to 21 different woods, parks, and reservations throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

We continue to hike in more diverse community areas such as Brockton and the Fall River Bioreserve. This year we have put on 4 beginner hikes at D. W. Field in Brockton and 14 Fall River Bioreserve hikes. The city of Fall River and Buzzards Bay Coalition have been great partners in promoting our hikes to those not familiar with AMC or SEM. Every month, we get people who have never hiked at the Bioreserve or with AMC. We have even had hikers who had never stepped foot on a trail before. To reach out to a broader audience we have started posting more hikes on our SEM Meetup page.

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HIKING REPORT, continued

Our Summer Hiking Series took participants to the White Mountains. Our 'It's all about the views' series provided participants with intermediate level hikes and our 'SEM Loves Hiking' series provided participants with advanced level hikes. There were 24 destination hikes that involved 15 Leaders, 9 Leaders in Training and 111 unique participants.

In addition, hike leaders put on 63 hikes of their own not part of any series. Too many to list but each a leader favorite and each unique. As a sampling only, a few favorites that I attended were heralding in the winter holidays by singing carols while hiking around a pond; an overnight backpacking workshop where I fell out of my hammock sleep system; and wildlife tracking hike near Quabbin reservoir where I sniffed droppings to identify the animal. You will have your own favorites, I'm sure.

In total 38 SEM hike leaders have led 237 hikes with 18 hike leaders leading 10 or more hikes. I want to give a big thank you to Bill Belben who in April took on the role of Vice Chair of the Hiking Committee and has done an outstanding job and to all the hike leaders who lead hikes and all the participants that make it a joy.

Let me finish with a thought. Last year started with us hiking in masks and significant COVID restrictions. Despite this we continued to put on hikes, sometimes multiple leaders led multiple groups on the same hike to limit group size and maintain social distancing. COVID was a once in a generation event, but when I think of our hike leaders and participants I think of the saying 'Hardship produces Character'. We were resilient as a committee, not allowing any of our popular series to flounder. This year we are seeing the fruits of that resilience with 10 new hike leaders trained and certified since our April Leadership Training weekend.



Summit of Mt Monro; photo by Bill Belben

*Respectfully submitted,
Paul Brookes
AMC-SEM Hiking Chair*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership Committee had a much better year in 2022. We have continued our new member/beginner hiking series, mostly led by Samantha Fisher and Robert Branczewski, since we began it in July of 2021. Every month a leader chooses a fairly easy terrain to get new members or even existing AMC members back into enjoying the outdoors. During those hikes we stop halfway through and talk about different things that SEM offers to its members and some beginner hiking tips. We have held 6 so far this year and plan to lead more during the Winter months, especially now that Membership has a new vice chair, Nancy Piedra, who will help lead more of the new member hikes. Committee members also managed the Membership table at SEM's FallFest in September.

As of August 2022, SEM has just over 4,000 members.

*Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Fisher
AMC-SEM Membership Chair*



New member hike at F. Gilbert Hills; photo by Diane Simms



FallFest Membership Table; photo by Lisa Robitaille

PADDLING REPORT



Last minute instructions before a flat water paddle; photo by Barry Young

This year AMC SEM Paddling saw a resurgence in activity from previous COVID-19 year, with more formal paddling trips and events, mainly on flat water rivers, ponds, and lakes. Also, we added two new paddle leaders who attended soft skill AMC leadership training in April and then performed their required two paddles as leaders in training.

For the first time in many years, SEM Paddling conducted a paddling safety clinic with a sold out attendance of 12 paddlers.

Instructor and SEM Paddle Leader Robin Melavalin demonstrated the techniques of “wet exit”, “assisted rescue” and “self rescue” and then all participants had the opportunity to practice these techniques on the water.

Going forward into 2023, SEM Paddling hopes to add three more new paddle leaders and conduct two more safety clinics. We also hope to get many SEM paddlers, who are paddling on their own, back involved with our formal paddling activities, and to offer more coastal and marsh paddles.



Paddling Safety Clinic; photo by Robin Melavalin

*Respectfully submitted,
Barry Young
AMC-SEM Paddling Chair*

SKIING REPORT

The AMC SEM Ski Committee was so happy to be back out, and led 3 trips this year.

We added a trip to the Berkshires the weekend of December 10, and stayed at the Wainwright Inn in Great Barrington. Our group of 17 agreed it was a lovely home base. Unfortunately, there was no snow, so we instead hiked, with one group hiking Alander Mountain along the Alander Mountain Trail, and the other group hiked to the summit of Bear Mountain, just over the Connecticut line. It was unseasonably warm, and rainy initially, with a clap of thunder at the trailhead. Fortunately, the rain stopped, although there were no views. The boulder scramble up Bear Mountain presented some challenging ice. The group enjoyed dinner at the Barrington Brewery and a stroll along Main St. in Great Barrington, which was adorned with holiday décor and ongoing festivities.

On the second day, we hiked to Laura's Tower and the Ice Glen in Lenox, which included a boulder scramble and contains one of the few old growth forests, with beautiful Hemlock trees.

Thank you to Walt Granda and Peggy Qvicklund for your leadership!



Summit of Bear Mountain; photo by Lars Qvicklund



XC Skiing in Waterville Valley; photo by Jeannine Audet

Our second trip for the long holiday weekend of January 14, was back at the Mountain Fare Inn in Campton, NH. This year, our group of 13 prepared our breakfasts, which were amazing! On the first day, some of our group skied at the Waterville Valley Resort. Another group hiked to the Fletcher Cascades. The first day was very cold, with -8F temps. at the start. The ski trails were slick, but the forest beautiful. The hikers had a great day. Afterward, members of the groups imbibed at the Berkshire Mountain Distillery and the Big Elm Brewery. Dinner followed at the Coyote Grill. Unfortunately, our New England Patriots lost the playoff game that evening.

On the second day, the skiing at Waterville valley was lovely, as it was warmer and the snow softened. The hiking group snowshoed Timber Camp Trail. Happy Hour followed around the fireplace at the B&B. Our dinners were great at Panorama. A snowstorm was predicted for Martin Luther King Day; some of the group chose to snowshoe around the B&B in the morning, and others hiked part of the Smarts Brook Trail, with beautiful, iced-over waterfalls. Thank you to leaders Dia Prantis, Diane Hartley and Robin Melavalin!

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SKIING REPORT, Continued

Finally, our 3rd trip in February was a return to the Old Field House in Intervale, NH the weekend of the 11th. We were a group of 22. We were greeted by Nana, the inkeepers' Alaskan Malamute. The first day, the group enjoyed perfect conditions at Jackson XC -- beautiful snow and sunny skies. We skied 6.5 miles, and sat by the fire for a bit outside near the Cocoa Cabin along the Ellis River Trail. The hiking group ambitiously summited Mt. Crawford. We celebrated with a group dinner at the Red Fox.

On the second day, some of the group snowshoed behind the B & B, while the rest of the group skied along the Saco River at Bear Notch XC Ski. Sadly, COVID closed the gathering spot there, so there was no soup this year; we hope that will change for next year! Thank you to Len Ulbricht for co-leading!

We always welcome new participants on our trips. We are also seeking ski leaders; please contact Jeannine or Dia if interested!



XC Skiing at Bear Notch; photo by Jeannine Audet

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeannine Audet
AMC-SEM Ski Chair*

TRAILS REPORT

Our Trails Committee was busy with many different activities this past year!

In early April, trail work volunteers did some maintenance on SEM's adopted Skyline Trail in the Blue Hills. We cut some brush to make the trails wider, cleaned water bars, removed many larger rocks (ankle twisters), removed trees that fell during the winter and in general, made the trail safer for all!



Photo by Steve Scala

At the end of April, a group of dedicated volunteers started to do trail work at the Bioreserve in Fall River. (A bioreserve is an area of land that is permanently protected from development and managed to ensure the long term health of the natural resources). This is a parcel of land with 13,600 acres and over 50 miles of trails for hiking, biking and lots to explore!



Since April and continuing every Tuesday morning throughout the summer, the group has blazed (putting painted directional markers on trees) over 40 miles of trails.



Photo by Mike Labossiere

Starting in October, the crew will be building some bridges to cross over some of the perpetually wet areas. Below is the preliminary work of placing rocks to provide support for the new bridges.

Overall, it was a very productive year! Many different activities were scheduled and many new people were introduced to AMC-SEM!

*Respectfully submitted,
Skip Maysles
AMC-SEM Trails Chair*

Photo by Skip Maysles

SUMMARY

4K+

Members

2K

Email Subscribers

1.6K

SEM Facebook Followers

205

20's & 30's Facebook Members

14

Bike Rides

2

Online Conservation Presentations

237

Hikes

46

Cape Hikes

1

Paddling Safety Clinic

3

Ski Trips

40+

Miles of Trails Blazed

324

Activities Posted

50

Active Leaders

22

Newly Trained Leaders