

Appalachian Mountain Club Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Records 11550

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Appalachian Mountain Club Library & Archives
24 October 2011

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Summary Information

Repository	Appalachian Mountain Club Library & Archives
Title	Appalachian Mountain Club Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Records
Date	1975-2009
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter (SEM) was founded in 1976, as the eleventh chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. It is comprised of AMC Members who live in Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties. Members who do not live in this region may also opt to be associated with this chapter. The chapter publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Southeast Breeze, which lists many activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, trail work, and other special programs. The collection is comprised of documents relating to the foundation of the chapter including surveys and correspondence to and from people in the Southeastern MA region about the desirability of forming a chapter in 1975-1976. The collection contains Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from 1976 to 2008, and Annual Reports of the Chapter from 1980 to 2005, with gaps. Annual reports later than 1999 can be found on the SEM Chapter website at www.amcsem.org. A large portion of the collection in Hiking Committee meeting minutes, correspondence and materials on Winter Hiking and Backpacking Workshops, Chapter Hut Nights, Interchapter Excursions and Trip Reports. A complete set of the Chapter newsletter, The Southeast Breeze, is also included. The photographic portion of the collection spans the years 1985 to 2003, approximately. It is made up of photographic prints, slides and digital images on CD. Most of the images depict chapter excursions in the</p>

Northeast including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine. Hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and paddling all feature prominently.

Preferred Citation note

[Identification of document], AMC Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Records, 1975-2009, Appalachian Mountain Club Library and Archives, Boston, MA.

Biographical/Historical note

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was formed in 1976, following the formation of a Boston Chapter in June 1975. The formation of the Boston Chapter was initiated by members of AMC 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 southeast 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 enormous impact on the club. An impact statement was developed. All persons involved were concerned with the potential impact of the new chapter(s) on the club and on other chapters already existent.

In August 1974, a questionnaire was sent to all club members residing in eastern Massachusetts not already covered by a chapter, requesting a statement of interest in the formation of a chapter in the area. A notice was printed in *Appalachia Bulletin* informing members of this upcoming questionnaire. This poll proved useful in determining that not one chapter but two might be preferable. Four out of seven expressed preference for the formation of two chapters, one centering on Greater Boston and the second in southeastern Massachusetts. Two out of seven preferred to have one large eastern Massachusetts chapter and one out of seven felt that no new chapters should be formed.

From this poll, it was evident that a second poll to only those members residing in southeastern Massachusetts should be made. In January 1975, D. Bruce Langmuir, Chairman of the recently formed Boston Chapter, sent a questionnaire to the 720 members residing in the counties of Plymouth, Bristol, Barnstable, Nantucket and Duke. A sufficient number of members responded to prompt Bruce to organize an Ad Hoc Start-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, Dr. Arthur Robinson, Lee Rogers and Howard Shearer met at the home of Jim Fox in Halifax, MA, to discuss organization procedures. Bruce Langmuir and Doug Prescott, Chairman of the Club Membership Committee, also attended. Langmuir and Prescott outlined suggestions for the formation of a chapter. They 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 the secretary for the Ad Hoc Committee.

During the next three months, seven more meetings were held either in Halifax or North Falmouth, MA, and gradually others area AMC members joined the committee to assist in the decision-making process. These included Susan Anderson, Bob Bently, Bill Brown, Ed Kelly and Russell Ottey.

Sam Raymond and Paul Brodeur edited two informative newsletters to keep area members aware of the progress being made on their behalf. Gradually, the slate of initial officers and committee members was

prepared after dozens of telephone calls to potential candidates, a list of possible chapter names was suggested, and plans were finalized for an initial chapter meeting, election and signing of a petition to the AMC Council.

On January 21, 1976, an organization meeting was held at the East Bridgewater Congregational Church with 152 interested people attending. Members of AMC were asked to sign a petition requesting authority to establish a Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter. This was also chosen as the official chapter name. An initial slate of officers was voted in. The petition was presented to the AMC Council at its February 1976 meeting, where it was warmly received and approved.

Since its founding the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of AMC has grown to a membership of over 3500. The geographically and socially diverse nature of our chapter's region makes for a very interesting and diverse group of individuals who all share a common love of the outdoors. The AMC SEM Chapter's current range of member activities includes hiking, biking, paddling, skiing, conservation, trail work, and educational activities. These activities can take place locally, or take us to other locales throughout New England. All SEM trips are organized and led by our own trained volunteer leaders. (SEM members can also participate in trips organized by other AMC chapters.)

Scope and Contents note

This collection documents the activities of the Appalachian Mountain Club Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter, founded in 1976. This includes materials on the founding of the chapter, Meeting Minutes of the Executive Committee of the chapter and Annual Reports. Correspondence, member lists and committee materials of the Hiking Committee are also present. There is a small amount of material on Trail Work. Records of other committees, such as cycling, paddling and skiing are absent. The collection contains a significant amount of visual material in the form of photographic prints, digital images and slides. This material documents outdoor recreation activities of the chapter such as hiking, paddling, trail work, snowshoeing and overnight excursions to various huts, camps, cabins and lodges.

Arrangement note

Arranged in 5 series:

Series 1: Chapter By-Laws, Founding Documents and Annual Reports, 1975-2005

Series 2: Chapter Committee, Executive Committee, Executive Board, 1975-2008

Series 3: Hiking Committee, 1982-2006

Series 4: Miscellany, 1977-2005

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Appalachian Mountain Club Library & Archives 24 October 2011

Custodial History note

Contents of the collection previously resided with a volunteer custodian within the SEM Chapter. Records were transferred to AMC Headquarters in Boston as of October 2011.

Accruals note

Further accruals are expected.

Related Materials

Separated Materials note

Photographic prints and slides are separated out to the Photographic Collections under Catalog Number 11550.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Cape Cod (Mass.)
- Massachusetts

Subject(s)

- Appalachian Mountain Club--Chapters
- Appalachian Mountain Club--Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter
- Outdoor recreation--Massachusetts

Chapter By-Laws, Founding Documents and Annual Reports

Collection Inventory

Series 1. Chapter By-Laws, Founding Documents and Annual Reports 1975-2005	Box 11550.001
Folder 1. Annual Reports 1980-2005	
Folder 2. Chapter Founding 1975	
Folder 3. Chapter Founding 1976	
Folder 4. Chapter Founding 1974-1977	
Folder 5. Chapter By-Laws and Standing Rules 1976-1998	
Series 2. Chapter Committee, Executive Committee, Executive Board 1976-2008	Box 11550.001 - 11550.002
Folder 1. Chapter Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1976	
Folder 2. Chapter Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1977	
Folder 3. Chapter Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1978	

Chapter Committee, Executive Committee, Executive Board

Folder 4. Chapter Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1979

Folder 5. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1980

Folder 6. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1981

Folder 7. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1982

Folder 8. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1983

Folder 9. Executive Board/Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1984

Folder 10. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1985

Folder 11. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1986

Folder 12. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1987

Folder 13. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1988

Folder 14. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1989

Folder 15. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1990

Hiking Committee

Folder 16. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1991

Folder 17. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1992

Folder 18. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1993

Folder 19. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1994

Folder 20. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1995

Folder 21. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1996

Folder 22. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1997

Folder 23. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1998

Folder 24. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 1999

Folder 25. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 2000

Folder 26. Executive Board Meeting Minutes and Correspondence 2001-2008

Series 3. Hiking Committee 1982-2006

Box
11550.002

Hiking Committee

Folder 1. Meeting Minutes, Correspondence and Reports 1993-1999

Folder 2. Committee Handbook 1996-1997

Folder 3. Meeting Minutes, Correspondence and Reports 2001-2003

Folder 4. Chapter Hut Nights and Trips 1982-2002

Folder 5. Winter Hiking and Backpacking Workshops 1998-2001

Folder 6. Trip Reports 1991-1992

Folder 7. Trip Reports 1993-1994

Folder 8. Trip Reports 1994-1995

Folder 9. Trip Reports 1996

Folder 10. Trip Reports 1997

Folder 11. Trip Reports 1998

Folder 12. Trip Reports 1999

Miscellany

Folder 13. Trip Reports 2000

Folder 14. Trip Reports 2001

Folder 15. Trip Reports, Jan.-Jun. 2002

Folder 16. Trip Reports, Jul.-Dec. 2002

Folder 17. Trip Reports 2003

Folder 18. Trip Reports 2004

Folder 19. Trip Reports 2005

Folder 20. Trip Reports, Jan.-Jun. 2006

Folder 21. Trip Reports, Jul.-Dec. 2006

Series 4. Miscellany 1977-2005

Box

11550.002

Folder 1. Interchapter Excursions 1988-1994

Folder 2. Chapter Archives 1994-2005

Photographs

Folder 3. Trail Adopters 2002

Folder 4. National Trails Day 2003

Folder 5. John Pereira, Antioch College: SEM Project 2003

Folder 6. Press Clippings 1977-1995

Folder 7. Embroidered Leader Patches: Trails, Bicycling, Canoeing, Hiking, Trails, Skiing circa 1987

General note

Leadership awards designed by Linda Thomas, Chapter Chair, first presented Annual Meeting November 7, 1987.

Series 5. Photographs 1988-1993

Box	Drawer
PH Box	Slide File
11550.001	400, Drawer 5

General note

A complete list of images is available.