

Eighty-Fourth
Annual Report
of the
New Hampshire Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club



October 2004

CHAPTER CHAIR REPORT

This past year has been one of changes both in the AMC at the parent Club level and here in the New Hampshire Chapter. The successful capital campaign which ended last year funded two new projects with major impact on the Club's programs and outreach: The Highland Center at the head of Crawford Notch was opened this year and started implementing its mission to provide educational outreach to school classes through field trips and to leaders and volunteers of the chapters through the Leadership Training Institute; and the Maine Woods Initiative was launched through the purchase of the Little Lyford Ponds Camp and significant parcels of woodland bordering the 100 mile wilderness of the Appalachian Trail which contain the historic Gulf Hagas canyon.

There were also a number of changes in staff at the headquarters in Joy Street. Alex Kosseff, Director of Leadership and Volunteer Relations, and Amy McNamara, Land Conservation Advocate, left for challenging opportunities in the West. The Outdoor Leadership Coordinator, Katherine Byers, also left the staff this year. We will miss them and we wish them well in their new endeavors. Our own Past Chapter Chair and Regional Director, **Roger Scholl**, joined the staff as Director of Chapter and Volunteer Relations to replace Alex, a choice that brings a wealth of chapter knowledge and experience to that position. Another of our New Hampshire members, **Terry Robinson**, joined the staff at Pinkham Notch as North Country Volunteer Coordinator.

At the Chapter level you will see several new names on the slate presented by this year's nominating committee. **John Dolloff** from Maine has been appointed to replace Roger as Northern Regional Director.

I wish to thank all the members of this year's Executive Committee and the many volunteers who have worked with them.

The enthusiasm and dedication of these folks are what make the New Hampshire Chapter the healthy and growing chapter that it is. They all contribute to the reputation that our chapter has throughout the AMC as the standard to which other chapters aspire. Our special thanks go to Carolyn, Jackie, Larry and Meg. We will miss your cheery presence and wealth of knowledge and experience. Keep in touch, and we'll see you on the trail.

Bob Harrington
Chapter Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

During my five years as treasurer, the New Hampshire Chapter has continued to be strong financially. The reporting mechanisms for all funds has improved. There has been a continued emphasis on training for our trip leaders. We have also been able to equip and expand the training of the Mountaineering Committee. All of these things help us to reach the long-term goals of the AMC and the New Hampshire Chapter. We will continue to utilize our funds to maintain the high standards of leadership within the AMC that our chapter has set.

Tim Kennedy
Treasurer

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Eighty-third Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held at the Pheasant Ridge Country Club in Gilford, New Hampshire on October 11, 2003. The following slate of nominees was presented and accepted by the members for the year 2003-2004 New Hampshire Chapter Executive Committee:

Chair.....	Robert Harrington
Vice Chair	Sam (Ruth) Jamke
Treasurer	Tim Kennedy
Secretary	Carolyn Enz Page
Conservation Co-Chairs.....	Anne Melvin Mary Harrington
Excursions Chair	Wes Tucker
Hospitality Co-Chairs	Bernice Johnson Janet Scholl
Membership Co-Chairs	Meg Moore Sue Breault
Mountaineering Co-Chairs.....	Jackie Veal Larry Veal Jed Eliades
Newsletter Co-Editors.....	Paula Bertrand-McBride Andrew McBride
Programs Chair	Barbara Wilkins
Trails Co-Chairs.....	Bill Darcy Tim Doucette
Webmaster	Sue Breault
Web Site Asst.	Tod Hagan
Young Members Committee.....	Kelly Omand Eric Savage

Paddling Co-Chairs are chosen at their November meeting.

Changes: The following changes were made to the Executive Committee as the need arose:

Paddling Co-Chairs: Mike Jacobs and Paul Berry took office in November 2003.

Hospitality: Alita Whittier took over for Janet Scholl in June 2004.

Mountaineering Committee: Larry Veal left as co-chair, Bill Burke took over for Jackie Veal as Co-Chair.

Program Co-Chair: Meg Moore resigned in July 2004. Pete Mason took over the position.

Membership Co-Chairs: Meg Moore and Sue Breault left in July 2004. Ron Janowitz and Bob Humphrey assumed responsibility.

Seven regular meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the 2003 – 2004 season. Minutes were taken and distributed to the Committee. The Annual Report was completed and printed for the Annual Meeting.

Carolyn Enz Page
Secretary

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Visibility Volunteers

The Conservation Committee continued to be involved in this AMC-sponsored project to monitor air quality in eastern forests and parks. We had several very dedicated Visibility Volunteers using ozone detector cards to measure hikers' exposure to ozone during a hike. They also used disposable cameras to take pictures to help determine the visibility range that can show fine particulate measurements giving us hazy summit views. This program ran through mid-September. However, with so many rainy or cloudy days and cool temperatures for much of the past summer, ozone and haze readings may have been lower than usual.

Trails Day Event

On National Trails Day, June 5, the Conservation Committee held a very successful invasive plant removal day at Piscataquog River Park in Manchester. We were very pleased and excited that **Senator Judd Gregg** joined us! AMC's **Andy Falender** and **Susan Arnold** were also there to greet the Senator and help out.

Ron Johnson from Manchester's Parks and Recreation Department gave volunteers some background on the park. **Kelly Omand**, Co-Chair of our Young Members Committee, coordinated this workday for us. She and Mary Tebo, from the UNH Cooperative Extension Service, talked about the invasive species in the park and the native plants needing protection. Volunteers pulled, lopped, and sawed lots of invasives, but there is still a lot of work to be done in this beautiful woodland park. Controlling these non-native weeds helps protect a rare pine barrens habitat, and we hope to make this an on-going conservation project.

White Mountain National Forest Plan Revision

The WMNF Plan Revision, which has now been published, will determine how the forest will be managed in the future. The National Forest Management Act requires that forest plans be

reviewed every 10-15 years. New scientific information, issues and concerns need to be addressed. The Plan Revision is available in either hard copy, CD-ROM or online. The address for downloading documents is: www.fs.web.us/r9/white.

AMC supports the timber and wildlife management approach in Alternative 2, which is the Forest Service's preferred alternative and very similar to what is presently in effect. However, AMC would combine this with the land allocation offered in Alternative 3, which supports larger additions to designated wilderness. These areas are in the Wild River area, the Dartmouth Range, extensions to the Pemigewasset and Sandwich Range wilderness, as well as the Scar Ridge region adjacent to the Sandwich Range area.

There will be a series of open houses taking place in various locations during October and November. Plan revision team members will be available there to answer questions about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Draft Forest Plan Revision. Written comments may also be submitted at these meetings. For information on these meetings contact Colleen Mainville at: www.cmainville@fs.fed.us/r9/white or call (603) 528-8796.

The Conservation Committee urges everyone to let the Forest Service know what you would like to see happen in "your" White Mountain National Forest. The comment period runs until December 17, 2004. Written comments may be submitted to White Mountain National Forest Plan Revision, 719 No. Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246, or by fax to (603) 528-8783 (include "Forest Plan Revision" in the header). Electronic comments should go to www.wmnfplan@fs.fed.us.

Other Activities

Committee members attended New Member dinners with a display and presentation on Conservation activities. We have been holding raffles at these dinners to encourage new members to sign on to the Conservation Action Network (CAN). When a new member fills out a CAN registration card (name, and email address), the card goes in a basket from which the card of a lucky winner of a conservation-oriented book is drawn that night.

All the cards are then forwarded to Joy Street for registration on the Network. We feel it is important that all AMC members sign up for the Network so they may receive monthly email updates on the latest conservation news and alerts when it is time to take action on issues like clean air, rivers and watersheds, greenways and trails, and forests and parks.

The address to sign up for the Conservation Action Network is: www.outdoors.org/conservation and then click on "Join the Conservation Action Network". Conservation Co-Chairs will have sign-up cards available at all dinners.

Anne continues in the Isinglass River Protection Project participating in water monitoring and supporting the concept of in-stream flow protection. In-stream flow is the guarantee of a minimum amount of flowage in a stream needed to protect the stream's habitat.

Mary Harrington and Anne Melvin
Conservation Co-Chairs

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Excursions Committee had another busy year. We continue to provide chapter members with adventures from the highest peaks to the laziest meandering paths. All the while we are maintaining our high standards of safety and fun. Our Trip Leaders are the backbone of this committee. I can't thank them enough for all the hard work and time that they have invested into making the NH Chapter a standard of trip leadership in the AMC.

Workshops

As always, we started off the year with our Annual Winter Hiking Safety Workshops in January and February at Cardigan Lodge. We also conducted a Spring Hiking Safety Workshop in April.

The workshop weekends are packed with instruction and fun for hikers of all levels. They spend the time learning all about mountain safety, map & compass, nutrition, trip planning, weather, equipment, emergency situations, group dynamics, and backpacking. We also had a bumper crop of potential new Trip Leaders who attended the leadership training classes at all 3 workshops.

As always, the instructors and kitchen staff are all volunteers from the chapter. They are always so generous with their time and knowledge. They are the reason the workshops are such a unique and worthwhile experience. Through their extraordinary work, the NH Chapter is able to keep the workshop trainings superior while keeping the cost low. Of course, my gratitude goes out to Co-Directors **Rick Silverberg**, **Martin Janoschek**, and **Trudi Janoschek** for the many hours of hard work they put into making the workshops such a success.

Hut Nights

We hosted two sold-out Chapter Hut Nights at Greenleaf Hut in June and Mizpah Hut in September. Once again **Tim Kennedy** did a great job organizing them for us. In addition to providing a few "refreshments", invited speakers told tales from Alaska and Mongolia.

Presidential Range Hike

Also, for the 5th year in a row, we conducted the highly successful NH Chapter Annual Presidential Range Hike in July. **Bill Emerson** did a great job in organizing such a big trip.

SOLO

In October of last year, we sent 20 Trip Leaders to SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities, Inc.) in Conway, NH to attend a two-day Wilderness First Aid Training Course.

We have another class for 25 Leaders scheduled for this November. In May, additional training was provided by Scott Taylor, a chapter Leader and EMT trainer. He gave us a hands-on intensive refresher on backcountry first aid techniques. Thanks, Scott.

Family Group

Under the leadership of **David Passios**, the Family Group continues to expand their offerings. Over the year, their

growing numbers of trip leaders offer outings as varied as an overnight at Mizpah Hut, bike trips, a weekend at Tanglewood, and camping in Franconia Notch. In September, they conducted a “Staying Found Workshop”. The program was designed to teach kids how to stay safe while exploring in the outdoors. With demo’s from the WMNF and assistance from Wal-Mart, the day was a big success and we hope to make this an annual event.

Over 55 Group

Steve Ahern and his Over 55 Group continue to be out and about trying their best to put to rest the stereotype that once you pass a certain age, you should stick to walking in the malls. Many new hikers have discovered that starting out with the O-55’s is a kinder and gentler way of learning the ways of the trail. Tapping into the deep well of wisdom inherent with the O-55 Group, is a great way for a novice hiker to get started out right.

Things to come

A few changes in the coming year should prove to make things interesting. There is now a required use of **liability release forms** on all AMC trips. We have been participating in the introduction of the web-based system for trip submission and viewing. And major renovations are starting to happen to Cardigan Lodge. None the less, I am confident that we’ll be able to adapt to these changes and continue to provide the wide variety of trips you’ve come to expect from us.

Wesley M. Tucker
Excursions Committee Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Chapter began its reporting year with 10, 627 members in September of 2003 and reports 10,689 as of September 2004. We remain the third largest chapter after Boston and New York-North Jersey. Due to a small accounting error discovered in July of 2004, membership had been slightly underreported prior to that date by about 20-30 members in the past year. The figures are used by the Club to compute our dues allocation and have been correct.

We sent out 2,377 new member mailings in the 12-month reporting period and 54 certificates recognizing 25 and 50-year members.

The new member newsletter has been updated to reflect changes in Chapter leadership and to give it a new look. We held two well attended new member dinners this year and also invited our 25 and 50-year members to attend a dinner meeting this past spring at which geologist Brian Fowler spoke about the demise of the Old Man of the Mountain.

New membership co-chairs took over this summer. A smooth transition was made thanks to the efforts of past co-chairs **Sue Breault** and **Meg Moore**. We thank Meg for her many years of service on the Executive Committee and are pleased that Sue will remain on board as webmaster.

We thank her for her Membership efforts and for the design of the award certificate presented to long-time members.

Bob Humphrey and Ron Janowitz
Membership Co-Chairs

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The core of the Mountaineering Committee's program is our climbing activities. The 2003-04 year saw an expansion of our offerings to 18 activities, up from 13 in 2002-03. Highlights included three beginner rock climbing days, a top-rope setup clinic, numerous sport and trad top-rope activities, and our first multi-pitch day for more experienced climbers.

Safety and training have been big themes this year as well. Two more leaders completed their American Mountaineering Guides Association (AMGA) certifications, bring the total number of AMGA certified leaders in the chapter to six. We also offered our first in-house leader-training program, a three day course designed to develop new leaders for top-rope activities. Three new leaders successfully completed the program and are currently mentoring with more experienced leaders, including our first leader from within the Young Members group.

We continued our successful series of mountaineering workshops this spring, increasing our offerings from three to four workshops (2 beginner and 2 intermediate). Thirty-eight participants traveling from as far away as New York and New Jersey to learn glacier travel and rescue skills.

As necessitated by our increased climbing activities, the Mountaineering Committee has purchased new and replacement equipment to support our recreational climbing and instructional programs, including ropes, hardware, and climbing shoes for our beginners clinics.

The Mountaineering Committee also entered the 21st century with the debut of our web presence. We hope the mountaineering site will become a useful source of information for the Chapter's climbers.

During the past year we have continued to review and refine our policies, practices and procedures with the overall goal of providing well trained leaders, safe climbing activities and enjoyable recreational experiences for all participants.

As a final note, thanks are due to Jackie & Larry Veal, who stepped down as Mountaineering Committee co-chairs this spring. Their hard work and leadership have been appreciated by all.

Jed Eliades and Bill Burke
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

2004 was a busy and productive year for the chapter and the newsletter. Nine issues were produced. Among the important events they announced were 6 dinner meetings, 2 Winter Schools, Spring School, 2 Hut Nights, 2 New Member Meetings, and Annual Dinner.

Paula Bertrand-McBride and Andrew H. McBride
Mountain Passage Editors

PADDLING COMMITTEE REPORT

Paddle Trips: We offered over 100 trips to paddlers. They ranged from flat water paddling on rivers and lakes, up to class IV whitewater trips. Class II white water trips continue to be our most popular followed by river touring and then class III white water. A number of these trips were late additions to our "scheduled" trips (advertised in AMC Outdoors) and were only announced in our weekly e-mail messages to all paddlers.

Membership: We have a roster of interested paddlers that are both AMC members and non-AMC members that are on our message board. Combined we have over 1000 members and associate members.

Education: We had several educational classes. About 40 students completed our 3-day Introductory Whitewater School in April. We also held a June Whitewater Clinic. Although this was a pilot program, it showed that a small-scale program could be successful, and that warmer weather had some advantages.

We held a whitewater rescue class, drawing on the growing expertise within our own group.

A number of paddlers completed Leadership Training in sessions that we offered during the last year.

We also taught a touring skills course.

Communications: We published only one WrapAround newsletter so far this year. One other is being planned shortly.

We send out weekly email notices to almost all members with any announcements and trip schedule.

Our webmaster reports that our site was getting over 7500 sessions per month during the busy paddling season! This works out to 1700 per week. With 54000 total pages viewed monthly, this means that visitors are reading 7.2 pages on average.

Projects: We have worked and continue to work with NH Department of Environmental Services to move the date of some of the Fall Lake Draw-down water releases so that paddlers can take advantage of the high water to be found in the drainage rivers.

Over the next year, we are hoping to increase the number of rated leaders, class IV white water leaders and sea kayaking leaders.

Mike Jacobs and Paul Berry
Paddling Co-chairs

PROGRAMS AND HOSPITALITY REPORT

The New Hampshire Chapter conducted five very successful and well-attended programs during the 2003 - 2004 year. The dinner programs were held on Saturday nights at different locations throughout the state and were diverse in topics.

The dinner programs were held as follows:

The 83rd Annual Meeting was held at the Pheasant Ridge Country Club in Gilford, NH on October 11, 2003. The program, Paddling from Yellowknife to Chantry Inlet, presented by Carl Shepardson was a slide presentation of his canoe trip from the Northwest Territories of Canada to Chantry inlet, about 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Our February dinner program was held February 7, 2004, at the Coolidge Hotel in White River Jct., VT. The speaker was Lucy Wendell-Thorpe, a photographer, who gave a slide show presentation on Denali and the Brown Bears of Katmai.

On March 13, 2004, the dinner program was held at the Elms Conference Center in Manchester, NH. Our speaker was Dan Allen who gave a slide presentation on cross-country skiing in Finland. His route was from Russia to Sweden just below the Arctic Circle.

Due to a problem at the printer, the April dinner and program was cancelled.

The June 5, 2004 dinner program was held at Faro Gardens in Hampton Falls. This was a slide presentation given by Brian Fowler, geologist, on the Old Man of the Mountain, a Geologic History.

The chapter dinner, on September 18, 2004, was held at T. R. Brennans in Manchester. Storyteller, Betty Arnett of Alaska, gave the program.

In addition to the dinner programs, two new member dinner meetings were held in May and November at the Red Blazer Restaurant in Concord, NH. Chapter committee members presented the programs for these.

For all of our programs each person attending is given a nametag, making it easier and nicer to greet people. These nametags are recycled for each meeting. After the meal is completed, door

prizes are awarded based on a numbering system. These two functions, as well as all of the reservations, are handled by the two Hospitality Co-Chairpersons.

In June **Alita Whittier** replaced **Janet Scholl** as Hospitality Co-Chair and **Pete Mason** replaced **Meg Moore** as Programs Co-Chair.

The programs and locations for the dinners are planned over a year ahead. For up to date information, please contact our Chapter Web Page at <<http://www.amc-nh.org>>.

We thank everyone who participated this past year and hope that you will continue in the future.

Bernice Johnson and Alita Whittier
Hospitality Co-Chairpersons

Barbara Wilkins and Pete Mason
Programs Co-Chairpersons

TRAILS COMMITTEE REPORT

We worked from May to October on many projects throughout New Hampshire including: the Old Bridle Path in Franconia Notch and the Sunapee Ridge section of the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway (the New Hampshire chapter's adopted trails) and other projects at Monadnock State Park, AMC's Cardigan Lodge, and more.

What do we do? We do everything to protect the trails from the damage done by boots, rain, and melting snow. Trail work includes digging in the dirt, clipping branches, painting blazes, moving rocks, building steps and bridges, changing and building trails. It's all so simple we can teach you how and why while we work on any project.

The NH chapter allowed us to purchase equipment that makes moving rocks easier such as new light nylon straps that help us move rocks to build stairs, a grinder to sharpen tools to making digging easier, and various replacement parts. All this equipment has seen lots of use this year alone.

Many people have earned rewards for doing trailwork with the New Hampshire chapter:

20 people earned **bandanas** (for 1.5 days of work),
15 people earned a New Hampshire Trail Crew short sleeve **T-Shirt** (for three days),
5 earned a long sleeve **T-shirt** (for five days)
and many more worked one day, which is all we ask.

If this sounds like fun, that's because it is (we wouldn't do it if it weren't). Every project is different and has work for folks of any age, any ability and experience (including none). We

teach you everything you need to know. To join us, look for our events on the chapter's web site and newsletter and in the AMC Outdoors magazine.

See you on the trails.

Bill Darcy and Tim Doucette
Trails Co-Chairs

YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE REPORT

The NH Chapter's Young Members Committee marked its second year with a picnic in Bear Brook State Park. The Committee was formed to encourage more young adults, in the 20's and 30's age range, to join the AMC. Our goal is to attract more young people to become involved in leadership training, volunteering, and learning outdoor skills.

Activities: Socials occur each month in Portsmouth and Manchester, and provide a way for members to meet and plan trips. The socials, in addition to potlucks and the annual picnic, have been very helpful in generating new trips and activities. In the past year, numerous informal camping, hiking, and kayaking trips have continued to take place from the White Mountains to the Seacoast, as well as in Baxter State Park and Acadia in Maine.

Young members have participated in volunteer activities over the past year, including the invasive plant removal day at Piscataquog River Park in Manchester, and various trail workdays. We have also started holding beginner and intermediate map and compass workshops periodically to help build young members' skills in this area.

The Young Members Group has also been sponsoring official trips listed in the AMC's Outdoors Magazine. Several more young members attended the winter and spring leadership training this year and have begun to lead mentored hikes. Many of the chapter's established trip leaders have been helpful in co-leading these trips while we build a young member leadership base.

We plan to promote leadership training again next year and hope to increase the number of official trips advertised in the magazine. Over the last year, young members have also become paddling leaders and one completed the top-roping school offered through the Mountaineering Committee.

Membership: The Young Members Group has grown to over 360 members on the Yahoo listserv. The email group allows us to communicate and make informal plans rapidly; it also makes it easy for people to get news about upcoming AMC events. We have continued to grow gradually over the past year.

While the group is geared to younger adults, we welcome outdoors-people of all ages to attend our events and join us on excursions. We hope to help promote diversity and strengthen the AMC by drawing in new members who will contribute their time and skills in the coming years.

To join the NH Chapter Young Members Committee, please go to the NH Chapter Website, www.amc-nh.org, and click on the “Young Members Committee” icon to learn more about upcoming events and join our email group. For more information, please feel free to contact the Co-chairs, Eric Savage at 772-6259, es25@cornell.edu, or Kelly Omand at 499-0575, kaomand@yahoo.com.

Eric Savage and Kelly Omand
Young Members Committee Co-chairs

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Anne Gwynne, Guy Jubinville and Meg Moore, submits the following slate of officers and committee chairs for action at the New Hampshire Chapter Annual Meeting, October 9, 2004. All nominations are for one year, to serve until the next annual meeting in October of 2005.

Chapter Chair	Robert Harrington
Chapter Vice-Chair	Sam Jamke
Secretary	Tim Kennedy
Treasurer	Mitch Manseau
Conservation Co-Chairs	Anne Melvin Mary Harrington
Excursions Chair	Wes Tucker
Hospitality Co-Chairs	Bernice Johnson Alita Whittier
Membership Co-Chairs	Bob Humphrey Ron Janowitz
Programs Co-Chairs	Barbara Wilkins Pete Mason
Mountaineering Co-Chairs	Jed Eliades Bill Burke
Newsletter Co-Chairs	Andy McBride Paula McBride
Trails Co-Chairs	Bill Darcy Tim Doucette
Young Members Co-Chairs	Kelly Omand Eric Savage
Web Master	Sue Breault
Web Site Assistant	Tod Hagan

Ex-officio members of the Executive Committee: Past Chapter Chair Pete Mason and Regional Director John Dolloff.

The Paddling Committee will elect their officers at their annual meeting in November.