Weekend Calendar
What are you doing this weekend? AMC-NH is always planning something. Our weekend calendar has all this weekend’s trip listing, social events and workshops in one convenient place. It’s just one click away at amc-nh.org and outdoors.org/about/calendar or see AMC Outdoors magazine.

Did you Know?
Registration is open for AMC’s 135th Annual Meeting. Join us on Saturday January 29, 2011 in Norwood MA for workshops, volunteer awards and much more! Stay for dinner and keynote speaker Dr. Char Miller: US Forest Service history expert and award winner author. The event is open to everyone, but space is limited. Go to outdoors.org for more information.

The New Hampshire Chapter Annual Winter Workshops 2011
Workshop #1: Jan. 21,22,23  2011
Workshop #2: Feb 25,26,27 2011
Just because its winter it doesn’t mean you have to hang up your backpack until spring. Come to Cardigan Lodge and learn how to go out and explore the NH wilds this winter safely and with confidence.

Ice Climbing with the NH AMC
Most people might wonder why anyone in their right mind would strap pointy dagger-like things on their feet and grasp medieval looking weapons in both hands to attack a dangling icicle. Sometimes, when the wind is howling, ice is shattering in my face, and my hands are numb, I wonder also.

Vision 2010
In 1999, AMC’s Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff developd a set of strategic goals essential to achieving AMC’s Mission through 2010. AMC’s Board is currently finalizing its Vision for 2020

August Camp 2011
Due to the popularity of the 2010 August Camp in the Canadian Rockies, the 2011 August Camp will remain in the Canadian Rockies for a second year.

Video review: Call of the River by Kent Ford
Call of the River is a video about the History of white water paddling. The DVD is of moderate quality and there are no menu or chapters on the DVD, but the picture and quality are good: even on the old color and black and white films.

Ski Committee 2011 Update
The ski season is here and the AMC NH Chapter Ski Committee has been busy ramping up our offerings for our 4th year of winter fun. So get ready to strap on your skis and join us for some (or all) of our upcoming activities.

AMC Major Excursion
Death Valley and the Red Rocks of Southern Nevada: Fire and Ice! There are few places in the U.S. where one can explore a desert ghost town in the morning, and climb a snow covered mountain peak in the afternoon.

Update from the Family Group
On November 5-7, the Family Group enjoyed another fun and successful Annual Fall Gathering at Cardigan Lodge.

What do dodge ball and hiking have in common?
Hiking and other outdoor pursuits are what initially draw people to the Young Member’s group.
The New Hampshire Chapter Annual Winter Workshops 2011

Workshop #1: Jan. 21, 22, 23  2011  
Workshop #2: Feb 25,26,27 2011

Just because it’s winter it doesn’t mean you have to hang up your backpack until spring. Come to Cardigan Lodge and learn how to go out and explore the NH wilds this winter safely and with confidence. Both workshops are designed to teach what you need to know for safe travel in the winter mountains. Both sessions offer the same curriculum, except as noted below.

Classes are offered that cover most every aspect of winter backcountry travel & safety. The weekend is filled with field exercises, lectures, & group discussions. Please choose only one per workshop. Your time will be divided between your individual class & activities for the entire workshop. Plan to spend extensive time outdoors. And when you’re not learning, there is plenty of great food to fuel you back up! If you are not sure which class to pick, just give us a call and ask one of our Workshop Directors (contact info below).

A. Introduction to Winter Wilderness Travel: Instruction in general mountain safety, clothing, & equipment, nutrition, risk management & trip planning. Includes introduction to snowshoeing and map & compass. Intended for individuals with limited experience who would like to start winter activities safely. Anticipate hiking as much as three miles at a slow pace with occasional uphill grades.

B. Intermediate Winter Wilderness Travel: Instruction in snowshoeing, route finding (map & compass) as well as general mountain safety, clothing & equipment, nutrition, risk management & trip planning. Intended for individuals with extensive 3-season experience in the outdoors but limited winter experience. Anticipate hiking/snowshoeing up to 5 miles at a mod/slow pace with sustained uphill grades.

C: Advanced Winter Wilderness Travel: Instruction is offered in winter travel on steep terrain & above tree line. Subjects covered include snowshoeing on mountain terrain, use of crampons, dressing for extreme weather conditions, off-trail navigation & risk management. Intended for individuals with winter experience in the outdoors who are interested in climbing NE tallest mountains safely. Anticipate hiking 6+ miles at a mod/fast pace, steep terrain, & significant exposure to wind.
D: Back Country Ski Touring 101
Want to expand your horizons beyond the golf courses and touring centers? Come learn how to explore the winter back woods on skis. We will cover how to travel efficiently on the ungroomed trails over rolling terrain and how to control speed by turning and stopping on modest hills. And we will address general back country safety. Expect to be outdoors playing in the snow on skis for 3-4 hours each day and ski 2-4 miles. Be prepared to ski with a day pack.

E: Intermediate Back Country Ski Touring
Ready to explore the wilderness for the day and go where you want with confidence? Spend the day in the woods to improve your skills including turning, stopping, climbing, trip planning and navigation. We’ll be outdoors for about 5 hours each day skiing and learning on various terrain with your full day pack.

F: Down Mountain Backcountry Skiing
Tired of the crowded lift served areas? Leave them behind and explore the solitude of the backcountry. This course is intended (designed) for the down mountain skier who wants to jump the gap from the lift served area and “side” country to the backcountry. This is not a learn to telemark clinic but how to apply your front-country/lift-serve skiing skills to the backcountry on down-mountain trails. Strategies for skiing on backcountry terrain in New England “Powdah” (less than optimum snow conditions) will be reviewed. Be prepared to spend 4 to 6 hours per day outside, on skis and to ski with a pack on down mountain trails. This is not just for telemark skiers, backcountry skills and strategies for the AT skier will also be reviewed!

G: Leadership & Mountain Skills: This section is for those who have mastered the basics of winter hiking and or BC skiing. Exercises in planning, organizing, and expediting a trip. Emphasizing leadership techniques and group dynamics. A review of the basics, accident scene management, medical considerations and off trail navigation. This class is also for people with potential and desire to become trip leaders for the NH Chapter Excursions or SKI Committees. Proficiency on snowshoes is a prerequisite.

H: Introduction to Winter Backpacking: For those that have mastered the basics of 3-season backpacking skills. Instruction in general winter mountain safety, snowshoeing, equipment, proper camp site selection and set up, cooking, trail finding, map & compass, off trail navigation, weather, trip planning, nutrition, emergency situations. Students will need winter clothing, a 20° below zero or lower sleeping bag, and foam pad. Tents can be provided if needed. This group will participate in indoor lectures and evening programs, sleeping outside Friday & Saturday night, prepare one meal outdoors. This class will only be offered in workshop 1.

I: Intermediate Winter Backpacking: Same as the Introduction to Winter Backpacking, except this group will be spending more time outdoors. Students will sleep outside both Friday & Saturday night and prepare 2 meals outdoors. This class will
only be offered for workshop #2.

These workshops will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon at ~ 4 p.m. Cost $130.00 (AMC members), $150.00 (nonmembers), includes lodging, excellent meals, materials, and instruction.

For further information, go to our web site (amc-nh.org) and to register online go to AMC_registration.ccntr.org or send a business size self addressed stamped envelope to the Registrar: Lynda Caine, 64 South Bow Rd., Hooksett, NH 03106. Send check or money with completed application or pay on line. You must be 18 years or older to attend. For more information please contact Director Rick Silverberg (603-225-5921, 7-10:30 p.m.)

Ice Climbing with the NH AMC
Tom Meredith

Most people might wonder why anyone in their right mind would strap pointy dagger-like things on their feet and grasp medieval looking weapons in both hands to attack a dangling icicle. Sometimes, when the wind is howling, ice is shattering in my face, and my hands are numb, I wonder also. But I keep going back. There is something magical about a crystal chandelier of ice glinting in the sun, or a smooth soaring column, and then using one’s skill to climb it to the top. There is the intimate, tactile sensation of the ice—is it brittle like glass or soft and plastic. There is the physical challenge and the mental focus. All thoughts leave the mind except for the few feet of ice before your eyes. Believe it or not, it really can be fun and satisfying.

If you think you might want to try it out, the NH AMC Mountaineering Committee is offering a beginning ice climbing clinic on Jan 22 and an intermediate clinic on February 13, both coordinated through the IMCS climbing school in North Conway, with all equipment provided. In addition we have several outings for those with their own equipment and some experience. See the NH AMC website (http://amc-nh.org/index.php) or the AMC Outdoors magazine for details.
**Mountain Passages**  
Volume 36, No.7  
- January/February 2011 -

*Mountain Passages* is published six times a year by the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Editor: Jennifer Varney

Submissions. Members may submit articles or photos (hi-res jpegs) to newsletter@amc-nh.org. Articles may be edited at the discretion of the editor to meet space and style requirements. Publication is on a space-available basis. While *Mountain Passages* does not pay for submissions, a byline or photo credit is given.

Advertising. The AMC NH Chapter members enjoy the outdoors year-round by hiking, paddling, skiing, backpacking, climbing and biking and more!

For information and the 2010 Ad Rate Sheet, send an email to newsletter@amc-nh.org. Deadline for the January/February issue of *Mountain Passages* is December 1, 2010.

We reserve the right to refuse any submission, photo or advertising that is not consistent with the mission of the AMC.

Address Changes. Address changes or other changes to your membership must be made through AMC Member Services at 5 Joy St. Boston, MA 02108; 800-372-1758; outdoors.org/membercenter

Please note: Member address updates cannot be handled by AMC-NH officers, committee chairs, or the newsletter editor.

*Mountain Passages* Online. If you’re receiving *Mountain Passages* through the mail, please consider signing up to get the electronic version instead.

You’ll get:
- added resources not available to print subscribers
- direct links to emails, forms and online information
- color photos
- online registration forms

To sign up, go to www.outdoors.org/membercenter and set your AMC-NH Chapter newsletter preference to online.

---

**AMC NH Mountaineering - Advance Notice**

**Introduction to Glacier Travel Workshop - April 9, 2011**

A 1 day workshop to familiarize participants with the glaciated mountaineering environment. Fundamentals of safe roped team travel, self and team arrest, ascending and descending steep slopes and more! Contact Director Jim Kent Tues & Weds 7-9pm ONLY 603-679-2235 after January 3, 2011

**Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue Workshop - April 16-17, 2011**

A weekend workshop tailored to participants planning to climb glaciated peaks as team members. This 2 day workshop builds on the fundamentals of the Introduction course or previous field experience. You will learn and refine the skills for self arrest, tying knots commonly used for roped team travel, building snow anchors and the construction of hauling systems for crevasse rescue. Contact Director Jim Kent Tues & Weds 7-9pm ONLY 603-679-2235 after January 3, 2011

---

**Vision 2010**

In 1999, AMC’s Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff developed a set of strategic goals essential to achieving AMC’s Mission through 2010. AMC’s Board is currently finalizing its Vision for 2020.

**Vision 2010 Goals and Progress**

**Manage 2,000 Miles of Trail**

At the end of 2009, AMC staff and volunteers managed 1,582 miles of trail throughout the Northeast, including 350 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

**Provide Outdoor Experiences to 150,000 People**

AMC hosted over 145,000 guest overnights at its huts, lodges, camps, and backcountry sites in 2009.

**Protect 2 Million Acres of Land**

AMC protected, directly and through partners, 50,996 new acres of land in 2009, for a total of more than 1.4 million acres since 2000.

**Provide Environmental Experiences for 60,000 Youth**

AMC reached 36,170 young people in 2009 through its programs and destinations.

**Increase Number of Volunteers to 25,000**

AMC benefited from the efforts of over 16,000 leadership, trails, camp, information, recreation, and conservation volunteers in 2009.

**Provide Outdoor Safety and Recreation Information to over 2 million people**

In 2009, AMC reached over 100,000 members, advocates, and supporters, and well over 2 million outdoor enthusiasts, through its visitor centers, media, print, and online resources.

**Protect Over 100,000 in Maine’s 100-Mile Wilderness through a balance of conservation, outdoor recreation, sustainable forestry, and community partnerships**

In 2009, AMC completed the purchase of the 29,500-acre Roach Ponds Tract, the “missing link” in a 63-mile long conservation corridor stretching from AMC’s Katahdin Iron Works property to Baxter State Park.

Want to know more? Visit the AMC at http://www.outdoors.org
August Camp 2011

AMC’s August Camp traditionally changes its location each year to take advantage of hiking and canoeing opportunities throughout North America. Recent sites have included: Canadian Rockies, Central Cascades in Oregon, Yellowstone vicinity of Wyoming; High Sierras in California; North Cascades in Washington, and Mt. Rainier in Washington. Due to the popularity of the 2010 August Camp in the Canadian Rockies, the 2011 August Camp will remain in the Canadian Rockies for a second year. Our base camp will be at the Beaverfoot Lodge campground in the Beaverfoot Valley, surrounded by stunning mountain scenery. Our location is between Field and Golden, British Columbia and is bordered by Yoho and Kootenay National Parks. Our activities will take us to Yoho, Banff, Kootenay, Glacier and Jasper National Parks with their snowcapped mountains, vast glaciers and ice fields, turquoise lakes, thundering waterfalls, wildflowers, hot springs and fossil beds.

An intimate tent village for 64 adult campers, August Camp offers multiple hikes each day for all levels of ability. Car camping and backpacking, sightseeing excursions, river rafting, canoeing and kayaking are also available. Delicious cooked meals and trail lunches are provided; great camaraderie and nightly campfires make for a memorable experience.

Dates are Saturday, July 16, 2011—Saturday, August 13, 2011. Campers may sign up for one or two weeks, starting any Saturday. Reservations open January 1, 2011. The reservation forms are available on the August Camp web site (www.augustcamp.org) or in the Jan/Feb issue of Outdoors magazine. Additional August Camp information may be obtained from the August Camp web site, by emailing the Registrar at Aug-CampReg1887@gmail.com, or by calling, before 9:00 pm EST, Trish Niece (203-265-9584) or Sam Jamke at (603-472-2536). Full camp info will be available electronically around April 1. NOTE: If you DO NOT have an e-mail address and internet access, then you MUST enclose a stamped (postage for two ounces) self-addressed #10 envelope if you would like the Registrar to mail you the forms and information packets. Please remember that public libraries are a great source for computers and instruction in how to use them if you do not have one.

Please send check payable to AMC August Camp (NO CREDIT CARDS) and application to: August Camp Reservations, c/o Trish Niece, 810 North Farms Road, Wallingford, CT 06492. Balance is due on May 1, 2011.
Video review: Call of the River by Kent Ford, review by Joe O'Neil

Call of the River is a video about the History of white water paddling. The DVD is of moderate quality and there are no menu or chapters on the DVD, but the picture and quality are good: even on the old color and black and white films.

The video begins with how the Indians had all types of canoes: touring, white water and war canoes. It tell how canoes were vital for commerce and trade. The first Europeans came and adapted the canoe for the fur trade. Some of the early users of the canoe used them for tricks which eventually became self rescue techniques. As people became more wealthy and had more free time the canoe became a part their leisure time. Canoes where all over the lakes but some brave souls wanted to take them on the rivers.

The first white water canoes were wood and canvas canoes. Many children’s camps had fleets of canvas canoes. They would bring canoes down the river but if a canvas brushed against a rock, the canoe had to be repaired and this could delay your trip for hours, even days. To use a canvas canoe on white water you had to be very skilled and the camps and clubs had rigorous training procedures which created many great paddlers.

During World War II, The Allies and Germans bombed the bridges in Europe and the debris from the bridges created rapids. This became a weekend pastime. The Europeans were more into folding kayaks and became heavily involved in racing. After the war, Grumman Aircraft had surplus production capacity and developed the aluminum white water canoe. The first year over 10,000 were sold to all the camps to replace there fleets of wood and canvas canoes. This allowed a lot more people to go white water. They wrapped a lot of life jackets: NO flotation! Their Idea of equipment was a towel for their knees. The aluminum canoes made a lot of noise and it was not uncommon to see someone jumping up and down on one that they had wrapped around a rock.

One of the first guide books listed local people that live near the gauge. Paddlers were able to give them a call and they would tell you the water level. The fee for this was 7 first class stamps.

The video further goes into the Munich Olympics, during which I remember watching the C1 and Kayak racing. I remember it being very exciting on the man made river it the first of its kind. It also had the largest whitewater audience ever!

The video goes into the development of deck canoes and kayaks. If you wanted a kayak you had to build your own plus your own spray skirt and booties. It also tells how the movie Deliverance played role in the history of the canoeing and the plastic kayak squirt boats. The movie has lots of other historical stories and is very good at bringing them to life. This video is very good: especially if you like action footage of white water paddling and history. I highly recommend you watch this video.
Ski Committee 2011 Update

The ski season is here and the AMC NH Chapter Ski Committee has been busy ramping up our offerings for our 4th year of winter fun. So get ready to strap on your skis and join us for some (or all) of our upcoming activities.

Our Bedford backcountry and skate ski clinics start on Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30 PM at the Bedford cross country center. We’ll offer clinics for beginner and intermediate backcountry skiing, as well as skate skiing. For more details, contact Ski Committee Co-Chair, Emilie Phillips at emilie@j3.org.

Back by popular demand, our Gunstock telemark clinics start Thursday, January 6th and run every other week throughout the winter. Clinics start at 6:30 PM in order to give you plenty of time to get out of work and join us on the slopes. Our experienced team of instructors will be offering beginner, intermediate, and if conditions allow, advanced clinics. For more details, contact Ski Committee Co-Chair, Tony Schmidt at skinhamc@gmail.com.

If you’re curious about transitioning from groomed trails to backcountry, you should definitely enroll in one of our backcountry ski courses offered at the NH Chapter’s Winter School at Cardigan Lodge in January and February. We’ve revamped our courses this year and we’re now offering Backcountry Ski Touring 101, Intermediate Backcountry Ski Touring and Down Mountain Backcountry Skiing. These courses offer everything from an introduction to backcountry ski travel to full on, down mountain, backcountry skiing with plastic boots and metal edged telemark or alpine touring skis. For more information on these clinics, contact the Ski Committee’s Winter School Ski Coordinator, Scott Taylor at scott.taylor-loggenrock@att.net or check out our website http://amc-nh.org/committee/ski/winter-school-courses.php.

To promote backcountry skiing, the Ski Committee is hosting the 2nd annual Cardigan Backcountry Ski Festival on Sunday, February 13th, with a rain date of Sunday March 13th. We’ll be offering several tours around Cardigan Mountain, including beginner, intermediate and down mountain touring. For more information, contact Tony Schmidt at skinhamc@gmail.com or Emilie Phillips at emilie@j3.org.

The Ski Committee with the NH Young Members Committee is hosting a Friday night ski social at Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, NH on February 11th. Start your weekend off right by joining us for some night skiing, and of course après ski. For more information, contact Tony Schmidt at skinhamc@gmail.com or Wayne Goertel at wgoertel@comcast.net.

The ski committee also has a bi-weekly, electronic newsletter to keep you abreast of the upcoming committee events. If you interested in getting on the mailing list, contact Tony Schmidt at skinhamc@gmail.com.

And last, but not least, don’t forget to check out our weekly backcountry ski trips on the Ski Committee’s website at http://amc-nh.org/committee/ski/index.php.

If you have any questions or comments about the Ski Committee, contact either Emilie Phillips at emilie@j3.org or Tony Schmidt at skinhamc@gmail.com. Hope to see you out there!
AMC Major Excursion
Death Valley and the Red Rocks of Southern Nevada
April 23 - May 1, 2011

Leaders – Sam Jamke & Ron Janowitz

Fire and Ice! There are few places in the U.S. where one can explore a desert ghost town in the morning, and climb a snow covered mountain peak in the afternoon. Death Valley National Park offers that opportunity! On this 9-day adventure, we'll explore the canyons, sand dunes and mountains of Death Valley, as well as the high desert red rock state parks near Las Vegas. After arriving in Las Vegas, we drive to the scenic and historic desert town of Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley. We'll enjoy moderate to challenging hikes ranging from 5 to 14 mi. per day in the Death Valley basin, and in the rugged beauty of the Panamint Range. We'll see mountain wildflowers, wildlife, historic abandoned ghost towns and mines, rocky peaks, sheer cliffs, and experience the unique terrain and mountain air above 11,000’ as we climb high desert peaks in eastern California. Our group will hike to the scenic summits of Wildrose Peak (9064’), Rogers Peak (9998’), and Telescope Peak (11,049’) in Death Valley. We will also hike and explore Mosaic Canyon and the maze of canyons to Zabriskie Point. At Badwater Basin, we'll see the lowest point in the U.S. We will then visit Nevada's oldest state park, the spectacular Valley of Fire State Park. In the Red Rocks Conservation Area we'll hike Turtlehead Peak and the Calico Tanks. On this trip, you will experience the striking contrasts of red rocks, sand dunes, and snowfields. You will visit desert terrain below sea level and mountain summits high above the desert floor. Late afternoons will be spent relaxing at the pool at our motel, or visiting nearby historic mining and town sites. After our hikes in Nevada, you can enjoy the sights and sounds of Las Vegas.

Ron and Sam have a few spaces left. Check out the web site for details and contact one of them for application materials if you think this trip is for you.

http://trips.outdoors.org/index.cfm/method/search.fullview/tripid/29148/
“There Are No Passengers on Spaceship Earth, We Are All Crew.”

What do artisans and lumberjacks have in common? They make excellent Trail Crew Members! From painting blazes and clipping branches to clearing downed trees and building up rock steps, the New Hampshire AMC Trail Crew is looking for volunteers who want to get more involved in the care and maintenance of the more than 350 miles of adopted trails in the state. We have jobs and tasks for any level of personal involvement and we will welcome anyone who wants to spend the day covered in dirt and eating brownies along the way! The New Hampshire AMC hosts a variety of trail work opportunities! Join us this Spring at Cardigan Lodge for our Trail Work Intro & Demo where you will experience various trail maintenance techniques and learn first hand from seasoned crew what it takes to maintain the trails. Over the course of the Summer, and into the Fall, we put these skills to use and take care of our adopted trails throughout the state. Whether you can lift a paintbrush or a log, you’re perfect for the trail’s needs! Join the Women’s Trail Maintenance Day in the Belknaps, do some brushing & blazing on the adopted portion of the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway, spend a fun and challenging weekend at the Cold River Camp in Evans Notch or attend National Trails Day, which offers volunteer work in southern New Hampshire at Pawtuckaway State Park and up north on the Davis Path. We will visit the Old Bridle Path in Spring, Summer and Fall for annual clean-up and rock step construction. Any of these events offer more rewards than any day behind a desk! So, come play in the dirt and see what you’re made of. And of course, eat brownies.

All it takes is just one day a year– if everyone pitches in!
Find us at Yahoo! Groups: AMCNHTrailsAnnounce
Email Questions to: trails@amc-nh.org
-Stephanie chambers
title quote by: Marshall McLuhan

Update from the Family Group

On November 5-7, the Family Group enjoyed another fun and successful Annual Fall Gathering at Cardigan Lodge. Each fall we reserve the whole lodge during the self service season. Kids from age 1 to 15 had a great time hanging out with old friends and making new ones. Our personal kitchen crew, headed up by Nathan Holstein (who grew up with the group) provided us with terrific meals. Our activities on Saturday included 3 levels of hikes to meet all ability levels, plus an orienteering adventure with map and compass. During the evening Saturday, we all watched as Dave Passios proved that you can make a really interesting bonfire with cardboard tubes. As the fire died down, we made s’mores with homemade marshmallows, graham crackers and Lindt chocolate...does it get any better than that? On Sunday we took our traditional trip to Welton Falls and finished our adventure with the traditional leftovers for lunch. Any weekend where everyone has fun, is safe, and boys do the dishes is a success!

Upcoming:
March 26, 2011 will be our annual Staying Found Workshop for families. The workshop will be put on by New England K-9 Search and Rescue and will be hosted by NH Audubon's Massabesic Center. It is appropriate for kids ages 4 & up and teaches them how to not get lost in the woods and what to do if they do become lost. The presentation is usually followed by a search dog demonstration. The folks at the Massabesic Center will probably also offer a kid friendly activity or workshop following Staying Found. Those interested in attending the workshop may contact Wanda Rice at wanda-rice@comcast.net.
What do dodge ball and hiking have in common?

On the surface not a whole lot, but if you dig a little farther: especially in regard to the NH AMC Young Member’s group, you’ll discover that the 2 activities are more closely related than you thought!

Lora Claus

Hiking and other outdoor pursuits are what initially draw people to the Young Member’s group. Former Co-Chair, Mary Schmidt Brundage said she joined the group because she “wanted to meet other outdoorsy people in my age group but it’s not like you can walk into a bar with a name tag saying “I like to hike” so YM was a great outlet to find other people with similar interests.”

And hiking is certainly the backbone activity of the group, but it’s the social activities, such as dodge ball, wine tastings and travel slide-shows, that glue everything together. John Green, a new member of the NH AMC Young Members, said, “I like that the group is both social and activity based. We don’t just hike mountains; we also have regular socials where we can meet other members or learn a new skill. For example, I learned how to properly navigate with a map and compass at a meeting in Manchester; a good thing to know if you are in the mountains!”

Originally founded in 2002 as a way to encourage young adult involvement in the AMC, the NH Young Member’s group now has a membership of over 500 folks as measured by enrollment in our Yahoo Group. In addition, our Facebook Page is attracting fans left and right.

If you’re wondering whether you’d fit in the Young Member’s group, worry not. Young Members aren’t defined by their age, but rather their enthusiasm for all of the activities this group has to offer. Our enterprising co-chairs (Lora Claus and Wayne Goertel) and adventurous trip leaders go out of their way to make sure there are outdoor activities for everyone from low key hikes in Pawtuckaway to multi-day cabin weekends in the White Mountains. And for those times when you can’t make the 2+ hour drive to the White Mountains, our intrepid social hosts (Kaitrin Davis, Stephanie Chambers and Ross Garafalo) ensure that you’ll find a Young Members’ gathering most weeks of the month in one of New Hampshire’s major cities, including Portsmouth, Manchester, Concord and Keene.

We’re also networking within the AMC. In January, there will be a large number of Young Members participating in the New Hampshire AMC Chapter Winter School at Cardigan Lodge and in February, Young Members will be hosting a Ski Social with the NH AMC Ski Committee at Gunstock.

So stay tuned!
Monitor the AMC NH Chapter Young Members website and feel free to join us for any of our upcoming activities. We look forward to meeting you.
POT LUCK DINNER & SLIDE SHOW : MONT BLANC

Saturday, February 5
Wesley United Methodist Church Concord, NH
Sponsored by the Programs committee

Join us for a casual, relaxed winter evening with old and new friends, enjoying home made food, stirring conversation and a terrific slide presentation. David Ross will share stories and photos of his 2008 AMC Major Excursion, that he calls the "trip of a lifetime".

Glaciers! Alpine meadows! Cow bells! Come and see photos of his Tour de Mont Blanc, a 10-day, 110 mile backpack around western Europe’s famous massif, through 3 countries, staying at high-elevation huts.

Prior to the presentation, there will be a contest to see if you can identify some of David's landmark photos from his trips around the world.

David is a retired pediatrician with passions for traveling, bicycling, hiking, peak-bagging, bushwhacking and cooking. He has taken cycle trips in several European countries, the USA and Canada, as well as multi-day hikes in the UK, continental Europe and New Zealand. David is currently the co-chair of the AMC NH Chapter Excursions Committee. He also instructs and cooks at the NH Chapter Cardigan Winter and Spring School.

This event is open to all - members and non-members. There is no cost to attend. Just fill out the registration form on page 12. Indicate the type of pot-luck dish you will bring and share.

NHAMC Paddlers Introductory Whitewater Canoe & Kayak School

April 1 - 3, 2011 with a required preparatory session March 5 or 19 and skills building class April 30.

The annual WW School provides an introduction to Class II whitewater for flatwater paddlers. Register to learn tandem canoe, solo canoe, or solo kayak.

The school teaches you the skills and proper preparation to safely paddle Class II whitewater and gives you the practice so that you are comfortable and having fun paddling.

The school sessions take place in Nashua, Henniker, and on several area rivers selected according to appropriate river levels and difficulty.

During this course, you’ll learn the basic skills of river reading and maneuvering through whitewater, as well as some basic safety and rescue procedures. We'll review and help you improve your basic paddling strokes, as well as how to perform a forward ferry, back ferry, eddy turn, peel out, and other river maneuvers.

For more information and an application go to nhamcpaddlers.org
(http://nhamcpaddlers.org/events_schools/spring_school.php)

Wilderness Paddling: Expedition Planning, Equipping, and Provisioning
January 22, 2011

This course will cover planning, equipping, and provisioning for a wilderness canoe expedition. We’ll discuss sources of information, logistics, equipment, safety, weather, and meal planning. We'll provide equipment lists and show some of the equipment we use as well as discuss our different philosophies and group dynamics. This full day course will be held in Lexington, MA. For more info: nhamcpaddlers.org.