Flags on the 48 Hut Night on September 10
Hut Nights are a special tradition for NH Chapter members and we look forward to a special evening at our oldest hut. We have reserved a limited number of bunks at a special rate of $89.50 per person.

An Invitation to Join Ex Comm
Read more to find out how you can volunteer.

Biking New Hampshire
Hello to all bike riders!

The Madison Hut Re opens
The Madison Hut reopened on June 2 after a winter of extensive work and upgrades.

The First Good Day of the Year
Thanks to a once-in-a-lifetime free-lance opportunity, I spent my weekends last winter hunched over a computer rather than snow-shoeing or skiing some of the White Mountains’ deepest powder in years

45th Annual Presidential Range Hike
Hike over 50 miles of scenic trails in WMNF including many on Appalachian Trail

NH Excursions Class 4 Leadership training
One day training for those interested in getting trained to lead NH Excursions class 4 (previously WASH) or Young Members hikes

Volunteer Spotlight: Read about this issue’s chapter volunteer…

NH Chapter Annual Winter Hiking Series
The NH. Chapter Education Committee presents the 12th annual Winter Hiking Series
Flags on the 48 Hut Night on September 10, 2011!

**A Traditional NH Chapter Hut Night**
Hut Nights are a special tradition for NH Chapter members and we look forward to a special evening at our oldest hut. We have reserved a limited number of bunks at a special rate of $89.50 per person.

On the morning of September 10th you are welcome to join us for a group hike to the hut. Upon arrival we will check in, select our bunks, and unpack our gear. Tripsters will then be free to relax around the hut or take a hike to the summit of Madison (5,367’) to see Flags on the 48!

In the evening, we will gather for a wine and cheese reception followed by hearty dinner prepared and served by the famous Madison Hut Crew. After dinner we'll take a short hike to Star Lake and return to the hut to enjoy the sunset from a new perspective.

On the morning of September 11th, we'll enjoy breakfast by the crew before saying goodbye and heading out for our hiking adventures. Madison provides a great starting point for some special hikes and your options include an exploration of the Adams family or a traverse across the Great Gulf Trail.

**About Flags on the 48:**
“Flags on the 48” is an annual memorial hike to each of New Hampshire’s 4,000-foot summits in memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The first hike was an informal and spontaneous memorial by a group of six hikers who raised a large American flag on the summit of Mount Liberty the first Saturday after the 9/11 attacks. The tribute has grown significantly each year since it began in 2001.

Today hundreds of hikers are involved and they hike to the summits before noon to pay tribute by flying the American flag for two hours. Each summit group has its own special tribute with photos, peaceful music, and quiet conversation with passing hikers.

**About Madison Spring Hut:**
As the oldest hut in AMC’s White Mountain Hut System, Madison Spring Hut has sheltered hundreds of thousands of hikers and is a welcome sight at the end of a long hike. It is nestled in the alpine tundra at 4,800’ between Mounts Madison and Adams and is usually approached via the Valley Way trail.

Built in 1888 and modeled after European alpine huts, the original Madison Spring Hut featured two-foot thick stone walls that could shelter 12 hikers. By 1929, the hut had undergone several additions and expansions to include a kitchen, dining room, and crew quarters. A fire destroyed Madison in October 1940 when two crew members were transferring gasoline to run the electric light generator. Rebuilding work began the day after the fire and by August 1941, the hut was fully operational again, thanks to an army of packers and donkeys who hauled supplies that fall and spring.
It has been 70 years since Madison was reconstructed. In that time, with the exception of a few kitchen improvements, window replacement, and reshingling, the hut is the same as it was when it reopened to hikers after the fire. Seventy harsh winters, countless guests, and dozens of crew members later, the history of Madison Spring Hut continues.

This past year, the hut has undergone a rebuilding project that has preserved the historic core of the hut and stone walls of the bunkrooms. The footprint has been by 700 square feet and makes efficient use of the courtyard area on the Mt. Madison side of the hut. The expanded dining room and sitting area allows hikers to enjoy incredible views of J. Q. Adams, Durand Ridge-Air Line, and Randolph.

Space is Limited! Call Today to Make Your Reservation:

To reserve, please call AMC Reservations by Monday August 12th to receive the discounted rate of $89.50 per person including NH lodging taxes. Reservations received after that time will be on a space available basis at full price.

Instructions for Booking Your Stay
1. Call the AMC Reservations Line at 603-466-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9 am to 5 pm).
2. Tell the Customer Service Representative that you are with the AMC NH Hut Night at Madison Group # 164527
3. Provide your contact information, any food allergy information or vegetarian requests.
Provide credit card number by phone or set up the reservation and mail a check to AMC (must be received within 7 days of your call).


*Reprinted in part from the AMC’s Outdoors.org website.

The North Face Explore Fund Awards Grant to the Appalachian Mountain Club

AMC Youth Mountain Adventure Program supports a national effort to increase outdoor participation among Boston youth

BOSTON, MA – The North Face has awarded a $2,500 grant to the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) to help children and families explore the outdoors. The Youth Mountain Adventure Program (YMAP), which is part of AMC’s larger Youth Opportunities Program (YOP), brings underprivileged urban youth from low-income families into the outdoors to help them develop confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills as well as a deeper connection to nature. AMC was selected from hundreds of applications because of its efforts to make active outdoor participation more accessible to youth. In the first of two grant cycles in 2011, The North Face awarded $125,000 Explore Fund grants to 52 projects helping more than 30,000 kids to connect to nature.

“It’s truly an honor for the Appalachian Mountain Club to be recognized as part of our long-standing commitment to getting youth outdoors,” said Stefanie Brochu, Youth Opportunities Program Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club. “The Youth Mountain Adventure Program is important because it not only eliminates barriers for urban youth to participate in outdoor activities, but also nurtures the next generation of environmental stewards. Support from partners that share these values, such as The North Face, is critical to our success.”

Read more at AMC’s Outdoors.org website...
An Invitation to Join ExComm!

Looking for a New Way to Volunteer?
There are many ways to participate in the AMC and one of them is to volunteer for the NH Chapter as a member of the Executive Committee, or “ExComm” for short.

About ExComm
The administration of the NH Chapter is vested in the Executive Committee whose voting members are the Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Standing Committee Chairs, and Immediate Past Chair. The members are elected each Annual Meeting and are responsible for supporting the objectives of both the Club and Chapter.

Who We Are and What We Do
We are an optimistic-energetic group of volunteers representing all aspects of the Chapter including conservation, education, and recreation. We meet once a month to dream about the future, drive Chapter objectives, and plan fun events. Throughout the year we participate in Chapter events like Chapter Activity Day and Club-wide events like Fall Gathering. We are making a difference in New Hampshire—today and for the future.

Interested in Learning More?
We have a variety of openings to suit every interest. To hear about current opportunities please call Karen Thurston at (603) 770-1980.

On the summit of Mount Adams
Spring 2010

An AMC group enjoys an early spring day on Old Bridle Path (your chapter’s adopted trail!)
Photo by Jennifer Varney

Paper or electronic?
You may have noticed that the paper newsletter is getting smaller...as an organization whose mission is conservation-based, we are trying to limit the amount of paper we use by including more content on the e version of the newsletter. Please consider changing your newsletter preference to electronic. You will not only be helping your chapter save money (the chapter spends thousands of dollars each year on publishing the paper newsletter), but you may just save a few trees along the way!

Log into the membercenter if you wish to change your delivery preference.

Jennifer Varney
NH Chapter Newsletter Editor
Hello to all Bike riders!!!

At the April meeting of the Executive Committee of the NH Chapter AMC, a group of people who had been working together since February was granted status as a Temporary Biking Committee.

The Temporary Biking Committee has worked hard to develop a training plan to qualify more Bike Ride Leaders. On May 7 on Chapter Activity Day at Cardigan Lodge the first leader training was held and we now have three new Bike Ride leaders who will soon be offering to lead more group bike rides in New Hampshire.

If you would like to participate in the training please contact the chair of the Biking Committee.

Gene Harding
bikenh@amc-nh.org
The First Good Day of the Year

By David Phillips

Thanks to a once-in-a-lifetime free-lance opportunity, I spent my weekends last winter hunched over a computer rather than snow-shoeing or skiing some of the White Mountains’ deepest powder in years. Happily, that finally changed in early-April when a Friday morning visit to the AMC web site confirmed there was “limited” availability at the Zealand Falls hut the following night.

A late start, coupled with bright sunshine and balmy temperatures, meant I was greeted by a messy cocktail of slush, wet asphalt and, after the pavement ended, mud slurry on the Zealand Falls road, all 3.8 miles of it. However, my decision to leave the snowshoes in the car proved the right one. Good winter boots, with Microspikes in reserve, were just the ticket for the sloppy road and, later, an ominously well-trodden Zealand Falls trail. Ominous in that there were scores of fresh boot prints in the snow – most of them small to medium in size.

Soon I heard shrill young voices at play ahead and, in time, overtook what would be the first of several clusters of Boy Scouts and their scoutmasters on the trail.

“Where ya headed?” queried one grownup.

“Zealand Falls hut,” I replied.

“Us too,” he said. “There’ll be about 20 Scouts there tonight from Weston, Massachusetts. Hope you weren’t counting on peace and quiet.”

Actually, now that he mentioned it, I was. Emphasize was. 20 Boy Scouts? Zealand Falls hut? Peace and quiet? Glad I tossed a set of ear plugs in my pack.

Then again, it was one of those Scouts who spotted a good way around a stream crossing for all of us after we’d come upon a missing bridge. And it was a scout master who put things in perspective when his troop came upon me, contemplating a panorama of snow and bare trees from Zeacliff to Mt Hale from the bridge across Zealand River a half mile short of the hut.

“Enjoy the view while you can,” he said. “A month from now you’ll be eaten by bugs.”

Sure enough, the Microspikes came in handy on the precipitous final climb to the hut. There I found a dozen Scouts whizzing in, around and through the building, flinging snowballs, clambering up and down the hillside and, generally, burning-off some of the steam they hadn’t expended on the hike from the road. But it was good fun, no fights, no “don’t make me have to come over there” threats from the adults. The only issue was remembering to close the door after entering and exiting the hut – something of a moot point given the seemingly non-stop flow of Scouts.

Meanwhile, I relaxed on the front porch, alternately reading and conversing with the parents about hiking gear, my own family and a (wisely) aborted climb of Mt Washington in a white-out as the noise of revved-up Scouts mingled with the resonance of nearby Zealand Falls each, in their way, part of the natural soundscape. After all, what are AMC huts for if not, at least in
part, for Boy Scouts to raise a din and enjoy . . . so that the Boy and Girl Scouts of 2111 can too. 

My appreciation for the Scouts wasn’t altogether altruistic. Predictably, they’d brought half again as much food as they needed and while three shifts of Scouts cooking proved chaotic, my own feast of freeze-dried beef stroganoff was soon supplemented by a succulent stick of shish-ka-bob and, later, a cheeseburger.

What’s more, a cabin full of Scouts quietly (mostly) talking, reading and playing board games while their fathers and I conversed, made for a cordial evening around a well-stoked wood stove . . . and the extra twenty very warm bodies helped make the hut’s great room still cozier despite temperatures outside dipping into the teens.

Caretaker Dom’s warm but firm “lights-out by 9:30” policy had everyone in their bunks by 10 and, ear plugs firmly in place, I slept soundly until dawn.

Determined to get on the trail before my companions, I wolfed down a bowl of oatmeal – and the cinnamon pop’n fresh muffin proffered me by the Scouts – then headed for an incomparable day outdoors. Snow consolidated by the overnight freeze but with the air temperature rising, the walk back to Rte 302 was one of my best days on the trail since I can’t say when. Air calm, comfortably warm in a just a fleece jacket, the trail still bug-free and with rocks and tree roots under upwards of three feet of snow, the 6.6 mile hike was a delightful climax to my first outing of 2011.

But it wouldn’t have been half the fun without my 20 new friends from Weston.

45TH ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL RANGE HIKE
July 16 – 24, 2011

Hike over 50 miles of scenic trails in WMNF including many on Appalachian Trail. Climb at least a dozen peaks over 4000 ft. including Mt. Washington. A STRENUOUS AND WONDERFUL GROUP HIKE with 15,000 feet elevation gain!! Daily hikes of 5 – 10 miles led by 4 NH Chapter Leaders and max 21 hikers. A variety of hiking options will be offered each day. The cost is $840 ($875 non-members). This includes 8 nights lodging and meals at AMC huts, gratuities, trail snacks, in-hike transportation. Deposit $420 ($25 non refund). Register early, trip fills each year!

For info / application: Tim Kennedy, (603-635-2517 or takhike@comcast.net)
NH Excursions Class 4 and Young Members leadership training

One day training for those interested in getting trained to lead NH Excursions class 4 (previously WASH) or Young Members hikes. This is the entry level leadership training for all those who have thought they might like to lead a trip but were not sure how to get started. The training will include trip planning, group communications, screening participants, how to deal with difficult situations and field exercises to practice leadership skills on the trail in a small group. The session also includes indoor meeting and outdoor trail practice. The costs is $25 to cover materials. Please register online at

AMC_registration.centr.org

Related Websites:  
http://AMC.Registration.centr.org

Date: September 17, 2011  
(Saturday)

Leaders:  
Rick Silverberg  
synergyc@aol.com  
603-225-5921 (best time to call: 7:00pm-10:30pm)

Bob Humphrey  
bobh@mctelecom.com  
603-456-3798 (best time to call: 7:00pm-10:30pm)
Debbie and Kerry Frazier have put a lot of miles on their canoes over the past 30 years or so: whitewater, quiet water, and everything in between.

The Fraziers started canoeing on the Saco River in the summer of 1982 with their children, and they were quickly hooked on the sport. Debbie says that she and her daughter tipped over many times their first day on the water; they stopped counting at 17, but they all had a blast and they all kept going back for more! Soon they were bringing their Girl Scout troop along, making friends along the way, and expanding their paddling adventures.

When their daughter took up canoe racing as a freshman in high school in the spring of 1987, they were introduced to canoe racing and found themselves volunteering to paddle as safety boaters with the team. They did that for 12 years, putting many more miles on their old Discovery 169 canoe and honing their own skills as a tandem paddling team. Where the girls’ team raced, they raced – earning the respect of the girls because they paddled the same stretches of river. They’ve participated in local races such as the Lamprey River Canoe Race, the Smith River Canoe Race, and the Bagel Chase Canoe Race in Contoocook.

Debbie and Kerry enjoy wilderness tripping expeditions and canoe camping with their family and friends, and fondly remember the trip of a lifetime on the St Croix River. They paddle each year from early spring to late fall, on day trips and weekend excursions near and far. All those miles on the water have helped them learn to communicate and work together (both on and off the water); says Kerry, “our team makes it or breaks it as a team.”

They were first bit by the whitewater bug on a rafting trip in 1986. The next year they were introduced to the beautiful Androscoggin River in northern New Hampshire, and they’ve been up there at least once every year since then (and in fact, sometimes three or four times a year). In 1996 they took a class in whitewater paddling, and soon after that they discovered the New Hampshire AMC.

A lot of the miles they’ve logged since then have been paddled as leaders or participants of AMC trips and events. They became leaders because they wanted to paddle more often, and to share their favorite paddling spots with others. Among the many trips they post each year are the traditional long weekends on the Androscoggin River over Memorial Day and Labor Day (with their famous Saturday Night Potluck Dinners).

Once they became leaders, it wasn’t long before they found themselves volunteering to help out further on the NHAMC Paddlers Committee. First as Hospitality Co-Chairs – if you’ve attended one of our meetings in recent years, you’ve been greeted by their smiling faces as you came in and picked up your nametag. Debbie stepped up as Treasurer in the fall of 2009, and Kerry is currently serving as Paddling Committee Co-Chair. Like so many other dedicated NHAMC Paddling volunteers, the Fraziers have helped out with numerous AMC events through the years.

Other organizations besides the AMC have enjoyed their volunteerism as well. For 24 years, they were adult volunteers for the Girl Scouts – serving as leaders and certified trainers. They also served as committee members for the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Paddling has been a family activity for them all along - all of their children and grandchildren enjoy paddling, including their four-year-old who paddled for the first time last summer.

When they’re not paddling, Debbie and Kerry enjoy dancing, walking, and… planning their next adventure!
NH Chapter Annual Winter Hiking Series

The NH. Chapter Education Committee presents the 12th annual Winter Hiking Series. (WHS) This series is designed for EXPERIENCED 3 Season hikers who want to advance into the winter season. This is not a beginner hiking course: it is for those who can demonstrate considerable 3 season skills. Applicants should have climbed a number of the New England Four Thousand Footers, or their equivalent, and preferably has considerable experience in the White Mountains of NH.

We will teach the basics of safe winter travel and give you informed choices for winter gear. Topics include: gear, body heat management, energy management, foot wear, (boots/crampons/snowshoes) nutrition, winter clothing, (layering) and other topics.

The WHS has become very popular; we have room for only 20 participants. We recommend applying early.

There is an application process that interested participants must complete. We recommend that you give us detailed information of your hiking experience, as vague or incomplete applications will not be considered. We collect all applications early and accept participant selection by mid September.

The WHS starts October 22nd with a weekend long session that takes place at the AMC’s Pinkham Notch facility. Saturday October 22nd is dedicated to lecture on winter gear, winter clothing, and safety topics. Attendance at this first weekend event is mandatory for participation in the series. The WHS will run from October 22nd thru December 17th. The non-refundable registration fee is $75. Sessions include 10/22 lecture & 10/23 hike to Boott Spur. Lodging and meals can be obtained for this weekend, but are not included in the $75 registration fee. After the first weekend we will have 5 additional day hikes. These hikes will include Mt Flume 10/29, Mts. N&S Kinsman 11/12, Mt. Moosilauke 11/19, Mts. Eisenhower & Clinton 12/3, and Mts. Lincoln & Lafayette 12/17. These sessions will be day hikes combined with instruction.

For more information and an application send “SASE” or preferably EMAIL bobh@mcttelecom.com, Bob Humphrey, 19 Gould Rd., Warner, NH. 03278, 456-3708 (7-9 PM. only please) Please try to understand that we are volunteers and do not get reimbursed for calls. Due to expense we do not return phone calls unless you are within a toll free area of Warner, NH. If you do not reach Bob by phone please keep trying. Thank you.