Willem Lange to be AMC-NH Dinner Guest Speaker

Saturday, April 20, 2012 • Makris Lobster & Steak House, Concord, NH
5PM Social Hour • 6 PM Dinner

Please join your fellow AMC-NH members for an evening of camaraderie and the opportunity to hear Willem Lange’s presentation, “Seventy Years on the Trail.”

One of Northern New England’s most beloved storytellers, Lange writes “A Yankee Notebook” weekly column which appears in several newspapers. He is also a commentator for Vermont Public Radio and both Vermont and New Hampshire Public Television. The Emmy Award nominee serves as host of New Hampshire Public Television’s “Windows on the Wild,” a beautifully-filmed program in which he offers insights into the history, ecology and special character of some of New England’s unique natural environments and hidden treasures.

For several years, Will was the director of the Dartmouth Outward Bound Center. In 1973, he founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied the 200-mile Alaska Marathon, climbed in Alaska, the Andes, the Himalayas and paddled rivers north of the Arctic Circle. He has published many audio recordings and five books.

This promises to be a memorable evening and we anticipate a full house. Last year we sold out and had a waiting list. Please reserve your seat early to avoid disappointment! See form on page 5.
Remembering Vera Smith at Pawtuckaway State Park

Vera Smith was the New Hampshire Trip Leader who started the “Over 55 Hikes” many years ago. She was also responsible for creating a number of trails in Pawtuckaway State Park, and every January would lead a hike there. She died 15 years ago. In January, Linda Holten and Anne Melvin organized a memorial hike for Vera because she was a wonderful friend and leader. Most of the people in the photo knew Vera. They paused here to remember the happy times they spent with her.

AMC-NH Biking Committee Survey

GENE HARDING

The AMC-NH Biking Committee is hard at work developing plans for future outings and programs. Help the Committee plan and offer more (and even better) opportunities for you to participate in biking events this year and in the future by completing our online survey.

You can find the survey here: http://amc-nh.org/committee/bike/index-bikesurvey.php

Please take a few minutes to review and complete AMC-NH Biking Committee survey.

If you would like to join our committee and help plan future events, please send your email address to: Gene37h@aol.com.

Thank you for your participation.

MOUNTAIN PASSAGES

Volume 39, No. 2
March–April 2013

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

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 2012 Ad Rate Sheet, send an email to newsletter@amc-nh.org.

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/member-center

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.

Editor: David Phillips shoedsp@aol.com

Graphic Design: Susan G. Englert, Owner/Designer, Sandpiper Artisans

Graphic Design, Manchester, NH. SandpiperArtisansGD.com

facebook.com/sandpiperartisans
A Successful Excursion in Big Bend National Park

MARIANNE PAGE, ADVENTURE TRAVEL LEADER

When most people hear the word “Texas” they do not immediately think “mountains.” But those familiar with Big Bend National Park are well aware of the rugged Chisos Mountains running across the Lone Star state’s most-visited National Park. So when I proposed this trip because Carl R. had not run it in several years, the outing quickly filled with desert hiking enthusiasts and those who want to visit all US National Parks.

What makes a successful excursion? A key ingredient is participants who not only look forward to hiking with a group in an area they are excited to get to know, but are equally eager to work together towards that end. It also helps if the group is flexible, like our Big Bend trippers who readily embraced a change in plans after a local suggested we add a hike in the Big Bend State Park to our itinerary.

No wonder this was the best excursion my co-leader and I have enjoyed in quite some time in terms of “people-chemistry,” big scenery, climate and hiking experience. We even had a full moon dazzle us as it rose over “The Window” and set in the pink and blue sky of a dawn.

Speaking of flexibility, another surprise we experienced was the sunrise: we’d planned to start our hiking days at 7 am in order to make the most of cool mornings. Well, somebody forgot to inform the sun about our schedule! Not until 7:45 did we have enough light to assemble without headlamps. As it turned out, hot temperatures were not a concern. In fact, even with the 45 minute “delay” to our days, hiking temps were perfect.

Aside from the fantastic trails, highlights of our excursion included accommodations in the Chisos Mountains Lodge, the only place to stay in the National Park due to long drives to the trailheads from anywhere beyond its boundaries. And the only word to describe this surprising mountain chain in Big Bend and across the Rio Grande in Mexico is “awe-some.” For some, the highlight was a kayaking trip on the Rio Grande with guides who treated us to a soak in two hot springs along the river. And celebrating Halloween with a dinner at Terlingua’s fabled “Starlight Café”—with everyone dressed in costume—was perfect.

I could go on and on about the trip’s many delights, but one thing is certain: I will surely return to Big Bend National Park.

What makes a successful excursion? Despite all the planning, screening, talking to participants and endless emails, once on board the truth is in the mix as you meet and bond as a group.

Young Members New Member’s Night: March 2

2013 is a great year to get involved with the NH Chapter’s Young Member (YM) Group! We cordially invite you to attend our 2013 YM New Member’s Night on Saturday, March 2 at the Rouge Grille in Manchester, NH.

Join us for appetizers, drinks, socializing, and some laughs. You will have an opportunity to learn about all the exciting activities we have planned in 2013 - from camping to whitewater rafting, as well as what the NH-AMC has to offer as a whole. Talk with the group’s co-chairs, John and Stephanie, and the social hosts of Concord, Manchester, Portsmouth, and Nashua to voice what you’re interested in doing.

Keep an eye out for a full event listing on our Facebook Group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/AMCNH.YoungMembers) or via email at our Yahoo Group (youngamcnh).

NH AMC Paddles Trash Patrol

We would like to recognize Denise Hurt from our organization, the AMC NH Paddlers, who has organized a project to remove and recycle trash from the local rivers. A long-time paddler with the Appalachian Mountain Club, as well as various other local conservation organizations, Denise has organized monthly Trash Patrol paddling trips during the regular paddling season, with the sole objective of collecting and recycling trash found in local rivers or lakes. Other local groups are planning to work with Denise in her endeavors, including the Merrimack River Watershed and the Souhegan River Watershed. Denise is also recommending that all paddlers try to collect at least one piece of trash every time they put a paddle in the water.

The hope is that paddlers will encourage more advocates for the Leave-No-Trace National Program supported by the AMC, and that the NH AMC paddlers will build partnerships with other organizations.

At this point, the rivers Denise plans to paddle this season include the Nashua, Merrimack, Squanacook, and Contoocook. The AMC is funding this program, but if anyone is interested in helping to support this endeavor, please contact Denise at denisehurt@charter.net.
AMC NH Family Group Annual Spring Hut Night
May 11-12: Greenleaf

As we rotate from hut to hut from year to year, the difficulty of the hikes to reach them varies. This year’s hike to Greenleaf is among the most difficult we do. The Old Bridle Path is considered a moderate outing for experienced hikers. It is 2.9 miles to the hut, takes approximately 3 hours, and has 2450 ft. elevation gain. Sections of the trail are quite steep and some are close to the edge of the ravine (with fantastic views). We would expect snow on the trails at that time of year and elevation. The summit of Mt. Lafayette is another 1.1 miles and 1150 ft. of elevation gain from the hut, and is a possible “after lunch” activity for those interested.

This year’s cost is $36 for adults, $30 for ages 13-17, and $25 for those 12 & under, and includes a bunk, dinner and breakfast. We will be visiting during the self-service season, which means the group will carry-in and -out, plus prepare all our own food.

Registration opens the first week of March. For more information, please contact Wanda Rice at 603-432-7840 (before 9pm) or wandarice@comcast.net.

Support the NH Chapter! Buy Fleece

It’s Always Fleece Season! Let your love for the NH AMC keep you warm!

Check out our cozy NH Chapter fleece jackets, pullovers, and vests. All three come in 200 weight polar fleece, dark green, with the NH Chapter logo.

Quantities of some sizes are limited, so be sure and order now!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vest</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>Small - XL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Zip Jacket</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Small - XL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullover (half zip)</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Small - XXL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullover (half zip) (Older Logo)</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Large - XXL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus $7.00 for Shipping & Handling.

Note: AMC Leaders get a $5.00 discount!

Order on line at http://amc-nb.org/store/index.php

For more information contact Paul Berry, 603-423 1192 (before 9 p.m.) or paulberryamcnh@aol.com.

Women’s Trail Work Day

Saturday, May 4, Belknap Region

Ladies! Now is the time to give-back for all the great hikes you’ve enjoyed during the past year. No experience necessary. Tools and training provided. Join the fun and experience the gratification at day’s end. (Brownies included!)

CONTACT:
L. Janice Bremer
603-672-9626 till 8:30 pm
janiceb319@yahoo.com
L. Linda Holton
603-749-3429 till 8:30 pm
alindamhz@comcast.net
Join us for Mizpah Hut Night on June 15, 2013!

AN EASY-TO-HIKE HUT:

Hut Nights are a long-standing tradition for NH Chapter members and we look forward to an enjoyable evening at this easy-to-hike hut. We have reserved a limited number of bunks at a special rate of $89.50 per person.

You are cordially invited to join us for a group hike to the hut, which begins the morning of June 15th. Upon arrival at Mizpah 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 Mount Pierce (4,310’ elev).

In the evening we will gather for a wine and cheese reception followed by a hearty dinner prepared and served by the Mizpah Hut Crew. After-dinner we’ll relax in the Mizpah “lawn” or kick back in the hut to swap trail stories with our fellow hikers.

The following morning, we’ll enjoy breakfast by the crew before saying goodbye and heading out for our hiking adventures. Mizpah provides an ideal starting point for some great hikes and your options include a traverse across the Southern Presi’s.

ABOUT MIZPAH HUT:

Mizpah means “pillar in the wilderness,” an apt name for this hut nestled on the southern flank of Mount Pierce. The hut overlooks the Montalban Range, the Dry River Wilderness, and Crawford Notch. It is most commonly reached via the Crawford Path and Mizpah Cutoff, a moderate 2.6 mile hike that takes 2-ish hours and gains 1,900 feet in elevation.

The hut was built in 1964 in response to the steep increase in hut demand after a National Geographic article written about the huts by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. It was constructed with materials brought-in by helicopter and features large, south-facing windows, varied-size bunkrooms and a separate library-game room.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE:

1. Call the AMC Reservations Line at (603) 466-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9 am to 5 pm).
2. Tell them you are with NH Chapter 6/15 Hut Night (Group Number 212329).
3. You will be asked to provide contact info, food allergy, and vegetarian requests.
4. Reservations are first come, first serve and deadline to book is May 17th.

DINNER MENU:

Buffet dinner to include Salad, Montreal Seasoned Tips, Baked Stuffed Had- dock, Chicken Marsala, Roasted Red Garlic Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, and Seasonal Fresh Vegetable. (vegetarian plate available)

DESSERT: Apple Crisp with Whipped Cream, Coffee, Tea.

DIRECTIONS FROM 93 NORTH OR SOUTH:

Exit 15 East off Route 93 to route 393 East, Exit 3 off Route 393 to Left on Route 106 North (Sheep Davis Road) We are approximately 0.5 Miles on the right.

DIRECTIONS FROM RTE 4:

Route 4 West to Concord, Through traffic rotary, Right on 106 North (Sheep Davis Road)

AMC-NH DINNER PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2012 • 5PM SOCIAL HOUR • 6 PM DINNER & PROGRAM

Makris Lobster & Steak House, Rt. 106, Concord, NH • 603-225-7665

$32 Members; $37 Nonmembers • Registration Deadline: April 13, 2013

Name__________________________________________Phone_________________
Email__________________________________ $________

Name__________________________________________Phone_________________
Email__________________________________ $________

Name__________________________________________Phone_________________
Email__________________________________ $________

# of Vegetarian Meals requested:_________ TOTAL ENCLOSED: __________

Please send registration form with check payable to AMC-NH Chapter by April 13 to:
Marie Berry, PO Box 805, Merrimack, NH 03054
We expect this to fill up fast!
Early Season Skiing in the Pemi

BY SCOTT TAYLOR

It’s a long-standing joke that weather forecasters can be wrong about half the time and still keep their jobs. Well, the Ski Committee meets every Fall to lay-out the ski trip schedule for the entire winter knowing that skiing is probably the most weather-dependent activity that the Chapter sponsors. So we need to look into the Ice Crystal Ball in September to decide where the snow may be falling during the winter months.

Early season trips are the toughest, as the snowpack is usually thinnest at that point. So we look for ski trips on established trails that don’t require a deep base to be passable. One of the trails we use is the Upper Nanamocomuck Ski Trail (aka “Nana”) that runs east from Lily Pond on the north side of the Kanc 15 kilometres to Bear Notch Road on the north side of the Swift River. This trip requires spotting cars since we ski it end to end. It is maintained by the WMNF.

The area traversed by the “Nana” is also an area that was ravaged by Hurricane Irene during August 2011. Snow conditions last year proved too poor to ski this trail, so we had some unknowns about trail conditions for this season. In late August of 2012, I scouted the middle section of the route from the Passaconaway campground. WMNF had posted signs with maps showing that Irene had damaged two bridges on this trail. The most significant was the loss of a 75 foot span across the Swift River about a mile from the trailhead. The second was nearer the end, reported to be “damaged but still usable.”

With snow conditions being favorable, the trip was on for the first weekend in January. Phone calls to the Saco Ranger Station provided little data on ski traffic, since it was so early in the season. However, the staff there were able to tell us they were not aware of any alternative crossings near the site of the washed-out bridge. I wasn’t optimistic about suitable snowbridges this early in the season. We needed a plan ‘B’…

On the morning of January 5 four of us skied off from Lily Pond under clear but windy and cold conditions. Recent snow was whipping across the Kanc, but provided good ski conditions, albeit limited parking options. But could we make the river crossing?

Plan ‘B’ resided securely in the “shove-it” pocket on my pack. When we reached the river crossing, there was the 75’ bridge, parallel to the river, and on the far side.

No help there! Open water approximately 25’ wide and calf-deep greeted us – a bit chilly to wade . . . How to proceed?

Out comes Plan B – a pair of lightweight nylon wading boots I use for flyfishing in remote waters! Ski boots off – waders on! With a tag line in tow, one-by-one we waded across the open water (no snowbridges as expected), ski boots back on, waders into a dry sack fastened to the tag line and back across the river for the next “skier”! We were across, sans bridge!

The rest of the day was quite delightful – good snow, well-marked trail, good company. We finished the trip by headlamp, since the river crossing ate-up some time, as did the parking issue, but we finished no worse for wear! Thanks to Grigory, Darrell, and Catherine for the great attitudes throughout the day.

Scott Taylor (photo courtesy of Grigory Petrov)
The spring & summer hiking seasons are just around the corner. Are you prepared? This cluster of weekend-long workshops offers instruction in safe mountain travel to hikers of all levels. Between the seven available classes, most every aspect of three-season backcountry travel is covered. The weekend is filled with instruction, field exercises, lectures, and discussions. And when you’re not learning, there is plenty of great food to re-fuel!

If you’re not sure which class is right for you, just ask our Workshop Directors (contact info below). Choose from one of the following classes:

**Mountain Hiking and Outdoor Safety: Beginner & Intermediate Classes**

Instruction in general mountain safety, equipment, route finding, map & compass, off-trail navigation, weather, trip planning, nutrition, emergencies in the mountain environment.

**Map and Compass**

Everything you wanted or needed to know about using a map & compass. This session will consist of a small group (eight participants and two instructors) who will spend the weekend together reviewing and learning the details of map & compass, culminating in field exercises and off-trail navigating with the compass on a bushwhack route.

**Spend a Night Out with just Your Daypack and Day Hiking Equipment in an Emergency**

This section will be a group of up to eight participants and two instructors who will be in the lodge Friday night.

The day on Saturday will be filled with instruction on how to: make do, adapt, stay safe and survive the night in an emergency with nothing more than your day hike equipment. This group will spend the night out on Saturday in a simulation of an emergency shelter they learn to construct, without tent or sleeping bag.

**Backpacking: Beginner & Intermediate Classes**

Instruction in backpacking equipment, camp site selection, route finding, map & compass, weather, trip planning, cooking and emergencies. For those who want their skills beyond day hiking. Plan to spend Friday & Saturday night outdoors and provide for your own backpacking equipment.

**Leadership and Mountain Skills**

For those who have good three-season hiking skills who wish to enhance them to run trips of their own. Exercises in planning, organizing and conducting trips with emphasis on leadership techniques and group dynamics, plus the basics of accident scene management, medical considerations and off-trail navigation. This course is also for those with potential and desire to become Trip Leaders for the NH Chapter.

This workshop is for any adult who wants to learn and have a great time! It begins at 7:30 Friday evening and ends 4:30 Sunday afternoon. Cost $140 (AMC members), $160 (non-members), includes lodging, excellent meals, materials, and instruction.

For further information and to register on line at amc_regISTRATION.ccntr.org or send a business size self addressed stamped envelope and your telephone number to the Registrar: Richard Desmaris, 17 Longwood Ave., Londonderry, NH 03035. If you register by paper application include your check made out to AMC NH chapter. You must be 18 years or older to attend. For more information please contact Directors Rick Silverberg (603-225-5921, 7-10:30 pm) or Bob Humphrey (603-436-3708, 7-10 pm).
BE A POWER FOR CHANGE

MBA IN SUSTAINABILITY.

This MBA will give you the business skills needed in a changing world. Our next economy will be forged by progressive leaders skilled in balancing the triple bottom line of people, planet and profit. Train to be one of those leaders through our flexible MBA program with multiple delivery options.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

AUNE’s landmark MS in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Development and Climate Change trains leaders to address complex environmental challenges. Complete this Professional Science Master’s option in just 20 months.

Full-time, part-time, or hybrid online, AUNE’s affordable graduate and certificate programs meet the needs of busy people.

Because the world needs you now.