Seacoast Summer Solstice Celebration
Sat., June 19 – Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH
Outdoor Activities, Late Lunch, and Naturalist Presentation. Explore the area around Great Bay with a variety of walking, hiking and geocaching opportunities. Or enjoy a sunset kayak tour with one of the Great Bay naturalists. Read more.

Madison Spring Hut Night June 5, 2010!
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. Deadline to Register: May 17! Read more

Upcoming Educational Opportunities
Map & Compass Training Sat., June 5 or Sat., Oct. 2.
Annual NH Chapter Winter Hiking Series Sat. & Sun., Oct. 23 & 24 Read more

NH Family Group 30th Anniversary Celebration
Fri-Sun., Jun. 25-27 at Cardigan Lodge, Alexandria, NH Read more

Farewell to a Friend
This past February the hiking community lost a dear friend, Luis Pena. Read more

44th Annual Presidential Range Hike July 17 – 25
Hike over 50 miles of scenic trails in Whit Mountain National Forest including many on Appalachian Trail. Climb at least a dozen peaks over 4000 ft., including Mt. Washington. Read more

Vignettes of New Zealand
The month of February was our opportunity to hike and travel in the lovely country of New Zealand, in part on an AMC Major Excursion and in part on our own. A narrative of what we did each day is beyond the scope of this article. Rather, we would like to present some of the quirky things that we noticed or that happened to us while we were there. Read more

AMC Fall Gathering Oct. 15-17
Fall Gathering, hosted by the Worcester Chapter, will be held on October 15-17 at the Prindle Pond Conference Center Hilltop, Charlton, MA. Read more
Seacoast Summer Solstice Celebration
Sat., June 19
Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH
Outdoor Activities, Late Lunch, and Naturalist Presentation

Please join us for a unique celebration to welcome the beginning of summer.*

Explore the area around Great Bay with a variety of walking, hiking and geocaching opportunities. Or enjoy a sunset kayak tour with one of the Great Bay naturalists.

The Great Bay Estuary results from the confluence of tidally driven seawater from the Atlantic Ocean and fresh water from seven major river systems. This geographic configuration makes the Great Bay one of the nation’s most recessed estuaries. When high tide floods the estuary, the Great Bay is 8.9 sq. miles. When the tide retreats, more than half of the Bay consists of mudflats. This fragile ecosystem supports diverse plant and animal life. Come and explore!

Our program will begin at 3 PM, but you are welcome to come earlier and explore some of the areas on your own. See [www.greatbay.org](http://www.greatbay.org).

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.: Register and tour the interactive exhibits in the welcome center.

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.: Buffet style luncheon. Horseshoe Crab presentation by Great Bay naturalist, with opportunities to handle the crabs. Note: Horseshoe crabs will be coming on shore at this time of the year for mating. Bring your camera.

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.: Self-guided, AMC guided or naturalist guided walks and hikes; sunset kayak tour with naturalist. Note: the tides will be high at this time of the day, so launching boats from the Discovery Center is possible.

Walking/Hiking options:

**Stratham Hill Tower:** 15 minute walk to wonderful views of Great Bay and surrounding area.

**Sweet Trail:** Naturalist guided 3-mile hike to remote area with wonderful views (involves car spotting).

**Boardwalk Hike from Discovery Center:** One-half mile walk on trail and boardwalk along shore of Great Bay, with opportunities to see osprey and other seacoast birds.

**Geocaching:** Self guided exploring of many areas around Great Bay, using the free “Great Bay Passport” you will get at the Center (driving required).

**Kayaking:** Bring your own kayak, or rent one from Great Bay ($20) and explore the tidal basins with a naturalist (limited to 15 kayaks).

Deadline to register for this event is June 12. [Register NOW!](http://www.greatbay.org)

*Technically, summer doesn’t begin until June 21*, but hopefully no one will object to our starting the celebration a few days early!
Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Map & Compass Training
Sat., June 5. Come learn about topographical maps and what they can tell you. Learn how to effectively use a map. Following this segment, we will teach you how to use a compass with a map. We will then conduct field exercises using the map & compass to practice what you have learned and demonstrate how well a map & compass works in a real world environment. Class location is TBD. Class size is limited.

Map & Compass Training
Sat., Oct. 2. We will cover the same material as in the June class. Class size is limited, so sign up early.

You will need a protractor type compass such as the Suunto M3. You will also need some form of eye protection—sunglasses, prescription glasses, or safety glasses and a small day pack with a lunch, water, trail snacks, and rain gear. Long sleeve shirts and long pants are recommended.

For more information or to register contact Bob Humphrey 456-3708 (7-9 p.m. ONLY PLEASE) or send an email to bobh@mcttelecom.com.

Annual NH Chapter Winter Hiking Series
Sat. & Sun., Oct. 23 & 24. The application process begins in July. Don't be left out — apply early as space is limited to 20 participants. This weekend-long event takes place at AMC’s Pinkham Notch facility. Saturday is devoted to lectures on gear, safety, hydration and winter foods, layering systems, emergency gear, and group dynamics. On Sunday, we’ll be hiking out of Pinkham, destination TBD. Attendance on the first weekend is mandatory for participating in the series.

Following the first weekend there will be day hikes combined with instruction on the following dates: 10/30, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, & 12/18. Cost for this class is $70, which is nonrefundable. This series has become very popular, so we encourage you to apply early.

For more information or to register contact Bob Humphrey 456-3708 (7 to 9 p.m. ONLY PLEASE) or send an email to bobh@mcttelecom.com.

NH Family Group 30th Anniversary Celebration
Cardigan Lodge, Alexandria, NH Fri-Sun., Jun. 25-27

On behalf of the AMC NH Family Group I cordially invite you to join us for our 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Join in the fun as we celebrate 30 years of continuous service to the families of the AMC. Weekend will include leader-led hikes, special events, great food and great company. Please pass the word on to everyone you know that has been a part of the NH Family Group since its inception in 1980. We have the entire lodge reserved at affordable full serves rates. Event funded in part by proceeds from the Bernice Johnson Endowment Fund. Reservations and deposits are due by 5/24. Reserve early, as space fills quickly.

Deposit required by 5/24. Contact Dave Passios for reservation details. Leave a message at 978-582-7476 or email dmpbrick@aol.com.

Lodging Rates: Adults $84, Kids 14 and under $60, Kids under age 4 and sharing a bunk are free.

This rate includes: bunk accommodations (bring linens or a sleeping bag), 2 breakfasts, 2 trail lunches, and Sat night dinner. (Fri. meals are on your own.)

Please pre-register before sending payment.

Dave Passios, AMC NH Chapter, Family Group
978-582-7476 • 978-340-2341 (cell), dmpbrick@aol.com
Farewell to a Friend

By Jennifer Varney

This past February the hiking community lost a dear friend. Although technically a member of the Boston Chapter of the AMC, Luis Pena was very active in the New Hampshire Chapter through his participation in Chapter hikes and Summit Sensations hiking club outings.

After serving in Vietnam, Luis made his home in Beverly MA. He retired from the accounting field and spent his retirement years mountaineering all over the world.

How should we remember Luis? Here are some ideas:

1. His big smile, which was always available and given freely and without any expectation of a smile in return.
2. His even bigger appetite, which became one of his trademarks in the hiking community.
3. His sense of humor, which was always respectful, in good taste, and never hurt anyone. We once were on a hiking trip in Banff and one of our group members had his pack off. While he wasn’t looking, Luis filled it with several large rocks that our unsuspecting friend did not find in his pack until that evening.
4. His dedication as a father, which really was one of the things that he most valued in life. His daughters were his greatest treasure and this dedication was apparent to anyone who knew him.
5. His friendship, which knew no bounds...

In remembrance of Luis, there will be a memorial tree planting at the Highland Center and a hike to Mount Pierce. This will take place on Sat., June 19 and all are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Leon Tokatlian at ltockat@aol.com

Luis, until we meet again...happy trails.

44th Annual Presidential Range Hike

July 17 – 25, 2010

Hike over 50 miles of scenic trails in Whist Mountain National Forest including many on Appalachian Trail. Climb at least a dozen peaks over 4000 ft., including Mt. Washington. A STRENUOUS AND WONDERFUL GROUP HIKE!!

There are a wide variety of hiking options each day with daily hikes of 5 to 10 miles and elevation changes 2000 ft+.

Leaders are Tim Kennedy, Paulette Boudrot, Terri Pinto, and Denise Penn. A maximum of 21 hikers may participate.

Cost is $800 ($850 non-members) including 8 nights lodging and meals at AMC huts, gratuities, trail lunches, in-hike transportation. Deposit $400 ($25 nonrefundable). Register early—this trip fills each year! For information and to apply contact Paulette Boudrot (978-897-0364, mooswa@msn.com) or Tim Kennedy (603-635-2517 or takhike@comcast.net).
Join us for our Madison Spring Hut Night
June 5, 2010!

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 June 5th 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').

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 June 6, 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 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. With the exception of a few kitchen improvements, window replacement, and resiling, 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.

In September of 2010, the hut will undergo a rebuilding project that will preserve the historic core of the hut and stone walls of the bunkrooms. The footprint will expand by 700 square feet and will make efficient use of the courtyard area on the Mt. Madison side of the hut. The expanded dining room and sitting area will allow hikers to enjoy incredible views of J. Q. Adams, Durand Ridge-Air Line, and Randolph. Work is expected to be complete in time for the Summer 2011 hiking season.

Space is Limited! Call Today to Make Your Reservation

To reserve, please call AMC Reservations by Mon., May 17 to receive the discounted rate of $89.50 per person including NH lodging taxes. Reservations received after May 17 will be on a space-available basis and will be at the regular member rate of $111.31.

Instructions for Booking Your Stay

1. Call the AMC Reservations Line at 603-466-2727 (Mon-Sat, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
2. Tell the Customer Service Representative that you are with the AMC NH Hut Night at Madison Group # 141570.
3. Provide your contact information, any food allergy information or vegetarian requests.
4. 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 month of February was our opportunity to hike and travel in the lovely country of New Zealand, in part on an AMC Major Excursion and in part on our own. A narrative of what we did each day is beyond the scope of this article. Rather, we would like to present some of the quirky things that we noticed or that happened to us while we were there.

**Clean Your Boots.** After we landed at Auckland, our port of entry, we were required to remove our hiking boots from our groaning, over-stuffed duffels and present them for inspection. Any traces of mud would have meant on-the-spot washing, to minimize the introduction of foreign organisms.

The residents of New Zealand have had a long and unfortunate history of invasive species. The first humans to arrive, the Maoris, who came from Polynesia only a few centuries ago, brought with them the first land mammals—rats. Until that time there were no land mammals on the islands, and consequently a unique avifauna of flightless birds evolved—kiwis, wekas, and moas among others.

The moa, a large bird about the size of the ostrich, was conveniently easy to kill for food. They went extinct after a short time. The other flightless birds were beneath human contempt, at least as food, but Europeans, arriving in the 19th century, introduced other mammals—different rats, Australian possums and weasel-like stoats all found bird eggs and babies easy picking. As a result, many of the native flightless birds, including the kiwi, the national symbol of the country, are threatened or endangered.

**Caffeinate Up!** We are big fans of good coffee. Imagine our surprised pleasure when we found that the Kiwis (those are the humans, not the [lower-case k] birds), love coffee too! The only other place we can compare it to is the Pacific Northwest. Every corner seemed to have an establishment vending everything that your local Starbucks sells and more besides. Flat White. Short Black. They’re not rugby teams, but types of coffee drinks unique to the country.

Speaking of which, in reviewing our expenses for the month, we somehow found that we spent almost as much on coffee as we did on airfare!

**Drive on the Left.** On our extended trip, we rented a car in Auckland and chose a New Zealand company which advertised “older” cars, and had rates half of what Hertz offered. Presented with a 1998 Nissan with all the amenities, including automatic and air, we put 1500 km on it in 10 days. It’s amazing how fast you adapt to staying on the left, and going clockwise around roundabouts. There are relatively few kilometers of four-lane highway in a country that is half again as large as the six New England states. We felt we were back in the 1950s, (that tells you how old we are!), on two-lane winding roads with little traffic and vistas of sheep, cattle and mountains.

The only thing we had a problem with was the turn signal, which was on the right, for some reason. There was an initial spate of turning the wipers on to warp speed every time we signaled a turn! Remember the possums that are such a pest? Well, they are called New Zealand speed bumps, since they freeze in the head- lights of on-coming cars, and drivers just aim for them and run them down. Possums have their uses though. Their fur is soft and each hair shaft is hollow, so it is quite warm. When spun with wool from merino sheep, possum fur makes great gloves, scarves and hats. No joke.

**Farm Stays—a mixed blessing.** Every silver lining has to have a cloud, and we encountered ours right before we left for home. We had signed up for two nights at a farm on the North Island which raises Appaloosa horses, and had visions of mucking out the stalls, watching dogs herd sheep at the commands of a genial farmer, and talking with the parents and kids around the dinner table about rural life in New Zealand.

Alas, the farm folk turned out to be two elderly, crotchety people, no kids around. No stalls to muck out because all the animals were permanently turned out to pasture in the mild climate. No sheep dogs and no sheep. We had dinner with the couple. The meal was home grown and quite tasty, but was accompanied by the loud blare of the telly, and the non-communicative Mr. Farm Stay. Afterwards we had a tour of one of the pastures and met a couple of horses, but the profane and unsympathetic Mrs. Farm Stay put a damper on the whole business.

The climate is so mild in much of the country that central heating is a rare thing. So is air conditioning, even though the North Island can get quite muggy. Rare also are window screens. Our night with the Farm Stay family was plagued with an airless room and a heavy dose of mosquitoes which feasted on us without mercy. By next morning, one of us was very cranky! We decided to cut our losses and leave.

**Wonderful Hiking.** We can’t end our story without rhapsodizing about the state of the trails in New Zealand. Here’s a country that gets 10 meters of rain a year. They know about drainage. The trails are graded perfectly, and the treadway is as smooth as a highway. What a delightful experience to hike and not always be looking down to avoid a boot-grabbing root or rock.

The Abel Tasman track along the sea, and the Kepler and Routeburn tracks in the mountains were all wonderful, and the huts, which operate on a self-service system in regard to meals, were well-located and friendly.

The whole country is very oriented toward outdoors activities. We only sampled a few of them, but others on our trip kayaked, rafted and rode zip-lines. It was a fabulous trip!
AMC-NH Chapter
“Seacoast Summer Solstice Celebration”
Sat., June 19, 2010
Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH
3:00 p.m. Tour Exhibits at Great Bay Welcome Center
3:30 p.m. Buffet luncheon; Horseshoe Crab Presentation
5:00 p.m. Walks, Hikes, Kayaking

Menu: Gourmet sandwiches, pasta/garden salads, assorted sodas/bottled water, and dessert. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the area.

Directions: From the west on Rte. 101, take the exit for Rtes. 33/108 in Exeter. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp. Proceed on 108 & 33. When 108 & 33 split, follow Rte. 33 for approx. 4-miles. After the Squamscott Rd. traffic light, take the 2nd left onto Depot Rd. Follow Depot Rd. to the end and look for signs to Great Bay Discovery Center.

For questions or additional information, Call Janice Bremer, Hospitality Co-Chair at 603-672-9626 (until 8:30 p.m. only)

Registration Form
AMC-NH Chapter “Seacoast Summer Solstice Celebration”
Sat., June 19
$18 Members; $21 Non-Members

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Total Encl $

Please indicate your preferred outdoor activities:  _____ Walk to Stratham Hill Tower  _____ Hike on Sweet Trail
_____ Shoreline Boardwalk Stroll  _____ Sunset Kayak Tour—must have some kayaking experience. ($20 rental fee if you do not bring your own boat.)

If you plan to kayak, please e-mail Ron Janowitz (programs@amc-nh.org) as to whether you are bringing a boat, or plan to rent a boat. We are limited to 15 participants. Register early to secure a spot.

Participants will need to sign a liability release.
Please send Registration Form and your check payable to AMC-NH Chapter to:
Janice Bremer, 50 Quarry Circle, Milford, NH 03055

All registrations must be received by Sat. June 12.
You will not receive a confirmation.

Hiking Trip
Fri., Jun. 25. Weeks/ Waumbek Circuit, Pliny Range, NH. York Pond, Kilkenny Ridge, Starr King Trails. 14 miles, 3800’ gain. Moderate pace. Great views. Five summits. L Jane Gibbons (207-647-3987, patnjane@wildblue.net), CL James Radmore (207 357-4184 before 9:30 p.m., jradmore@gwi.net)

AMC Fall Gathering Oct. 15-17
Save the Date!
Fall Gathering, hosted by the Worcester Chapter, will be held on October 15-17 at the Prindle Pond Conference Center Hilltop, Charlton, MA.
Whether you enjoy hiking, biking, paddling, rock climbing or just like to socialize with other AMC members (or non-members), October is a great time to explore central Massachusetts. Plus family-oriented activities will be offered, so bring your children and grandchildren! Top it all off with lively Saturday evening entertainment and bonfire. This will be an event you won’t want to miss!

Membership in a Bottle

In addition to a one-year membership, you will receive:
A Nalgene® water bottle * A $10 gift certificate good for AMC books, lodging, workshops * An AMC window decal * A subscription to AMC Outdoors * Our Chapter newsletter, Mountain Passages * A new member packet with a welcome letter, information brochure, and member ID card

Membership in a Bottle Makes a Great Gift!

Please select the membership category:

___ Individual Membership in a Bottle Kits ($40 each - a 20% new member discount!)
___ Family Membership in a Bottle Kits ($60 each - 20% new member discount!)
___ Senior Membership in a Bottle Kits ($25 each, age 69 and over). Your age: ____
___ Young Member Membership in a Bottle Kits ($25 each, up to age 30). Your age: ____

Membership in a Bottle is available to new AMC members only, not for AMC membership renewals.

Membership in a Bottle will be sent to the address below, and the membership will be recorded in that name, unless you indicate otherwise.

New Member’s Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Street: ______________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ______________________________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: ________________________@______________________________

Is this a gift membership? Yes ____ No ____

Please mail the completed form with check (payable to AMC-NH Chapter) to: Keely Norton, 151 Pond Hill Road, Barrington, NH 03825. Questions? Contact Keely at 603-630-5270 or membership@amc-nh.org.

Limited “Membership in a Bottle” kits available! Order yours now before they run out!

AMC Member Center

Use the Member Center to get Mountain Passages electronically, renew your membership, or update your member profile.

NEW! Get a weekly digest of upcoming AMC-NH activities sent to your email inbox!

Go to www.outdoors.org/membercenter. Use your member number to confirm your member information on the Member Validation page if you don’t already have a username and password.