Mountain PASSAGES

Franconia State Park, June 2, 2012

AMC-NH Summer Expo/Activity Day

Stop by and meet AMC-NH leaders and learn about hiking, biking, climbing, paddling and more.
Leaders will lead hikes and paddling on Echo Lake (boats provided). Additional activities are being planned, check our website http://amc-nh.org/index.php

Stay for an hour or the day . . .
Pre-registration is suggested. Registration & Information Paul Berry 603-423-1192 or paulberryamctrip@aol.com

Photo: BALD MOUNTAIN and ARTISTS BLUFF, reached by a short hike, offer some of the best views of Cannon Mountain and Franconia Notch for the effort.

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Plenty of Family Events on Tap for Summer

BY WANDA RICE

In addition to day paddling, biking and hiking trips, there are some great family-friendly, multi-day events planned this summer. A new event this year is a car camping weekend at the WMNF Dolly Copp Campground near Gorham. This will be from July 19-22 and we have several sites reserved. Once these are full, interested people will be invited to reserve their own site nearby or come up
It’s August 2009. I’m starting to really become interested in hiking. I need to be more active, I need to get out more. I still have very little gear, but I’m planning to hike Mt. Mansfield in late September anyways. I don’t know what to expect so I start posting on forums to get some information. I get very lucky with good weather and am amazed by the views from the summit.

While researching the trails I read about these hiking lists, high-pointers and mountain clubs. I am fascinated. I find my way to the highpoints of RI, MA, CT and VT. I’ve hiked Mt. Washington a few times already when I was younger, so I set my eye on Katahdin. It’s too cold; it will have to wait until next year I think. Hiking season is coming to an end, and it will snow soon I tell myself. In late October I go with some friends from work to Killington. It rains and sleet the whole time, but we make it to the top.

Afterwards, I invest heavily in rain gear . . .

I’m officially hooked; this is something I really enjoy. I have no idea people even hike in winter. I join AMC and begin looking for some weekend adventures. New Hampshire Young Members Fall Cabin Weekend? This sounds like fun, I’ll do it.

I only know one other person in AMC; we met via email when I was researching Mansfield a month earlier. We carpool to the cabin and I’m instantly impressed. Everyone is analyzing maps, prepping gear and talking about those hiking lists I had once read about. Everyone is super friendly and we get to know each other around a bonfire in the woods. These are my kind of people. Little did I know the friendships made this weekend would be so very special. We set out the next day to reach Tripyramid. I don’t even know where that is. Failure ensues. Halfway up Tripyramid we turn around. It’s raining hard and the hike is called off.

I learn a lot, I need more gear . . .

It’s now November 2009, and I’m not ready to retire my hiking boots for the winter. I can’t stop for the winter. I’m reading a lot of gear blogs; I give myself a lot of early Christmas presents and sign up for some trips with the Boston AMC chapter.
Canon and Tecumseh. Views are even better in winter, now I’m really hooked. New boots, snowshoes, poles. I attend an AMC welcome weekend at Highland Center and ascend Mt. Pierce and see it for the first time: Mt. Washington close up in winter. Only crazy people do that in winter right?

Winter 09/10 I hiked Tom and Field and some smaller peaks in southern New England. I feel good about winter hiking. I make a successful return to Tripyramid. I have Washington on the mind. On New Years day I travel to Camels Hump, and get my first taste of above treeline winter conditions. I night hike Avalon to watch sunrise over Mt. Washington in early March. I must get there. On the final day of winter I leave Joe Dodge Lodge alone and make my ascent up the Lions Head. This is the greatest thing I have ever done. The views are amazing. I love the Presidential Ridge.

I want more . . .

Spring and summer 2010 are all about hiking. I don’t need to stay in cabins and motels anymore. I have found camping. My trunk is full of water filters, tents, sleeping pads and backpacks. I’m more confident in my abilities; I want to push my limits. On Memorial Day I’m backpacking to Galehead Hut and tackling the Bonds. Bondcliff is fantastic. I travel west to Colorado, tackling three of the fourteeners. Seven peaks in Carabasset Valley, Maine; two-day Presidential traverse. Wow I think, I might be able to finish one of those lists some day!

One mountain per weekend is no longer good enough. I’m hitting 20+ mountains some months. Three more peaks in Maine down after a 4th of July in Baxter. I find myself traveling north every weekend possible, often alone for very long drives. My network of hiking friends is ever-expanding, but not many from my home state of RI. I backpack the Carters and Moriah for my friend’s 48 finish. I’m jealous . . .

In October 2010, I return to Vermont and very much have my sights set on finishing the 67. I set a date, and choose Wildcat Ridge as the destination. I have 30+ peaks to go. One by one I cross them off, joining hikes with the New Hampshire, Worcester, South-East Mass and Boston Chapters. It was a good autumn. I hiked two mountains I originally thought I’d never try: Isolation and Owls Head.

November I attempt a Pemi Loop backpack. I’m nervous about this. I’ve never winter camped. Two very cold nights and 33 miles later, I exit the Pemigewasset Wilderness with a lot more knowledge than I entered with. I feel like I can do anything after that.

I like bushwhacking. I like breaking trail. I like night hiking. I return to Carrabassett Valley for New Years, and hike Abraham and the Bigelows. Maine is now done. I finish Vermont the following weekend, in some of the coldest temperatures I’ve ever experienced.

I am close.

Everyone asks me, what next? Just because the list is done, I am not. I’ve learned quite a bit along the way, and there’s always plenty more to learn. I respect the trip leaders who taught me what I know thus far, and admire their dedication. I hope to someday lead hikes in the mountains, and help others along their hiking quests. Oh, and I’d rather be Presi-traversing.

My trunk is full of water filters, tents, sleeping pads and backpacks.

I’m more confident in my abilities;

I want to push my limits.
News from the Excursions Committee
JENN VARNEY

Hi everyone! We hope are you enjoying this unusually warm spring. The Excursions Committee has been thinking spring long before the first snow fell last year. Here are some updates from our recent meeting:

Spring into Hiking: we have put together a variety of hikes to get you back into spring/summer hiking. Some are meant for beginners, others for those with some hiking experience. All are led by volunteer leaders committed to helping folks enjoy the mountains! Check-out the leader photos and bios on the NH AMC chapter website.

Look for these and other hikes on the AMC website:
- Mount Hedgehog
- Kearsarge North
- Mt Pierce/Eisenhower
- The Moats
- Sandwich Dome/Jennings Peak
- Mount Israel
- Mount Jefferson
- Mount Chocura
- Mount Robert
- Pack/North Pack
- Monadnock
- Mount Washington

Get the latest on posted hikes: log into the AMC member center and opt into receiving weekly emails and updates on posted hikes and activities.

Looking for a trip/peak? If you are hoping someone will lead a trip to a peak you need, please let us know! Send an email to NH-AMCExcursions: excursionsnh@amc-nh.org

Good hiking!

$89.50 Special Offer!
Last Call for Zealand Falls Hut Night–June 9, 2012!

We have a few spots left for the June 9th Hut Night! $89.59 trip price includes lodging, welcome wine and cheese party, breakfast, dinner, and a waterfall photography workshop by NH trip leader and outdoor photographer Paul Hopkins.

On the morning of June 9th 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, take a hike to the summit of Mount Zealand (4,260’ elev), or join us for Paul’s photo workshop.

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

On the morning of June 10th, we’ll enjoy breakfast by the crew before saying goodbye and heading out for our hiking adventures. Zealand provides a great starting point for some great hikes and your options include a Bonds Traverse or a trip to Mount Hale.

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 June 9th Hut Night (Group Number 174472).
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 11th.

In Memory of D. Kurt Piper (1935-2012)

The NH Chapter and the AMC are mourning the loss of D. Kurt Piper, who passed away at his home in Weare on February 27th at the age of 76. For decades Kurt was a fixture in the NH Chapter of the AMC. NH Chapter Chair in 1992-1993, he served a phenomenal 23 years as the Excursions Committee Chair 1979-2002. He was a tireless champion for the NH Chapter, constantly looking for ways to improve the chapter and serve our members better. Some of the programs instituted under Kurt were the Family Group, the Over-55 Group, the Chapter Hut Nights, the Annual Presidential Range Hike and, of course, the very successful Spring and Winter Workshops at Cardigan Lodge.

But Kurt’s contributions to the chapter went beyond committee work. Kurt led AMC trips to far-flung destinations in the White Mountains in every season, usually accompanied by his loyal dog. He was also co-director, instructor, and occasional head cook for the Cardigan Workshops. In addition to the AMC, Kurt had a passion for all things outdoors. He was an avid hunter, fly fisherman, and photographer. He was also known for always having the best, most up-to-date equipment for whatever he was doing.

Before moving to Weare, Kurt owned and operated the Piper Motor Company of Laconia and served in the NH National Guard for 13 years. He is survived by his wife and companion of 30 years, Kathleen Piper (NH Chapter Chair ’94-’95), two children, four grandchildren, and two sisters.

Wes Tucker, Trip Leader, AMC-NH Chapter

Family Paddling Outings on Tap

By Sally Leonard

The NH AMC Paddlers have opted to work on the Vision 2020 project this year by focusing on our Family Paddling Program. We have had the tremendous support of the State Chapter, with their funding of the purchase of ten tandem and single kayaks and a trailer to transport them. We have planned multiple outings this summer for family outings, hoping to introduce the paddling experience to parents and children at the same time. We are starting with flatwater paddling, but hope to expand the interests into our other programs in sea kayaking, whitewater canoeing and kayaking, and poling programs that we offer.

At the same time, we are planning to expand our Wednesday night paddling program, which is for flatwater paddlers, to weekends, to meet the demands of our “clientele.” This program uses the same type of boats as the Family Paddling, so it will be a double winner this year.

We are working on Memorial Day weekend to help promote the Manchester Community Health Center in their Duck Race to help promote our visibility in the community (see www.mchc-nh.org).

In the same vein, we are actively looking for donations of kayaks and canoes in good condition for our Family Programs.

If anyone is interested in helping us, please contact me, Sally Leonard, at paddlingnh@amc-nh.org.
and grab a site that is available on a first come first served basis. Being in the shadow of the Presidential and Carter Ranges, there are many hiking opportunities nearby as well as swimming holes and fishing. Contact Wanda Rice at wandarice@comcast.net for more information.

Another great event is a weekend of music and outdoor fun at Tanglewood in the Berkshires from August 3-5. Tanglewood is a summer home to the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops. Families are very welcome and children under 12 get in free for lawn tickets. Parking is free at Tanglewood and you can bring in any food and drink you choose (picnics on the lawn are encouraged). It is a great place to introduce children to good music, because there are open areas for the children to play prior to the concerts. For camping info contact Dave Passios, (dmpbrick@aol.com); for other lodging and concert info contact Gene Harding Gene37h@aol.com. There will be a 23 mile bike ride on the paved rail trail from Pittsfield MA to Adams MA) followed by a hike up Mt. Greylock. Both outdoor events intersect the Appalachian Trail in this area.

Several folks have already reserved waterfront sites and we may have some extra kayaks or canoes available, so there will be plenty of opportunities for paddling. There are also some nice hiking trails and a beach nearby. The best part is the spirit and camaraderie among the kids. Kids of all ages are welcome. Contact Wanda Rice at wandarice@comcast.net for more information. As always, if you see a trip listed that doesn’t specifically say “family” yet sounds like something that your family might be able and like to do, check with the leader. Many leaders are happy to have families along if the trip is appropriate for their abilities.

Biking in the Berkshires
Welcome to Spring!!

GENE HARDING, CHAIR
BIKING COMMITTEE

The Temporary Biking Committee of NH Chapter AMC, working with hiking leaders, has set a weekend of music, biking, hiking in the Berkshires for Aug 3, 4, 5. The weekend will includes concerts at Tanglewood (summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra) with a bike ride on the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail (from Pittsfield MA to Adams MA) followed by a hike up Mt. Greylock. Both outdoor events intersect the Appalachian Trail in this area.

We will also hold ride leader training and a ride on the Northern Trail on May 12. Both are listed on the web. Thanks and ride safe.
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 and 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.

AMC NH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair ............................................ chairnh@amc-nh.org
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Vice Chair ............................................ vicechairnh@amc-nh.org
Wayne Goettel ..............................................
Treasurer ............................................. treasurer nh@amc-nh.org
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Anne Melvin ......................................... 603-433-4909
Family Group ....................................... familygroup nh@amc-nh.org
Wanda Rice .......................................... 603-432-7840

AMC NH Chapter website: www.amc-nh.org

Address changes and membership renewals:
617-523-0636 or www.outdoors.org/membercenter

Home Made Trail Bars

½ cup butter, melted
¾ cup brown sugar
½ cup oats
½ cup whole wheat flour
½ cup white flour
¼ cup wheat germ
2 tsp orange rind
2 eggs
1 cup almonds
¼ cup coconut
½ cup chopped apricots or raisins
½ cup chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS:

Mix butter, ½ cup brown sugar, oats, flour, wheat germ, and orange rind and pressed into ungreased 8x8 pan.

Beat eggs with ¼ cup brown sugar, nuts, fruit, and chips and pour over base.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes, cool, and cut into bars.

Trail Bars

- ½ cup butter, melted
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup oats
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- ½ cup white flour
- ¼ cup wheat germ
- 2 tsp orange rind
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup almonds
- ¼ cup coconut
- ½ cup chopped apricots or raisins
- ½ cup chocolate chips

Directions:

Mix ingredients together and press into an 8x8 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. Cut into bars and enjoy.

AMC NH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair: Karen Thurston (chairnh@amc-nh.org)
Vice Chair: Wayne Goettel (vicechairnh@amc-nh.org)
Treasurer: Bill Warren (treasurer nh@amc-nh.org)
Secretary: Marianne Page (secretary nh@amc-nh.org)
Conservation: Ross Garofalo (conservation nh@amc-nh.org)
Education: Bob Humphrey (education nh@amc-nh.org)
Hospitality: Patty Anderson (hospitality nh@amc-nh.org)
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Programs: Paul Berry (programs nh@amc-nh.org)
Skiing: Tony Schmidt (skin@amc-nh.org)
Trails: Bill Darcy (trails nh@amc-nh.org)
Web Master: Tom Todd (webmaster nh@amc-nh.org)
Young Members: Lori Claus (youngmembers nh@amc-nh.org)
Past Chapter Chair: Eric Savage (pastchair nh@amc-nh.org)
Regional Dir. NH/ME: Ruth “Sam” Jamke (regionaldirector nh@amc-nh.org)
Over 55: Nancy Seavey (over55group nh@amc-nh.org)
Family Group: Wanda Rice (familygroup nh@amc-nh.org)

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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 one year or two year options.

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