AMC NH Winter EXPO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012, CONCORD NH—PUBLIC IS WELCOME

You are invited to our Winter Expo in the Rotunda at NHTI.

Learn about various winter activities including: Hiking, Snowshoeing, Walking, Cross Country Skiing, Back Country Skiing, Mountaineering, Ice Climbing, and Paddling. Meet some of our Trip Leaders, Young Member Group and other Chapter Volunteers.

See examples of various winter equipment and find out how to learn more about our activities. Our activities are open to both AMC Members and Non-Members.

Information will be available including: AMC Staff Activities, AMC Facilities, and AMC Initiatives.

Cost: Free! Schedule: Stop by anytime between 10 AM & 2:30 PM. Location: NHTI, Concord’s Community College, 31 College Drive, Concord, NH.

Registration is not required, just stop in, but If you know you are coming please

EXPO, TO PAGE 2

AMC-NH Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, NOV. 10 • PHEASANT RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB • GILFORD, NH

Please join us for our Annual Meeting, including a proposal to modify the Chapter by-laws and hear a talk by our new AMC President John Judge.

5 pm social hour
(cash bar and appetizers)

6 pm dinner followed by our business meeting and our program

For additional information contact: Patty Anderson, Hospitality Co-Chair (603-432-4647) before 9 pm or email hospitality@amc-nh.org

Register online at www.amc-nh.org

Directions:
Take I-93 to Exit 20. Go East on Rte’s. 3 & 11. Just before Laconia, turn right to stay on Rte. 11 (Laconia by-pass). Take Rte.11A East. Take first right on Country Club Rd. Proceed approx. 1-mi. Facility is on the left.
The New Hampshire Chapter had a successful 2012, thanks to a chapter-wide focus on providing our members with a variety of fun trips with the best leaders.

Happy Anniversary to our 25 and 50 year members! These members contribute to the heritage and legacy of the club and we are honored that they have chosen the NH Chapter as their AMC home.

Our chapter is thriving thanks to passionate leadership from every committee. This past year, our ExComm leadership team and Chapter Treasurer invested in the future of the chapter by establishing best-practice financial policy and allocating budget dollars to leadership training, volunteer recognition, and new outdoor equipment.

The chapter hosted over 400 events and activities this year that provided expanded access to the NH outdoors. Education hosted the popular winter hiking series and a one day leadership training program for Class 3-4 leaders. Programs created a new Winter Expo and hosted a special dinner program with Willem Lange. Mountaineering ran their annual ice climbing series, glacier travel/crevasse rescue workshops, and several rock-climbing trips. Excursions had three weekend workshops at Cardigan, a delightful “spring into hiking” series, and a host of day trips throughout our beloved White Mountains. And our new Bicycling temporary committee got off to a great start with road and mountain biking trips to places like the Northern Trail, the Nashua River Trail, and Bear Brook State Park.

Getting kids outdoors is a priority for the club and our chapter. Paddling acquired ten kayaks to jump start a family paddling program and over the course of the summer the new boats got plenty of action at Wednesday night paddles, the Merrimack River duck race, and at NH Fish and Game’s Wild NH Day. Meanwhile, our Family Group hosted fun events for the entire family including an annual hut night at Zealand and a camping/hiking/paddling weekend at Pawtuckaway State Park.

There’s a lot going on and we’re communicating through Mountain Passages, AMC email blasts, Facebook, and our chapter website. This year, Mountain Passages has transitioned from a traditional newsletter to more of a keepsake journal with member essays and a volunteer spotlight series. AMC email blasts are sent to members twice a month and we are now leveraging this communication for special NH events and notices. Facebook has become an integral part of our communication and our members are using it as a fun way to check in on postings by fellow chapter members. The Young Members Facebook Page is particularly interesting to check from time to time— they’re having a very good time! Finally, our AMC-NH ORG website pulls everything together and enhancements from this year include leader introductions, wildlife galleries, leadership resources, and a photo contest!

Our efforts are having a positive effect on our members, leaders, and community partners. Chapter membership has grown to 12k members—a 10% increase over last year and a sign that our members love this chapter! Our leader ranks are also growing as a result of year-round training, specialized certifications like SOLO, and a supportive community. And community partners like the Souhegan Watershed Council continue to benefit from our volunteer efforts during annual cleanup events.

As we look to 2013, we’re in a strong position thanks to dedicated members, terrific leaders, and guidance from the club’s leadership team. We will continue to deliver fun trips with the best leaders and we look forward to seeing you in the great NH outdoors!

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen J. Thurston
Chapter Chair
Avalanche Hazard Awareness Program

BY JED ELIADES

The NH Chapter will again be offering its Avalanche Hazard Awareness program at Pinkham in December. Participants find our learning experiences informative and exciting. This workshop offers essential preparation for safe travel in the winter backcountry.

You will be fascinated as we delve into the science and foibles of this awesome natural phenomenon. Our studies answer questions for the serious mountain traveler. Can snow on treed slopes break loose? How can wind or cold weather create dangerous conditions? Is clever route finding really the key to safe travel? What is the importance of human factors in decision making? Most importantly, Why does the snow slide?

You’ll learn to appreciate the many aspects of snow which can translate to your skiing, hiking, driving, or even shoveling the walk. Most importantly, however, you’ll be better prepared for safe travel in “avy terrain.” For details see our course description on the NH Chapter website at http://www.amc-nh.org/calendar/education.php.

Winter Hiking in the Whites

HIKIN’ DAVE (SAURIOL), AMC BERKSHIRE CHAPTER

Every winter for the past 12 years, Bob Humphrey and other Excursions leaders from the NH Chapter have been sponsoring a unique program to introduce hikers to the joys of winter hiking on the 4000 footers in the White Mountains. This program is geared toward those with good three season 4000 footer experience, but who would like to extend their hiking season safely into winter. Winter hiking in the Whites is no joking matter and requires good planning, equipment and knowledge of the region’s geography and winter weather patterns. AMC’s Appalachia periodical lists the year’s winter rescues, describing both how poor planning and mistakes can lead to disaster and how good planning can be plagued by accident and the fickle New England weather.

A number of years ago, Bob, a seasoned three season hiker, decided to extend his hiking experience into winter and was looking to do it safely with an experienced group. Much to his disappointment, he was rejected from participating in winter hikes due to lack of experience. ‘But how to get experience’ was Bob’s quandary. Fortunately Bob had a good friend, Kevin Rooney, who was able to join him and together they learned as they went. Several years later (1999), Bob and Kevin founded the Winter Hiking Series (WHS) in hopes of creating a safer environment for learning the winter Whites hiking ropes. Today, this program has been well-refined and produces a new group of 15-20 graduates annually who in turn often return to assist Bob with his WHS training, and the success of the series is largely due to Bob and Kevin’s dedication, expertise and love of winter hiking.

I was one of the fortunate people to be able to attend Bob’s WHS classes this 2011-2012 winter hiking season. Having met Bob in 2007 while hiking the Southern Presidentials and discussed his class with him, I had been meaning to sign up every year, but always seemed to be just a little late (classes fill up fast). Thanks to a couple of last minute drop outs, I finally made the class. The first day was filled with equipment and basic knowledge. Bob and his helpers displayed a wide variety of winter hiking equipment, pointed out the pros and cons of each and suggested some great ideas to balance gear requirements with cost limitations. Additionally, we were given a well-written WHS manual which covered the many subjects discussed. The very next
Volunteer Spotlight: Eric Savage

Q: How did you get your start with the AMC NH Chapter?
A: My father was a member of the AMC (as was my grandfather on my mother’s side) and took me hiking, including many NH AMC trips, back in the 1970’s and early 80’s. When I was hiking the 4000-footers for the first time, the information letter suggested (and still does) that applicants consider joining the AMC, if they aren’t already members, as a way to give back to the mountains. So as I was finishing the list, I signed up for a membership of my own, though for the first decade or so, I only went on a few official trips.

When I returned to New Hampshire for good in 1999, I not only began to go on more AMC trips, but decided to become a trip leader as well. When I became a leader, one of the things I noticed was how underrepresented my age group was, so I began to envision a way to reach out to fellow alumni of college outing clubs and others of like mind. When the chapter established the Young Members Group, I signed on as one of the first co-chairs.

Q: What role does the NH chapter play in helping families (or individuals) get outside?
A: For many people, as it was for me at critical times, the chapter is an incredible resource for learning more about the outdoors and providing support to expand your activities, either in kind or degree. When I decided to pursue the winter 48, for example, I was grateful that I could find experienced winter leaders to go with. For some people, especially families, just getting out beyond the backyard in any season can be intimidating, and our chapter trips are a great way to try something new or slightly more ambitious with support and encouragement from experienced leaders.

Q: How has hiking changed for you over the years?
A: In the beginning, I was a fair-weather hiker, (somewhat) prepared for, but unwilling to go out in any but the best conditions. Over the years, learning from trip leaders, instructors and other hikers on AMC trips has allowed me to expand my comfort zone and find a better balance between caution and embracing adventure. One of the biggest changes in the last several years is that now I’m getting to share my love of the outdoors with my daughters, and have a chance to see them enjoy the discovery of new places.

Q: Tell us about your work on the 4000 Footer Committee?
A: As Corresponding Secretary for the Committee, I’m the one who receives, reads and records all of the applications, and sends out the acceptance letters and patches. Last year, we received over 500 applications. One of the best parts of the job is reading the essays that are part of the application; many of them are funny, inspiring, and/or great tales of adventure. As Chair, I preside over our meetings, most notably the annual awards event in April. I also coordinate the work of the rest of the Committee, whose contributions allow us to do so much more than simply process applications.

Q: Are there any special tips for starting the 4000 footers?
A: Know what you’re getting into and know your own ability level. For people who are reasonably fit, climbing a 4000-footer is mostly a question of endurance; very few trails require technical skills. But even the smallest ones are more challenging than some people realize. You also need to be prepared for the weather, which can be very different than conditions in the southern part of the state, and can change quickly. Don’t be afraid to start small, even a small peak in the White Mountains will give you a sense of what the big ones are like. It’s a lot different than hiking in the southern parts of New England.

Q: NH has lots of great hikes. What are some of your favorites and why?
A: For a quick, family-friendly trip with great views, it’s hard to beat Mt. Willard in Crawford Notch or Bald Mtn. and Artist’s Bluff in Franconia Notch. At the other end of the spectrum in terms of distance are the Bonds, which have some of the most spectacular views in the Whites. (To really savor it, it should be done as an overnight, staying at the Guyot campsite, with a trip to West Bond for sunset.) Monadnock, Moosilauke and Adams come to mind for full-day trips with great terrain near or above tree-line. For something more local when I’ve got limited time or the weather up north is not cooperating, I like Mt. Major and Pawtuckaway State Park. It’s so hard to just pick a few, and many of my favorite hikes have more to do with the company and specific memories than the particular destination.
Q: What’s important to you to thrive as a NH Chapter volunteer?

A: The most important thing is to have the support and camaraderie of other people who are dedicated to the success of the chapter (this was especially important as Chapter Chair). Recognition and thanks are always appreciated as well, though it’s important for those of us in higher-profile positions to share it with those working more behind the scenes.

Q: Any advice for hikers/trip leaders/parents just starting out?

A: For parents especially, I highly recommend finding very local places to get outdoors. If you don’t have something in your own neighborhood, there are town forests, conservation lands and other spaces open to the public all over the state. Ideally you can find something within 10-15 minutes of home where you can get away on a regular basis for at least a short time. Depending on the age of the children, parents starting out need to be prepared to be patient and not worry about reaching any particular goal or destination; the key is for them to have fun and want to do it again. Also, remember to head back before they start to get tired – or be prepared to carry someone.

For those considering trip leadership, the best thing to do is to talk to current leaders. We’re always looking to encourage new leaders and would be more than happy to answer questions, suggest ways to improve skills and provide encouragement. Whatever you do, enjoy the journey!

An incredible contrast of scenery in Death Valley National Park: Badwater Basin at 282’ below sea level one day, sand dunes and slick rock above 6000’ the next and snow-covered Telescope Peak another day at over 11,000’. This Death Valley and Nevada day hiking trip is running again this April. Contact leader Sam Jamke for details at samjamke@myfairpoint.net.

Death Valley Contrast

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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.

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

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New AMC Book

AMC Books has just released Mountain Voices: Stories of Life and Adventure in the White Mountains and Beyond, compiled and edited by Rebecca Oreskes and Doug Mayer. In this collection of interviews that have appeared in Appalachia, fifteen profiles capture fascinating stories of travel, adventure, and lifelong passion for nature, along with the spirit of the people who choose to live in the craggy, remote North Country. Over nearly two decades, authors Doug Mayer and Rebecca Oreskes have interviewed extraordinary people whose lives are intricately linked to New Hampshire’s White Mountains.

In their own words, Brad and Barbara Washburn enumerate their groundbreaking mountaineering exploits, and Rick Wilcox discusses search and rescue efforts. Woodsmen like Ben English tell of their work on hiking trails, and George Hamilton recounts his career in AMC’s high huts. White Mountain icons such as boot maker Karl Limmer and Ellen Teague of the Mount Washington Cog Railway offer accounts of their esteemed careers in the mountains. Guy and Laura Waterman detail the development of their backwoods ethics philosophy. Historical photographs accompany each interview.

A perfect companion to the book is the new 2013 Mountain Photog-

AMC Study Identifies 95,000-acre Visual Impact of Northern Pass

The proposed Northern Pass electric transmission line project would have a signifi-
cant visual impact on such resources of state and national significance as Franconia Notch State Park, Pawtucka-
way State Park, the Appala-

country’s most valuable asset—its scenery—and its importance in drawing tourists to the region. Tourism spending is a critical economic driver in the region.

Read more about the study at:


WINTER HIKING FROM PAGE 3
day, we went out on our first hike, up Boot Spur and down Tuckerman’s ravine. While the snow was yet to come, there was some ice requiring our microspikes for traction. In the following weeks, we continued to explore the alpine regions including Flume, Eisenhower/Pierce, Lafayette/Lincoln, Moosilauke and the Kinsmans. As the weeks progressed, Bob and the Excursions trip leaders continued to ply us with their accumulated winter hiking knowledge and experiences and always instilled the principle of safety first, or as Bob puts it ‘getting to the top is optional, getting down is not.’ At last, with the final hike of the WHS, everyone got their certificates and the group celebrated with a group dinner at the local Woodstock Depot.

But the story doesn’t end there. Part of the real success of the WHS is the new connections and friendships that arise in the groups and of course the new AMC hike leaders. Per Bob, our group was one of the best (of course). With the likes of the many characters like Zippy, Daisy, Alpina and of course Uncle Bob, our group has formed a fun and interesting winter hiking core who continued to seek the higher altitudes on a weekly basis. Of the original group, at least 60-70% continue to hike together as a large group and as smaller ones, and we are now joined by additional prior years’ WHS graduates. I think that Bob and Kevin’s vision of making the Winter White’s more accessible and safer for new winter hikers has been well fulfilled and the NH Chapter can be proud of its own locally grown natural resource.

NOW GET OUTDOORS!
Adventure Travel Leader Training

Visit some of the most exciting places in the world as the leader of an AMC Adventure Travel Trip! AMC Adventure Travel Leadership Training is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, November 16-18, 2012. This workshop provides important training to people who have AMC activity leadership experience (no beginners please) to transition from leading weekend chapter activities to more complex and longer trips, domestically and overseas. AMC Adventure Travel Leadership Training emphasizes planning, cost estimating, trip management, people skills, and risk management. You’ll also learn procedures and guidelines for researching, proposing, and leading Adventure Travel trips and have the chance to exchange ideas, problems, and solutions with some of the AMC’s most skilled leaders. Cost is approximately $85, which includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner. For more information or if you have questions, contact Merri Fox (860-485-1697) or see http://www.outdoors.org/recreation/adventure-travel/leadership-training.cfm

Corona Arch, © Sharon Seaward, Summit to Sea Images

AMC-NH Member’s Photo Published

Congratulations to AMC NH member Sharon Seaward who was one of a select few readers to have their photographs published in the 35th Anniversary issue of Outside magazine.

“Near the end of a two week trip to Moab, Utah we took a side trip about 10 miles outside of town and followed an easy mile and a half trail in to Corona Arch,” explains the Barnstead resident. “It’s a 140 foot tall arch which adventure seekers are drawn to for rappelling and swinging from a giant rope swing. We walked through to the far side of the arch so we weren’t shooting into the sun which is where I captured an adventurous soul swinging back and forth multiple times through the arch. Once they stop swinging they must unclip from the swing line and clip themselves onto a line which will lower them to the ground . . . not an easy feat unless you’re an experienced rock climber.”

“When I returned home I saw a contest in Outside magazine looking for reader photos to publish in their 35th Anniversary Issue. Out of all the entries they received, I was thrilled to be one of eleven chosen to have their photograph published in their October 2012 issue.”

Here is a link to the photo at Outside Online: http://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/Sure-Shots.html#gallery-photo-11
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