This issue of Notes from the Chair is actually more of a trip report. Earlier this spring Karen Klawiter, NH Chapter Paddling Co-Chair, and I were talking and the subject of running a trip on the Dead River in Maine came up. We both agreed that it was a good idea. One of the advantages of being an AMC trip leader is that you can set up trips based on your own desires and schedule. During the 80s & 90s, the AMC NH Paddlers would lead a trip to the Dead every summer. Recently, waning interest has caused them to be discontinued. I had lead some of those trips but I had not paddled the

Notes from the Chair: "Return to the Dead"

Paul Berry

The list of AMC New Hampshire Chapter Nominees for 2008-2009 and proposed changes to the New Hampshire Chapter By-Laws is available on our Website www.amc-nh.org/ or by contacting Paul Berry at 603-423-1192 or PaulBerryAMCNH@aol.com.

Deadline to register for the Annual Meeting and Dinner Program is Friday, Sept. 26. See page X for a reservation form, the menu and directions to the Canterbury Woods.
Who’s Who in New Hampshire

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AMC-NH Chapter Website  www.amc-nh.org

Address changes and membership renewals
Contact AMC Member Services
5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108
617-523-0636 Ext 0 or www.outdoors.org/membership

Mountain Passages

Advertise in Mountain Passages

The AMC NH Chapter membership is over 10,000 strong. Members enjoy the outdoors year-round by hiking, paddling, skiing, backpacking, climbing and biking.

If you have a product or service that New Hampshire AMC members would benefit from, consider advertising in Mountain Passages, published six times a year!

Display ad rate: $12 per square inch (4 sq. inch min.)
Classified ad rate: $1 per word (20 word minimum)

Email newsletter@amc-nh.org for a rate sheet.

The AMC-NH Chapter reserve the right to refuse ads that are not related to the mission of the AMC (outdoor adventure, education and conservation).

For more information, or to place an ad, email newsletter@amc-nh.org or call 603-566-8270.

Submitting Articles & Photos

Members are welcome to submit articles or photos to newsletter@amc-nh.org. Articles may be submitted as MS Word docs and may be edited to meet space and style requirements. Photos must be high resolution: 300 DPI when sided to about three inches wide. If you set your camera to the highest or best quality setting, this will produce a high resolution image. Lower resolution images may look sharp on your camera or computer screen, but do not work in print. Please save the image as a JPG file. The image must not include a date stamp or caption embedded in the photo. Please include separately as text caption, the names of the people in the photo, where it was taken and the photographer. Email photos and text as attachments to newsletter@amc-nh.org.

Publication is on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor. While Mountain Passages does not pay for submissions, a ‘by line’ or photo credit is given.

Moving?

Contact AMC Member Services for address changes or membership renewals. To update your member information:
- Call 617-523-0636 Ext 0
- Or visit www.outdoors.org/membership

Please note AMC-NH officers and committee chairs cannot take updates to your membership information.
river for a number of years. Bill Burke, a NH paddling leader, has been going to the Dead for the last several years, usually with the Boston Chapter. After Bill agreed to co-lead the trip with me, we set the date for June 28 and submitted the trip for approval and publication.

The Dead is an unusual trip compared to the typical whitewater trips that the NH Paddlers run. The river is controlled by a dam upstream with a large watershed and usually has scheduled releases during the spring, summer, and fall. On June 28, the scheduled release was about 2000 cubic feet per second (CFS), which makes for nice sets of Class II and Class III rapids. For those readers who are not familiar with paddling whitewater, rivers are rated from Class I (easy) to Class VI (extreme). Class III is defined as “intermediate: rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe.” The section of the river that we run has more than 13 miles of rapids with short breaks between them. This section is also totally isolated from paved roads and bridges. To “run the Dead” you must first drive on miles of logging roads to get to the put-in at Spenser Stream just below the outflow of Flagstaff Lake. Once you start down the Dead you have committed to either a long paddle or a very long walk.

Over the years, most AMC trips use Ed Webb’s shuttle and campground located on the Dead River in West Forks Maine just above the junction of the Dead River and the Kennebec River. Recently Ed has turned the operation over to his son Andy who, along with his wife Karen, run Riverdrivers which provides shuttles, rafting, camping, lodging, meals and more (www.riverdrivers.com). Bill arranged to have our group camp with the Boston Chapter (thanks to Donna-Jean Kaiser, Boston trip leader) at Riverdrivers and use their shuttle to the put-in.

With arrangements made, the trip was posted and people signed up. A week before the trip, things were looking good, until I called Riverdrivers to finalize the numbers. During the call I found out that northern Maine had been getting a lot of rain and the Dead was estimated to be running at 12,000 CFS. I have run the Dead at 7,000 CFS, which is a solid Class IV trip with waves over 6 feet. The idea of running a Class I / III trip was not looking too good, but the weather was supposed to clear. I told the participants that we might have to cancel. On Wednesday, June 25, the river had dropped a lot and was looking like 2,000 CFS was likely, so I announced that the trip was on! On Thursday, Bill Burke my co-lead called to say he had severely injured his ankle and could not paddle. Fortunately, I had a strong group; all were paddling leaders, whitewater school instructors or both. More importantly, Nancy Damboise was on the trip and she had paddled the river numerous times in recent years. Nancy knew the river better than I did and was able to point out routes to people unfamiliar with the river. So the trip was a “Go.”

Friday arrived and everyone headed to the Dead (carpooling). The trip included Penny Lowman and myself paddling a tandem open canoe, Karen Klawiter and Dean Tuininga in solo open canoes, and Nick Colby, Miriam Langer, and Nancy Dambois in kayaks. We had a great day on the river including a few unintentional swims.

That evening we were trying to decide what to do on Sunday, when Riverdrivers offered us a deal to raft the Kennebec at 7,000 CFS on Sunday. We eagerly accepted and had a second great day. I am pretty sure that this will again become an annual trip for NH Paddlers.

Paul
Favoite Fall Hikes
By Anne Gwynne and David Ross

As this article is being written, we are suffering through the “dog days” of July, with a week of rainy, humid weather topped off by torrential rains. You just know the bugs are going to be fierce for the next few weeks!

So let’s look forward to hiking in the autumn months. September and October are some of our favorite times to get out on the trail, either for a day hike or for a backpack. Even early November can have ideal hiking weather.

What’s not to love about fall hiking? The bugs are gone! No more head nets, or spraying yourself with fly dope. The air is cooler and clearer! Afternoon thunderstorms are just a memory, and the views are great without the summer haze. And the colors of fall! You can appreciate the wonderful and varied foliage changes even better by getting up high and surveying the landscape.

At this time of year, there are fewer people on the trail, especially after Labor Day when students head back to college and school. On weekdays, if you’re lucky enough to be able to get out, be prepared to enjoy some real solitude, even on the popular trails!

Fun Day Hikes in New Hampshire

Wapack Trail. This 21 mile trail runs from Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, MA to Mt. Pack Monadnock in Peterborough, NH. While covering the whole distance is easy if you’re a quick hiker in good shape, the trail has many road crossings and it’s easy to spot a car to make the hike as short as you like.

Features: The trail runs along a series of ridges at relatively low elevation giving great views to east and west and the chance to see migrating raptors if you choose the right day.


Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway. The Greenway runs for 50 miles between the two popular peaks at either end. Monadnock itself is the most heavily-climbed peak in the United States, but some trails, such as the Pumpelly and the Dublin (the latter is part of the Greenway) see less use than the trails from Monadnock State Park.

Features: Most of the Greenway is free of hikers; like the Wapack, it runs at relatively low elevation through old New Hampshire countryside. There are road crossings every 10 miles or so, making it easy to plan a day hike.


Mt. Cardigan. A nearby peak that offers a variety of trails, challenging and less-so. Many hikers start from AMC Cardigan Lodge which is open year-round, but a good hike can be had starting from the west side of the mountain. This is a good hike for children just being introduced to “real mountains.”

Features: Many trails lead to the rocky summit, crowned by a fire tower. If the tower is staffed, the fire watch often invites visitors up for a chat!

Reference: AMC Southern NH Trail Guide

Moat Mountains. A range of low mountains west of Conway and North Conway, offering some of the most spectacular fall views of the nearby Presidential Range. Traversing the whole ridge at a go is not a problem for fit hikers, but it’s easy to split the endeavor into two separate hikes.

Features: steep gradients, and some rocky ledges which can be slippery if wet, mean this is not a hike for beginners or young children. However, the northern end of the range starts at Diana’s Baths, a series of pools and cascades which are very easily accessible. As a bonus, there are many geocaches along the trail!


The Baldfaces. Two peaks near Evans Notch, northeast of North Conway, offer terrific vistas of fall foliage. This is a hike that should be reserved for perfect weather; why waste the views?

Features: steep gradients and rocky ledges requiring some scrambling and comfort with exposure. Not a beginner hike.

Reference: AMC White Mountain Guide

Further Afield

Mt. Hunger, Waterbury Center, Vermont. A bald knob with great views of Camel’s Hump and Mt. Mansfield, and when you’re done, great cafes nearby to relax in!

Features: trails from both the east and west sides connect with a longer trail traversing the whole of the Worcester Range.


Pleasant Mountain, Bridgton, Maine. Another open summit with a fire tower, not too far removed from the North Conway region. There are a number of trails to the peak.


continued on next page
Of course, there are a lot more hikes to do, and once you have some of the books listed above you will have the enjoyable task of picking from a variety of offerings. As always, remember to dress in layers, bring adequate food and water, and limit your outings to a level appropriate for all the members of your group.

Have a fun and safe autumn hiking season!

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**Member Poll**

**What’s your favorite day hike in the White Mountains and why?**

Send your response to newsletter@amc-nh.org. Top choices will be published in a future issue of *Mountain Passages*.

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**Got Great Photos?**

Send your best photos of your outdoor adventures along with a brief description. Top photos will be published in a future issue of *Mountain Passages*. Please read the photos guidelines on page 2 for more details on submitting photos.

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**Views to Amuse**

July Major Excursion to the Canadian Rockies led by Jack Schempp and AMC NH Chapter Past Chair Sam Jamke. Pictured left to right are Sam Jamke of Bedford, Pat Jones of Wolfeboro, and Janice Bremer of Milford. The photo was taken on the trail to Sentinel Pass. Sam reports “We encountered no bears!” Other AMC Chapters represented on the trip were Narragansett, Connecticut, Boston, and Delaware Valley.

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**What is this a photo of?**

Send an email with your answer to mgphoto@metrocast.net. One winner will be chosen randomly from among the correct responses! (Anyone receiving an advance copy of the newsletter is not eligible to win.)

In the July/August issue of *Mountain Passages*, the photo was a view of Quechee Gorge in Vermont.

Good luck on your next guessing adventure!!! Happy Trails!

~ Michelle Goodearl
AMC-NH Chapter Dinner Program  
Saturday, October 4, 2008  
Canterbury Woods Country Club, 15 West Road, Canterbury NH 603-783-8900  
Guest Speaker: Charles Gray from North Stonington, CT  
Topic: Cho Oyu - Expedition and Travels  
  
6 p.m. social hour (cash bar and appetizers)  
7 p.m. dinner followed by the program  

For questions or more information,  
call Janice Bremer, Hospitality Co-Chair, at 603-672-9626 (7 to 9 p.m. only).

Menu: barbeque chicken, vegetable lasagna, garden salad, german style potato salad, green beans, rolls, coffee, tea, and brownie hot fudge sundae for dessert.

Directions: Take Exit 18 off I-93 north or south. Turn left at end of exit ramp. Follow until fork in the road; take left fork and go up the hill. Just beyond the farm on the left side is the entrance to the golf course and country club. Follow this road to the meeting facility. The entrance road to the Club is less than 1.5 miles from I-93.

Registration Form  
AMC-NH October Chapter Annual Meeting and Dinner Program  
Saturday, October 4, 2008  
$25 Members and $27 Non-Members

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Total enclosed: $  

Send this Registration Form and a check payable to AMC-NH Chapter to:  
Janice Bremer, 50 Quarry Circle, Milford, NH 03055  
Registrations must be received by September 26.  
You will not receive a confirmation.

Mountain climber and photographer Charles Gray, a resident of North Stonington, CT will share photos and video from his 2005 Himalayan expedition to Cho Oyu in a multimedia presentation.
Staying Found Workshop II Oct. 25
The Family Group’s Staying Found Workshop II, an educational presentation by K-9 Search & Rescue, will be held at Beaver Brook Assoc. in Hollis, NH. Learn how to stay found, basic survival skills, and see a live search dog demonstration. Lunch at Brown Lane Barn with a short family-friendly hike to follow. This free program is designed for families with kids ages 4-12, but all are welcome. Pre-registration is required. Contact: Celeste Philbrick Barr at 603-465-7787 or Wanda Rice at WandaRice@comcast.net or 603-432-7840. Additional information and directions at www.beaverbrook.org or www.amc-nh.org/stayfoundwkshp.html.

Fall Gathering Oct. 17-19
Journey to the head of the Chesapeake Bay in northeast Maryland and enjoy the hospitality of the Washington, DC chapter. Don’t miss this opportunity for AMC-style fun hosted by the AMC’s southern-most chapter. Details are available at www.amc-dc.org.

9th Annual NH Chapter Winter Hiking Series Oct. 25 – Dec. 20
We will teach you the basics of safely climbing 4,000 ft. peaks of the Northeast in winter. Topics to include winter gear, body heat management, nutrition, hydration, and group dynamics. Classroom instruction as well as instruction in the field.

For information and an application please call or email [preferred] Bob Humphrey at (603) 456-3708 (7-9 p.m. please) or bobh@mcttelecom.com.

Book Suggestions
Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire
By Marianne O’Connor
Check out a new hiking book with a frightening twist, by New Hampshire writer, Marianne O’Connor. In Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire, O’Connor recounts ghost stories, legends and lore of the White Mountains and beyond. Hike locations are scattered throughout New Hampshire and feature hauntings such as Haunted Huts, Devil’s Den in New Durham, Chief Chocorua and the Legendary Mountain Curse, a Haunted Castle Hike in West Chesterfield, and many more.

$12.95. Available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon and local book stores.

Don’t Die on the Mountain
By Dan H. Allen
Written 26 years ago, the information found in Don’t Die on the Mountain is still pertinent today. Even recent history has shown that novice as well as experienced hikers adventuring in the rugged terrain or unpredictable weather of New Hampshire’s mountains can run into risky, sometimes life-threatening situations. Backpackers, day hikers, and mountaineers of all experience levels will find valuable information on managing the hazards inherent in hiking or climbing in the mountains. Author Dan Allen covers trip planning and leadership; clothing and equipment; map reading; hazards such as stream crossing and dangerous weather conditions; reading the sky for shifting weather patterns and much more.

$12, plus shipping and handling from Diapensia Press at 603-763-5320
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Register now for the AMC New Hampshire Chapter's Annual Meeting. See page 1.

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### Inside this issue...

- AMC NH Annual Meeting
- Note from the Chair
- Signless Summits Response
- Favorite Fall Hikes
- Views to Amuse
- Staying Found Workshop
- Fall Gathering
- Winter Hiking Series
- Upcoming Events
- Book Suggestions