

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB



NEW YORK-NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER
ANNUAL REPORT 2013

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
New York – North Jersey Chapter

101st ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - Table of Contents

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2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>CHAIR</i> | Richard Barcia |
| <i>VICE CHAIR</i> | Debbie Melita |
| <i>SECRETARY</i> | Lisa Madden |
| <i>TREASURER</i> | Barry Wolfe |
| <i>EXECUTIVE FOR ACTIVITIES</i> | Ellen Blumenkrantz |
| <i>EXECUTIVE FOR SERVICES</i> | Jonathan Silver. |
| <i>EXECUTIVE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES</i> | Elissa Nemerofsky |
| <i>REGIONAL DIRECTOR</i> | Henry F. Schreiber |

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>BACKPACK</i> | Fred Mader |
| <i>BICYCLE</i> | Glenn Barnes |
| <i>CANOE & KAYAK</i> | Carin Tinney |
| <i>CLIMBING</i> | Marnie Levine |
| <i>COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE</i> | Beth Harrison |
| <i>HIKING</i> | Steve Galla |
| <i>SAILING</i> | Norman Finkelstein |
| <i>SINGLES & SOCIABLES</i> | Margo Moss |
| <i>SKI</i> | Ed Sobin |
| <i>SOFTBALL</i> | Karin Johnsrud |
| <i>WALKS & OUTINGS</i> | Jim Robbins |
| <i>YOUNG MEMBERS</i> | Brian Linde |

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>ADVISORY</i> | John Bradley |
| <i>ARCHIVES</i> | Jack Reilly |
| <i>FIRE ISLAND</i> | Anita Barberis |
| <i>HOSPITALITY</i> | Bob Susser |
| <i>MARKETING & EVENTS</i> | Vacant |
| <i>MEMBERSHIP</i> | Jill Arbuckle |
| <i>NOMINATING</i> | Don Getzin |
| <i>PUBLICATIONS</i> | Henry F. Schreiber (Editor, Schedule) Nancy Tollefson (Editor, Trails & Waves) |
| <i>WEBSITE</i> | Tat Yuen |
| <i>WILDERNESS FIRST AID</i> | Jonathan Silver, Maureen McCahery |

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>CHAPTER YOUTH PROGRAMS</i> | Harold Petzold |
| <i>CONSERVATION</i> | Sara Hart |
| <i>NY/NJ TRAIL CONFERENCE</i> | Jack Driller |
| <i>TRAILS</i> | Kate Whitney-Bukofzer |

STAFF

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>CHAPTER SERVICES MANAGER</i> | Michael Burke |
|---------------------------------|---------------|

Chairs Report 2012:

This has been an exciting year to be Chair of the NY/NoJersey Chapter. Our Chapter has had a multi-year problem of declining membership. Our primary way of getting new members is through direct mail; four times a year the Club sends directed mailers to recruit new members. While we appreciate and are dependent on this method of obtaining members, we realize that this method cannot be the primary way to attract membership in the future. A second and I believe connected issue is the first year retention of new members. Our first year retention rate is in the low 30 percent area; we have no figures to determine why the retention rate is at this level but we do believe that there are actions we are beginning to take which will positively affect the rate of retention in the future.

We have been fortunate to be the recipients of several substantial bequests. To further our goal of increasing and retaining members, we are working with the Club on two major initiatives. We are in the process of hiring a salaried Program Manager. We have worked with Club staff to develop the job requirements and interviews for the position were initiated in 2012. We have decided that a new location for the Chapter Office would be a positive for the Chapter to bring exposure and make the NY AMC a recognizable brand. We have located an office in the YMCA and are working on lease details. With a small part of one bequest, we began a weekly van from midtown to the Mohican Outdoor Center. The van had several successful trips; we will need more publicity and better focus as we arrange the van trips in 2013.

A major change in the Executive Committee was made in 2012. The Committee was restructured for the first time in decades. We now have a Communication Executive who will be responsible for all Chapter technology. We have had technology problems with the website and these will be addressed. On the positive side re. technology in 2012, we now have active meet-up groups and have several facebook sites. The email blast has proved to be an effective tool in locating important Chapter members. We had a successful Public Relation volunteer, located through the email blast, who arranged for the Fire Island Cabin to be featured on the Time Warner NY1. Also through the blast, we located several volunteers interested in leading trips in foreign languages. We also sponsored several events, the Escapemaker, in Brooklyn and the Clearwater Festival among others.

The Chapter had a strong response to the disasters of Irene and Sandy. We built one bridge west of Hudson, began the clearing the grounds of the Fire Island Cabin and are strengthening our trail crew with authorized chain saw maintainers. There are ongoing issues, particularly the training, rewarding and locating leaders. Another challenge is the development and staffing of our Committees.

A major success of 2012 was the Fall Gathering at Port Jervis. The attendance, activities and positive comments were all possible because of the extraordinary efforts of vice-chair Debbie Melita; to whom I am grateful. I am enthusiastic about our Executive Committee in 2013 and believe we will be able to build our Chapter to be the premier outdoor organization in NY and northern NJ.

Richard Barcia

Chapter Chair

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

| | 2010 Actual | 2011 Actual | 2012 Budget | 2012 Actual |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Memberships | \$49,729 | \$47,491 | \$47,733 | \$48,187 |
| Interest Income | 18,722 | 20,454 | 19,512 | 21,143 |
| Contributions | 1,500 | 545 | 1,500 | 2,168 |
| Total Revenue | \$69,951 | \$68,490 | \$68,745 | \$71,498 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Member Services Coordinator | \$17,472 | \$17,472 | \$17,000 | \$18,144 |
| Office Rent | 22,833 | 12,128 | 13,050 | 12,600 |
| Office Expenses | 6,645 | 4,804 | 4,520 | 5,252 |
| Chapter Schedule | 19,889 | 18,719 | 19,500 | 18,453 |
| Trails & Waves | 13,362 | 10,502 | 8,900 | 4,951 |
| Activities & Other Committees | 5,347 | 4,020 | 8,400 | 8,785 |
| Total Expense | \$85,548 | \$67,645 | \$71,370 | \$68,185 |
| Gain / (Loss) | \$(15,597) | \$845 | \$(2,625) | \$3,313 |

Respectfully submitted,
 Barry Wolfe
 Treasurer
 New York – North Jersey Chapter

ACTIVITY COMMITTEES REPORTS

BACKPACK 2012

Overview

The Backpacking Committee had a remarkably successful year in 2012, remaining focused on providing a wide variety of backpacking trips at various levels in many different venues, and making great strides toward achieving our goal of refreshing our leader ranks.

Backpacking Trips and Events

The Backpacking Committee continued to offer a broad scope of events in all four seasons at all skill levels, including 84 backpack trips, 14 seminars, and one party. Total participation of 459, was quite high, while the average number of participants per trip remained in the normal range of 6. Interestingly, almost 40% of our trips had a duration greater than 2 days, including two consecutive trips that covered the entire 132-mile Northville-[Lake] Placid Trail, and another trip that traversed the entire Loyalsock Trail in PA. Following a familiar pattern, the most trips occurred in the Catskills and Adirondacks, but other trips were fairly evenly spread in venues such as the White Mountains, the Berkshires/Taconics, Harriman State Park, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, the AT in NJ/NY, with Maine, Southern New Hampshire, and Fire Island rounding out the scope of destinations. Four trips offered additional skill development beyond backpacking, such as orienteering, backcountry cooking, in-field wilderness first aid, and use of a sled to transport gear in winter.

While we provide challenging trips for seasoned and more advanced backpackers, we also strive to include trips and events that allow beginners to gain experience and enjoy themselves in an encouraging environment. Out of our 84 backpacking trips, 49 were moderate, 25 were strenuous, and 10 were beginner-level (including 3 winter-beginner-level). Across the board, our beginner seminars emphasized hands-on learning for participants, with several seminars conducted inside a gear store, and others all day out on the trail. Building on last year's Lightweight/Ultralight Gear Expo with a much more publicized and well-attended event, our leaders experienced with lightweight backpacking displayed a wide array of their lightweight gear and discussed lightweight backpacking philosophy and technique with participants. Our renewal of the Winter beginner training program, which progressed from a comprehensive indoor seminar, through base-camp hikes, to a full winter beginner backpack trip, was also very successful in providing three-season backpackers a chance to expand into a winter experience. In addition, we supported the Chapter's new member retention goal by offering trips and events for the "Recommended for New Members" section of each Trails and Waves.

Leaders and New Leader Development

Under the organization and direction of our 'Leader Liaison,' Tom McArdle and, later, Maria Nobles, and with very effective collaboration among our leaders and leader-trainees, the Backpacking Committee continued its development of future leaders. In addition to obtaining Wilderness First Aid certification (for which the committee reimburses its leaders and co-leaders), leader-trainees practiced key hard and soft skills as co-leaders, planning and executing trips under the guidance of experienced leaders. An illustration of the outstanding level of cooperation between leaders and leader-trainees throughout 2012 is that for 60% of

trips having a co-leader, the co-leader was a leader-trainee. Other statistics indicate the ongoing progress of our efforts toward bringing in new leaders:

- 18 trips were led by a leader who was approved within the last year.
- The Committee approved 4 new leaders this year.
- At least one of these new leaders fulfills a need for additional winter leaders.
- At least 12 leader-trainees remain serious prospects for becoming new leaders in 2013-2014. We will continue to actively encourage and develop them.

Our engagement with new leaders extends to appointments to committee positions, as well. Maria Nobles is the first of what will hopefully be several new leaders taking on committee roles. An organized committee with well-defined roles will enable us to identify and pursue initiatives raised by the Chapter as well as our own committee goals.

Overall, the Backpacking Committee has around 15 to 20 leaders who lead multiple trips, augmented by several other leaders who occasionally lead or co-lead. Several leaders were adept at providing appropriate ad-hoc trips to fill in schedule gaps. A few of our leaders participated or contributed at the Chapter level, such as leading events at the Fall Gathering, and obtaining comprehensive training at the weekend-long Outdoor Leadership Training event in June. A great deal of credit must be given to Debbie Melita, a Backpack leader among her other AMC roles, who organized both of the aforementioned Chapter-level events. One leader 'team' for the Backpacking Committee, Barry and Kathy Skura, added Adventure Travel to their outdoor leadership pursuits.

BICYCLE

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|---|
| Bicycle Committee – NY/NoJ Chapter Annual Report 2012 Submitted by: Glenn Barnes |
|---|

The Bicycle Committee offered 29 day rides, 4 multi-day events and 1 workshop this year, lead by 10 leaders. Rides ranged from short easy leisurely paced day rides to long strenuous fast paced multi-day rides on roads as well as paved and unpaved trails. Canceled rides are highlighted in **GREY**.

| Date | Bike Type | Miles | Leader | Route |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|--------------|--|
| March 24, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 15 | Bud Long | Delaware & Raritan Canal |
| March 26, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Wantagh – Jones Beach |
| April 09, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Wantagh – Jones Beach |
| April 15, 2012 | All | 4-5 | Kim Spelman | Southard Pond/Belmont Lake State Park |
| April 16, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Wantagh – Jones Beach |
| April 21, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 22 | Bud Long | Delaware & Raritan Canal |
| April 22, 2012 | All | 44 | Ken Hubert | NC Trailway / Putnam Rail Trail |
| April 22, 2012 | Road | 38 | Glenn Barnes | Henry Hudson Route - Fort Lee to Nyack |
| April 23, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Wantagh – Jones Beach |
| April 29, 2012 | All | 30-50 | Skip Doyle | NC Trailway / Putnam Rail Trail |
| April 30, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Wantagh – Jones Beach |
| May 05, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 40 | Ken Hubert | Wallkill Rail Trail |
| May 06, 2012 | Road | 28 | Glenn Barnes | Harriman Park - Sterling Forest Loop |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--|
| May 10, 2012 | ----- | ---- | Robert Matson | Bicycle Touring Introductory Workshop |
| May 12, 2012 | Road | 48 | Glenn Barnes | Harlem Valley Rail Trail |
| May 25-28, 2012 | Road | 30-50 / day | Aldo Ghirin / Glenn Barnes | Spring Cycling in the Berkshires |
| June 8-10, 2012 | Touring | 150 / 3 days | Robert Matson | Cycling the Parks |
| June 09, 2012 | Mountain | 25 | Glenn Barnes | To Haverstraw via Hudson River Path |
| June 16, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 20-30 | Glenn Barnes | Walkkill Rail Trail |
| June 23, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 22 | Bud Long | Delaware & Raritan Canal |
| July 14, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Saint James to Short Beach |
| July 21, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 27 | Bud Long | Delaware & Raritan Canal |
| August 04, 2012 | All | 10 | Kim Spelman | Wantagh – Jones Beach |
| August 11, 2012 | Road | 49 | Cindy Crosser / Jeff Lippincott | Harlem Valley Rail Trail |
| August 25, 2012 | All | 20 | Kim Spelman | Matawan to Sandy Hook |
| Sept. 8-11, 2012 | Touring | 150 / 3 days | Skip Doyle | Bike Howe's Hudson Valley Voyage |
| Sept. 14, 2012 | Hybrid / Touring | 55 | Skip Doyle | Hudson Valley Off-Road Marathon |
| Sept. 15-16, 2012 | Touring | 100 / 2 days | Robert Matson | Biking Central Park to Harriman State Park |
| Sept. 16, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 30 | Glenn Barnes | Columbia Rail Trail |
| Sept. 23, 2012 | Road | 38 | Glenn Barnes | Henry Hudson Route - Fort Lee to Nyack |
| Sept. 30, 2012 | All | 40 | Ken Hubert | Dutchess / Hudson County Rail Trail |
| Oct. 20, 2012 | Mountain | 25 | Glenn Barnes | To Haverstraw via Hudson River Path |
| Oct. 27, 2012 | Hybrid / Mountain | 25 | Skip Doyle / Glenn Barnes | Old Croton Aqueduct |

Respectfully submitted

Glenn Barnes

Co-Chairs, Bicycle Committee

New York-North Jersey Chapter

CANOE & KAYAK

Canoe and Kayak Committee

The Canoe-Kayak Committee of the NY-NoJ Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club had another great year of paddling and communing. In 2012, 63 active leaders and outstanding volunteers organized or participated in over sixty activities this year.

The Canoe-Kayak Committee Statistics:

- ✓ 275 paddlers joined our trips in 2012
- ✓ 63 active leaders, leaders in training and outstanding volunteers; of the 63, 29 lead paddling trips this year.
- ✓ 6 paddlers participated in a day long leadership training, 2 were promoted to full leaders (4 still in the process of becoming a leader)
- ✓ Over 40 waterways ranging from quiet/brown water to Class 4+ Whitewater were paddled
- ✓ Paddled in 9 states: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia
- ✓ 1 to 6 day trips were offered
- ✓ 55 trips/activities offered this year, with a highlight being the 25th Annual Winter Mullica Paddle
- ✓ 13 formal instructional trainings
- ✓ 10 trips were cancelled due to low water (two Pequest/ Paulinskill trips), cancelled dam releases (Esopus), dangerous conditions after Hurricane Sandy (Tohickon Creek, Rio Reservoir, Great Piece Meadow), dangerous conditions due to high winds (Round Valley), low registration (Sedge Island, Advanced Safety & Rescue), and leader illness (Little Tupper/Bog River)
- ✓ 3 trips involved conservation and clean up
- ✓ 3 Issues of Paddle Splashes were published

Instructionals

In 2012, the CKC offered 2 canoe instructionals at the Mohican Outdoor Center, 2 whitewater kayak Instructionals, one basic Safety and rescue course in moving water, and 8 pool sessions designed to teach paddlers how to roll their boats and practice skills. We scheduled but were not able to offer the advanced safety and rescue course, but plan to offer two in 2013 (one spring, one fall). Not only are these instructionals an effective way to teach paddlers new skills, they offer the opportunity to recruit leaders and introduce our club to a wider audience. In addition to the original 3-day whitewater course, the instructors often sponsor follow-up skills building trips to enhance beginner skills.

Advocacy and Stewardship

The CKC provided advocacy on three fronts. After tropical storm Lee came thru the Northeast, it dislodged a temporary construction bridge on Shohola creek in Pennsylvania. The large timbers were littering the creek, creating a very hazardous environment for paddlers. After doing some research, we discovered that the bridge was built by Tennessee Gas Pipeline. We successfully advocated for the removal of the 'mats' (large timbers). The company reports removing 23 mats (some weighed over 2 tons) and while we trusted the company somewhat, we advised paddlers to cautious in their first descents.

We also provided written testimony/commentary to the Army Corp of Engineers recreational release program of the Francis E. Walter Dam for 2012.

Finally, we provided a memo of support to the National Park Service to designate the Farmington River and Salmon Brook as Wild and Scenic.

Special Events

Recruitment: The CKC participated in two recruitment events in 2012. Twelve volunteers participate in Paddlesport, a watersport expo in central New Jersey; and 3 volunteers participated in City of Water Day sponsored by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance in July. We collected over 80 email addresses at Paddlesport as a result of our raffle; these addresses were added to our Paddle Splashes mailing.

Barn Work Day: Our committee rents a storage facility in Pomona, New York. We house our fleet of boats, equipment and sometimes our trailers at the facility. Our club's quartermaster led a one-day Barn Work Day and Picnic in May. Twelve volunteers repaired boats, replacing parts where necessary; cleaned, de-rusted and painted our yellow trailer; cleaned and labeled pots/pans; built new boat racks; inventoried equipment and cleaned gear.

Paddlers Party: After a one-year hiatus, the CKC brought back the Annual Paddlers Party. Attendance was record-breaking at 85; the number was surprising to the organizers as we moved it from the suburbs of NY/NJ to the heart of New York City. The five hour event was energizing and provided the opportunity for paddlers to meet, reunite and volunteer to lead trips next year. The party was held in a like-minded non-profit settlement house (Hartley House) and was catered by The Doe Fund (a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower homeless and formerly homeless men and women to achieve self-sufficiency). Loretta Brady, a canoeist and editor of Paddle Splashes (our newsletter), received the annual service dedication award at the event.

Rolling Clinic: The CKC brought in an American Canoe Association certified instructor to teach our instructors the art of teaching the kayak roll. The class, held at the NJIT pool, was attended by 8 instructors.

Boat Purchases and Gear

We purchased three whitewater kayaks this past year. Keeping our whitewater boats and flatwater tandem canoes up to date, clean, and modern is essential to our instructionals and newer paddlers. We are looking to purchase an additional flatwater tandem canoe in 2013 as well as a lightweight but sturdy trailer for long distance, multi-day trip use. We also purchased flotation bags and miscellaneous equipment for our fleets.

Paddle Splashes

Paddle Splashes was brought back to life this year by editor Loretta Brady and designer Marty Plante. Our newsletter underwent a drastic makeover in style and content. Three issues were released and covered chapter paddling trips, personal paddling accounts, and announcements.

The Canoe-Kayak Committee and Administration

The CKC spent the year finding and implementing ways to support trip leaders. We have created a "Leaders Corner" on our website which re-organized the documents that already existed and added new support documents (templates, info sheets- a.k.a. dope sheets, and how-to guides). <http://www.amc-ny.org/ckc/leaders>

The biggest change was the adoption of PayPal. Our PayPal system- which is connected to our Chase bank account was designed to serve in three ways:

- Allow trip leaders to submit collected fees electronically
- Offer instructional students the opportunity to pay electronically/via credit card via an invoice system
- Collect fees associated with parties and other high price events

We surveyed the interest of instructors and select trip leaders prior to its implementation, which led to us making PayPal an optional, not mandatory, form of payment. Our treasurer, Marty Plante, has spearheaded this initiative with great success.

All of the activities listed above and those not mentioned, could not have been accomplished with the tremendous support and dedication of the Canoe-Kayak Committee: Carin Tinney (Chair), Marty Plante (Records Keeper and Treasurer), Jeff Gregg (Quiet water coordinator), Charles Michener (Quartermaster), Loretta Brady (Paddle Splashes), Kafi Adams (Special Events Coordinator), Andrew LoPinto (Equipment Coordinator), Mike Hyman (Scheduler), Butch Futrell (Instruction and Safety), Rob Holbrook (Ratings), and Matt Theisz (First Aid).

Highlights in the year ahead

In addition to all that we already do we have a few things on our goals list for 2013.

- The CKC will be sponsoring the Reel Paddling Film Festival in the Spring of 2013 as a way to bring the paddling community together and as well attract new members. The RPF is an international film festival much like BANFF.
- We are excited to offer additional benefits for trip leaders, including reimbursement on special gear and an inter-chapter skills training/ paddling excursion- possibly to be held in Maine.
- We look forward to heading South for our annual Southern Rivers trip led by incoming Activities Chair, Eileen Yin.
- The CKC is hopeful that West Virginia will be our tenth state, with a sponsored trip to the famed Gauley River as well as the New River-the oldest river in the country; second oldest in the world.
- We are looking to paddle with other AMC Chapters in a possible Maine or Canadian trip.
- We are exploring Meet Ups as a way to offer last minute trips.
- In addition to providing information at a table at the City of Water day, we are hopeful to offer some type of instructional or trip in conjunction.

Respectfully Submitted

Carin Tinney
Chair, Canoe-Kayak Committee

CLIMBING

AMC NY/NoJ Chapter Climbing Committee Annual Report 2012

Summary:

As an annual tradition, the Committee celebrated 86th birthday of AMC NY/NoJ Climbing. Commemorating video slide show created for this occasion depicted major events, trips, and activities of participating club members was featured during our Annual Solstice Dinner in January.

In 2012 the Committee organized Wilderness First Aid course for all AMC NY NoJ climbers thereby promoting safe and responsible exploration of outdoors.

The Committee also continued support of the regions where we climb donating to the Ragged Mountain Foundation and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

Spring Training Class yielded 14 new graduates.

In addition, continuing a tradition started in 2010, the Committee honored another volunteer with the Golden Cam.

Various climbing workshops during summer of 2012 kept AMC climbing members in their top shape. Another successful annual Picnic in September marks the end of summer.

Aneta Rogoz succeeds Marnie Levine as The Chair of the AMC Climbing Committee.

Key 2012 Climbing Committee events:

Winter Solstice Dinner - January 12, 2012

Wilderness First Aid Course – March 25 & April 1 2012

Spring Training Class - April 14 & 15 and April 21 & 22, 2012

Welcome To The Gunks (WTTG) weekend – May 5 & May 6, 2012

Workshops – Summer 2012

Annual Picnic (Gunks, Singerland Pavilion) – September 8, 2012

Winter Solstice Dinner/The Slide Show

2012 marked the 100th year of the AMC NY/NoJ Chapter and 86th birthday of the AMC NY/NoJ Climbing Committee. The Climbing Committee was established in 1926 as the Mountaineering Committee and the first Chair was Percy Olton. Just like last year, we created a video slide show to celebrate our birthday. The request for photographs from our members resulted in a great turnout and therefore an exciting and eclectic slide show. AMC Climber Pinar Ayata masterfully edited the presentation, which was premiered at the annual Winter Solstice dinner in January 2012 and was also shown at the 2012 training class.

Wilderness First Aid Course

AMC Climber Jerry Provenzano organized our 2012 Wilderness First Aid course. The class met at Sterling Forest visitor center on March 31 and April 7, 2012 with Chapter's Wilderness First Aid Committee Chair Jonathan Silver as the instructor. Our WFA-certified AMC climbers are now proficient in first response/first aid scenario in the outdoors. This certification is valid for 3 years although the valuable knowledge lasts forever.

Donations to The Ragged Mountain Foundation and Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Our annual Spring Training class takes place at cliffs located in Southington Connecticut. Therefore in 2012 we continued support of Connecticut nonprofit organizations dedicated to conservation, preservation and maintenance of public access and trails in Connecticut Forests.

The Ragged Mountain Foundation and Connecticut Forest and Park Association received monetary donations.

Spring Training Class 2012 and WTTG

On two weekends in April 2012, the Committee conducted its annual climbing training program. This year 14 new students successfully completed the program. The goal of the program is to teach new AMC climbers skills needed to climb with the club. Climbing is an inherently dangerous sport - we do not teach climbing technique rather we teach safe climbing skills:

1. Be able to build a solid top rope anchor using webbing and/or static rope. This is important as you rappel and climb on this anchor. Trees or gear anchor points may be used.
2. Have solid knowledge of basic knots: harness tie-in and backup, figure eight-on-a-bite (or equivalent) leash, girth hitch, and can join two rappel ropes.
3. Use common climbing commands appropriately.
4. Properly belay on top rope as well as a rope leader.
5. Know how to choose and attach yourself to a belay anchor on the ground.
6. Properly clean gear from the rock.
7. Know when, why, and how to flake rope both at bottom of a climb and at the beginning of each successive pitch.
8. Know how to rappel.
9. Wear your harness properly.
10. Coil the rope properly.
11. Know when, why, and how to safely ascend rope using friction knots, e.g. prussik.
12. Know when, why, and how to safely escape a loaded belay.

The Training Class culminated on weekend of May5/6 2012 with Welcome To The Gunks Event. The recent graduates are introduced to one of the best outdoor rock climbing areas in North East, The Shawagunks. During that weekend each student is paired up with two experienced climbers and climb multipitch routes.

The Golden Cam Award

In 2010, the Climbing Committee introduced an annual service award to recognize members whose invaluable contribution help keep this thing going. The award is a # 6 Camelot from Black Diamond. The recipient also receives a 1-year subscription to Alpinist magazine. Below is the announcement from the Chair published to the Climbing Committee from May 6, 2012.

Greetings:

Last night at the WTTG dinner, we gave out the Golden Cam Award for 2012. We are only in our third year of the Golden Cam and each year the decision is difficult. And that is a good thing. I hope that it becomes even more difficult because there are so many worthy candidates. It is not a contest. It is not about winning or losing. It is an acknowledgement at a point in time of an individual's contributions to keeping our thing going.

A very brief history of the Golden Cam:

In 2010, I attended the semi-annual Chapter Chairs meeting that was sandwiched in between the first and second weekend of the training class. And though I've been attending these meetings for a number of years, it always strikes me how much volunteer effort is required to keep this thing going and I wanted to do something to acknowledge that commitment and service in the Climbing Committee.

The Golden Cam Award is given to a Climbing Committee member who embodies the spirit of giving back to our AMC climbing community through their service and commitment. It is through service and commitment that keep our thing going. The award is a cam. A Black Diamond Camelot #6. The recipient keeps the cam for one year, and can use it at his or her pleasure. If you call it pleasure. (It weighs 1.25 lbs.) And at the end of 1 year, at the Saturday night Welcome To The Gunks dinner, the award will be returned and presented to the succeeding awardee. It's the same #6 cam being passed down and hopefully engendering the spirit of service and commitment in the next generation of climbers. As Rob O'Sullivan observed in 2010, sort of like our own Stanley Cup.

The etiquette of gear management applies - if the cam is lost or broken or dropped, the recipient must purchase a new one to replace it. And additionally, photographic evidence is required to prove the #6 cam was placed as protection on a climb at the Gunks.

2012 Golden Cam

The 2012 Golden Cam recipient is Ted Horbert. Mr Horbert joined the AMC Climbing Committee in 2000 when he successfully matriculated from the training class. He has been an instructor at the training class every year since 2001, and in 2004 took over prussik instruction. He is the third most tenured instructor (behind Gary and Eveline) consistently volunteering his time for the club. Ted is also in his second term as the club's quartermaster - all our club gear resides on River Road, New Paltz, NY. And this year Ted went above and beyond when one of our instructors for the second weekend had to cancel last minute and Ted filled-in.

Thank you Ted!

(applause)

And, because the cam must be returned, Ted also receives a 1-year subscription to Alpinist magazine. The magazine he can keep.

Marnie Levine

Chair, AMC NY/NoJ Climbing Committee

Jerry Provenzano,

Vice Chair, AMC NY/NoJ Climbing Committee

Michael Geramita

Treasurer, AMC NY/NoJ Climbing Committee

Golden Cam Award Recipients

2010 - Gary McElvany

2011 - Pauline Eng

2012 - Ted Horbert

ACTIVITY COMMITTEES REPORTS

HIKING 2012

The Hiking Committee saw a change in Committee Chair in August. Cynthia Tollo Falls assumed the chair position for the second time. She took over for Steve Galla, who also completed his second term. The Hiking Committee offered over 730 events throughout 2012. Hikes were offered via the schedule booklet, AMC Outdoors magazine, the online schedule system, and the last minute Yahoo Group. The number of members in the Yahoo Group is over 2,000 people. In addition, the Hiking Committee set up a Meetup group late in the year. This group continues to grow with over 370 members. The Hiking Committee first and foremost has worked to keep leaders and members happy, handling over 850 requests for information, comments, suggestions, and hike approval activities and this just since August!

Challenges this year included two significant events that had an effect on activities offered during prime season. Hikes in Harriman State Park were cancelled when an alleged murderer was known to have last been seen in the park. The park requested all hikers stay away in order that an investigation could take place. He was never found. After that Hurricane Sandy struck the local area on October 29th. Much of the local area was devastated with wind and water damage. Electricity was out for weeks and official park information confusing and contradictory. Many blow downs blocked trails, but luckily bridges remained in place. In addition to the storm damage, a gas shortage prevented hikers and leaders from reaching the trails.

The **Online Schedule System** continues to challenge its users and the committee. The complicated drop-down system and multiple publishing options, along with a long instruction booklet prevents most leaders from being able to master the system. The committee has no easy way to review all hikes. In addition, the lack of a field for transportation codes causes multiple errors. This issue will continue to be pressed by the Hiking Committee as the NY/NJ Chapter has the best public transportation options and greater usage than any other Chapter. The committee wishes to thank Tom Parliament and Rich Siegelman for their extraordinary effort to approve and edit hike write-ups. In addition, the committee would like to thank all of the volunteer moderators for the short notice hike list.

In other **Hiking Committee events**, on November 22nd, the Hiking Committee had its traditional Bear Mountain Thanksgiving Day dinner -- which for several years has taken place at Cliffhouse, on the north side of Hessian Lake. Again we offered a hike prior to the dinner led by Wayne Foote. Hike Leader Bob Susser planned and hosted the event.

While it is difficult to measure overall participation by the membership, many leaders note that attendance is down. Incentives will be given to leaders to offer more hikes and make use of Meetup. New initiatives are in the works to begin in the new year.

Prepared by:
Cynthia Tollo Falls, Chair- Hiking Committee
AMC: New York/Northern New Jersey Chapter

ACTIVITY COMMITTEES REPORTS

SINGLES & SOCIABLES 2012

SINGLES & SOCIABLES

Our leaders are all enthusiastic volunteers who offer outings including singles and/or sociables hikes, educational workshops, cultural and recreational events, dinner soirees, movie outings, weekend escapes, and more. “Singles” indicates events attracting singles seeking activities with other singles; “Sociables” indicates events inviting all social butterflies, whether single, married, dating, or in long-term relationships without the singles aspect. We also have a 50+ hiking subcommittee offering hikes and outings open to all ages but especially welcoming to the “older” crowd. Singles & Sociables 50+ offers activities during the week as well as on the weekends.

This year, the committee has grown with the following breakthroughs:

- *Singles and Sociables expanded the 50+ activities from the first and third Mondays every month to weekends and additional Mondays.
- *Singles and Sociables welcomed several new leaders and expanded activities to feature urban walks and special-interest outings, such as meditation, birding, and poetry hikes.
- *We added more short-notice hikes, in both “Singles” and “Sociables” categories, encouraging leaders to offer more “specialty” hikes this way.
- *We continued our partnership with Palisades Interstate Park for monthly meetup-cleanups to help clean trash from the major hiking trails and picnic areas.
- *PIP personnel have become AMC members and leaders, and are offering hikes focused on the history and ecology of the park.

Committee Members:

Margo Moss – Committee Chair
Leslie Kriesel – Vice Chair
Linda Rousseau – Treasurer
Leslie Kriesel – Schedule Editor

ACTIVITY COMMITTEES REPORTS

SKI

The following were accomplished in 2011/2012:

1. 19 overnight trips were offered for the winter of 2011/2012, the prior year it was 22.
2. A similar number of overnight trips are planned for the winter of 2012/2013
3. The AMC Ski Yahoo group continues to be used by the ski community for exchange of information and arranging short notice trips. This year we are also using the Meetup group for day trips, and may use it for weekends depending on snow and leader availability. We are also using Facebook in a limited way, but plan to increase it's use as well as Meetup.
4. There were 56 messages on the Yahoo group in 2008/2009 and 51 in 2009/2010. For 2010/2011 the message count had grown to 173! In 2011/2012 it was 129. This is due to less snow (fewer day trip were organized). There was still info that leaders put out on topics like how to buy gear or describing different types of skiing. In large part the number of messages depends on the availability of snow. On Dec 31, 2011 there were 338 members in the Yahoo ski group, but that has grown to 374 as of Jan. 6, 2013.

The overnight and day trips cover a broad spectrum of skiing interests – downhill, cross-country, back-country and telemark.

Obviously the ski committee's biggest barrier is lack of snow. It is difficult to recruit leaders for day trips when snow conditions are iffy at best. That said, there has been continued interest in using the AMC Ski Yahoo group to offer short notice events when conditions are good – several were offered last season and more are already started for this season. The short notice option is publicized in the schedule at the beginning of every month,

Based upon previous results, Miramar (a NY based ski club that has a lodge in Waitsfield, Vermont) is continuing their joint Miramar- AMC trip offerings. This increases the options for our members. Downhill and XC skiers of all abilities are strongly encouraged to check them out. The Ski along with Singles and Sociables are 'sharing' the Miramar trip listings, so a Miramar trip will only appear once in the schedule for any given weekend. Mohican Outdoor Center also has Cross Country Ski weekend not associated with the Ski committee.

Multiple leaders continue to spend considerable effort to put together interesting packages – please consider supporting their efforts by joining them for a great weekend of skiing.

There are now weekend trips every weekend from the end of December, 2012 through March. A few weekends have multiple trips but to different destinations or for a different audience.

We invite all current skiers, former skiers, and prospective skiers to join us - almost all of the overnight trips welcome and encourage beginners – please check with the leaders. Both downhill and XC centers offer packages (day pass, group lessons, and rental ski equipment) designed to attract new participants. If you are new to skiing, you are encouraged to contact one of the leaders prior to going for information on proper clothing and what the options are for beginners.

Ed Sobin Chair, Ski Committee

WALKS & OUTINGS

Walks & Outings Committee Annual Report, December 18, 2012

Once again, the percentage of trips posted last minute on our Yahoo site increased, as it has every year since this feature was inaugurated. In 2012, 39% of Walks were posted last minute, up from 36% last year. Our three most active leaders scheduled 48% of their trips last minute, and three other leaders posted all their trips last minute instead of in the printed schedule.

Total trips scheduled (1,681) were fewer than last year (2,074), and average attendance (14) was down from last year (17). This year again, the average attendance at last minute trips (10) was less than for trips scheduled in the printed schedule (16).

The roster of 15 active leaders is down from 18 last year in spite of the addition of one new leader, because three leaders retired, and one very active leader switched from leading AMC trips to leading free lance trips posted on a meet-up website.

As in prior years, a small number of very active leaders accounted for a large proportion of the action. Our most prolific leader, Bob Susser, surpassed his record of 37 trips led through November last year, contributing an amazing 54 trips through December this year! Other big contributors were Rita Cohen (17), Hal Kaplan (14), and Jo-Anne Gisolfi (10). These four leaders accounted for 48% of all trips.

Again, John Jurasek attracted the largest number of participants on his trips. His Tallman Mt. expedition on January 28 drew 46 attendees, followed by 32 members who joined his Clausland Mt. trip on February 25. Note that both of these popular outings have been repeated for many years, and they are scheduled not in the comfortable temperatures of summer, but in the coldest months of the year. Way to go, John! Other leaders who attracted 25 or more participants were Rita Cohen (thrice!), Hal Kaplan, Tanya McCabe, Bob Susser, Mason Logie, Jr., and Frank Bamberger.

Our offerings continued to be varied. A cultural component figured in 44 of our trips this year. Rita Cohen's continues to find new interesting venues such as her tour of holiday lights in December, a Chinese Scholar's Garden, the house of Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, art galleries, and waterfront vistas to mention a few. Mason Logie, Jr. led his followers through Greenwich Village and atop the "Hi-Line" in Manhattan, and later across the Hudson on two bridges near Poughkeepsie, followed a few weeks after that by another trip over the water to Governor's Island to watch a Civil War reenactment. Bob Susser ends some of his trips with an optional museum visit or a meal at Ollie's, when he's not smelling the roses at the Bronx Botanical Garden or teaching us how to identify the trees in Central Park. Hal Kaplan showed the way to the Elmhurst Chinatown, the historic Old Croton Aqueduct, and the byways up and down the hilltops north of the City.

All of the non-cultural events are really lower level Hikes, and our participants frequently ask what the difference is. The answer is that Walks leaders tend to favor a later starting time, lead at a moderate pace, and stop oftener than Hikes Committee leaders to rest or savor a view. Virtually all mainly hiking events were run at Pace 2 for distances of 5 - 8 miles, with only a handful at greater distances and a few at pace 3. The continued good attendance at our events provides evidence that there is still strong demand for our style.

Our finances remain sparse but adequate, thanks to the free use of the Internet for almost all correspondence. Special thanks are due to Mason Logie, Jr., whose trip to Mohonk Mountain House

produced a surplus that replenished the treasury. Most of our leaders now download their own release forms from the Outdoors website, which saves postage. One of our volunteers, Dorothy Lourdou, faithfully sends email reminders a week in advance to each leader, including a link to the release form, so the leaders contribute the cost of return postage when they mail their completed forms to the chair.

Jim Robbins, Chair

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire Island

Two weeks after we closed the Fire Island Cabin for the winter this past October, Hurricane Sandy ravaged this barrier island. Although many homes in our community were damaged, our “treasure by the bay” survived in tact. However, the flooding of salt water into the porch, kitchen and empty sheds did impact our major appliances.

Further, our property was Sandy’s dumping ground for destroyed decks, furniture and walkways from the six homes south of us at the ocean’s edge. So, we ended a glorious 2012 season with new unexpected goals: clean up the land and replace our major appliances as we have pledged to open in 2013 “come hell or high water” in pristine condition.

As always, we added new items and revised existing ones:

- Built a new Sail Shed west of the Cabin to house all the sailing equipment
- Installed a new double awning kitchen window on the ocean side
- Crafted new dorm doors on the ocean side with removable panels on screened doors to accommodate cool and warm weather
- Installed new washing machine and dryer
- Added two more kayaks to our fleet, now totaling 11
- Repaired Gazebo ceiling with a decorative wooden circular brace

Our weekends, with meals, reached back to normal levels of 2010 (as we took a loss in 2011 due to Hurricane Irene), but we still need to address four off-peak weekends that did not fill up. By contrast, our mid weeks generated \$5,000 more than 2011 due to an increase in fees for July and August and a higher occupancy. The number of day guests has been steady at fewer than 200 for the past three seasons and that is manageable.

We addressed conservation, education and recreation in our weekend and mid week workshops. We partnered with the Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) for their annual trek and with the American Littoral Society for a mid week introduction to the flora and fauna on Fire Island. We continued our popular on-water instruction in canoeing, kayaking and sailing to ensure that AMCer’s safely and responsibly navigate the Great South Bay.

On the quiet side, we offered Pilates, Tai Chi and many forms of Yoga along with dedicated family time with two summer mid weeks (when the kids are not in school) and also Memorial Day weekend. On the loud side, we had a live band that invited guests to bring their own instruments and jam with them and a challenging weekend with Olympic contests.

We have engaged more than 100 AMC members who have volunteered to manage the Cabin for a weekend or mid week or to lead one of our activities. We recognize these trained managers and skilled instructors at a "Thank-You" dinner at the end of the season.

Anita Barberis, Chair
AMC Fire Island Cabin

MEMBERSHIP

YEARLY STATISTICS

CHAPTER SIZE

The club as a whole grew 2.7% in 2012, but our chapter shrank almost 4%, a disappointment after holding steady in 2011.

A bit less than half the loss was because the drop-outs (memberships not renewed) were 279 higher than last year. A bit over half was because new memberships were 343 lower than last year.

New

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | Est. 2012 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Chapter sales | 634 | 609 | 473 | 390 | 295 | 276 |
| Year-end members | 13,321 | 12,642 | 12,161 | 11,864 | 12,013 | 11,560 |
| Year-end households | 10,337 | 9,869 | 9,488 | 9,182 | 9,259 | 8,805 |
| Percent added new | 30.9% | 31.0% | 31.6% | 29.6% | 32.1% | 28.2% |
| Percent dropped out | 36.2% | 35.4% | 36.1% | 32.8% | 31.1% | 33.9% |
| Growth rate - chapter | -4.2% | -5.1% | -3.8% | -2.4% | -1.3% | -3.8% |
| Growth rate - club | 1.3% | 3.4% | -0.6% | +1.3% | +4.9% | +2.7% |
| Club year-end members | 82,615 | 79,810 | 78,302 | 79,343 | 83,234 | 85,500 |

memberships come almost entirely via the club, from recruitment mailings, and phone-calls to lapsed members. For the past several years, we have received less than a proportionate yield from the recruitment mailings.

We can do little to increase new members, but we can, and should, work harder to decrease drop-outs. The renewal rate for first-year members is particularly poor. Any ideas on how to get new members involved would be welcome; the principal reason for not renewing seems to be that they never went on a trip with us. How do we persuade them to get on the bus to Sloatsburg on that first sunny Saturday?

SAVING MONEY

With shrinking membership comes shrinking dues-allocation, and a need to shrink our annual operating expenses. Printing & mailing *Trails & Waves* and the *Schedule* accounts for over 34% of that operating expense. Please, if you don't need, or don't want, a print copy, *let us know*. It's

a waste of money, trees and carbon emissions for us to print and mail you something you're not going to open.

. To get *Trails & Waves* online, log onto outdoors.membercenter.org and change your newsletter delivery preference to "online". If you find that difficult, let me know and I'll cope.

. To read the *Schedule* online (which we strongly recommend, because leaders add many events to the online schedule after the printed version goes to press), e-mail me at [membership\(at\)amc-ny.org](mailto:membership(at)amc-ny.org). Say "no schedule please", and include your full name and address

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP SALES

Our website was down for almost 5 weeks in November and December. As a result, sales via our site were down from last year.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR NEEDED

We still need a new Membership Chair. We are on Facebook and Meet-Up now. We need someone with creative ideas on how to use them, and our website, to engage new and old members in both activities and conversation.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Arbuckle, Membership Chair

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

2013 REVISED ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This is the revised slate of nominees for the 2013 Executive Committee of the AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter. The initial slate was announced in the fall 2012 issue of *Trails & Waves*. Since then the slate has been revised to consist of:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Chair | Richard Barcia* |
| Vice Chair | Eileen Yin |
| Secretary | Lisa Madden [§] |
| Treasurer | Barry Wolfe [‡] |
| Activities | Christine Benton |
| Facilities/Services | Jonathan Silver* |
| Information | Beth Harrison |

*Nominated for a second and final term in their current positions.

[§]Nominated for a third and final term in her current position.

[‡]Nominated for a fourth term in his current position.

The Nominating Committee warmly thanks Debbie Melita, the out-going Vice Chair, and Ellen Blumenkrantz, the out-going Activities liaison person, for their service on the Executive Committee.

All Chapter members, but especially Chapter committee chairs, are urged to propose suitable candidates for nomination by contacting the Nominating Committee Chair by email at nominating@amc-ny.org, or by telephone (732-249-7898). Chapter members who themselves wish to be considered are also urged to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Getzin (Chair), David Lamb, Dorothy Lourdou, Debbie Melita, Barry Skura and Richard Seibel.

AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter Nominating Committee

2012 WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Annual Report

The mission of the Wilderness First Aid committee is to provide professional quality wilderness first aid training to chapter members and to encourage members to get this kind of training. We stand ready to provide support to any unit of the club who wishes to learn more about wilderness emergency care.

During 2012, our fifteenth year, we conducted 4 WFA courses. We trained 76 chapter members and others in the basics of wilderness emergency care.

We will continue to run our voucher program in 2013. The WFA committee makes available two vouchers to each activity committee chair for distribution to people active in their committee. Each voucher is worth \$40.00 off the cost of a WFA committee sponsored wilderness first aid course.

The WFA committee is constantly on the lookout for new, qualified instructors. If you know of anyone who has significant pre-hospital emergency care (EMT, Ski Patrol, etc.) and outdoor experience, we encourage you to have them contact either Maureen or Jonathan at WildernessFirstAid@amc-ny.org.

Committee Members/ WFA Instructors

Jonathan Silver, Co-Chair
Maureen McCahery, Co-Chair
Ron Fields, Instructor
Richard Dabal, Instructor
Mathew Theisz, Instructor

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

Archives Report 2012

The year 2012 saw the final move of all Chapter paper, photographic, and audio/video archives to the Club Library from the Club Office. A finding aid is available from the Library upon request.

Bound, and some unbound, copies of Appalachia from the early 1900's have been retained in the Club Office.

Jack Reilly

Chair, Archives and Library Committee

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation Committee Report 2012

Naturalist Program/ Mohican Committee/ Nature Trail Development

Organized and co-lead a naturalist training at Mohican (with Nancy Ritger, AMC senior naturalist) on March 31, 2012. Organized the next training for 2013, also with Nancy Ritger. Recruited and lined up over 10 volunteers for the training. Have been working on volunteer schedule with Mohican staff for the 2013 season.

Finished half of interpretive booklet for the interpretive trail, working on it with Matt Stopa, AMC staff at Mohican.

Leave No Trace training: Taught the annual LNT trainer course at Mohican, April 13-15, 2013. Already scheduled the next training for March 2013.

Southern Mountain Flower Watch at Mohican

Worked with Georgia Murray, AMC staff scientist, and adapted the AMC's Southern Mountain Flower Watch program to Mohican. Identified trails, maps, and plants for the Mohican area. Brought a few trials packets to Mohican. 2013 will be the first full year of the program being available.

Spring Fling. Organized two environmental education events by professional educators for the Spring Fling at Mohican, April 27-28, 2013. Also led a flower watch hike to introduce AMC's citizen scientist program.

Trails and Waves newsletter. Write ecology and conservation themed articles for every issue of "Trails and Waves", the chapter's quarterly newsletter.

Climate Change Initiatives

Scheduled showing of "Carbon Nation" prior to election day at EMS in Manhattan, unfortunately Sandy prevented us from showing it.

Have been working with AMC staff and other chapter conservation chairs on bringing climate change science info and awareness to our members. We have had several conference calls, I have been posting articles, event info, have been brainstorming, etc.

Facebook. I have been almost exclusively maintaining the chapter's Facebook page with daily postings.

Conservation Committee Website. With big help from Henry Schreiber, the committee website is current, interactive, and offers links to activities and issues important to our members.

AMC activist representation. Organized several volunteers, and along with myself represented our chapter and AMC at an activist table at the Clearwater Festival in New York, June 17, 2012.

The committee is growing. I have been able to meet or communicate with many interested members, and have been able to steer them in the direction where they can contribute to the chapter's and the club's conservation mission.

Conservation Chair Sara Hart

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAILS

Trails Committee Report 2012: Hurricane Season

While Hurricane Irene flooded the trails and wiped out bridges, Sandy's high winds brought down trees. – Hundreds of them.

Just as this incredible storm caused havoc along the East Coast, it devastated the trails in the tri-state area. While some areas escaped relatively unscathed, areas just a few miles, or, in some instances, just a few feet away saw almost total devastation. Trees obliterated trails. Trail markers and signs came down with the trails such that only folks totally familiar with the trails could even find the trails amidst the tangle of branches and tree trunks, some shorn off, others tossed aside as if a malevolent giant had a tantrum in the forest. Areas hit particularly hard were Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, site of the Siwanoy Trail where old growth trees were directly in the path of Sandy's landfall. Trees with 3 and 4 foot diameters, hundreds of year old were felled close to the shoreline. West of Hudson trails and the Stonetown Circular area were also badly damaged.

AMC trail maintainers and volunteers who responded to outreach via the email blast and our social networking sites responded with hours of labor to make the trails passable. Bob Fuller, his maintainers and volunteers worked countless hours to clear the trails in the West of Hudson area.

While the trails are, in most instances, passable, much more work will be needed in the spring to continue to clear fallen trees and branches and replace blazes. In particular, the Stonetown Circular area will need the assistance of skilled sawyers and assistants (swampers) to fully restore this area.

Sandy has reinforced the need for more skilled sawyers in the area, individuals who are certified to use chain saws on the lands wherein our trails are located. The Chapter plans to facilitate additional training sessions to meet this critical need.

In the middle of dealing with the recent damage brought about by Sandy, Chapter volunteers assisted in the replacement of the Popolopen Gorge Trail Bridge. This vital connector for the Timp-Torne, 1777W and 1779 trails (maintained by AMC) had been washed away by flooding after Hurricane Irene. Late in the fall, Trail Conference volunteers, including a number from AMC, assisted in the installation of the bridge.

Going forward, the NY-NJ Trails Committee, of which AMC is a member organization, in conjunction with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) is reviewing the replacement of washed away bridges on a case by case basis. While bridges such as the Popolopen Gorge Trail Bridge will be replaced, others will not. In view of climate change and the recent frequency of violent storms, alternative solutions such as step stones are rerouting will be employed to address wet areas