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2022 Executive Committee Officers

Dawn Riley
Chapter Chair

Peter Gourri
Chapter Vice Chair

John Allman
Treasurer

Carrie Ho
Secretary

David Lamb
Activities Liaison

Ed Spirko
Facilities and Services Liaison

In addition to the Officers, the Executive Committee of the New York-North Jersey Chapter recognizes the following Ex-Officio Executive Committee Members

Crystal Williams
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair

Ed Sobin
Leadership Chair

David Hartree
Conservation Chair

2022 Committee Chairs

Advisory
Kaspar Alexander, Chair

Backpacking
David Mong, Chair

Bicycling
Rick Bryan, Chair

Canoe and Kayak
Brian Horowitz, Chair

Climbing
RJ Lau and Stephen Greer, Co-Chairs

Fire Island Cabin Committee
Crystal Williams, Chair

Hiking
Steve Galla, Chair

Nominating
Henry Schreiber, Chair

Ski
Ed Sobin, Chair

Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman
Outdoor Center Programming
Herb Zoota and Jim Om, Co-Chairs

Trails Committee
Ed Spirko, Chair
John DiStefano, Supervisor - Urban
Rene Ruel, Supervisor - West of Hudson

Wilderness First Aid
Richard Dabal, Chair

Young Members
John Perilli and Ryan Tang, Co-Chairs
Report from the Chapter Chair

It has been a year of renewal and revitalization. In 2022, the New York-North Jersey Chapter organized hundreds of activities, trainings, events and programs. Through the dedication, leadership and generosity of our volunteers and members we increased our positive impact on the community and the environment. The chapter also celebrated the return of pre-covid events with the first chapter picnic with lodging since 2019 and the first in-person meeting of the executive committee since February 2020.

The New York-North Jersey Chapter’s priorities for 2022 were to deliver on the AMC mission, through volunteer recognition; leader development and grants; improving excess reserve planning; supporting the new Activities Database in development, Outdoor Connector; launching a redesigned website, representing the chapter in the Greater New York Committee and developing and cultivating partnerships. The chapter rose to the challenge and met or exceeded these goals.

The year began with the launch of the redesigned chapter website led by the Communications Chair. The new website has engaging content, enhanced navigation and information accessibility. The volunteer recognition priority was facilitated by the Secretary with committee chairs providing input on recognition initiatives. Implementation began this year with additional recognition programs to be rolled out in 2023. The Leadership Committee conducted training sessions which resulted in 46 new leaders in training and Activity Committees have been proactively matching the leaders in training with mentors to complete the training program.

We also witnessed the power of partnerships, collaborating with Clean Ocean Action, Natural Areas Conservancy, New York City Parks, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, South Mountain Reservation, Hudson Valley Groundworks and other like-minded organizations to provide clean and safe public lands and trails. In addition, the chapter represents the Appalachian Mountain Club on the New Jersey Forest Task Force co-chaired by the New Jersey Audubon Society, New Jersey Forestry Association, New Jersey Sierra Club and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The task force develops proposals and provides input with respect to forest stewardship for submission to the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

In addition, the chapter strengthened our resolve to ensure diversity, equity and inclusivity in our activities, camps and cabins through the strong commitment and leadership of our DEI Committee and chapter leaders. We approved funding for the Mohican Outdoor Center, trail stewardship at Palisades Interstate Park and provided grants to promote equity in our activities. The chapter will continue to look for opportunities to advance the AMC mission supporting projects and programs for the benefit of volunteers, members and the community.

Thank you to the executive committee, committee chairs, leaders, volunteers and members who contributed to the chapter’s success. I want to recognize the outgoing executive committee officers Peter Gourri, Carrie Ho, David Lamb, Jen McCaffery and Ed Spirko and thank them for their commitment, support and encouragement over the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Riley
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI)

The purpose of the DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) Committee is ‘to bring social justice outdoors’ for AMC’s New York-North Jersey Chapter. We are committed to growing our membership and advancing new leadership opportunities for those not historically represented by outdoors clubs.

We are funding grants for families, gear, and skills training. And we are building bridges across committees and other chapters while we form external collaborations with local schools, colleges, community organizations, and other outdoor clubs. We are committed to addressing historical legacies of bias and discrimination. Above all, we aim to realize the club’s mission to Be Outdoors for everyone!

NY-No.J DEI Committee provided amazing outdoor experiences and exposure for more than 100 children from different backgrounds and abilities at Mohican Outdoor Center, Fire Island Cabin, and The Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center.

The DEI Committee organized a Women’s Fall Getaway Leadership Training at Mohican Outdoor Center to prepare future leaders by building skills and sharpening existing ones.

2022 also brought an increase in BIPOC Committee Members on the Fire Island Cabin Committee and in BIPOC managers for the Fire Island Cabin.

As a result of a partnership between Journey Fund and L.L. Bean, the following projects were funded:
- Family Weekend at Fire Island
- BIPOC Women’s Weekend
This is the 7th year of the Leadership Committee. We had our first in person training weekend since the pandemic which was very well attended. We still are using Zoom for the four and a half hour training sessions—which turn out to be better for the part of the training with lots of information to communicate. We’ll continue half day classes going forward.

This year (November 2021 - October 2022) we ran two zoom based training sessions attended by a total of 31 people, and an in-person weekend with 15 participants for a yearly total of 46 new leaders in training. The classes were held in November, February, and May. Some participants attending the classes were from other chapters. Our new Hiking Committee Chair has been very proactive in getting leaders in training that have completed the class matched up with existing mentor leaders so they can get their co-leads done and start leading on their own. AMC staff continue to run a zoom based leadership training that any chapter can attend. A few of our trainees were in those classes and are working on becoming leaders.

Leadership Committee Goals

- Make it easier to get new leaders trained and leading activities
- Make sure potential leaders learn the basic AMC leadership skills that are not activity specific (i.e. trip planning, incident reporting, trip talk at the start, using the ActDB and social media, liability issues, etc.) so activity committees can concentrate on the skills needed for specific activities.
- Make it easier for AMC leaders to lead for different chapters if they move out of (or into) the NY/No.J area
- Improve tracking of the leaders in training as they progress towards becoming leaders
- Continue to improve communication and assistance to help the leaders in training become leaders
- Make sure there is an in person Weekend Leadership Training at CHOC scheduled for 2023 either run by AMC staff or chapter volunteers
- Focus on getting those that have taken the class to do the required co-leads in the activity committees they want to lead for so they can start leading trips on their own
- Run 3 Zoom based training classes followed by half day in person training in the NYC parks

Plans for Next Year

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Membership Committee

It is clear our members recognize the importance of connectivity with the outdoors and one another and have a renewed appreciation for the environment and open space. The New York–North Jersey Chapter’s membership as of September 2022 was 9,018. This is a slight decrease in overall members from 2021, however, we have seen an increase in member activity and engagement over the past year and expect that to translate into increased membership going forward.

This achievement was made possible through the tremendous effort of our members and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who led activities and programs, supported an event and contributed their time and talent to the chapter and our community.

We would like to give special thanks to those New York- North Jersey Chapter Members who have reached the 50 and 25 year milestone memberships for their dedication to the chapter and the mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Those members are recognized by name in the Membership Section of this Annual Report.

Chapter members

9,018
Communications Committee

2022 has been a busy year for the Communications Committee. With the help of chapter leaders, they kicked off the year with a redesign of the New York-North Jersey website, amc-ny.org.

Since the relaunch in early February 2022, the site has garnered more than 14,000 users and over 34,000 page views. In addition, they worked with chapter treasurer John Allman and former chapter chair Kaspar Alexander to migrate the chapter’s email system over to Google Workspace, a free service for the chapter as a nonprofit organization with an array of features.

Meanwhile, longtime volunteer Susan Bernstein continued to produce the monthly eblast and made sure it got out on time. The committee also helped recruit new communications leaders and looks forward to seeing their work going forward.

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Conservation Committee

The Essex-Hudson Greenway project is certain to go ahead now that the New Jersey Department of Conservation has completed its acquisition of the former Norfolk Southern Railway line. This is an important win for the New Jersey communities connected by the greenway.

As one of the recognized supporters of the project, the AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter welcomes the expected recreational and environmental benefits once the project is complete. The 9-mile greenway will run from Jersey City to Montclair, give access to nature for nearby communities in Hudson and Essex counties, and connect to other parks while forming part of two larger routes: the September 11th National Memorial Trail and the East Coast Greenway.

The Chapter continues to encourage environmental advocacy in New York and New Jersey in part through the conservation action alerts on its web page. In 2022 these have included, the Essex Hudson Greenway, the plastic bag and polystyrene food container ban, and the Liberty State Park Protection Act (all in New Jersey), and an amendment to NY conservation law to facilitate the goal of conservation of 30% of the state’s land by 2030. Also included are measures in both states to sign onto the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program memorandum of understanding.

The action alert section of the Chapter’s conservation web page allows visitors to generate onscreen emails [also can be used as phone scripts] to their elected representatives. The scripted email content is suitable for sending, but it is best for visitors to the website to individually customize it.

The Conservation Committee also organizes regular trips, including participation in spring and fall beach cleanups in the Palisades through its sponsoring partnership with Clean Ocean Action NJ. In addition, several invasive species removal trips took place at South Mountain Reservation (Essex Co, NJ) in partnership with South Mountain Conservancy as well as nature and wildlife appreciation paddling trips to the Great Swamp in Putnam County, NY.

In 2023, the Conservation Committee hopes to offer an increasing choice of volunteer trips including some in the vicinity of The Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center.

Learn More Online
www.amc-ny.org/conservation
Although many challenges still persist in our world, the Young Members are back and gaining momentum! Following the easing of COVID protocols, the Young Members began heading outdoors together again!

YM leaders returned to organizing group hikes, having at least 1-2 hikes each month. They also brought the spring season in with a bang by partnering up with Arcteryx of SoHo to host their YM Spring Kickoff and rallying existing members as well as bringing in new folks. YM monthly planning meetings transitioned back to being in-person again as well! They started off meeting outdoors in Sheep Meadow at Central Park and are now transitioning to The Barking Dog restaurant in Midtown.

In 2022, the YMs were able to successfully bring back two of their annual headline events - the YM Harriman Takeover as well as their summer Fire Island weekend. Firstly, they set about staging their summer weekend at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman State Park. Planning and organizing for the event began early, and the YMs were able to put together an action-packed weekend of hiking, rock climbing, yoga, swimming, paddling/kayaking, fishing, bonfires, and meeting other folks who are passionate about the outdoors! Over 115 AMC members from various chapters and guests attended the weekend-long event! Next, was their Fire Island Cabin weekend in August. Folks were able to enjoy a revitalizing weekend of hiking, yoga, canoeing/kayaking, and exploring the dunes, forest, beaches and marshes of the national seashore of Fire Island off of Long Island! Special thank you to the whole planning committee and the dedicated AMC staff and volunteers at CHOC and Fire Island.

In addition to bringing back their major events, the Young Members continued working on building up their committee and training new leaders. The YMs will continue striving to make progress in this area, and it will continue to be a major goal for the remainder of 2022 and beyond. The YMs are also looking forward to the long-awaited return of Thirsty Third Thursday and other social events. Currently, a joint AMC Rock Climbing and Young Members social is in the works and planned for later in October!

For 2023, the YMs are hoping to rebuild their full pre-COVID calendar of programming. Because of new variants, the YMs again were not able to host their Winter Weekend at the beginning of 2022. However, the event is slated to return in January 2023, location TBD (the event in 2020 was held near Killington Mountain in Vermont).

2022-2023 Young Members Committee Goals

• Reinstate our popular Winter Weekend event and other social events such as Thirsty Third Thursdays
• Continue building the committee and training new leaders
• Continue to foster and grow our relationships with the committees across the NY-New Jersey chapter, as well as with the other YM groups across the AMC chapter at large

The New York-North Jersey Chapter is a member of the Greater New York Committee and is represented by the Chapter Treasurer. The GNY Committee provides guidance on how the AMC can increase mission impact and delivery in the New York region, working in partnership with the President/CEO and development staff in fundraising and institutional advancement activities, and assisting the Board in monitoring AMC’s progress against the organization’s strategic plan as it relates to the metro area. The committee offers an opportunity for AMC leaders and supporters in the greater New York region to become meaningfully involved in furthering the AMC mission.

The committee is chaired by a member of the Board of Directors appointed by the Chair of the Board. The committee membership is drawn from the Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, and other volunteers from the greater New York region. The Chair of the Board serves as an ex officio member. The volunteer committee is staffed by the Regional Director of Development, Greater New York, with the Chief Development Officer representing AMC’s staff Leadership Team. The GNY Committee has developed two subcommittees, one focusing on fundraising and a second focusing on volunteerism.

The GNY Committee supports the mission of the AMC in the greater New York region by:

• Increasing AMC’s visibility in the greater New York region
• Expanding AMC’s fundraising capacity, and increasing the number of donors in the NYC area
• Building awareness and support for AMC’s programs in the region
• Working with the New York-North Jersey Chapter and other chapters in the region to promote our mission of recreation, conservation and education.

The GNY Committee provides guidance on how the AMC can increase mission impact and delivery in the New York region, working in partnership with the President/CEO and development staff in fundraising and institutional advancement activities, and assisting the Board in monitoring AMC’s progress against the organization’s strategic plan as it relates to the metro area. The committee offers an opportunity for AMC leaders and supporters in the greater New York region to become meaningfully involved in furthering the AMC mission.

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Report from the Chapter Treasurer

The year-to-date (YTD) through October 2022 has seen a healthy level of activities together with encouraging progress on several initiatives. While the cash and reserves position for the AMC NY-NoJ Chapter remain strong, positioning it well for the future, negative investment returns have unfortunately reduced available Excess reserve and Endowment balances.

Highlights
Endowment distributions for 2022 of $29,145 were 14% higher than 2021, however membership allocations and website revenue are 2% lower YTD. Program revenue of $54,186 reflected a 27% increase YTD over 2021, while program expenses of $72,061 are up by 30% YTD. Administrative costs of $11,000 have trended 11% lower YTD. Overall, the Chapter has generated a surplus though October 2022 of $22,655, 2% less than YTD 2021, and closing locally held cash is $108,655 (up from $86,000 at beginning of the year). Meanwhile, AMC-held Capital reserves (including funds from the Bishop gift in 2020) have a balance of $173,500, while Excess reserves of $331,043 have decreased by $48,564 through June due to negative investment returns.

Operations through October 2022
The Chapter started 2022 with $86,000 in local cash balances. Revenue or expense generating activities for the year to date have occurred at The Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center, Mohican Outdoor Center and elsewhere, including events by Harriman Program Committee [HPC], Leadership, Membership, Trails, Canoe & Kayak, Conservation, Climbing, Wilderness First Aid [WFA] and Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI). The Softball committee was disbanded at the end of 2021. Additionally, the Young Members [YM] conducted their annual Harriman Takeover on July 23-25, and the Chapter Picnic was held on the Sunday of that weekend. Other committees (including Biking, Hiking, Backpacking, and Programs) have also conducted various free outdoor events during spring, summer and into fall.

Remainder of 2022
Aside from the annual meeting, holiday events, volunteer recognition, sundry administrative and receipt of December membership allocations from AMC, most financial activities for 2022 have already occurred. A surplus of ~$20,000 is anticipated to be recorded for the year, as compared to the originally budgeted deficit of $16,000. A transfer of ~$32,000 from the Chapter to excess reserves held by AMC in Boston will be made by year-end, in accordance with club policies.
Reserves Investing

During 2022, the ExComm has discussed a variety of potential investments of its capital and excess reserves. A $12,000 investment was approved for capital improvements at Mohican Outdoor Center, however this project has been deferred to 2023. Also, a $7,500 funding to Hudson Valley Groundworks for costs of youths conducting a trail repair project at State Line Park was funded. AMC and the Chapter have a number of potential funding initiatives for 2023, and we continue to identify ways to make a portfolio of positive step-change investments to accelerate progress towards AMC’s mission, in alignment with local Chapter goals.

AMC Greater New York Committee

The Chapter has participated in the GNY committee, a sub-committee of AMC’s board of directors, which is charged with identifying and supporting strategies to progress AMC’s growth and mission achievement in our area. This includes general and project specific fund-raising, volunteer model evaluation and seeking synergies with area partners. It is encouraging that board and GNY committee see our Chapter and its neighbors as key planks in the future of AMC.

2023 Planning

Our 2023 budgeting process is well underway at this time. In addition to continuing activities similar to 2022, we hope to have more in-person meetings and events, and conduct more outdoors training, activities and explore new activities, while being prudent and astute with the management and use of Chapter funds. The Chapter and its committees will focus on opportunities and innovation to engage members and support volunteers in different ways. We believe we can continue to find new ways to reach more people and to support our mission.

Financial Summary

The following sheet shows more details around the financial position for YTD October 2022, forecast for 2022, actuals for 2018-2021 and our estimated budget for submission to AMC for 2023. It reflects the Chapter’s local cash positions, as well as Chapter reserves, Excess reserves and Endowments held by AMC. The Chapter remains in a financially strong position. I look forward to more opportunities to serve our community and the volunteer leaders in our Chapter.

Respectfully submitted by John Allman, AMC NY-NoJ Chapter Treasurer, 11/8/2022
Backpacking Committee

Backpacking programs in 2022 included another successful interchapter adult novice backpacking workshop along with a lot of novice level programs, many open to families that included bike-packing, car camping and 4 season backpacking trips.

Our total trips net of cancellations were down about 11% from the previous year (27 this year versus 31 last year). We would have been about the same if we had not canceled a number of trips last winter due to concerns about Omicron.

A few previous leaders returned to leading trips and a couple leaders in training finished the process. We have quite a few leaders in training in the pipeline and our focus will be to continue creating trips for them to participate in.
### Bicycle Committee

The Bicycle Committee had an increase in activities this year consistent with the chapter's overall boost of enthusiasm and proactive leadership in 2022. We added new leaders, explored more routes, and generally had a very productive season. Our leaders tended to avoid using bicycle lanes adjacent to roadways, and totally avoided routes which involve sharing the roadway with cars, as these routes involve a much greater risk to participants. Safety continues to be the 'order of the day' for the Bicycle Committee, and we did not have a single incident report in 2022!

Continuing the trend we saw last year, members are realizing that pedal assisted electric bicycles (Class I eBikes) are an outstanding way to stay active and participate in AMC group activities when injuries make hiking just too difficult. Pedal assisted eBikes are a reasonable accommodation for members with physical limitations, and ensures they able to participate in our activities.

The Bicycle Committee continued to do our part to make the outdoors more accessible and welcoming to the Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) community by choosing starting locations for various rides at trailheads easily accessible to members of that community, such as our popular South County Trail route which begins at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Although we do not maintain statistics on such matters, the fact is that over the years the participation on our bicycle rides now more closely mirrors the diversity of the New York-North Jersey chapter community.

For the second year in a row, we participated in the Earth Day cleanup event along the bicycle route which goes through the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, and intend to bring even more members to the event in 2023. Also, as we ride quite frequently through Randall's Island Park and Roosevelt Island, which are islands in the East River between Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx, the volunteer associations which manage those parks have expressed an interest in partnering with AMC on various conservation projects. Discussions are ongoing.

Finally, joint with the Backpacking Committee, we had more than a half dozen bike-packing adventures on the calendar in 2022. Participants in this activity carry their personal backpacking equipment in bags ("panniers") attached to their bicycles, and ride from one location to the next and setup camp for the night. We have also been exploring an extended trip in September, 2023 to visit our friends in the Maine Chapter and join them for lodge to lodge gravel riding. We'll carry our lunches and small packs and ride hybrid-type wide tyre bicycles from Gorman Chairback to Little Lyford, and then to Medawisla, while the AMC crew shuttles the riders' luggage along the way. A scouting ride will take place in the Spring, 2023.

### Canoe and Kayak Committee

Canoe and Kayak Leaders have accomplished a lot during 2022, and the group is proud of what it has achieved as the Canoe and Kayak Committee (CKC) of the AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter celebrates its 89th year of paddling.

The Committee’s trip schedule of 30+ trips included two leader training workshops with a total of 13 trainees, four instructional events (two on the Delaware River, one Kayak Instruction on the Lehigh River and a Women Instructional Weekend at the Gorman Harriman Outdoor Center), and two one-week of rivers events and two expeditions. Several white water and quiet water trips including a joint weekend trip with the NH Chapter in the Pine Barrens were also held. This year we were able to resume our highly popular 27th Annual Adirondack Fall Foliage Weekend, which had been canceled or severely restricted in size the past two years due to the pandemic.

During our Barn Workday, we fixed several rotting boat racks and removed an old, no longer usable, canoe trailer so that we would have space to store our new trailer. AMC purchased the trailer in 2021, but delivery was delayed until this year due to the pandemic. Great appreciation for Charles Michener for his efforts in acquiring and delivering the trailer. Plans are being made to increase the number of trips and some online social sessions for the next season.
In June, RJ and Manda Knight (NH) organized Rumney Together, AMC’s inaugural climbing festival at Rumney New Hampshire. Our goal was to create a welcoming space for the historically underrepresented climbing communities. The AMC Climbing Committee partnered with Access Fund, Indigenous Field Guide, ParaCliffHangers, Black Diamond, Rumney Climbers Association, Ladies Climbing Association and more. We hosted over 125 participants in clients and discussions with professional athletes such as Nina Williams and Sam Elias to name a few. A full write up by Cait Handlin can be found on the AMC website.

The climbing committee worked this last year to collaborate across the AMC and beyond. Sarabeth drove a partnership with the ParaCliffHangers (PCH) which saw AMC volunteers work with adaptive climbers indoors at the climbing gym and at the Gunks in July. RJ Lau, Anthony Leong, and Yan Cheng worked with the Interchapter Climbing Committee (ICC) on the newfound Mountain Educators Alliance (MEA) certification. The MEA seeks to lower the barrier to entry for volunteers in climbing while also ensuring standards and safety.

Perhaps the most exciting news of the year. RJ Lau and his wife Ivy had a baby! RJ also got accepted into a flight school program in Arizona for 2023! While we couldn’t be more excited for RJ and his family, the newfound responsibilities will be taking him off of the climbing committee. While he’ll still be around in an advisory role, Sarabeth Brockley will be joining Stephen Greer as co-chair effective January, 2023. We’re looking forward to fresh ideas and new recruitment.

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Hiking Committee

This year has been a year of considerable progress for the hiking committee. After pandemic restrictions were lifted, we began a path towards normalization and growth. Each week we added new hikes led by many of our new and veteran leaders. We currently post walks and hikes of interest and variability, and the public continues to show their support by attending our walks and hikes in large numbers.

Leadership training for our upcoming hike leaders will be starting in 4Q2022 and we expect to add a number of new hike leaders to our roster who will subsequently begin posting their walks and hikes and make next year, 2023 a banner year.

Ski Committee

There are few active leaders and lack of reliable snow making it difficult to plan weekend trips. Our leaders are focused on cross country and backcountry skiing but there are sometimes trips to lift served areas.

A new trip series was started jointly with the Hike Committee to scout possible backcountry ski locations that has generated some interest.

The Googlegroup discussion forum on ski equipment, conditions, etc. continues to be very active and is one of the highlights of the ski committee.
Facilities & Services Committee Reports

The Baker Camp project continues in the fundraising and planning phases. We have recently set a timeline for the project which puts us on track for a July 2027 grand opening. As we continue to solidify plans and select a contractor we will keep all interested updated on our progress.

Fire Island Cabin

The Fire Island Cabin Committee welcomed Crystal Williams as the new Chair in 2022. This season Fire Island Cabin returned to reserving space by the bunk with guests responsible for their own meals. There were many new events and activities added to the schedule including a Memorial Day Family Friendly Weekend and a BIPOC Women’s Weekend.
The Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC)

The Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC) had a full season this year with 17 programs from May to October with 180 participants. We could not run our programs without our wonderful program leaders who generously give of their time to share their wisdom and expertise with everyone.

We are planning a few new programs in 2023, including an Introduction to the Outdoors Weekend and a Glamping Weekend as well as a Trail Maintenance Weekend. We look forward to seeing many more people on the rails in Harriman and paddling on Breakneck Pond next season.

We also want to give a special shout out to Herb Zoota, who has served as the chair for CHOC for more than three years. He increased the number of programs and participants throughout the pandemic and was instrumental in developing the amazing team of volunteers and leaders of CHOC committee. Thank you, Herb, and enjoy some good Texas BBQ!

Mohican Outdoor Center

Mohican Outdoor Center is an AMC operated full service camp located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and is only a 90-minute drive from New York City. This sprawling, heavily forested facility makes an excellent base camp from which to explore the area, and can accommodate individual campers, families, as well as larger groups. Swimming, fishing, boating, and of course hiking, are all available from the camp itself.

Each year the Mohican Executive Committee organizes a variety of weekend programs, including Map and Compass instructionals, Introduction to Backpacking workshops; Snowshoeing, Cross-Country and Backcountry Skiing lessons and outings, as well as yoga and paddling weekends. Stand-up Paddleboards (SUPs) were added to the canoe and kayak fleet in 2021 and immediately became a popular attraction at the camp. The New York-North Jersey chapter continues to invest in this wonderful facility, both financially and with the time and energy of its volunteers.

This past summer, NY-No.J chapter leaders Rick Bryan and Carrie Ho led a sold out adult getaway weekend at the facility. The camp’s Black Oak Lodge is a fully modern group facility for up to 16 people, and boasts five full bathrooms and large kitchen, dining and lounging areas. The group spent time exploring historic nearby Blairstown, NJ with its waterfalls and Revolutionary War-era structures, as well as the small arts and crafts shops throughout the town. We visited a working farm, and hiked along the Dingmans Creek Trail (easy) to visit the second largest waterfall in Pennsylvania, Dingmans Falls. Along that same trail is the spectacular Silver Thread Falls: a multi-level waterfall which hosts several diverse micro-ecological climes along its 80 foot drop. And of course we left plenty of time for swimming, kayaking and learning [almost] how to stay upright on a Stand-up Paddleboard. Carrie baked a banana cake for the group, and a most wonderful Happy Hour capped off a spectacular weekend.
2022 marked a resurgence in interest regarding Trails-related activities. The chapter funded some much-needed trail repair work on the Peanut Leap Cascade trail in the Palisades Interstate Park along the Hudson River. This trail is conveniently reached from the State Line Lookout in Alpine NJ. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission facilitated the work with Hudson Valley Groundworks. West of Hudson supervisor Rene Ruel continued to lead 23 AMC members in regular trail maintenance in Bear Mountain and Harriman state parks. A total of 900 AMC volunteer hours were donated to the parks in 2022. Trail improvements were made on over 300 feet of trail.

The NYC Urban Trails team led by John DeStefano held a trial maintenance day in August at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx collaborating with the Natural Areas Conservancy and NYC Parks. This relationship and project will be further developed in 2023. On national trails day, on June 4th, CHOC was the meeting point for 11 volunteers. The group donated over 50 hours of trail maintenance time. Many blazes were repaired.

During 2022 The Wilderness First Aid Committee (WFA) taught four classes at two different locations; The Weis Environmental Center in West Milford, NJ and The Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC,) in New York. WFA has taught classes at the Weis Center for the past two years. Their location offers camping, heated cabins and large enough indoor space to hold the classes. CHOC has a large rec hall, also with enough space for classes.

This year 36 students were taught. Class size ranged from 9 to 15. Due to the easing of COVID restrictions WFA class size can now go back to what was pre-COVID, 20-24 students. The WFA classes are 16 hours of lectures and hands-on practice. All students get practice in being responders and in being patients. The goal is for students to experience both sides of a backcountry incident. To enhance the hands on practice WFA has a mannequin and stage props of various injuries that are made more realistic.

To support WFA instruction a projector and screen are part of the equipment list. This enables flexibility in locations where classes are taught. Additionally items such as cravats, tourniquets, splints allow students to get familiar with them and their applications.

The WFA committee has assisted the Delaware Valley Chapter in teaching the class to their members. These classes were held at the Mohican Outdoor Center in Blairstown, NJ.

One problem did come up this year. It was the lack of instructors. This was the first time ever a class was canceled for lack of instructors. To get more instructors The Executive Committee has put out notices for the need for more instructors.
Member Recognition

The New York–North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club is proud to recognize longstanding members who celebrate their 25th and 50th years of membership in 2022.

50 Years of Membership

Howard Andrews
Herman Bieber
Erwin Conrad
Richard Dieterly
Edward Fuller
Ludwig Hendel
Katherine Hoffman

Bernard Libster
Evelyn Masset
Jed Potter
Joan Rodriguez
Roger Rodriguez
Jerome Schenkman
Cozette Schwartz

Irving Schwartz
Robert Stanton
Franklin Stettner
Lilian Zwyns

25 Years of Membership

Valerie Aguirre
Peter Balma
Kathleen Bartley
Cheryl Bobe
Richard Bowers
Gary Brazel
Cecilia Brien
Victoria Butler
Mark Calderon
William Close
Lou Cothalis
Kathleen Davies
Jack Diamond
Patricia Durner
Bonnie Eissner
Ellen Fleishman
Stephen Foley
Andrew Frank
Suzanne Gentner

Irene Hakim
Carol Haspel
Abraham Haspel
J. Bernie Heer
Phyllis Iannelli
Leonard Keff
George Kelley
Howard Kessler
Stephen Klepner
Peter Konopi
Jean Lachowicz
Louis Lavelle
Ross Levinsky
John Lindstrom
Cheng-Tin Luo
Fred Mader
Maritza Mejia
Edward Modica
Joseph O’Connor

G. Phillips
Ralph Pollard
Beth Potter
Lisa Sarajian
Lynnette Savino
Salvina Sceri
Ellen Schorsch
Diane Serlin
Brad Skillman
Paul Stein
Gary St Onge
Rebecca Woodcock
Judith Zaborowski

In Memoriam

In memory of our friends who shared a passion for the outdoors

Bapdiner Long

Tomoko Sawada