



**BE
OUTDOORS**
APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

Annual Report 2021

New York-North Jersey Chapter





Photo courtesy of Crystal Williams

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2021 Executive Committee Officers



Kaspar Alexander
Chapter Chair



Dawn Riley
Chapter Vice Chair



John Allman
Treasurer



Herb Zoota
Facilities and Services Chair



Jen McCaffery
Communications Chair



Ilene Greenfield
Secretary



David Lamb
Activities Chair

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
Committee Chair



Ed Sobin
Leadership Chair



David Hartree
Conservation
Committee Chair



Karen Miller
Membership
Committee Chair



Eileen Yin
AMC Regional
Director

2021 Activities Committee Chairs

Backpacking

David Mong, Chair

Bicycle

Richard Bryan, Chair

Canoe and Kayak

Charles Michener, Chair

Climbing

RJ Lau and Stephen Greer, Co-Chairs

Hiking

Liz Rodano, Chair

Ski

Ed Sobin, Chair

Softball

Fern Stolper, Chair

Young Members

John Perilli and Ryan Tang, Co-Chairs

2021 Facilities and Services Committee Chairs

Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman

Outdoor Center Programs

Herb Zoota, Chair and Jim Om, Vice Chair

Fire Island Cabin Committee

Diane Serlin, Chair

Trails Committee

Ed Spirko, Chair

Advisory

Cynthia Tollo Falls, Chair

Nominating

Henry Schreiber, Chair

Programs

Peter Gourri, Chair

Wilderness First Aid

Richard Dabal, Chair

▶ Report from the Chapter Chair

Another year in the books! We entered 2021 with enthusiasm and optimism that the pandemic would fade and we could return to full programming and in-person events. While that hope did not come to fruition completely, the New York-North Jersey (NY-NoJ) Chapter did band together to make progress on several fronts, and even had some fun along the way. Notably, we held more events this year than last, and successfully returned the Chapter to a positive growth trajectory, with almost 1,000 new members. This report and the following submissions from across the Chapter provide a glimpse into the community that achieved so much over the last year.



Activities

As we wrap up our second pandemic summer, I'm reminded that the lifeblood of our Chapter are our activities and the volunteer leaders who make them possible. These volunteers dedicate time and expertise to leading others in the outdoors safely, and after hundreds of trips in 2020-21, have maintained a perfect record of zero COVID outbreaks. Thank you all for your vigilance and commitment to our community!

Many leaders who helped craft and provide input to the overall Club level reopening policy, especially David Mong, David Lamb, and Dawn Riley, deserve our appreciation. With thousands of trip leaders and participants in our Chapter, there are many operational considerations to weigh, and I'm proud of the advocacy we completed on behalf of our Chapter to ensure our local needs were met. There is still more work to be done and we'll continue to adjust as the situation evolves through the rest of the year.

nearly 1,000
new members

zero COVID
outbreaks

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Last year we made several structural changes to accelerate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) progress, including the formation of a new DEI Committee with representation on our Executive Committee, and a more than \$50,000 budget allocation to support its volunteer programming. Momentum continued in 2021 under the strong leadership of DEI Committee Chair Crystal Williams, with more than 10 DEI Committee Activities across the Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC), AMC Mohican Outdoor Center, and the Fire Island destinations, and more than a year of weekly meetings.

If you've been following our Instagram account [@amcnynj](#) you know how much of a hit these have been for more than 100+ participants of all ages. Thank you to Crystal Williams, Karen Miller, John Allman, and Peter Gourri for your leadership during the last year-plus.

In year two we'll be doubling down on the activity focus and building an even more robust grant program for the Chapter. If you're interested in participating, please connect with Crystal Williams at dei@amc-ny.org.

Growing into 2022+

The Chapter is fortunate to have an incredibly talented core of volunteers to carry forward the baton next year. With many years of volunteer and Chapter experience, I have full confidence in their ability to execute our plans, and adapt, however necessary.

On a personal note, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chapter Chair over these previous terms. In late 2019, I was recruited to cover an unexpected vacancy in the Chair and Vice Chair roles. Thanks to the tremendous effort of the entire Executive Committee, we were able to jump right into the thick of it, and race forward in 2020 and 2021. Completing these past terms has been a tremendous honor, and I look forward to supporting the Chapter and Club however possible in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

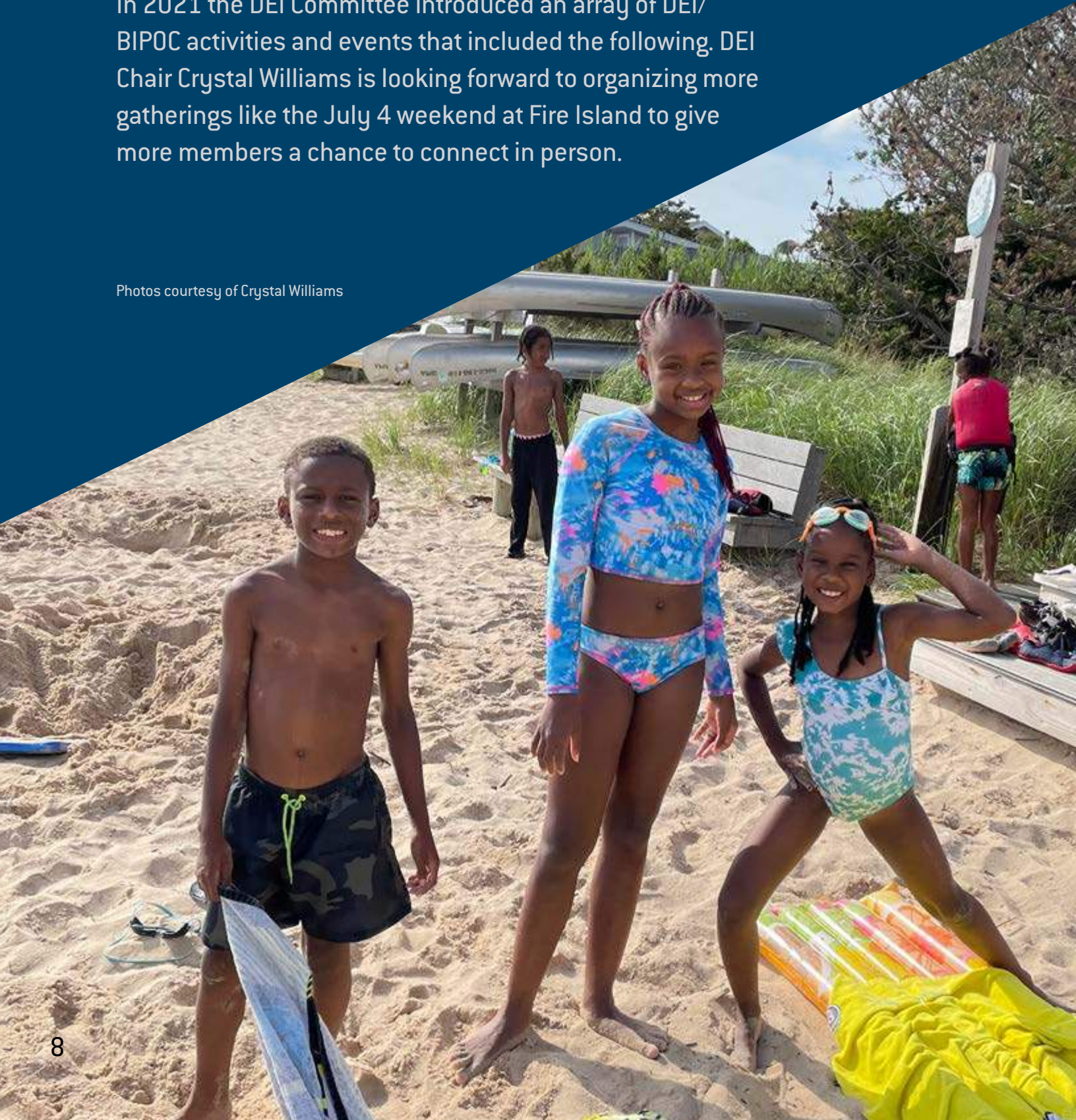


Kaspar Alexander
AMC NY-NoJ Chapter Chair

► Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI)

In 2021 the DEI Committee introduced an array of DEI/ BIPOC activities and events that included the following. DEI Chair Crystal Williams is looking forward to organizing more gatherings like the July 4 weekend at Fire Island to give more members a chance to connect in person.

Photos courtesy of Crystal Williams



BIPOC Women’s Social – January 2021

Members from the NY-NoJ Chapter gathered for a Zoom dinner social and brainstormed ideas regarding upcoming meetings and activities.

BIPOC Family Weekend – February 2021

BIPOC families spent the weekend at Mohican Center, in Blirstown, NJ, hiking, sledding, and learning about AMC.

Honoring Our Ancestors - March 2021

BIPOC members from NY and as far as Virginia experienced another weekend at Mohican Center. The group hiked, told stories around the campfire, and paid homage to the land and our ancestors.

Spring Trip – April 2021

Twenty children from New York City stayed for a week at the Mohican Center. For many of them, this was their first experience in the outdoors. We spent the week hiking, exploring, roasting marshmallows, and horseback riding at a nearby farm.

BIPOC Family Beginner Canoe Weekend – May 2021

BIPOC members of the NY-NoJ Chapter stayed at the Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC). The training prepared members for upcoming canoe trips. We learned basic safety techniques, self-rescue, and more.

BIPOC Women’s Weekend – July 4

Members from the NY-NoJ BIPOC women's group came together for a weekend trip. It was a wonderful opportunity for old friends and new friends to meet up and enjoy scenic Fire Island.

Fire Island Overnight – July 19 - 23

This summer, campers from Kids Passport to Adventure visited Fire Island and had an amazing time. They watched sand crabs scuttle around, built sandcastles, and splashed in the bay.

Harriman Experience – August 23 -September 3

In August, campers spent time at Harriman State Park. They got to explore nature, play games, and work on their cannonball techniques.



▶ Membership Committee

Amidst this unpredictable time in the world, so many people have renewed their passion for the outdoors not only as a hobby, but a necessity for their physical and mental health and well-being. The New York–North Jersey Chapter’s membership reflects this renewed interest, recording its first annual upward trend in membership in a decade. As of October 2021, Chapter membership stood at 9,940 members, which is 536 more than in 2020.

This achievement was made possible through the tremendous effort of our volunteers and the community this Chapter has cultivated. Thank you to everyone who led activities, supported an event, presented as a speaker, and contributed their time and energy in other ways to the New York–North Jersey Chapter. You can view the names of those members especially recognized for their sustained dedication and volunteerism of 50 and 25 years, respectively, in 2021, on page 36 of this Annual Report.

9,940 Chapter members

▶ Leadership Committee

2021 was the sixth year of the Leadership Committee and was notable by looking for new ways to train more leaders. The pandemic forced the use of virtual training, which turned out to be better for the part that includes lots of information to communicate. These 5-hour initial sessions will continue, even beyond the pandemic, with the addition of half-day in-person sessions. The Leadership Committee anticipates offering more training for affinity groups, including women; young members; and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) participants, with the intention that these new leaders will, in turn, lead activities for their respective groups.

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 aren't activity specific, such as trip planning, incident reporting, trip talk at the start, using the ActDB and social media, liability issues, etc., so that the activity committees can concentrate on the skills needed for their respective activities.
- Make it easier for AMC leaders to lead for different Chapters if they move away from or into the New York-North Jersey area.

Activity Highlights

- The 2-hour Introduction to Leadership class transformed into a 4 ½-hour class that covers all the necessary information needed to get members started on leading. Activity-specific requirements still have to be met.
- From September 2020 to September 2021, 55 people participated in four Zoom training sessions, and one more is scheduled prior to year-end 2021.
- New in 2021 were two Zoom-based leadership training series run by the AMC staff. A few of our Chapter's leader trainees were in those classes and are working towards becoming leaders.

► Conservation Committee

Since the publication of last year's report, the Conservation Committee has continued to support local conservation initiatives. On December 21, 2020, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia became the first TCI jurisdictions to launch the groundbreaking Transportation and Climate Initiative Program to cut transportation pollution and invest in communities. The NY-NoJ Chapter joined New York for The Transportation Climate Initiative, a coalition dedicated to achieving this important step to protect the environment.

The NY-NoJ Chapter also voiced its support of Trout Unlimited's campaign to remove a dam in Ramapo State Forest (New Jersey) and instigated the AMC's motion to intervene in the Catskills Ashokan Pumped Storage Project. We acknowledge and commemorate Club member, Hudson Valley resident, and trip leader Barry Skura (now deceased), for his inspirational assistance with the latter initiative.

The Conservation Committee has continued to post conservation action alerts in 2021 on the Conservation web page. These have included

support for New Jersey's Liberty State Park Protection Act; support for a New York bill to protect lands totaling 30 percent of the state by 2030; and support for New Jersey funding to buy the land needed for developing the proposed Essex-Hudson Greenway.

The Conservation web page features an action-alert section that allows visitors to generate onscreen customizable emails to their elected representatives, which they can then personalize before sending.



Pinwheel Vista at Waywayanda State Park in the northern New Jersey Highlands. It is near the top of the section of Appalachian Trail known as the Stairway to Heaven. Photo by David Hartree.

The Conservation Committee encourages leaders to add Conservation as a secondary category in trip descriptions if justified by educational or volunteer activity taking place on the trip. Examples in 2021 included hike and bike trip visits to nature preserves, hikes to areas especially impacted by invasive species, hikes on newly opened sections of trails, as well as trail cleanup hikes and backpacking excursions.

The Conservation web page also includes a link to the archived NY-NoJ Chapter webinars presented in 2020 and 2021.

A beach cleanup run jointly with NJ Clean Ocean Action as a Fall Beach Sweep took place along the Hudson River in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

The NY-NoJ Chapter plans to resume offering live two-day Leave No Trace Trainer courses in 2022. These will use a webinar format and no travel will be necessary to take part.



Learn More Online
www.amc-ny.org/conservation

▶ Programs Committee

The online Programs Committee of the New York-North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club began in May 2020 as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Committee has been extremely successful keeping members of the Chapter connected through a varied and diverse group of speakers with regular Thursday evening presentations as well as during Tuesday Lunch, Learn and Campfire Chats, where individuals connect virtually to talk and exchange information through their experiences.



A total of 2,081 people registered to attend these programs. The recorded programs on the Chapter Facebook page continue to reflect thousands of views. The New York-New Jersey Chapter's model for this program has been adopted by other AMC Chapters as well. The most popular talk in the last 12 months, with more than 300 registered attendees, was titled "Wilderness First Aid: What Every Hiker Needs to Know."

2,081

 registrants

New members joined the Chapter and the Club through this virtual programming series. The lunchtime series emphasized the adventures and experiences of the current New York-North Jersey Chapter leaders and members. During the summer and early fall 2021, programs were not scheduled, allowing more time for members to participate in outdoor activities.

The Committee's intention is to restart and to gauge interest from more of the Chapter's members going forward. Special thanks to Eileen Yin and Rick Bryan who helped to begin the virtual programming initiative and have continued to facilitate this valuable and enriching work.

► Communications Committee

In 2021, the New York-North Jersey Chapter's Communications helped get the word out about Chapter news and activities with the assistance of Digital Media Associate Danielle Call. Communications also teamed up with Rich Dabal to produce a short series of Wilderness First Aid videos. We thank all the leaders and members who have shared photos of their adventures.



More than 90 folks enjoyed activities at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center during the Chapter's Annual Picnic on July 25, 2021. Photo by Danielle Call.

To help retain new members, the Communications team worked with Membership Chair Karen Miller and AMC's Director of Membership Teri Morrow to develop a dedicated e-blast that welcomes new members to the Chapter. And each month, volunteer Susan Bernstein, along with Volunteer Relations Manager Justin Bailey, make sure the monthly e-blast rounding up Chapter news is distributed to members.

The Communications team also worked with Vice Chair Dawn Riley, Secretary Ilene Greenfield, and Facilities and Services Committee Chair Herb Zoota to help organize and cover the Annual Picnic. More than 90 people enjoyed the gathering in July.

▲ 14%

524 new Facebook followers
from January-October 2021

▶ Young Members Committee

After a challenging 2020 and first half of 2021, the Young Members (YM) are back in business. Following the easing of AMC's COVID protocols, the YMs set about staging their annual summer weekend at the Stephen & Betsy Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC). With only six weeks to plan for an event that typically involves several months to do so, the intrepid planning committee delivered a stellar success. Seventy-five to 80 Young Members attended the weekend-long event at CHOC, participating in several organized activities, including hikes, paddling, rock climbing, and others. Special thanks are due to the whole planning committee and the dedicated staff and volunteers at CHOC.

In addition to this headline event, the Young Members also worked on building its committee and leadership pipeline following a number of departures. Longtime AMC member Ryan Tang graciously volunteered to be Co-Chair of the YMs, and Praveen Mahendran stepped up as a member-at-large. The YMs also made progress on developing activity leaders, with several members completing a leadership training in spring 2021 and furthering their journeys to become active leaders. The YMs continue to make progress in this area, and leadership development continues to be a major goal for the remainder of 2021 and looking forward to 2022.

In the coming year, the YMs are hoping to rebuild their full pre-COVID calendar of programming. Because of the Delta variant, the YMs did not host their traditional Fire Island Weekend, but look forward to its return in 2022. In addition, after

cancelling this past year's Winter Weekend, that event is tentatively slated to return in January 2022, location TBD (the event in 2020 was held near Killington Mountain in Vermont). Finally, the YMs are looking forward to the long-awaited return of Thirsty Third Thursdays and other social events.

2021-2022 Young Members Committee Goals

- To reinstate our popular Winter Weekend event and other social events such as Thirsty Third Thursdays and the Spring Kickoff;
- Build on leadership wins in 2021 and continue to increase the roster of YM leaders across a range of activities; and
- To continue growing connections with committees across the Chapter, especially with the Backpacking and Canoe and Kayak committees.



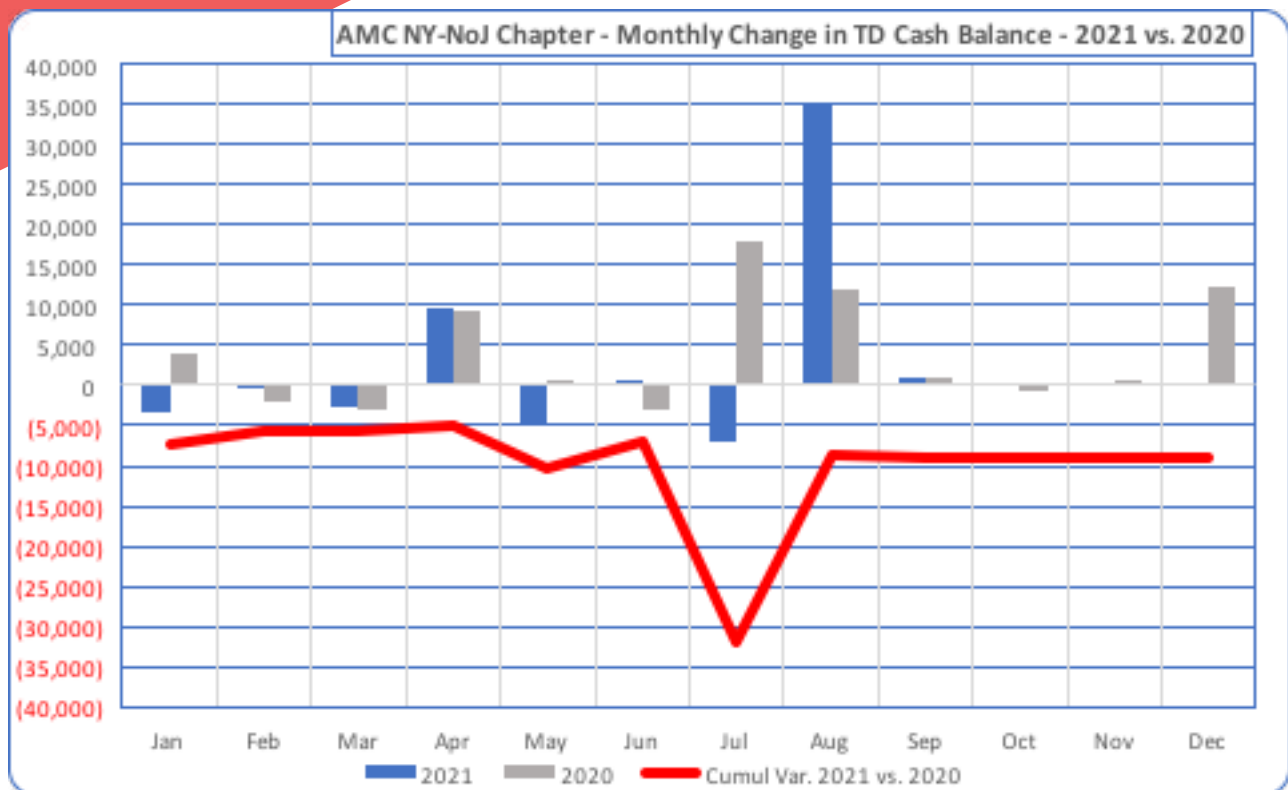
A recent YM hike led by Vlad Rud and co-led by Kristin Quill, one of YM's new hike leader candidates.



YM climbing group during the YM weekend in June at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center, NY.

▶ Report from the Chapter Treasurer

Financially, and despite COVID-19 and other challenges, the year-to-date (YTD) through September 2021 has seen a bounce-back in activities, encouraging progress on several initiatives and improvements in the cash and reserves position for the NY-NoJ Chapter, positioning it well for 2022 and beyond.



Net monthly cash flows for 2021 compared with 2020. Broadly, the main cumulative variance (red line shown) reflects the funding of DEI programs for the first time.

Financial Summary

The Chapter's 2021 budget was set with COVID-19 restrictions in place, and while the Phase 2 limits were lifted in early July, overall activity levels, higher than 2020, have nevertheless tracked below pre-pandemic levels. Membership allocations in 2021 have begun to recover after dipping about 10 percent in 2020. Program revenues for YTD are 74 percent higher than 2020, and program expenses are 87 percent higher, including various DEI programming in 2021 for the first time. The end of the NYC office lease and more frequent virtual meetings reduced YTD administrative costs by 37 percent.

Overall, the Chapter has generated a YTD surplus of \$25,761, which is 30 percent less than in the same period of last year, and at \$141,565, closing cash held is up 11 percent. Meanwhile, AMC-held capital and excess reserves, including funds from the Bishop gift in 2020, increased to \$465,725.

Operations through September 2021

The Chapter started 2021 under AMC's Phase 2 COVID-19 operating rubric, which capped groups for outdoor events at 10 or less people, together with social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitary protocols. Commencing in July, AMC revised its protocols to comply with federal, state, and/or local conditions as applicable.

Revenue or expense-generating activities to date include Harriman Program Committee (HPC): 17 events; Wilderness First Aid (WFA): 6 events; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): 8 events. 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, Climbing, Canoe and Kayak, Softball, Conservation, Programs, and Trails) have also conducted various free outdoor events during the spring and summer.



Treasurer's report continued

Estimate through Year-End 2021

Aside from the annual meeting, holiday events, volunteer recognition, sundry administrative and receipt of December membership allocations from AMC, most financial activities for 2021 have already occurred. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the QuickBooks transition was postponed for 2021. The procedure to formalize the process for several DEI grant programs is expected to be completed before year-end. A surplus of approximately \$16,000 is anticipated to be recorded for the year, as compared to the originally budgeted deficit, so a transfer of approximately \$47,000 from the Chapter to excess reserves held by AMC in Boston is expected, in accordance with Club policies.

Reserves Investment planning

During 2021, the Chapter Executive Committee discussed a variety of potential investments of its excess reserves, and expects that a number of these, including in and around Harriman, will come to fruition in 2022. On behalf of the Canoe and Kayak Committee, a \$20,000 investment to the AMC Waters and Rivers Protection Fund was recently approved and funded.

Strategically, we will 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.

2022: A Look Ahead

We are hopeful that, despite the continuing pandemic, steady progress towards a more normal way of life, both indoors and outdoors, will be possible in 2022. Our 2022 budget will likely include more training and activities in the outdoors, and new programs than in 2021, but also will continue to include virtual meetings and events.

As always, the intention in 2022 is to be prudent and astute with the management and use of Chapter funds. The Chapter and its committees will focus on opportunities and innovations to engage members and support volunteers in different ways, uncovering 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 September 2021, a forecast for 2021, actuals for 2018-2020, and our draft plan for 2022. It reflects the Chapter's local cash positions, as well as Chapter Reserves, Excess Reserves and Endowments held by AMC.

The Chapter is in a financially strong position closing out 2021 and looking forward.

AMC NY-NoJ Chapter 2021 Financial Summary	9 Months Sep-21 vs Budget %	9 Months Sep-20 vs Actual'20 %	Variance vs YTD'20 %	Balance of 2021 vs Est. 2021 %	Budget 2021 vs Actual'20 %	Revisions 2021 vs Budget %	Forecast 2021 vs.2020 %	Actual 2020 vs.2019 %	Actual 2019 vs.2018 %	Actual 2018 Base Year	Draft Plan 2022 vs.Fcst'21 %
AMC Revenue											
Chapter Allocations	19,177	19,461	-285	9,923	28,300	800	29,100	28,676	31,529	42,402	30,500
Endowment Income	25,537	25,112	425	-	25,000	537	25,537	25,112	24,647	23,830	26,000
Membership Bonus	3,540	1,660	1,880	1,823	3,800	1,563	5,363	2,980	4,710	5,640	6,000
Gifts	150	2,250	-2,100	-	-	150	150	7,027	-	-	500
AMC Revenue	48,404	48,484	-80	11,746	57,100	3,050	60,150	63,795	60,886	71,872	63,000
	85%	76%	0%	20%	90%	5%	-6%	5%	-15%		5%
Program Revenue											
Chapter	444	2,709	-2,265	2,012	19,400	-16,944	2,456	2,709	22,841	11,905	10,000
Activities	10,951	10,030	921	2,849	33,800	-20,000	13,800	10,226	39,387	26,591	35,700
Facilities & Services	34,744	13,751	20,993	-	36,200	-1,456	34,744	18,159	37,925	53,615	45,300
Program Revenue	46,138	26,490	19,649	4,861	89,400	-38,400	51,000	31,094	100,153	92,111	91,000
	52%	85%	74%	10%	288%	-43%	64%	-69%	9%		78%
Total Revenue	94,542	74,973	19,569	16,608	146,500	-35,350	111,150	94,889	161,039	163,983	154,000
	65%	79%	26%	15%	154%	-24%	17%	-41%	-2%		39%
Program Expenses											
Chapter	-16,482	-7,710	-8,772	-8,424	-88,550	63,644	-24,906	-7,710	-23,401	-35,444	-52,000
Activities	-13,952	-9,128	-4,824	-2,248	-43,700	27,500	-16,200	-9,239	-27,245	-27,302	-42,100
Facilities & Services	-27,122	-14,005	-13,118	-451	-39,100	11,526	-27,574	-17,484	-39,635	-53,083	-46,000
Program Expenses	-57,557	-30,842	-26,715	-11,123	-171,350	102,670	-68,680	-34,433	-90,281	-115,829	-140,100
	34%	90%	87%	10%	498%	-60%	59%	-62%	-22%		104%
Administrative Expenses											
Chapter	-6,520	-12,946	6,427	-5,080	-35,950	24,350	-11,600	-15,052	-43,498	-27,692	-21,000
Activities	-1,320	-2,918	1,598	-2,180	-10,000	6,500	-3,500	-9,258	-7,433	-6,900	-4,300
Facilities & Services	-3,768	-2,517	-1,252	-202	-5,600	1,630	-3,970	-3,538	-476	-	-4,300
Administrative Expenses	-11,608	-18,381	6,773	-7,462	-51,550	32,480	-19,070	-27,848	-51,407	-34,592	-29,600
	23%	66%	-37%	39%	185%	-63%	-32%	-46%	49%		55%
Total Expenses	-69,165	-49,224	-19,941	-18,585	-222,900	135,150	-87,750	-62,281	-141,688	-150,421	-169,700
	31%	79%	41%	21%	358%	-61%	41%	-56%	-6%		93%
Chapter Net Operating Result	25,377	25,750	-372	-1,977	-76,400	99,800	23,400	32,608	19,351	13,562	-15,700
Change in Prepayments	384	10,930	-10,546	-7,784	-8,000	600	-7,400	10,546	-9,130	-3,600	-300
Chapter Net Cash Result	25,761	36,680	-10,918	-9,761	-84,400	100,400	16,000	43,154	10,221	9,962	-16,000
TFR (to)/from Reserves	-	-	-	-46,804	37,000	-83,804	-46,804	-18,335	-63,570	-4,322	18,950
Net Local Cash Flow	25,761	36,680	-10,918	-56,565	-47,400	16,596	-30,804	24,819	-53,349	5,640	2,950
	-54%	148%	-30%	184%	-191%	-35%	-224%	-147%	-1046%		-110%
Opening Local Cash Balances	115,804	90,985	24,819	-	115,804	-	115,804	90,985	144,334	138,694	85,000
Closing Local Cash Balances											
Chapter	135,815	114,079	21,735	-54,408	65,563	15,844	81,407	107,963	82,401	124,032	80,950
Canoe & Kayak	4,567	9,296	-4,729	-4,483	-716	800	84	3,784	4,296	18,335	3,500
Softball	1,184	4,288	-3,105	2,325	3,557	-48	3,509	4,057	4,288	1,967	3,500
	141,565	127,664	13,901	-56,565	68,404	16,596	85,000	115,804	90,985	144,334	87,950
	207%	110%	11%	-57%	59%	24%	-27%	27%	-37%		3%
Chapter Balances held by AMC											
O/bal - Chapter Reserve	192,700	106,600	86,100	-	192,700	-	192,700	106,600	4,322	-	191,000
O/bal - Excess Reserves	266,982	200,612	66,370	-	266,982	-	266,982	200,612	205,450	214,926	325,022
	459,682	307,212	152,470	-	459,682	-	459,682	307,212	209,772	214,926	516,022
Gifts/Bequests Received	-	100,000	-100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	-
Chapter Reserve Invested	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-44,000
Excess Reserves Invested	-20,000	-5,000	-15,000	-	-	-20,000	-20,000	-5,000	-	-	-51,000
Chapter Transfers	-	-	-	46,804	-37,000	83,804	46,804	18,335	63,570	4,322	-18,950
^ Interest/Investment Income	26,044	-3,042	29,085	3,493	8,009	21,527	29,537	39,135	33,870	-9,476	8,986
Closing Balances held by AMC	465,725	399,170	66,555	50,297	430,691	85,331	516,022	459,682	307,212	209,772	411,058
	108%	87%	17%	10%	94%	20%	12%	50%	46%		-20%
Endowments held by AMC											
^ NY-NoJ Chapter (8 donors)	791,257	634,891	156,366	5,934	741,312	55,879	797,191	743,992	648,527	561,922	794,717
	107%	85%	25%	1%	100%	8%	7%	15%	15%		0%
CHAPTER FINANCIAL ASSETS	1,398,547	1,161,725	236,822	-334	1,240,407	157,807	1,398,213	1,319,477	1,046,724	916,028	1,293,725
	113%	88%	20%	0%	94%	13%	6%	26%	14%		-7%
^ Assumes Investment Return	3.00%	> June '21									

Activity Committee Reports

Backpacking
Bicycle
Canoe and Kayak
Climbing
Hiking
Ski
Softball

► Backpacking Committee

Backpacking programs in 2021 included another successful adult novice backpacking workshop along with bike-packing trips, paddle-packing trips, car-camping trips, and straight backpacking trips. The number of trips we put on better than exceeded last year, with 31 trips net of cancellations. In 2020 there were 22 trips net of cancellations. A few new leaders completed training in 2021 and more are in the pipeline for 2022.

The accomplishments for this year overcame challenging limitations and obstacles due to the pandemic, Club restrictions, and an Activities Database program that could use some modification to better accommodate the needs of the Backpacking Committee and other activities. The Backpacking Committee showed its resilience in this regard and appreciated the Chapter leadership's support and patience in seeking continuous improvements to the system.



Moose River Plains during a combination paddle and backpacking trip on August 20, 2021 at Wakely Dam in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Photo by Chris Bickford.

▶ Bicycle Committee

The Bicycle Committee continued to provide a variety of safe and enjoyable events and activities during 2021. Although the total number of rides decreased slightly from the prior year, the average number of participants on each ride was higher. This was primarily due to a shift away from longer rides, and towards easier and less congested routes along dedicated cycling greenways.

We also added four new leaders to the roster. An unexpected and positive development was the increased participation of riders using Class I pedal-assisted bicycles, which has an effect similar to riding with a very strong tailwind, most especially while going uphill. This has allowed members with physical limitations to participate on our rides.

The season began with an Earth Day outing, participating in cleaning up the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, one of the most popular cycling destinations. More popular rides continued to City Island and Orchard Beach in the Bronx throughout the spring and summer, adding 'Bike to the Beach' routes to Coney Island, Rockaway Beach, and Robert Moses State Park in July and August. These bicycling and swimming combination rides were especially popular. They took place during the week as well as on weekends.

Bicyclists also pedaled the Hudson River Greenway on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River, the Delaware & Raritan Towpath in New Jersey, portions of the newly completed Empire State and Erie Canal trails, and the Cedar Creek and Ocean Parkway bicycle trails (and others) on Long Island. Cyclists explored Governor's Island in New York multiple times, and Liberty State Park in New Jersey, which included a Father's Day family picnic. Riding along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Dutchess County and on the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie were also popular, as were the North and South County Trails in the Bronx and Westchester Counties. AMC riders traveled to meet our friends in the Delaware Valley Chapter to bicycle the length (37 miles) of the McDade Trail in Pike County, PA, as well as the Lehigh Gorge Rail-Trail on an overnight trip to Jim Thorpe, PA.



City Island, NY.
Photo by Mary-Jo Vercillo.

Overnight trips, including bike-packing, posed greater logistical challenges than anticipated, primarily due to continued concerns about sharing personal transportation during the pandemic. Developing a written and more formal training program which addresses the practical issues of leading cyclists as they navigate a route continues to be a challenge and priority for the Bicycle Committee in 2022.

▶ Canoe and Kayak Committee

It has been an unusual year, but Canoe/Kayak leaders have accomplished a lot, and the group is proud of what it has achieved, as the Canoe/Kayak Committee (CKC) of the AMC's New York-North Jersey Chapter celebrates its 88th year of paddling. The first trip was on the Housatonic River, which drains 1,948 square miles in western Connecticut, Massachusetts, and eastern New York, in 1934.

The Committee's trip schedule included three instructional events—two canoe workshops and a skills-drills day, one boat demonstration day, its Annual Paddlers' Party, and 39 trips. Six of the trips and one Safety-and-Rescue Workshop were cancelled due to dam release cancellations and weather-related events.

In 2021, the Committee also deepened its partnerships with other paddling organizations to conduct joint trips. These included a collaborative effort with our Chapter's DEI Committee; a joint paddling trip with the Potomac Chapter; a joint paddling/backpacking outing; a joint Boat Demonstration Day with Sebago Canoe Club; and multiple joint trips with the Kayak and Canoe Club of NY. These joint initiatives are very exciting and CKC looks forward to continuing these efforts.

On the challenging side, retrieving CKC's new trailer from the manufacturer in Canada faced obstacles. For various reasons, in the long term, it appears that it will be better to have the trailer registered in New York rather than in New Jersey, as first planned. The goal is to have this finalized before year-end.

In all, 2021 turned out to be a successful year full of accomplishments and rewarding experiences. There were 33 trips with 11 cancellations, compared to 18 trips with 11 cancellations in 2020. Three instructional days were held, compared to none held last year; in 2020 there were six cancellations. No safety/rescue Instruction days were held in either year, although one was cancelled in 2021. And in terms of other CKC events such as social gatherings—barn work days, boat demonstration days, and so on—in 2020, one such event was held, and in 2021, two were conducted. At the end of the year, CKC Committee Chair Charles Michener will pass the paddle to his successor.



Mary Ann Hoag on the Farmington River.
Photo by Marty Plante.

4 issues
400 paddlers

Four issues of the Committee's newsletter, *PaddleSplashes*, were published and distributed.

▶ Climbing Committee

In 2021, the Climbing Committee found a way to connect and get outdoors despite the continuation of the pandemic and the effects it had on the ability to lead new trips.

In January and February, the Climbing Committee's leadership group put together a number of ice-climbing trips to Stony Clove Notch in the Catskills and Chapel Pond in the Adirondacks. Climbing Committee Co-Chair RJ Lau hosted committee leaders and AMC members from other chapters at his ski lodge in Colorado for much of the winter, allowing some of us to get together and enjoy the ski season out west. And, as gyms reopened and restrictions began to lift across the northeast, the Chapter was able to resume its previous activities.

In May, Anthony Leong led the annual AMC Climbing Leaders Refresh Workshop, assisted by Yan Cheng and Sheryl Choo. Over the course of a weekend, current and prospective leaders in the NY-NoJ Chapter camped out at the American Alpine Club campsite in New Paltz and refreshed their skills. Participants practiced leading trips, reviewing critical safety considerations when climbing outdoors, and teaching technical skills to others.

In June and July, the Climbing Committee helped volunteer at the new Hanging Mountain climbing area in Sandisfield, MA. They cleared boulders, assembled stairways, and joined forces with other committees to achieve a greater objective. They also conducted a few outdoor top-rope events, including one during the AMC Harriman Picnic.

In August, the Climbing Committee Co-Chairs, RJ Lau and Stephen Greer, invited eager and adventurous climbers out west to take part in a climb of the Grand Tetons in Jackson Hole, WY. Over the course of the week, these AMC participants spent time exploring climbing locations, meeting some of the local climbing nonprofits, and forging new relationships for our Chapter. The team summited the Grand Teton and even saw Jimmy Chin on the way down!





Sarabeth Brockley, Jon Kwan, and RJ Lau spending a beautiful summer day climbing at the Gunks. Photo by RJ Lau.

While the Co-Chairs were away, Sarabeth Brockley and Yan Cheng held down the fort in NYC, attending the Global Climbing Day at our home gym, The Cliffs, in Long Island City, NY. There they also met Jimmy Chin (busy guy!) and represented our Chapter, inviting new members to come climb.

September started with an AMC-hosted premiere of *The Alpinist* at the AMC Theater in Kips Bay in NYC. Then Co-Chair RJ Lau led two trips to Seneca Rocks and the New River Gorge in West Virginia on

consecutive weekends. What an animal! Stephen Greer hosted two gym events at The Cliffs for the first time since the start of the pandemic, inviting newer climbers to join and meet the group.

The Climbing Committee accomplished a lot more in 2021 than thought possible, given the constraints in January, and is excited to build on this momentum and make 2022 one to truly remember.

▶ Hiking Committee

COVID pandemic restrictions affected hikers considerably, especially during the first half of the year. There were fewer hikes and less participation then. Since June, when restrictions were partially lifted, there has been more of a successful return towards normalcy. 120 hikes have been posted on the AMC database this year through the beginning of October. Weekly hike totals have been increasing dramatically since the loosening of COVID restrictions and the return of cooler weather.



Our AMC Meetup group is noteworthy. Many leaders post their hikes on AMC Meetup after receiving approval for their database listings. This has been extremely effective in attracting new members to AMC and as a training tool for our new hike leaders. Several leader-trainees from the Chapter Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee are scheduled to co-lead an upcoming hike and become official hike leaders by the end of October.

The Hiking Committee hopes to increase public interest in AMC through its hikes and to build a future corps of competent AMC hike leaders. In the coming months, the Hiking Committee will be inviting trainees, about 70 members thus far, to complete their training by fulfilling their co-lead requirements.

► Ski Committee

2021 turned out to be a good snow season in the region, but due to the pandemic rules, lack of leaders, and some snowfalls so heavy that the ski areas closed for many days afterwards, there were only a few trips.



Many fewer ski trips were scheduled in 2021 also because one of the most active leaders moved away from the area during the pandemic. But at least one new ski leader trained last year. The Ski Committee highlight throughout the season is the Google group discussion forum on ski equipment, conditions, etc., which is very active.

► Softball Committee

With some COVID protocols lifted this season, Softball has been back on the playing fields with lifted spirits. Between 40 and 50 people arrive in Central Park on Sunday mornings during the summer to play two, and sometimes three games, with the emphasis on having fun. Players range in ages from their 20s into their 70s and all skill levels are welcome.



Before the start of play each week, time is given to review the rules and make announcements. The activity aims to foster a supportive, friendly atmosphere. Sides are selected randomly for each game, allowing everyone to mix and mingle. Camaraderie abounds on and off the field and the pizza parties are quite popular.

Facilities & Services Committee Reports

Baker Camp and Sebago Lake
Fire Island Cabin
Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center
Trails
Wilderness First Aid

► Baker Camp and Sebago Lake

After a 10-month suspension in the progress of renovating Baker Camp in Harriman, NY, due to the pandemic, in February 2021 the AMC again began moving forward on this much anticipated project. While one year in planning and preparation was lost, the intention is to make up this time through an accelerated construction process.



Plans are moving from the concept to final drawings phase for the 36 cabins on the property. You can view the illustrated drawings here, noting that the surfaces illustrated in white will in actuality be brown when the project is completed. Public building designs are moving forward as well. The large garage in the center of the property will be renovated into a Welcome Center. This building will house camp registration as well as a store, living room, and small meeting space.

The two declared-gender bath buildings on the property will be replaced by two new buildings that feature unisex family stalls with showers and will afford guests more flexibility and privacy.

Volunteer work crews were instrumental during spring in continuing the clean-up of the camp and grounds. Hopefully, this effort will continue in 2022 with Chapter members. These efforts are important and appreciated by all involved with the project.

The work continues with the goal of opening the facility in 2024. As plans solidify and the capital campaign continues, everyone will be updated on the project's progress and the opportunities to be involved. Thank you to all who continue to support this and all AMC projects in the New York region.

► Fire Island Cabin

What a year for all of the AMC facilities, trying to figure out how to open in the face of the ongoing pandemic. The vision of an entirely new model for 2021, based on CDC and AMC guidelines for New York state, became a reality. Working every step of the way with Jess Wilson, the Director of the AMC's volunteer camps and cabins, the Fire Island Committee hammered out a schedule unlike anything the Chapter or that Committee has ever done before.



The Gazebo on the premises of the Fire Island Cabin facility.

The Fire Island Cabin operated at half capacity, capping out occupancy at 12 people. Each dorm room was rented out to a “pod” of up to five people. The facility opened on June 4 and closed on October 4 for the season. Guests rented a midweek space, Monday through Thursday evenings, or a weekend, Friday through Sunday evenings. All reservations were made through the contact center.

Since the volunteer Fire Island facility managers could not sleep in the dorm rooms with the different pods, a tent platform was built on the grounds, which brought a fabulous glamping style our managers could use. The tent was a massive hit with the managers, and the pods, with anywhere from two to five people per room, were equally popular. Another necessary change for this year included hiring a cleaning service to come to the cabin each Friday and Monday, thoroughly cleaning the facility between the time one group of pods left, and the new ones arrived.

The facility did not conduct any of the usual AMC activities like sailing, kayaking, yoga, the Young Members weekend, or the family midweeks. We were able to rent the cabin to the Chapter DEI Chair's nonprofit group, Kids Passport to Adventure, wherein the children spent a week at the cabin in July. That program is expected to be scheduled again next year.

The full-size commercial-style kitchen was stocked with staples, and all guests brought their own food, taking turns cooking or preparing meals. Despite the departure from our usual format, the season ran smoothly and without any issue. While many of our longtime members were upset that they could not come up with a pod of people and stay at the cabin, they were allowed to come as day guests. An astonishing number of new people came to stay at the cabin this year—as many as half of all had never been there before.

An exciting challenge for 2022 is in the works as a new model for our future, that incorporates facets of what we have had for decades, along with the successful changes made by necessity in 2021. With a mostly new Fire Island Committee leading in 2022, endless possibilities will keep this unique facility introducing visitors to this precious outdoor environment for many years.

▶ Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC)

The NY-NoJ Chapter continued to navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic with plans to support a full season of Chapter programs at the Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman AMC Outdoor Center. As the AMC and policies evolved in line with CDC recommendations, the Chapter programs evolved to enable larger group sizes and to integrate cabin space back into the Chapter programs, along with camping options.



Over the course of the season from May through September, the Chapter hosted 16 programs and supported 170 people—including volunteer leaders. They enjoyed the facilities at CHOC, with swimming, canoeing, and kayaking in Breakneck Pond; hiking along the many trails around Harriman; and social gatherings around happy hours, dining, and campfires.

In addition to the Wilderness First Aid training sessions, programs over the course of the season included hiking, canoeing, kayaking, yoga, and wellness weekends, plus specific programs oriented to various members of the AMC community.

This year also included an addition to the Committee leadership, with Jim Om serving as Co-Chair of the Harriman Program Committee. The success of our programs would not have been possible without the hard work of the volunteer leaders and enthusiasm of the program participants. A full schedule of programs is planned for next year, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at the Harriman Outdoor Center.

▶ Trails

The Trails Committee work in 2021 focused on Harriman State Park in New York, with 30 volunteers performing more than 700 hours of work, including trail maintenance, administration, and travel. Group trail maintenance was limited early in the year due to COVID-19. However, many individual trips got the job done.



Trail blaze tags placed by members at the intersection of three historic trails in Harriman State Park, NY.

The West-of-Hudson team is the largest of the Trails teams, with 24 members. Leadership of the West-of-Hudson team passed from William Hladky to Rene Ruel. Thank you to Bill for the years of leadership and sharing your experience and knowledge, patiently teaching so many members about trail maintenance best practices.

One of the challenges going into 2021 was a shortage of blazes (tags nailed to trees). There was a very early supply-chain disruption, but eventually, the Committee was able to get the tags. The next challenge was the large number of trees blown down by uncommonly strong winds. Early in the year, the waiting time for chainsaw crews (sawyers) was very long. The West-of-Hudson maintainers put in extra effort to clear blowdowns with hand saws.

Thanks, also, for the extra effort, to Rich Weiler, Lyn Walker and Susan Kurtas, on the Timp-Torne Trail; to Ralph Pena, Dottie Werkmeister, Mike and Sue Slapp, on the 1779 Historic Trail; Don and Mary Krug on the 1777 W. Historic Trail. A larger re-blazing (removing painted blazes and old tags and installed new tags) effort was also accomplished this year. This included 100 percent of the Cornell Mine Trail by Heather Zaroni and Braque Hershberger, 50 percent of the Ramapo Dunderberg Trail by Ida Dupont and Rene Ruel, and 30 percent (by far the largest) of the Timp-Torne Trail by Eugenia Tumanova and Rene Ruel. Most of the remaining tags were upgraded to reflective tags by Lyn Walker, Susan Kurta, and Rich Weiler.

There are open leadership positions for East-of-Hudson Trails, and Urban and Suburban Trails. Being involved in providing great hiking trails for so many people is very rewarding. If you are interested in getting involved contact Ed Spirko at trails@amc-ny.org.

► Wilderness First Aid

During 2021, the second year experiencing the COVID pandemic, the Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Committee held six sessions. In accordance with AMC policy for limited group participants, 10 students per session participated in early 2021. By mid-year, as restrictions eased, the number increased to 15 students. Members registered soon after the training sessions were announced and the groups filled quickly, reflecting strong demand for the training.

Scenes simulated during Wilderness First Aid training at Corman Harriman Outdoor Center in New York.



The two locations used for instruction in 2021 included The New Weis Center in Ringwood, NJ, and the Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman State Park. The WFA training sessions comprise 16 hours of instruction, including hands-on practice sessions for students with the use of a mannequin and fake blood. Students felt that using these props made the learning more realistic.

To support WFA instruction, a projector and screen were purchased for these training programs,

enabling flexibility for locations where the classes may be taught. Additional items such as tourniquets, SAM splints, and more cravats allowed the students to get more familiar with their applications and how to use them.

The WFA Committee hopes to complete an agreement to use a different WFA card/certification provider, the American Safety & Health Institute, by the end of 2021.

▶ Volunteer 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 2021.

50 Years of Membership

Harold Chorny
Ann Cutter
Louis Cutter
Anne Eristoff
Helga Feder
Robert E. Fuller

Henri Gueron
Burton Lieberman
Alan Melniker
Peggy Ostlund
Robert Prudhomme
Kate Whitney-Bukofzer

25 Years of Membership

Lisa Attias
Melissa Avildsen
Karin Batten
Bruce Bernstein
Gail Blumenfeld
Robin Bossert
Richard Bryan
Wilfred Burgoyne
Arthur Cader
Vincent Calenda
Anthony Caruso
Suzanne Clephane
Barbara Codd
Cathy Coloff
Michael Crowley
Andrea Davis
Stephen Dipisa
Nelson Dittmar
Pamela Emmerich

Adam Emmerich
Patricia Ensworth
Ellen Flynn
Robert Giaquinto
Richard Goldstein
Denise Grocki
Reggie Hahn
Borys Hayda
Barbara Howard
Thomas Keoughan
Glen Konstantin
Johanna Kopp
Elaine Kosik
Margaret Lenci
Mihai Lupovici
Rachel Makleff
Brian Markey
Elaine Marzocchi
Karen McClendon

Michael McKenna
Paul Mullen
Marilynn Mullen
Robert Pfefferman
Madeleine Roese
April Sanders
Carol Shine
Marianne Sponholz
Prudence Steiner
Herbert Stermer
Richard Stoller
Dorothy Szorc
June Traibman
Lucille Trocher
Vincent Turano
David Turkel
Elizabeth Tymczyszyn
James Van Tassell
Michael Wainfeld

► In Memoriam

The New York-North Jersey Chapter mourns the loss of members and volunteers who passed recently.



Wayne Foote

Wayne Foote served in many capacities volunteering in the NY-NoJ Chapter: as a hike leader—including Head Hike Leader for August Camp—on the Chapter Executive Committee, as Chair of the Hiking Committee as well as its Treasurer, Chair of Publications, and editor of that schedule, all for many years. He modernized the schedule by computerizing much of it, and received the Appie of the Year Award.



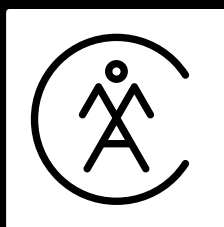
Jack Kossover

Jack Kossover was extremely active in leading hikes during the 90s. He and his wife, Judy, who was at one time the Hiking Committee Chair, frequently hiked and organized many events for the AMC in this region and led excursions to destinations in the western United States and Canada.



Barry Skura

Barry Skura was an involved social activist and avid outdoorsman known for his skills as a hiker, backpacker, and storyteller. He served in hiking and trip leader roles for the AMC NY-NoJ Chapter for many years, and as Backpack Committee Chair. He also led excursions to New Zealand, Sedona, AZ, the Appalachian and Smoky Mountains, as well as winter backpacks in the Adirondacks. He was a friend and mentor to many.



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