



NEW YORK-NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS



Annual Report 2016

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2016 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Executive For Activities

Executive For Facilities & Services

Executive For Communications

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

Cynthia Tollo Falls

Nathan Baker

Rob Holbrook

Jae Chung

Ed Sobin

Richard Dabal

Kelly Roberts

Richard Barcia

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Backpacking

Bicycle

Canoe & Kayak

Climbing

Hiking

Sailing

Skiing

Softball

Young Members

Maria Nobles

Kim Spelman

Suzanne Villegas

John Tedeschi

Ingrid Strauch

John Sheets

Ed Sobin

Fern Stolper

Silja Tobin

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archives

Eblast

Membership

Social Media Moderator

Trails & Waves

Web

Jack Reilly

Susan Bernstein

Carrie Ho

David Hartree

Ron Gonzales

Tat Yuen

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisory

Conservation

Fire Island

Hospitality

Nominating

Trails

Wilderness First Aid

John Bradley

Open

Anita Barberis

Bob Susser

Henry Schreiber

Hope Rodgers

Jonathan Silver & Maureen McCahery

STAFF

Chapter Member Services

NY-NoJ Program Manager

NY-NoJ Program Interns

Michael Burke

Justin Bailey

Akasha Solis & Ashley Stein

REPORT FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

It is hard to believe it is the end of 2016. We started this year with the goal of focusing on leadership, community, and communication. We accomplished all that while also working very closely with the club to ensure a successful Harriman Outdoor Center Opening. Chapter members organized and participated in getting the camp ready for most of the spring.



Henry Schreiber, Nathan Baker, Richard Dabal, and Eileen Yin served on the Harriman Launch Advisory Committee to work with the club on operations. The Chapter sponsored 21 weekends this year with most either sold out or close to full. All those who got a chance to stay were amazed at the quality of the facilities. Weekends were filled with programs ranging from Yoga, Astronomy, Paddling Skills, New Members, Map and Compass, Wilderness First Aid and much more! Through the generosity of the Chapter, the Club offered the free use of

the canoes and kayaks. This proved very popular and introduced many people to paddling sports that might not otherwise try. We were delighted to see many children and families get in on the fun. We look forward to next season when plan to hold our Chapter Picnic in camp that will last the entire weekend.



LEADERSHIP

This year we focused on developing our leadership core by bringing in new members and working on creating a Path to Leadership making it easier for our members to understand the process. One of our first goals was to set up a new Leadership Committee, which is being led by Ed Sobin. We worked closely with the Clubs Leadership staff and set. We set up a new requirement that all potential leaders attend one of the training programs offered by the Chapter or the



Club. This is to ensure everyone is familiar with issues such as liability, soft skills training, working with the Activities Database, and many of topics. After this training, potential leaders go to their respective committees to complete their co-leads and demonstrate their skills. Justin Bailey, our Program Manager developed a Leadership survey

focusing on what leaders want. We set up a Leadership Weekend in September for both new and experienced leaders at the Harriman Outdoor Center with a focus on the training requested. This weekend was held in conjunction with the Boston Staff. We followed that up by arranging co-leads and a practice hike. In addition to the weekend, Henry Schreiber offered half day sessions in our New York City Program Office on an as need basis.

One other Young Members Leadership training weekend was sponsored by the club and held at the Harriman Outdoor Center, which has added to our leader pool and new names are showing up in the schedule on a regular basis.

Congratulations to all our new leaders!

COMMUNITY

Building a community of outdoor enthusiasts was a major part of the year. We all love to do our favorite activities, but we also strove to become great friends through overnights, committee parties, after work socials, movie nights, the summer picnic and our course our annual dinner. No other committee did promoted this more than our Young Members, who have monthly after work socials, yearly trips, tried out every activity, and drank more than a few beers at the pub at the end of a long day.

Our Chapter sponsored Harriman weekends allowed people who we don't see on an everyday basis to come together and share meals, stories and fun. These weekends also attracted many new members and helped turn around a Chapter decline.



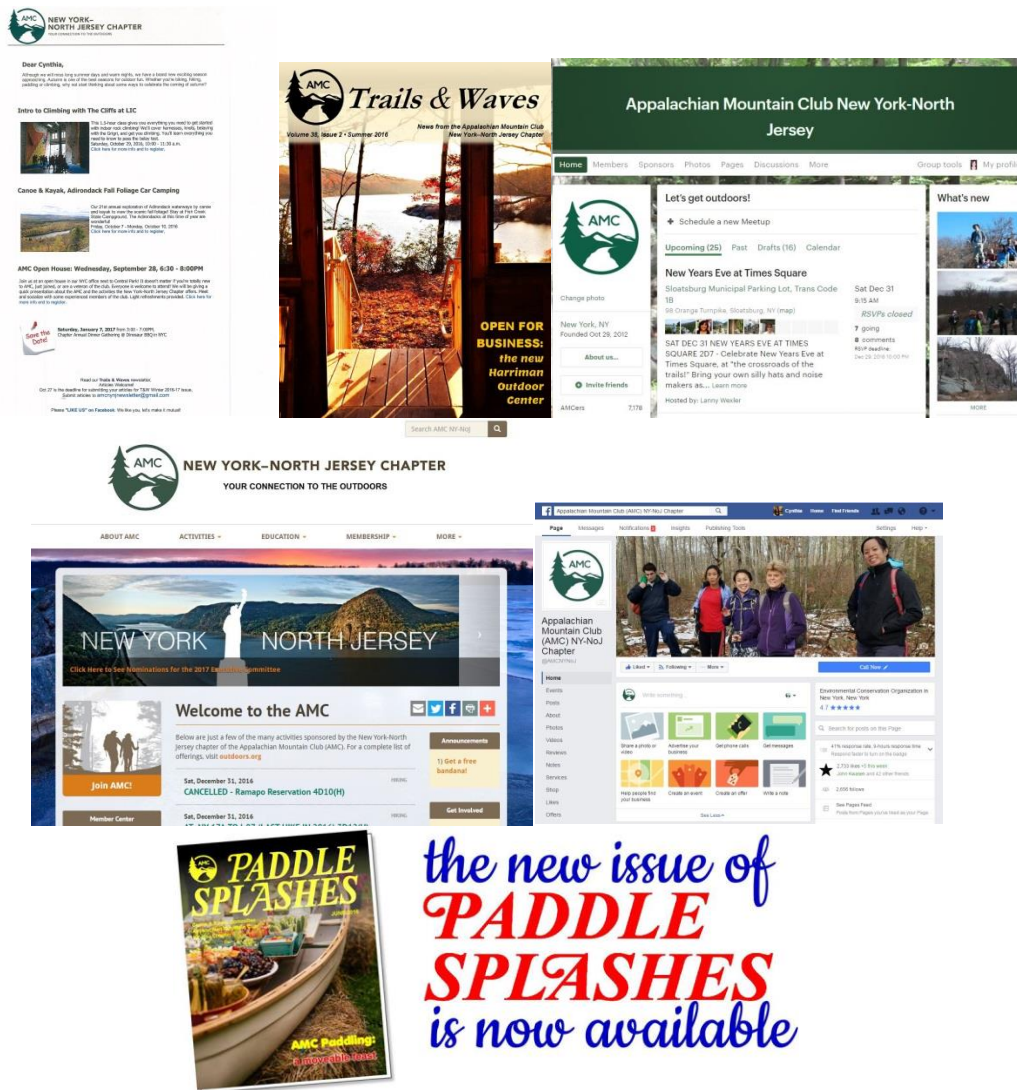
We continued with the Chapter Picnic. Despite the rain, more than 60 people showed up and had a fantastic time. We have so much fun that we decided that next year we will make a weekend of it. The Chapter has reserved the HOC for June 2nd through the 4th so mark your calendars! This event will be held in conjunction with National Trails Day. There will be opportunities to help maintain trails, Erase a Trace, and eat good food.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our Communications team, led by the out-going Kelly Roberts has some great accomplishments this year. Trails and Waves looks better with Ron Gonzalez and Marty Plante responsible for the new look. The Chapter used all of our allotted eblast window and our click rate increased 37%. Through the use of newsletters, eblasts, web site, Meetup, Facebook and committee emails we've worked hard to spread the word without costly printing and mailing. The use of electronic communication will continue to grow.

The Chapter faced a few difficulties when the club website redesign was launched. Tat Yuen, our webmaster quickly went to work fixing all the links on our website to allow our members to find activities and get questions answered.

In news from around the club, a 1.5 million dollar technology upgrade is happening at the club level. This upgrade will improve member services, reservations, and our own email reach. Most changes will be transparent, but for everyone that needed to make a phone call to get their Trails and Waves, this is a much needed upgrade.



Looking back at everything we have done should make everyone proud. I am in the lucky position of being able to serve as chair when we are able to give so much back to our membership in terms of leadership awards, social event subsidizes, leadership training, visiting a thriving new club facility, and working with an amazing team. Next year, we want to give back even more! I give extra special thanks to out-going executives Kelly Roberts and Richard Dabal. We will certainly miss them and had many great times working for all you.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Falls

Cynthia Tollo Falls
Chapter Chair
AMC, New York-North Jersey Chapter

Your 2016 Executive Committee ...



Cynthia Tollo-Falls
Chair



Nathan Baker
Vice –Chair



Jae Chung
Treasurer



Rob Holbrook
Secretary



Kelly Roberts
Communications



Ed Sobin
Activities



Richard Dabal
Facilities & Services

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

The NY-No.NJ Chapter of the AMC is in excellent financial health, we will be ending the year with a positive cash flow. Thanks to several major donations and the stabilization of our membership numbers. 2016 had many exciting financial opportunities for the Chapter. We began our funding for the Harriman Outdoor Center. The most noticeable source of funds went to the purchase of the centers canoes & kayaks which were provided free of charge to patrons of the camp. This was a huge hit and a big factor to the success of the camp. We continue to fund efforts to increase our leaders' numbers and educational opportunities. We heavily subsidized our leadership training weekend and saw 24 perspective leaders take the course. The Master Leader program which rewards our most dedicated leaders with a monogrammed Patagonia Jacket is in its second year and is a continued success. Some other notable investments were in initial funding for our new indoor climbing program and the Chapter has purchased a number of trail maintenance tools to expand our presence in conservation work. The second annual Chapter picnic was again free of charge and we had over 75 members brave the cold and rain to come out and enjoy the fun.

The Chapter continues to receive distributions from our endowments and as our membership numbers have stabilized our dues allocations have remained a steady source of operating funds. Once again this year the chapter has benefited from several sizable donations that we will continue to put to work to encourage outdoor participation, education & leadership.

In 2016 the Executive Committee worked hard to develop a 5 year plan to utilize our Chapters funds to further the AMC mission. Our goal was to establish a prudent reserve and best uses for our excess reserves. We will continue to fund and expand our leadership development and rewards programs as well as supplementing chapter wide events to keep these events affordable in the ever increasing expensive New York market. Safe investing of our invested reserves to generate additional operating funds has also been planned.

Going into 2017 the Chapter will have the funds available to continue our mission of excellence in outdoor education and leadership. A special thanks to those generous donors who have contributed to our mission.

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Volunteer leaders were very active in 2016, leading 553 trips and instructions posted in the AMC Activities Database (ActDB). This is a fraction of the amount of trips led as the hiking committee sponsored 750 trips. Three “super-leaders” led an extraordinary number of trips days in the ActDB:

- 73 trip days - Mike Handelsman (Hiking)
- 50 trip days – Irv Reich(Hiking)
- 45 trip days – Joe Nigro (Hiking)

Over the past three years, there has been a declining trend in the number of trips posted in the ActDB, with a preference for last minute emails. Next year we await future ActDB upgrades by the club that hopefully will increase participation and make reporting and gathering data easier. This reports includes metrics gathered by the Young Member Committee that uses the system for every activity.

The chapter posted more than 354 events on MeetUp and is 60% increase from last year.. The chapter has more than 7,100 MeetUp members. The Young Members Meetup group has more than 1,200 members. Social Media has continued to be an important source for introducing the club to potential new members. It was especially helpful in filling Chapter sponsored weekends at the Harriman Outdoor Center.

BACKPACKING

Maria Nobles, Chair

The NY-NoJ Backpacking Committee scheled 64 overnight trips varying in length from 2 -7 days. In total, 48 trips were led by 19 different leaders this year with 98% of those trips having a co-leader. New leader development and the group’s overall growth have been and will continue to be our chapters focus.

We currently have 21 leaders in training. We continue to develop interested backpackers to step up and keep our chapter strong and vibrant. In doing so we have developed a stronger working relationship with other committees, such as the young member backpackers to further enhance our group diversity.

This year brought some change in the backpacking committee. Below are the brief highlights.

- We had 243 total participants.
- We had 12 of our 19 listed backpacking leader’s lead 2 or more trips this year.
- David Lloyd is our treasurer; Pamela Wolff became our trip reviewer/processor; David Mong is now our statistics guy; John Hilley is now the leader liaison; Colleen Hans became our social meda guru; Maria Nobles became Chairperson.

BICYCLING

Kim Spelman, Chair

Over nine wonderful world class cycling activities were organized. We will seek to increase member participation in 2016.



CANOE & KAYAKING

Suzanne Villegas, Chair

YEAR OF THE TRIP LEADER

The Canoe Kayak Committee agreed to meet quarterly via skype. Among our many goals, we chose 2016 as the year of the Trip Leader. The thought was to encourage/ support/assist/thank each of them, in the hopes of recruiting more trip members and hosting more trips. In addition, any trip member who led a trip was given 2 months of free boat storage at our barn.



To that end, four Master Trip Leaders were recognized for 2015 and 8 recognized in 2018. Among them, Wendell “Butch” Futrell, who has lead 36 trips and 37 Instructionals since 2002.

Trip Leader Training was held in January, and a record 9 candidates attended. Each were partnered with a seasoned Trip Leader, whose role was not only to co-host trips, but to encourage/mentor.



INSTRUCTION

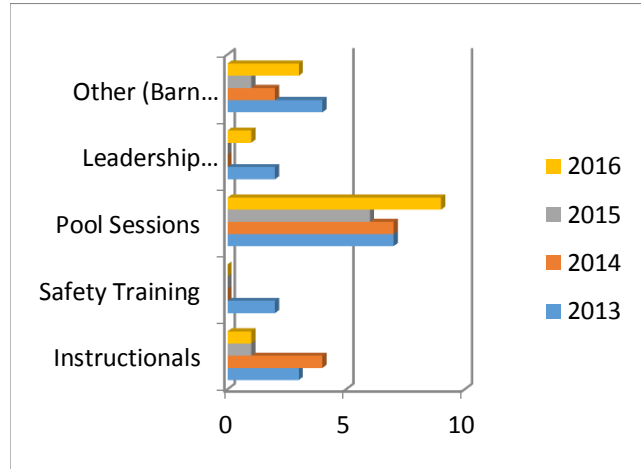
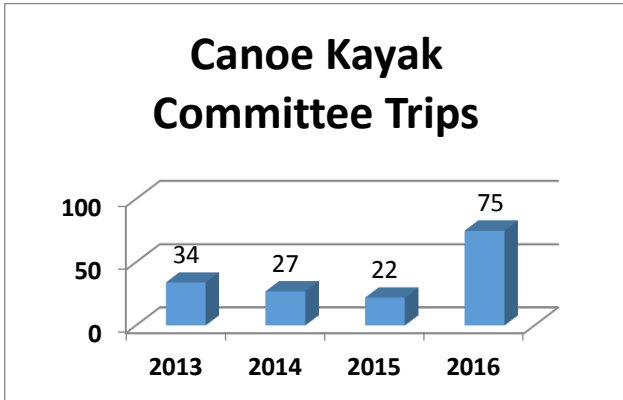
The year kicked off with our Annual Pool sessions, feedback was extremely positive, with a total number of 147 volunteer hours from Instructors. Trip Leader Vadim Stepaniuk had a great first season as Coordinator and earned his Master Trip Leader designation.



Our annual Instructional was held on the weekend of June 24 and combined both Canoe and Kayak.

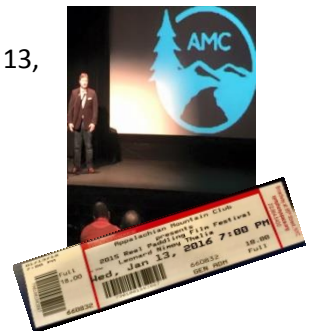


ACTIVITIES



Trip Leaders put in many volunteer hours to organize and coordinate location, shelter, food, safety and fun among paddlers. Partnerships were reestablished with many groups, such as AMC Chapters of Boston, Connecticut, Delaware; KCCNY, and Columbia University Paddlers.

Trip Leader Rob Holbrook once again organized the Reel Paddling Film Festival held on January 13, 2016.



GETTING THE WORD OUT

Christian Lazo our new Social Media Guru, is an NJIT student and new paddler who learned to roll in 2 sessions. He diligently gathered information/pictures from Trip Leaders and posted on the Chapter Facebook page, Twitter and Meetup. One of his Facebook postings gathered the most views of the year for the Chapter.



Paddlesplashes, our newsletter, headed by Committee Members/Trip Leaders Loretta Brady and Marty Plante was increased to Quarterly issues.

All of these efforts lead to an increase in activities/participation, however it did not affect our finances, which continue to linger around the \$20,000 mark. No new equipment was purchased, however this season saw the revival of the C1, which had not seen a river in over 5 years.

2017 our goal is to recruit more paddlers.

CLIMBING

John Tedeschi, Chair

Summary:

- AMC NY-NoJ Climbing Committee celebrated its 90th birthday. We have a change in leadership during 2016. Commemorating video slide show created for this occasion depicting major events, trips, and activities of club members was featured during our Annual Solstice Dinner in January.
- The Committee also continued support of the regions where we climb donating to the Ragged Mountain Foundation, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Gunks Climbers Coalition, and Torne Valley Climbers Coalition that is building our the new Powerlinz climbing area in southern Harriman Park.
- Our Annual Spring Training Class yielded 14 new graduates.
- Continuing a tradition started in 2010, the Committee honored another volunteer with the Golden Cam.
- Popular monthly Rock/Ice Top Rope Socials continue. Weekly climbing schedule.
- 2016 Rock Climbing season kicked off with a Welcome To The Gunks weekend.
- Climbing/Safety workshops during summer of 2016 kept AMC climbing members in their top shape.
- AMC NY-NoJ Chapter's sponsored Lead Climbing Training program yielded 4 graduates.
- Annual Picnic in September marks the end of Summer.

Key 2016 Climbing Committee events:

- Winter Solstice Dinner - January
- Spring Training Class - April 9 & 10 and April 16 & 17
- Leader Training with Alpine Endeavors – October
- Welcome To The Gunks (WTTG) weekend and The Golden Cam Award – April 30
- Workshops – Summer 2016
- Rock/Ice Climbing Top Rope Socials – Once a month, every month
- Weekly climbing
- Annual Picnic (Gunks, Singerland Pavilion) – September 12, 2016

Change in leadership

At the start of the year we had a transition of leadership from Aneta Rogoz to John Tedeschi as Chair. We want to thank Aneta for her three years of leadership and service and for effecting a smooth transition. Aneta is still active with helping organize our annual picnic. Jerry Provenzano also stepped down as vice-chair but remains active with leading our Welcome to the Gunks weekend and with our extensive training program. We added two Co-chair positions with the Nancy Lee and Toks Ajadi joining the executive committee. Our Treasurer continues to be Mike Geramita.

John



Nancy



Toks



Mike



Winter Solstice Dinner/Slide Show

2016 marked the 104th year of the AMC NY-NoJ Chapter and 90th 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. Every year, Pinar Ayata, an AMC Climber, creates a video slide show to celebrate our birthday. Just like last year, the request for photographs from our members resulted in a great turnout and therefore yet another exciting and eclectic slide show. The video premiered at the annual Winter Solstice dinner and was also shown at the Welcome to the Gunks dinner welcoming our 2016 training class graduates.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQ4ATISz-II>

Enjoy....

Donations to The Ragged Mountain Foundation, Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Gunks Climbers Coalition, Torne Valley Climbers' Coalition.

Our annual Spring Training class takes place at cliffs located in Southington Connecticut. Therefore in 2016 we continued support of Connecticut nonprofit organizations dedicated to conservation, preservation and maintenance of public access and trails in Connecticut Forests. We also make donations to the Gunks Rescue squad for their great effort in responding to climbers, hikers and bikers who enjoy the Shawangunks. This year we provided each ranger with Leatherman rescue shears, allowing them to quickly cut through rope, harnesses, helmet straps etc. Shortly after we made the donation, a ranger mentioned that the shears had been used to remove a boot from a hiker in order to stabilize ankle before carry out. We also provide a number of lanterns that are used to light trails during nighttime rescues. These rangers put their lives on the line to help all who enjoy the area, having the right helps all of us.



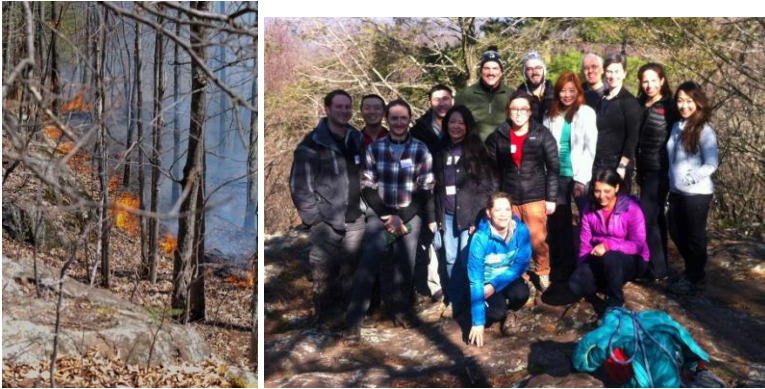
We also make donations to new climbing areas to help offset the volume of climbers at the Gunks, during 2016 we helped support the Powerlinz climbing area in southern Harriman Park.

Spring Training Class 2016 and WTTG

Over the course of two weekends in April, the Committee initiated 14 new members (one was unable to graduate). With skillful guidance of 17 Climbing Committee volunteers, the new AMC climbers learned skills needed to climb with the club. The Training Class culminated on weekend of April 30 with Welcome to the Gunks (WTTG) event. The recent graduates are introduced to one of the best outdoor rock climbing areas in North East, The Shawagunks.

It is not uncommon for us to be dealing with challenging weather during April, we have had snow, sleet, rain etc. This year's class has the envious distinction of having been borne by fire, yes, this year the class survived a brush fire on Ragged Mountain. The majority of the class was at the base of the climb going through their training when one person on the top of the cliff noticed the smoke and flames. Within minutes the flames were materially closer. We had enough

time to dismantle and pack our ropes and hike out of the area, warning other hikers heading into the area of the fire.



The Golden Cam Award

The 2016 Golden Cam recipient is Rob O'Sullivan who embodies the spirit of giving back to our AMC climbing community through his service and commitment. Since joining the Committee, Rob has been an active member helping organize our events, workshops, leading, and participating at Spring Training Class. This year Rob was responsible for our belay tests, a very serious component of our training. Each candidate must stop a leader fall comprised of a duffle bag filled with 200 lbs of sand. Thank you Rob!

Lead-climbing training class with Alpine Endeavors.

Although all of us enjoy and participate in top-rope climbing, many consider multi-pitch climbing as the ultimate experience in the sport. Multi-pitch climbing involves another level of specific skills and techniques since leading can be dangerous and safety is of utmost concern. The purpose of this program is to help train most committed climbers in lead climbing skills. Because of the program success in 2014, the Climbing Committee subsidized the cost of employment of services of an accredited guiding company, Alpine Endeavors. We have continued this additional training for 4 members and would like to expand it going forward.

Top Rope Socials

Every month, we conduct top rope socials which allow a more social climbing environment. These events are a great way to try more challenging terrain than you might lead or even second. We take the opportunity to reinforce new techniques that require more focused time to learn. These events usually include sharing of food to further enhance the social aspect.



Summer Workshops

Every summer the Committee organizes climbing workshops. In 2016, thanks to our experienced veteran members, the following climbing workshops took place:

- “Getting Back to the Ground” Workshop - The self-rescue workshop featured various rappelling techniques and belay escapes, all of which are invaluable when faced with climbing mishaps.
- Leading Workshops - In this one-on-one workshop, a new lead climber climbs with experience lead climber. During their session, depending on experience of the new lead climber, either on mock-leads or actual lead, the climber receives suggestions on critical gear placement, anchor set-up, and gear retrieval.
- Anchor Placement Workshop - This workshop was offered for both leaders as well as seconds. Reliable gear placements and solid anchor building are key skills that make a climber safe.
- Rappelling with an injured climber – a very challenging endeavor when dealing with full body weight of someone hanging from single rope.

Wilderness First Aid

It is important to our Committee that all our members are proficient in first response/first aid scenario in the outdoors. Due to popular demand, this year, the Climbing Committee organized and subsidized AMC Wilderness First Aid Course exclusively for our members. The class was offered and lead by our own Certified Climbing Committee member, Christiane Siebert.



Annual Picnic at the Singerland Pavilion in Mohonk Preserve.

Keeping with our annual tradition, on September 12, 2016, our best event yet, the Annual Picnic, took place. Eveline Gottesman and volunteers did a superb job organizing it. Climbing and travel stories were told and the exchange of experience was priceless. A fun raffle brought this evening to an end. We honored the many attendees who have been committee members for decades.

Indoor Climbing

Indoor climbing events have been started at the Cliffs in Long Island City. These events, organized by the Chapter Program Manager Justin Bailey, have been very popular, especially with our Young Members.

Memorial Climb

We lost a very dear member this year. She was a wonderful person who always brought a warm smile, even during her difficult days. A group celebrated her life with a memorial climb to honor her and her joy for the outdoors. We will miss her.



HIKING

Ingrid Strauch, Chair

The NY-NoJ Chapter Hiking Committee functioned smoothly and efficiently in 2016, with maximum participation and minimum friction among the many leaders who contribute to the running of the largest committee in the NYNoJ Chapter.

The committee posted approximately 750 activities in 2016, ranging from city walks to 23-mile hikes, and everything in between.

Nearly 70 leaders led at least one hike this year, and a handful of leaders led significantly more than that. Top-performing leaders (and the number of hikes they led) were:

73 Mike Handelsman	24 Rita Cohen	14 Bruce Bernstein
50 Irv Reich	24 Jay Beilis	14 Mark Gordon
45 Joe Nigro	21 Robert Monczka	13 Hal Kaplan
32 Bob Susser	21 Wanda Davenport	12 Jane Levenson
30 Dave Tarlo	19 Fred Hafele	11 Art Almeida
29 David Lamb	17 Gery Monaco	10 Stuart Falls

Note that these numbers are based on waiver sheets turned in; leaders who did not submit their waiver sheet to the chapter may not be listed here.

Committee Chair Ingrid Strauch participated in the late September leadership conference held at the Harriman Outdoor Center, and subsequently aided YM Committee Chair Silja Tobin in matching 10+ trainees with experienced leaders for co-leads.

By late November 2016, the Hiking Committee had welcomed 6 new leaders to its ranks, as well as a transplanted Connecticut Chapter leader and a multi-talented Backpacking Committee leader. With co-leads ongoing, the number of active hike leaders is expected to continue to increase.

SAILING

John Sheets, Chair

2016 continued to be a transition year for the AMC Sailing Committee. As noted in last year's report, many of the committee's sailing instructors who have been trip leaders for 20 to 30 years or more with the committee and they have either retired from their jobs, moved to other locations or are no longer leading trips, the committee is in the process of recruiting sailors to be instructors. Our Chair for the last few decades stepped down a few years back and the next Chair moved to Maine and resigned before the 2015 sailing season began. I began as the new Chair shortly before the 2015 sailing season started and went into the 2016 season with terrific trip leaders. These included Dan Parietti, a seasoned AMC Sailing Committee veteran and expert Lightning (19' sloop) racer – who recruited Richard Leonard, also an expert Lightning racer, through the Nyack Boat Club on the Hudson River. Also, Jesse Schaffer completed his second season with us. He is a former Tall Ship captain, whom I recruited in 2015, as a new trip leader, through our sailing together for

many years aboard Schooner Pioneer (103' 65 ton schooner) at the South Street Seaport and aboard the Mystic Whaler (110' 100 ton schooner) out of New London, CT.



Sailing out of Port Washington, NY on Manhasset Bay, about to tack with Leader showing the new heading to steer; three other AMC sailors are sitting in the bow section of the boat

As in 2015, a few sailing instructors and one other sailor with the AMC Fire Island sailing program have expressed interest in being an apprentice with the AMC Sailing Committee, along with a couple of other experienced sailors. Hopefully in 2017 some of these sailors will become active in our training program to become one of our instructor's / trip leaders.

During our 2016 sailing season, these were the activities of the AMC Sailing Committee:

- May: One Sailing FUNDamental class held at the AMC NY / NJ office at the YMCA on West 63rd St. The Instructors were Dan Parietti and John Sheets, assisted by Richard Leonard. We had an excellent turnout with a total of 12 people attending the class. We used a DVD player our committee purchased in 2015 to play an instructional sailing video on the AMC office projector.

- June: Revival of a long standing tradition, an AMC Sailing Committee dinner / business meeting, this time at the Sapphire Indian restaurant at West 62nd and Broadway; In attendance were our Chair for over 30 years, Norman Finkelstein and former instructors Rita Kepich, Toni Cangialosi, and currently inactive instructors, Angela Berardino and Joseph Ryan (our Treasurer) and active instructors Dan Parietti and John Sheets and one guest. The dinner was partially paid for with AMC Sailing Committee funds and with contributions from all in attendance at the dinner.

- Trips: Total of 9 trips – 2 by lead Dan Parietti and Richard Leonard, 3 lead by Jesse Schaffer and 4 lead by John Sheets

- June - Two (2) trips - Lightning sloop sailing out of the Nyack Boat Club with Leaders Dan Parietti and Richard Leonard
- June, July, August, September and October - Seven (7) four-hour day sails out of Port Washington on Manhasset Bay aboard 23' Sonars and for the first time out of New Rochelle, NY harbor aboard 23' Sonars lead by Jesse Schaffer and John Sheets; A number of other trips were scheduled or planned but were cancelled due to weather or too few AMC sailors who registered for the trips. I think members and non-members are still in the process of getting used to online registration. Some of our sails had waiting lists as the trips were full.



Sailing out of New Rochelle, NY on Long Island Sound with Execution Lighthouse in the background; three other AMC sailors are sitting in the bow section of the boat



Sailing out of Port Washington, NY on Manhasset Bay; AMC sailor enjoying the ride on a bow seat enjoying the warm sunny day as we sail downwind

- July 4th weekend three-day cruise on the Mystic Whaler out of New London, CT, sailed to Fisher's Island – great fireworks – and Sag Harbor – great fireworks – and sailed around Shelter Island and back to New London; Four AMC members were on the trip. Trip Leader: John Sheets





July 4th weekend cruise aboard the Tall Ship / schooner Mystic Whaler out of New London, CT, sailing downwind on Long Island Sound; A passenger taking a turn at the helm; Passengers and crew on the quarter deck; Great fun & peace and quiet out on the water!

- We had many compliments from our AMC sailors and a good time was had by all on our trips.
- Financial summary:
 - Trip fees collected, approximately \$1,160
 - Boat rental costs, approximately \$ 840
 - Approximate bank account balance: \$2,353 as of 11/29/16

SINGLES & SOCIABLES

Singles and Sociables (S&S) has decided to disband this year.

SKIING

Ed Sobin, Chair



The following were accomplished in the 2015/2016 season:

- About the same number of trips (19) have been offered each of the past few years.
- With one of our most active leaders (Richard Seibel) not able to lead trips any longer there will likely be fewer overnight trips for the winter of 2016/2017.
- 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.

There were 201 messages in the Yahoo group from July 2015 to July 2016. The prior season it was 333 which was about 80 more than the prior season. There is still considerable interest in how to buy gear, snow conditions, and where to ski. In large part the number of messages depends on the availability of snow. As of November 21, 2016 there are 384 members which represents a decrease of about 100. Most of that is due to a cleanup of members that had email bouncing. Currently there are no email bounces in the group.

The overnight and day trips cover a broad spectrum of skiing interests. The main focus is cross country and back-country but there are trips to lift served areas for downhill and telemark since that's often where the only available snow is.

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. Meetup will be used more going forward.

Mohican Outdoor Center sometimes has Cross Country Ski weekends not associated with the Ski committee. Hopefully if there is snow there can be some Young Members trips this year.

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 fewer weekend trips scheduled this season. There are 3 major reasons for that:

- As it gets easier to publicize a trip via social media there is less reason for preplanning
- The lack of snow in recent years has discouraged preplanning
- There were few active leaders already and a couple can't lead anymore

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).

SOFTBALL

Fern Stolper, Chair

We play co-ed softball in Central Park on Sundays from late April to mid-October. Our games are organized by 11 committee members. The committee meets as needed and in the winter, we have our annual meeting to review rules and policy. We emphasize a fun, not overly competitive game, where everyone can participate. We play two games and teams are chosen randomly for each game. Adult men and women of all skill levels are welcome to play. Friendly and safe comes first, winning is only secondary to having a good time.



We have permits for two fields from 11 am to 3 pm. with 35+ to 45+ people attending most weeks. There is a \$5 fee to play. Our cost for permits and equipment is about \$3000 and we collect about \$3000. We're on the website, in the magazine and have an AMC Meetup site where we have close to 300 members, with 125-150 active this year. All players are encouraged to become AMC members or renew their memberships.



The age range of our players runs from the 20s through the 70s. People come from all 5 boroughs (yes, S.I. too), Westchester, New Jersey. We've had people who re-located come to play when they were in town. There are lots of comments/conversations/compliments throughout the season on the Meetup site. One of the women writes a weekly diary that everyone looks forward to reading as well.



YOUNG MEMBERS

Silja Tobin, Chair

Our mission is to build a community of AMC members in their twenties and thirties, and to support AMC's mission by promoting the conservation, education, and enjoyment of the outdoors. We seek to maintain our community and membership through regular and diverse trips, events, socials, and outreach.

Committee:



Silja Tobin
Chair



Alan Lawn



Katharina Flenker



Tom Meehan

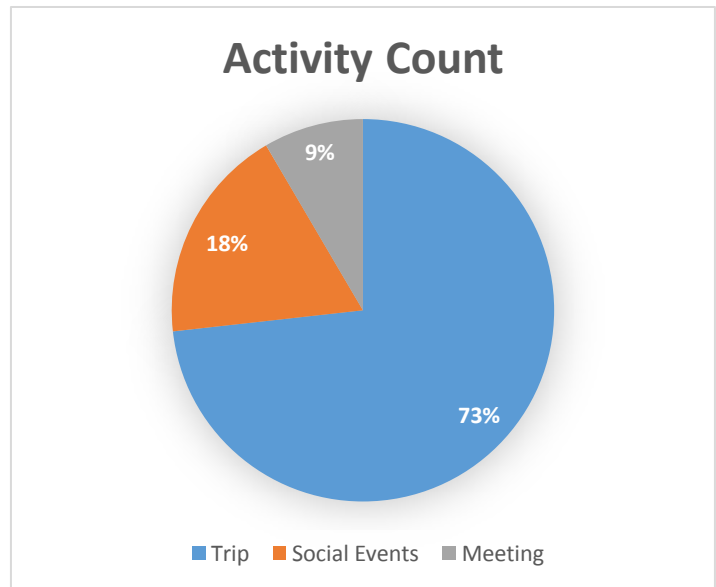
In 2016, our focus has been on expanding the types of activities offered through YM Monthlies (monthly activities coordinated with different AMC committees), growing our leadership numbers, and recruiting more young members. The Young Members have added 4 new leaders this year, and have about 20 more who have completed leadership training and are working on completing their co-leads.

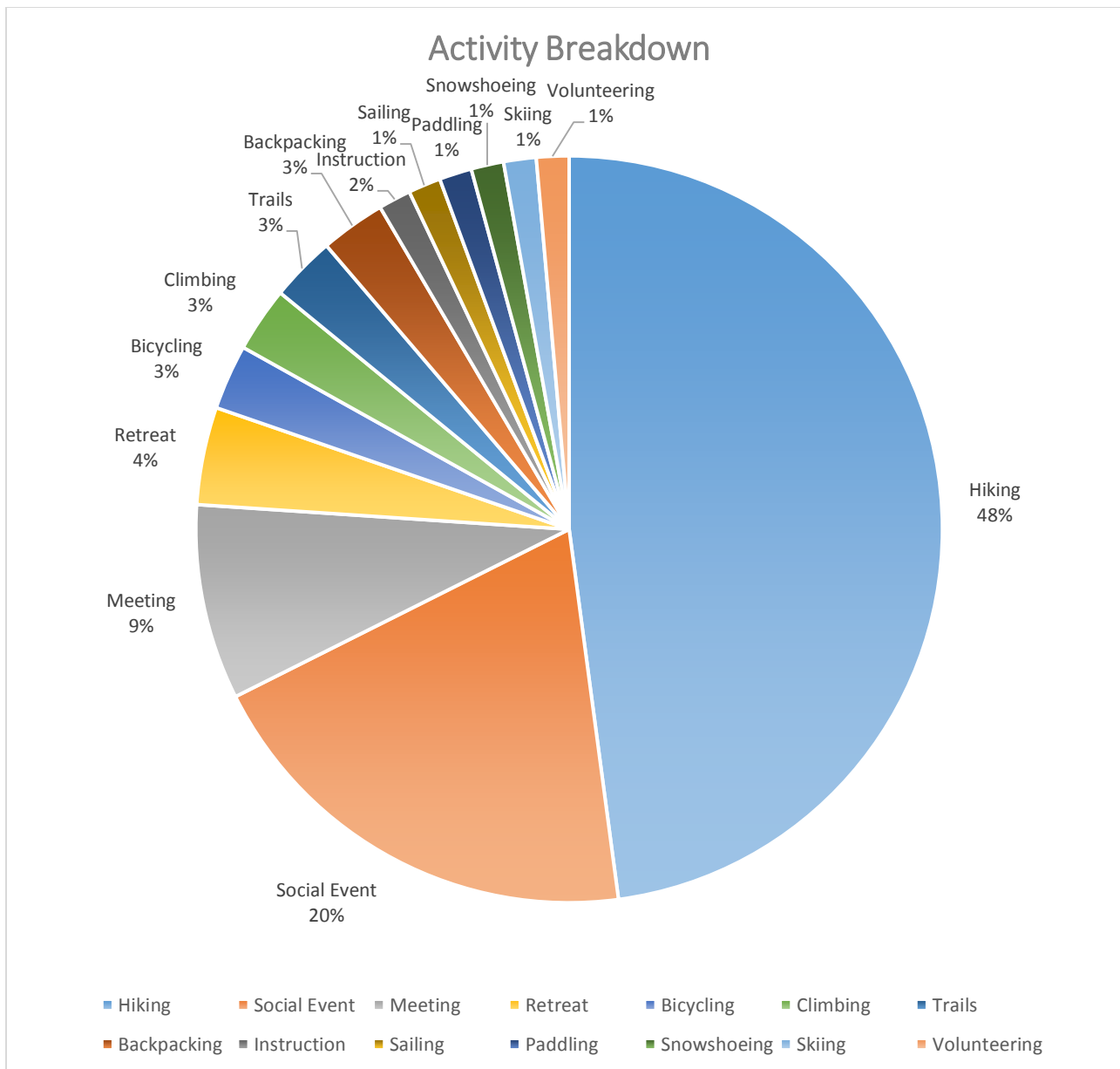
We've continued our monthly happy hours, Thirsty Third Thursdays, and they continue to be a success, with between 20-30 attendees in recent months.

We've also successfully opened up our monthly committee meetings to all who want to be involved with planning for the Young Members. Our meetings now average between 8-20 attendees.

2016 Young Member Activities

Activity	# of Events
Hiking	34
Meeting	6
Retreat	3
Bicycling	2
Climbing	2
Trails	2
Backpacking	2
Instruction	1
Sailing	1
Paddling	1
Snowshoeing	1
Skiing	1
Volunteering	1



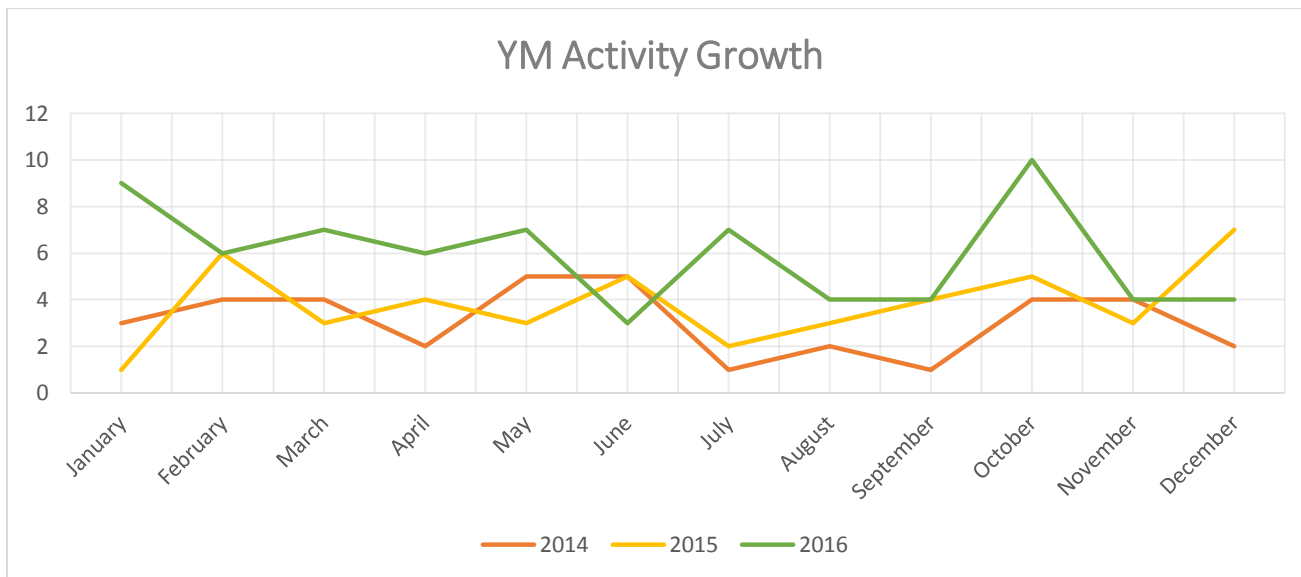


- Activity Highlights include:**
- January 30 – Young Member Kick-Off Party
 - June 24-26 – Weekend at Fire Island Cabin
 - September 2-4 – Young Member Weekend at Harriman Outdoor Center
 - September 16-18 – Club-wide Young Member Leadership Training at Harriman
 - September 24 – Manhattan Natural History Scavenger Hunt

2016 Growth

The YM committee and the activities they lead have shown a steady growth over the last few years, most notably in the past year, which had a significant increase in activities being offered:

2014	2015	2016
37	46	71



Social media has also grown in 2016 with YM with 623 members active in the dedicated YM Facebook group and the YM audience making up 25% of the chapter Facebook Page.



2017 Goals

1. Increase leadership in order to have more Young Member events. Focus on ensuring current Leaders-in-Training complete their co-leads.
2. Recruit more committee members to ensure a consistent leadership group
3. Continue to focus on expanding activities offered. Offer more backpacking trips as this is often requested.
4. Schedule 100 activities in 2017.

Leadership Committee

Ed Sobin, Chair

This is the first year for the Leadership Committee. Our goals are:

- 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 (i.e. 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 the activity
- Make it easier for AMC leaders to lead for different chapters if they move out of (or into) the NY/NJ area.



more training walks during the year.

Activity highlights -

- We have run a number of half day classes in 2015 and 2016 teaching the basics to over 50 potential new leaders.
- A Leadership Workshop at Harriman Outdoor Center had over 20 potential new leaders attending as well as some existing leaders.
- A Lead the Leader training walk with about 8 potential new leaders where the trainees took turns leading and handling various scenarios.
- Preparation of a Path to Leadership document

Plans for next year -

- Finalize the Path to Leadership process/document and move it to the website
- Track all potential new leaders as they move through the process and assist them as needed
- Run another Leadership Workshop
- Continue with the half day intro classes and run some

COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

ARCHIVES

Jack Reilly, Chair

There has been no change in the status of the Chapter's Archives. All hard copies are now located at the Club's Archives at Joy Street pending the move to a new location.

As of a few years ago, the material that formerly was sent to the Chapter Archives, Annual Reports, Minutes, Trails and Waves, etc., is now submitted electronically to the Club.

There have been requests received regarding material and those requests are answered and forwarded to Becky Fullerton, Archivist.

Good use has been made of the Archives, most recently by Maurice Isserman in his new book "Continental Divide", a history of climbing in the United States. Hopefully there will be others

MEMBERSHIP

Carrie Ho, Chair

Yearly statistics

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (as of Oct 30)
Year-end members	12,013	11,755	11,618	11,439	11,225	11,310
Year-end membership	9,259	8,958	8,842	8,710	8,464	8,547
Growth rate - Chapter, memberships	0.8%	-3.3%	-1.3%	-1.5%	-2.8%	1.0%
Growth rate - Club, memberships	4.5%	2.3%	2.0%	0.6%	2.9%	0.3%
Club year-end membership	59,219	60,596	61,809	62,160	63,952	64,115

The chapter membership was **flat** after the continuous declining for years.

Here are some highlights on Membership data in 2016.

- Congratulations to Youth Members Committee. We have a significant increase of the U-30 membership in 2016; it went up 23% year over year (as of October, 2016).
- The opening of the new Harriman Center and the summertime contributes seventy-seven (77) new family memberships, i.e. from 2,630 to 2,707 in the months of July and August respectively.
- The successful sign-up of new members via the Open Houses. Justin Bailey, the Program Manager, hosts Open House every month.

Good job everyone!!

Accomplishments in 2015 by Membership Chair

- Attended the Member Committee meetings in AMC Annual Summit (January) and Fall Gathering (October); and two (2) New York Chapter Committee Chair meetings. Contributed the add-valued idea to the Club.
- Hosted two (2) new members weekends in Harriman Outdoor Center. The registration rate was 81% and 138% respectively. Invited Delaware Valley Chapter co-hosted the Members weekend and the responses were great.
- Led city walks, including Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and Xmas Decoration Walk.

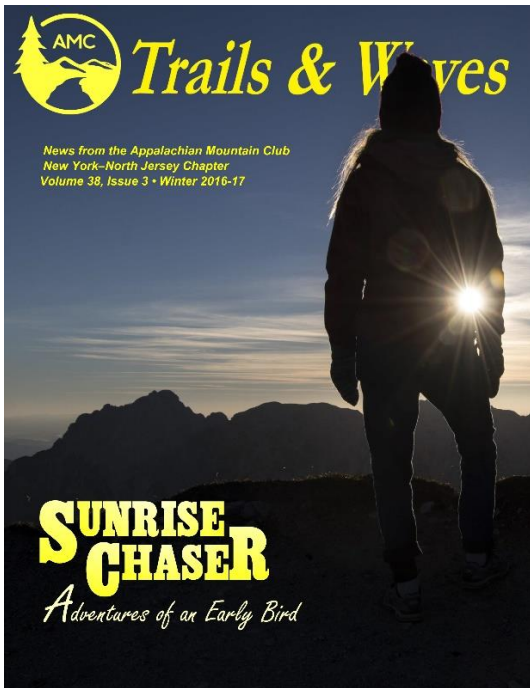
- Worked with the Program Manager for the series of Movie Nights.
- With support of the Chapter's ExCo, I host the Year-End Party on December 19th at the Winslow. The response was overwhelming! So as speak, I have received 50 RSVPs (as of December 1).

Outlook in 2017

- The Membership Committee continues the Expedition Socials in 2017. It is featured one outdoor activity each month and is planned to hold them in outdoor centers. Everyone is welcome!!
- Scheduled to host three (3) New Member Weekends. Two in the Harriman Camp and one in the Mohican Outdoor Center. Additionally, I will co-host a Memorial Hiking Weekend in Catskills.
- To host a series of outdoor presentation. The first one is scheduled in January and presented by Ken Posner, the author of "Running the Long Path". Next, there will be a presentation from the Harriman Outdoor Center's Camp Manager, Sara Morris-Marano. *(Please feel free to email me if you (or you know someone) could deliver an outdoor presentation. I would love to invite them!)*
- To lead city walks so that I can interact with the members in person.

We encourage members to attend one of the Open Houses to learn how to search the Activity in the newly developed Club's website: www.outdoors.org.

Members feedback and comments are very important to us! Please write to Membership@amc-ny.org if you want us to organize any events that could be beneficial to AMC members. Let us work together to build a better AMC community!



TRAILS & WAVES

Our latest newsletter can be accessed by going to: <http://www.amc-ny.org/trails-waves/>

In 2015 we produced 2 issues: Spring and Fall. In 2016, we added an additional team member Layout Editor Marty Plante and produced an additional Summer issue to the standard Spring and Fall issues. With this expansion to our team, we streamlined our procedures and editing/layout deadlines. We also created a new look of the newsletter starting with the Summer issue which has similar layout features to a magazine.

MONTHLY E-BLASTS

Almost two years ago, our e-blasts had an "open click rate" that was decreasing every month. Over the last year and half, e-blast open click rates have increased by over 37% as a result of focusing on improved layout design and content. This past November, AMC hosted an Email Template Training Webinar to show changes made to their system used to

distribute our e-blasts etc. We welcome timely content from all Committees related to upcoming events, training etc just send an email to communications@amc-ny.org and keep it very brief and include link from online Activity post.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Chapter's social media options include Twitter, Instagram & Facebook. A social media strategy was drafted and included testing Hoot Suite, an online social media platform that could tie together the Chapter's various social media outlets to share across various formats. After testing, idea was disregarded due to it not meeting our unique needs, other options to be explored.

The Web Committee implemented a survey to get member feedback using a free WordPress plugin. They also made regular updates to the web, posted Trails newsletters online, fix glitches, and post on our web about the What's Your Outdoor Adventure? Bandana Campaign among other various much-needed tasks for our chapter.

TEAM

Executive for Communications: Kelly Roberts
Trails and Waves Editor: Ron Gonzalez, Layout Editor: Marty Plante
Social Media Moderator: David Hartree
Archives Committee Chair: Jack Reilly
Eblast Coordinator: Susan Bernstein
Membership Committee Chair: Carrie Ho
Web Committee Chair: Tat Yuen

FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

The long awaited AMC Harriman Outdoor Center (HOC) finally opened in July. The Chapter sponsored over 20 weekends and just about every weekend filled. The HOC did not open without lots of financial and advise from the Chapter. Henry Schreiber, Richard Dabal, Nathan Baker, and Eileen Yin all served on the advisory committee.

We launched the new Harriman Program Committee, led by Eileen Yin, who worked endlessly on teaching our members the ins and outs of hosting Chapter Sponsored events. Just about every event sponsored featured a program that included either instruction, conservation, and introductions to activities.

Our Fire Island facility continues to be one of our most popular venues. People enjoyed the beach, learned new skills and the ecology of the island, and put in volunteer hours helping to maintain the building.

We wish to thank John Bradley and his many years as Chair of the Advisory Committee. We will certainly miss his presentations of Appie of the Year.

ADVISORY

John Bradley, Chair

The Advisory Committee selects the Appie of the Year and presents the award at the Annual Meeting and Dinner. The winner of the award will be a person who has worked tirelessly in several capacities for the good of the Chapter over several years. In 2016, the Appie of the Year was David Lamb.

CONSERVATION

Open

The year started off with a presentation by AMC Mid-Atlantic Director Mark Zakutansky who spoke about the AMC's conservation mission and research work.

Despite not having a Chair conservation was still a focus for the Chapter. The Chapter held it's Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on National Trail's Day and included a campaign to "Erase a Trace" for all activities. The rainy day prompted some hike cancelations, but this idea will be continued next year.

Trails and Waves featured more conservation articles this year than almost any previous years. Articles included Don't trash the trails, Lethal Firewood, PennEast Pipeline, The Woods Around Us, and Our Public Lands.

The Chapter also sponsored several popular movie nights with conservation themes.

FIRE ISLAND

Anita Barberis, Chair



In 2016, weather worked with us as we enjoyed a full season of 20 weekends and 21 mid-weeks with no horrific weather or absent transportation interruptions.

We implemented our on-going maintenance program to ensure that our structures were safe and our land was in the best condition as we do cope with a salt-water environment and we accomplished the following:

- Replaced two rotten locust posts under the northwest side of the Cabin with 6x6 pressure-treated posts.
- Replaced the deteriorating shed for beach chairs with a new one
- Resided the exterior walls surrounding the ocean-side deck with new pre-dipped cedar shingles after removing rotten sheathing over a new moisture barrier.
- Installed three new electrically powered skylights over the two dorms and kitchen
- Built a new clothesline (8ft x 15ft) with flooring and fencing located in the sun on the east side (south of the garden)
- Rebuilt the steps to the kitchen on the south side and made them wider
- Placed vents in all outdoor shed for better ventilation
- Removed non-working commercial refrigerator. Assembled and installed two new residential refrigerators

Further work targeted next season to complete the kitchen.

This season we maintained full occupancy on weekends, but fell short on our mid-weeks especially during shoulder months of May, early June and late September. We are working on some new incentives to promote occupancy during those periods.

In planning our programs, we obliged the diversity of our audience, while at the same time following the tenets of AMC-recreation, education and conservation.

- Two mid-weeks in the summer months, when the kids are not in school, were dedicated to families and they both filled up.
- Two mid-week Sail Schools and seven weekends were dedicated to on-water activities where sailors & paddlers learned to safely navigate and enjoy our fleet of kayaks, canoes, sunfish and sloops on the Great South Bay and all were in high demand. Next season, we hope to introduce paddle-boarding with rented equipment.
- A weekend focusing on young members (U-30) drew a contingency of folks that have since repeated other weekends...we are making headway with the younger market.
- On land activities addressed yoga, painting, dancing and a new Chocolate weekend which was quite successful, with max attendance, for an end of season theme.
- We also partnered with:
 - The American Littoral Society for a mid-week conservation seashore adventure examining the natural habitat (plants, birds etc) of Fire Island.

- The Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) rangers and their group stayed overnight at the Cabin on the last leg of their trek to the Lighthouse. (western beginning of Fire Island)

As a truly all-volunteer facility, we have engaged more than 125 AMC members who have managed a weekend or mid-week or led an activity and we acknowledge their volunteer efforts with a thank you dinner in the city.

HARRIMAN PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Eileen Yin, Chair

NY-NoJ Chapter Volunteer Commitment to HOC - DRAFT

- 100 HPC Volunteers & Supporters
- 22 HPC Leaders
- 12 Pre-Season Volunteer Work Days
- 21 HPC Chapter Events *
- 226 HPC Chapter Event Guests
- 364 Bed Nights



- 1 canceled, Leaders Backpack
- 2 insufficient participants, Friday daytime programs

Other HPC Observations

- Introduced 226+ people to HOC
- 18 Live Chapter Programs, almost all filled and 3 with active waiting lists
- Repeat Chapter Event participants
- Chapter Events Participants then rent accommodations on their own
- Registrants become New Members in order to participate at discounted Member rates
- AMC “followers” convert to membership in order to participate in programs at the Member rate
 - At least 5 people have told me they have stayed 3-5 times this season, either with our program or combo program and individually
- New Membership numbers improving

Chapter Membership Observations – Greater NYC Strategy centered on HOC is Working!

- Membership slide finally flattened out
- Membership increase in sustainable categories we want ... Families and Under-30s!!!!

HOSPITALITY

Bob Susser, Hospitality Chair

Annual Meeting/Dinner

By my count, 97 people attended the AMC NY-NoJ Annual Meeting & Dinner on Saturday, January 9th, at Connelly's Pub & Restaurant on 47th St. & 5th Ave. (Unfortunately, the total capacity of this fine restaurant is only 100, so notwithstanding the good food, very convenient location, attentive staff, and price of only \$30 per person, it tends to be quite crowded -- considering the size of our group.)

The special speaker was Glen Nison, a noted outdoor photographer, who presented a slide show entitled "Hills, Lakes and Trails of Harriman State Park - a Four-season Photo Journey."

The formal program was preceded by a moderately-paced walk on Roosevelt Island led by Rita Cohen, which included all the important historical sites and architectural treasures of that island, including the Four Freedoms Park and the Octagon Art Gallery.

Also, Jane Levenson, a long-term tour guide at the American Museum of Natural History, led a tour of assorted highlights of the museum, including some of the lesser known special favorites, and ending with the seasonal Origami Tree.

There was also a chamber music concert at the Library of Performing Arts.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Bear Mountain

64 adults paid \$40 apiece for the **Thanksgiving Dinner at the Bear Mountain Inn**. This event has been a long-standing tradition of the chapter. Sponsored by the Hiking Committee, it began in 1979 -- i.e., it has been taking place every year for 35 years! Even during the approximately nine years that the Inn was closed for renovations, the dinner was nevertheless held -- either at Overlook or at Cliffhouse. For the past three years it has returned to the Inn, where we have had our own spacious room. As usual, the turkey dinner was preceded by hikes of varying difficulty. This year the leaders were Wayne Foote who led a 3D6(H), Dorothy Lourdou who led a 2C5(H), and Bob Susser who led a 1B3(H).

NOMINATING

Henry Schreiber, Chair

The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for the Chapter's annual election for Chapter Executive Committee -- Chapter Chair, Chapter Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Liaison for Activity Committees, Liaison for Communication Committees, and Liaison for Service Committees. Chapter by-laws require that the list of nominees be published not less than 60 days before the Chapter annual election.

The Committee might also be asked to suggest possible candidates to fill any Executive Committee vacancy that occurs between elections, as well as committee chairs.

Nominees for the 2017 Executive Committee are:

Chair	Cynthia Tollo Falls
Vice Chair	Nathan Baker
Secretary	Rob Hollbrook
Treasurer	David Lloyd
Liaison for Activity Committees	Ed Sobin
Liaison for Communication Committees	Lee Hoffman
Liaison for Facilities Committees	Oliver Dettler

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Richard Barcia is a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

The Nomination Committee members are:

- Henry Schreiber, Chair
- David Lamb
- Richard Seibel
- Barry Skura

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Hope Rodgers, Chair

The chapter continued to maintain 9 miles of trails east of the Hudson, 17 miles in New Jersey, and a whopping 41 miles west of the Hudson, primarily in Harriman/Bear Mt. State Parks. The west of Hudson trails include 4+ miles in Harriman newly adopted this year.

Herb Hochberg continued to supervise maintenance east of the Hudson, while Steve Weissman supervised maintenance of New Jersey trails. Bill Hladky, AMC west of Hudson trail supervisor, recruited and trained several energetic new maintainers and also conducted group maintenance outings. In October, Joel Pinsker led a Young Members group, sprucing up overgrown trails near HOC. Plans for the coming year include more group outings and two weekend-long maintenance workshops at HOC in 2017. A mix of solo maintaining and group outings should draw in a variety of potential maintainers.



Until now, trail maintainers had to buy and bring their own tools. But this year the chapter purchased maintenance tools to be kept at HOC. Maintainers arriving at Harriman by bus won't need to lug saws, shears, and other heavy tools on public transportation. The new tool collection will enable more people to get involved in maintaining our miles of trails. There's always more maintaining to do!

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Jonathan Silver, Co-Chair

Maureen McCahery, Co-Chair

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 2016, our nineteenth year, we conducted 4 WFA courses. We trained 55 chapter members and others in the basics of wilderness emergency care.

One of our courses was run at the new Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman state Park. I want to thank Jeff Alpert and Richard Dabal who let this very successful and popular course.

We will continue to run our voucher program in 2016. 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.

Thanks to our Committee Members and WFA Instructors:

Jonathan Silver, Co-Chair

Maureen McCahery, Co-Chair

Jeffrey Alpert, Instructor

Richard Dabal, Instructor

Christiane Siebert, Instructor

CHAPTER VOLUNTEER AWARDS SECTION

2016 CHAPTER VOLUNTEER AWARDS

APPIE OF THE YEAR

Since 1979, the Advisory Committee of the New York – North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club each year chooses the Appie of the Year. The Appie of the Year is an individual who gives selflessly of him/her self for the good of the club. The Appie is one who works tirelessly, often behind the scenes, organizing, leading in fact and by example. The Appie is one who has served in this manner for several years, thus over time continuing this commitment. The Appie exemplifies what is best about the volunteer ethic that makes our club and most particularly our Chapter so special.

Joe Nigro

Hiking



Joe has led more than 10 hikes a year regularly for about 25 years. Joe is consistently thoughtful and helpful to each member of the group which he is leading. Joe is gracious to new people who joined a hike more rigorous than they realized. Last year, Joe led more than 20 hikes with sometimes more than 50 participants, despite going through chemotherapy.

Joe's consistent leadership and enthusiasm has helped to bring members into our hiking community and encouraged the development of new leaders.

INSPIRATIONAL VOLUNTEER

For a member who embodies the spirit of our chapter and inspires others by leading, mentoring, or encouraging leadership or activity for AMC this year

Ken Elion

Hiking Committee



“I have hiked with many different leaders and it seems that Ken most often has his AMC hat on - recruiting others to participate in hikes as well as leadership roles. He copes with challenges with patience and quiet humor - and always finds a positive outcome for all. His words of encouragement have often led to hikers overcoming doubts about their ability and stretching to achieve a new milestone. This leads to more participation and better hikers - and greater commitment to AMC. He consistently speaks of leadership opportunities for others and encourages training for those roles.

Ken helps keep the strong culture of AMC thriving. He is a leader in all respects and a wonderful representative of the organization.”

AMBASSADOR

For a member who encourages others to participate with AMC or promotes AMC and our Chapter by recruiting, speaking for or representing AMC at events (including in office, outside venue or related to an activity), etc. this year

Butch Futrell

Canoe and Kayak



“Since 2002 Wendell "Butch" Futrell has lead 33 trips and 37 kayak instructionals plus attends and volunteers at pools sessions plus mentors paddlers on rivers. He is dedicated and giving and an incredible person. A great many passers have learned from him. Butch became a master trip leader in 2015. “

Butch’s spirit of volunteerism and promoting and advocating the core values of the AMC make him an upstanding Ambassador for the Chapter.

UNSUNG HERO

For a member who supports the chapter in less visible or is celebrated in ways behind the scenes, such as public service (conservation, trails), communications, editing, committee service, record keeping, etc. this year

Susan Bernstein

Communications Committee Eblast Coordinator



Susan has been our Chapter Eblast Coordinator going back to 2011. The Chapter sends out 12 Eblasts a year. The design and layout of these email messages has gotten more sophisticated and the content more relevant. All this takes messages and coordination with the Chair, Communications Exec., Chapter Committees, and Boston staff. All of this behind the scenes effort takes time. Susan has done this job willingly even with tight deadlines. This work has resulted in a 37% increase in click rates. We appreciate Susan’s work in furthering the Chapter goal of better communications.

2016 CHAPTER 20 YEAR VOLUNTEERS (continued from 2015)

Richard Wolff	Wayne Foote	Naomi Sutter
Bob Fuller	JoAnn Gisolfi	John Swanson
Rich Weiler	Ed Goldstein	Art Tollefson
Rich Anderson	John Graham	Tim Watters
Ken West	Bill Hladky	Dick and Wolff
Robert Riordan	Howard Israel	Nancy Wolff
Mary Hilley	John Jurasek	Maureen McCahery
Margo Moss	Hal Kaplan	Jonathan Silver
Ed Sobin	Judy Kossover	Art Portmore
Ron Gonzalez	David Lamb	John Bradley
Ron Phelps	Jane Levenson	Jack Reilly
Rich Seibel	Rick Levine	Jim Robbins
Dean Gletsos	Irene Logan	Henry Schreiber
David Sutter	Mason Logie	Lenny Grefig
Don Getzin	Dorothy Lourdou	Marte Plante
Jill Arbuckle	Margo Moss	Rich Breton
Frank Bamberger	Joe Nigro	Anita Barberis
Janice Bortree	Aaron Schoenberg	Wanda Davenport
Minu Chaudhuri	Bob Susser	Marty Cohen
John Fitzpatrick	David Sutter	Nancy Tollefson

2016 CHAPTER MASTER LEADERS

Mark Gordon	Bruce Bernstein	Neil Grossman
Gery Monaco	Charles Michener	Suzanne Villegas
Stuart Falls	Art Almeida	Jake Lewis
Ken Elion	John Swanson	Klara Marton
Jane Levenson	Ed Goldstein	Rita Cohen
Greg Parot	Russ Faller	
John Graham	Gary Mcelvany	
Wanda Davenport	Loretta Brady	
Howard Millman	Vadim Steponick	
Rita Gollin	Marty Plante	



GET OUTDOORS WITH THE AMC!

NEW YORK-NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER