AMC NY-NOJ CHAPTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

BE OUTDOORS
APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

https://www.amc-ny.org/

"The land remembers what we said and what we did. Stories are among our most potent tools for restoring the land as well as our relationship to the land."
Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, professor and scientist, in
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants
(p.341, 2013)

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2020 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Executive Committee Officers

Chair, Kaspar Alexander

Vice Chair, Richard Bryan

Treasurer, John Allman

Facilities and Services Executive, Dawn Riley

Communications Chair, Geraldine Sweeney

Secretary, Ilene Greenfield

Activities Executive, David Lamb

In addition to the Officers above, the Executive Committee of the New York – North Jersey Chapter includes the following volunteers and positions:

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee Co-Chairs, Crystal Williams and Sarah L. Rasmusson

Leadership Training Chair, Ed Sobin

Conservation Committee Chair, David Hartree

Membership Committee Chair, Karen Miller

AMC Regionl Director, Cindy Butts

Activity Committee Chairs

Archives, Jack Reilly

Backpacking, David Mong

Bicycling, Eileen Yin and Dimitri Akrivos

Canoe and Kayak, Charles Michener

Climbing, RJ Lau and Stephen Greer

Hiking, Vlad Rud and Sandy Xian

Skiing, Ed Sobin

Softball, Fern Stolper

Young Members, John Perilli and Ryan Tang

Facilities and Services Committee Chairs

Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center Programming, Herb Zoota

Fire Island Cabin, Diane Serlin

Hospitality, Melissa Marine

Trails

- East of Hudson Trails, Joe Rodriguez
- West of Hudson Trails, Bill Hladky
- NY/NJ Trail Conference Liaison, Steve Weissman
- Urban-Suburban Trails, Kenneth West

Advisory Chair, Nathan Baker

Nominating Chair, Henry Schreiber

Programming Chair, Eileen Yin; Co-Chair, Peter Gourri

Wilderness First Aid Chair, Richard Dabal

2020 AMC
NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY
CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair, Kaspar Alexander

Vice Chair, Richard Bryan

Treasurer, John Allman

Facilities and Services, Dawn Riley

Communications, Geraldine Sweeney

Secretary, Ilene Greenfield

Activities, David Lamb

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

One of my favorite parts of being an outdoor citizen with the Appalachian Mountain Club is that we prepare for the unexpected, work together, and always rise to a challenge. We choose the trail, mountain, river, bike path, Central Park softball field, the Stephen & Betsy Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC) or Fire Island beach over the couch. We choose adventure over the routine. The following report reflects my deep gratitude and appreciation of our volunteers, whose skills and fortitude were tested indoors and outdoors in 2020!

Progress Through A Pandemic

In last year's Chair Report, I outlined the importance of AMC Mission Fulfillment and Operational Excellence—in short, how your Executive Committee would be approaching Chapter prioritization and operations in 2020.

Key initiatives included the Earth Day 50th Anniversary event, Outdoor Leadership and Wilderness First Aid investment, and local support for the Baker Sebago Camp Development. The arrival of COVID-19 early in the year, unfortunately, threw a wrench in many of our plans, but I am pleased to report that we took it in stride and still achieved a great deal. Here are a few select highlights:

- Our Chapter pivoted from the Earth Day 50th Anniversary event in Union Square in New York City to an online event presented with the Club that had more than 200 attendees. Special thanks to our Chapter Conservation Chair David Hartree; Justin Bailey, AMC volunteer relations manager; and Mark Zakutansky, AMC director of conservation policy engagement, for organizing an instant classic!
- We rolled out new COVID-19 safety precautions and activity policies, which enabled Volunteer Leaders to safely implement more than 150 activities and programs since our 're-opening' in July. This was an evolving situation, frequently changing by the day, but every Committee Chair and Activity Leader across the Club displayed incredible flexibility and positivity. Programming at the CHOC was also frequently completely booked, thanks to the hard work of Herb Zoota.
- A virtual event and programming series, #BeOnlineWithAMC, launched with bi-weekly programming — you could say, catapulted —with more than 3,000 attendees and 4,500 online views since inception March, 2020. This series has been the bedrock of our programming this year, and we look forward to expanding it going forward. Thank you Eileen Yin, Peter Gourri, and Rick Bryan!
- Several Wilderness First Aid (WFA) instructional classes, where dozens of students honed critical skills for staying safe if something goes sideways in the outdoors, were conducted. Many thanks to WFA Chair Richard Dabal for his leadership of this critically important committee, which quite literally saves lives.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) grew from one of many 2019 initiatives to a central focus in 2020. The Black Lives Matter social justice movement was the catalyst for this prioritization, and helped unify our collective outrage into action. There was strong and vocal outpouring of support for the movement from across the Chapter, with many calling for positive action at both the Chapter and Club levels. The AMC's mission is for all to enjoy and protect the outdoors, and this is inextricably tied to social justice. It is important to recognize that our Chapter, like our country, is a collection of individuals who are at varying points of a journey. There are some who have suffered injustice their entire lives, through no fault of their own. There are some who had never heard of "racism in the outdoors" before this year. And there are some who have dedicated their personal and professional lives to eradicating systemic racism. The New York – North Jersey Chapter is a safe space for everyone, and we are committed to support current and future members who share the vision of everyone being outdoors.

This DEI vision began to form a new point of reference and framework for our entire Chapter as we look back and review this year. We initiated a DEI working group in June, with representation across almost all corners of our Chapter. In August we evolved that group into the Chapter's first official DEI Committee, and amended Chapter Bylaws to add DEI, Conservation, Membership and Leadership committees to the Chapter Executive Committee. With the leadership skills and knowledge of DEI Committee Co-Chairs Crystal and Sarah Rasmusson, these virtual weekly meetings have gained momentum, creating training and scholarship opportunities in conjunction with other Chapters and the Club.

The purpose of the DEI Committee is to bring 'social justice outdoors' for the AMC New York – North Jersey Chapter. The Committee is committed to increasing Chapter membership and advancing new leadership for those not historically represented by outdoor clubs. The Chapter expects to fund scholarships for families, gear and classes. The DEI Committee also is building collaborations with a variety of committees and across other chapters as we form external partnerships with area colleges and other progressive outdoor clubs.

We still have much work to do, but I believe we are on the right track and will continue to make progress in the coming days. I encourage everyone to participate. Stay in touch by following our social media accounts and subscribing to our Chapter email newsletter.

Investing in Our Future

In 2019, we began developing an investment thesis and governing framework for the deployment of the New York – North Jersey Chapter's financial resources. As part of this framework, we created an Excess Reserves Working Group, composed of Treasurer John Allman, Facilities and Services Chair Dawn Riley, and myself. This group is responsible for partnering with Committee Chairs to craft investment proposals for the Chapter Executive Committee's review and ratification. In 2020, we funded the first three investment proposals with $15,000, including the purchase of training equipment for Wilderness First Aid classes, the purchase of a new boat trailer for the Canoe and Kayak Committee, and a contribution to the Climbing Resource Protection Fund that is developing the Hanging Mountain Climbing Area 2.5 hours north of New York City. Over the next five years, we aim to allocate more than $250,000 in Chapter programming, capital investments, and leadership development to further our conservation and recreation mission. We have many strategic goals and are putting our resources where they will count. We invite and welcome all proposals from our members!

In closing, I would like to thank the other members of the Chapter Executive Committee, particularly Vice Chair Rick Bryan and Communications Chair Geraldine Sweeney, who will be moving on from the Committee in 2021. Your contributions over the last year have been critical, and I can confidently say that the Chapter is in a better place because of your selfless commitment and dedicated hard work. Despite the turbulence caused by COVID-19, we made progress with our strategic initiatives and are set for multi-year growth within our Chapter. Join me in praising the incredible efforts of our volunteers across the Chapter. We are thrilled to see more interest than ever in being outdoors, and I can't wait to kick off 2021 together!

Respectfully submitted,

Kaspar Alexander
Chair
AMC NY-NoJ Chapter

Co-Chair
Crystal Williams

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Bringing Social Justice Outdoors

"A Statement from DEI Co-Chair Sarah L. Rasmusson"

Co-Chair
Sarah L. Rasmusson

Say Her Name. The remembrance of Black women killed by police might seem unrelated to our AMC New York - North Jersey Chapter. Yet, many who have lost their lives were also outdoor enthusiasts. One 28-year-old, who died in police custody on July 13, 2015, in Hempstead, Texas, had a college degree in agriculture as a 4H camp counselor. Her name was Sandra Bland. One 26-year-old, shot to death by police on March 13, 2020, in Louisville, Kentucky, had worked as a certified EMT and ER technician. Her name was Breonna Taylor.

For our AMC New York - North Jersey Chapter, we have the opportunity to positively impact the legacies of Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor as those with the skills and appreciation for the outdoors who will never again have the chance to serve their communities. This past August, organizational vision met with bold leadership by launching the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee. Growing from a six-person, all-white working group to more than 20 weekly participants that is a quarter Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), we are changing the way we work by collaborating on a shared statement of purpose.

Our mission: to bring social justice outdoors for the Chapter. We are committed to increasing new membership and new leadership for those not historically represented by outdoor clubs and those who are new outdoor enthusiasts. We are funding scholarships for families, gear and skills training. We are also building collaborations across various committees within the Chapter and across AMC chapters as we form external partnerships with both local colleges and other outdoor clubs.

With the support of Chapter leadership and several of our peer chapters, the DEI committee worked diligently this past summer even though we are all not able to get together in person to share our love of the outdoors. Still, we've set ambitious goals for the remainder of 2020 and for all of 2021. A multi-year plan, that will see our Chapter spend tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships, includes:

- 100 Annual Memberships;
- 10 Family Memberships;
- 100 Scholarships for gear and transportation;
- 1 Wilderness First Aid Scholarship;
- 1 Young Members Event;
- 1 Scholarship for Leadership Training.

In addition, our newly formed and increasingly central BIPOC Women's Caucus continues to meet monthly, carving out an inspiring slate of programming with the goal of realizing AMC's inspiration to "Be Outdoors." Looking ahead, we envision establishing undergraduate and graduate student grants in environmental science or ranger professional development for those interested in outdoor careers. Perhaps our most anticipated development will be working across committees and across chapters on developing anti-racism training.

We Say Her Name with a sense of personal and collective accountability to address access to the outdoors. We Say Her Name with an awareness that the violence of American racism and sexism is connected to global climate change and the destruction of the natural environment—long important in the conservation movement. We Say Her Name with a determination to create cultural and structural changes that will diversify our Chapter's membership, welcome new leadership and share resources equitably.

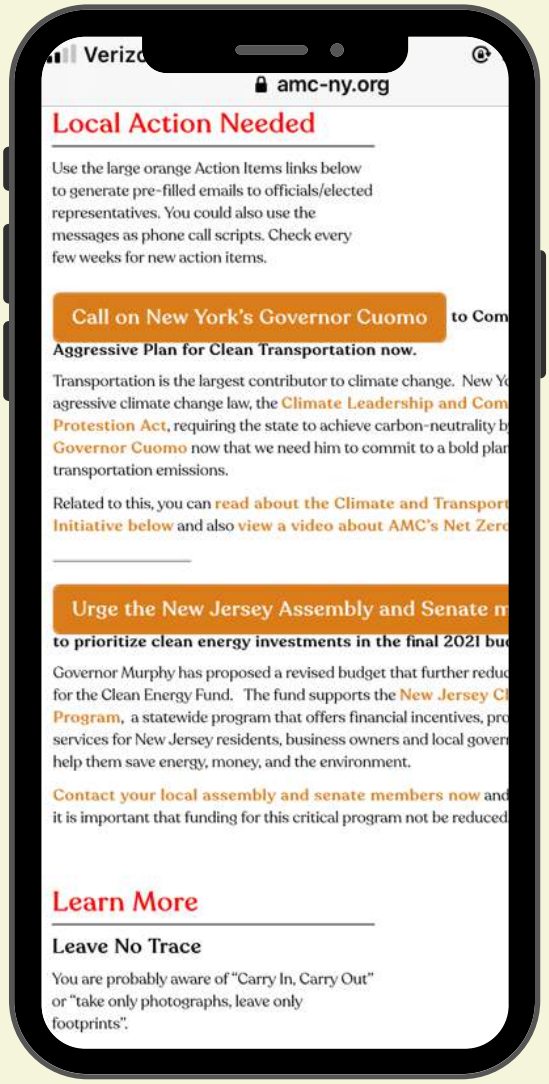
Barely two months old, the DEI Committee is excited to be a leader in this positive transformation of the New York - North Jersey Chapter as the oldest chapter of the nation's oldest outdoor club. We have an amazing opportunity to change our chapter and our world. Join us as we move to make an impact now and for the future—one that would have both included and been influenced by Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor.

CHAPTER CONSERVATION

Chair, David Hartree

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of the 50th Earth Day exposition planned for New York City's Union Square in April 2020, where we had reserved a booth to showcase the AMC's conservation work since the very first Earth Day event. Still, the Chapter's conservation events continued through the spring, summer and fall. Thanks to a well-attended program of Tuesday lunchtime and Thursday evening #BeOnlineWithAMC webinars utilizing the Zoom and social media platforms, Chapter members organized programs that provided expert perspective on many pressing conservation issues. Those programs, which can be replayed from the Chapter's Facebook page, highlighted topics, examples of which include:

- Recycling in NYC with Sims Municipal Recycling
- Citizen Science Eel Surveys in the Hudson River with the New York State Department of Conservation
- Siting of Wind Energy with The Nature Conservancy
- Invasive Species Management with New York State Department of Conservation



In addition, during Earth Day week, Mark Zakutansky, AMC Director of Conservation Policy Engagement, presented the virtual "Earth Day: Then and Now" program, describing AMC's future priorities. The Conservation Committee thanks the organizers of the 2020 conservation virtual events and the speakers, which comprised both AMC members and other experts.

In September, our work on the conservation web page came to fruition and the completely updated conservation web page www.amc-ny.org/conservation went live. The Conservation Committee aims to update this page regularly to communicate time-sensitive conservation alerts for New York and New Jersey. The page also provides local action item links that generate a tailored email message to legislators or other decision-makers and can be edited by the user. This works in the same way as Club-Wide Conservation Action items, which are already familiar to many. Towards the bottom of the page is a link to upcoming virtual and in-person conservation events, as well as a curated archive of past Zoom webinars on conservation topics.

The Conservation Committee's future plans include advancing the Chapter's commitment to the principles of Leave No Trace across all outdoor activities, and exploring ways to advance conservation education and participation at the Stephan & Betsy Harriman Outdoor Center. The Conservation Committee will also encourage leaders (hiking, backpacking, paddling, virtual programming and so on) to add "conservation" as an activity category in Activity Database descriptions. Occasional Chapter conservation planning meetings will take place in 2021. These planning meetings will be open to all, and will provide a forum where we can share ideas for conservation events such as volunteer work and citizen science. You will find announcements and listings of these planning sessions on the new conservation web page — please check back often!

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Chair, Ed Sobin

2020 marks five years since the formation of the Chapter's Leadership Committee, and the group continues to explore new ways to train more leaders. The Leadership Training weekend usually offered annually in mid-May at Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the Leadership Committee conducted more half-day virtual training sessions.

The goals of the Leadership Training Committee continue to be:

- To make it easier to get new leaders trained and leading activities.
- To make sure potential leaders learn the basic AMC leadership skills that are not activity-specific, such as: trip planning, incident reporting, trip talk at the start, using the Activity Database (ActDB) and social media, liability issues, and so forth, enabling the activity committees to concentrate on the skills needed for those respective activities.
- To make it easier for AMC leaders to lead for different chapters if they move out of or into the New York and North Jersey area.

2020 Highlights

- The two-hour Introduction to Leadership class transformed this year into a four-and-a-half-hour class that covers all the necessary information to get members started on how to lead. Activity-specific requirements still have to be met.
- In the first nine months of 2020, January through September, the Leadership Training Committee conducted four half-day classes, compared to a single program conducted last year. One of this year's programs took place in person at the New York City Chapter office, and the other three were offered virtually using the Zoom platform.
- Leadership Training Committee is collaborating closely with the newly established Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to update the leadership syllabus; change some of the requirements along the path to leadership; and promote the work of both committees to all committee participants.
- Leadership Training Committee shares new leader information with the regionally-adjacent Delaware Valley and Connecticut chapters for the benefit of members who reside in between the two chapters.

2021 Plans

- Improve tracking the Leaders in Training as they progress toward becoming leaders.
- Improve communication and assistance to help the Leaders in Training become leaders.
- Conduct a Weekend Leadership Workshop when the pandemic restrictions are lifted.
- Offer five half-day classes and one in-person class, possibly extending them from four hours to six hours, including some outdoor time.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Chair, Karen Miller

While member sign-up and retention has been on a downward trend for the past decade in the AMC New York – North Jersey Chapter, and throughout the entire organization for that matter, the extenuating circumstances of 2020 brought about unique challenges which resulted in developing innovative approaches to encourage member renewal. As of August 2020, Chapter membership stood at 9,588, which is 1,158 fewer than August, 2019.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives are paramount to the role of the Chapter Membership Chair going into 2021. The pandemic, and more importantly the surge in the movement for social justice, has forced us to reevaluate how we recruit and retain members. The progress that has been made in such a short time with DEI initiatives as well as the adaptation of activities to accommodate changing circumstances brings a sense of pride. For instance, the Chapter's well-attended virtual events exemplify the kind of collective innovative spirit members represent as a chapter. The Chapter intends to continue its leading role in this capacity in 2021, beyond when outdoor activities allow, and attract larger attendance.

The Chapter is ready for change and is already seizing new opportunities to grow membership through new and expanded initiatives revolving around our drive for diversity, equity and inclusion. As we begin to resume regular activities, the Chapter hopes those who were unable to renew membership due to difficult circumstances will rejoin. The Chapter appreciates the efforts of so many member volunteers, who continue to offer time, support and feedback to bring more people outdoors in fulfilling, new ways.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Geraldine Sweeney

In 2020, the Communications Committee continued to engage with the Chapter's membership through monthly "e-Blast" newsletters and focused social media posts. To build on these efforts, the Communications Committee engaged with a communications expert to conduct a landscape analysis of the Chapter's current communications efforts. This work included an in-depth review of the Chapter's online presence, including its website and social media channels, the Chapter's 2019 Annual Report and other publications, including *Trails and Waves, Paddle Splashes,* and the monthly e-blast. Interviews and surveys were conducted with Committee across the Chapter. The following recommendations reflect the analysis of the work:

- Streamline and improve the Chapter website.
- Relaunch Chapter communication vehicles such as the *Trails and Waves* magazine.
- Develop a communications structure so that communications efforts across the Chapter can be disseminated in a coordinated fashion.
- Reach new people and engage members who traditionally support AMC because of recreation work and educate/engage them about environmental conservation as well.
- Reach and welcome people from minority backgrounds and introduce outdoor activities to more people as well, both young and old.

In 2021, the Communications Committee looks forward to redoubling efforts in communicating to the Chapter's members and reaching new audiences. The goal is to deliver an effective communications framework through which all members feel connected to the Chapter, the AMC and to each other. We want to ensure all of the Chapter's events are being promoted in a timely manner, so that more people can enjoy the outdoors in New York and North Jersey and participate in AMC's Mission and Vision.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

In the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, with most of us isolating under stay-at-home orders, the Programs Committee found a way for us to stay connected as a community by offering online programs that highlighted our core AMC interests.

From April to October, the Programs Committee provided 36 Virtual Programs, with more planned for this winter. At the height of the pandemic in our region, we presented programs twice a week. Tuesday Lunch and Learns typically focused on Conservation themes, while Thursday Happy Hour Talks covered Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Travel subjects.

The Chapter's Programs were so impactful they were highlighted in an Outdoors Magazine article "AMC Volunteers Get Creative Under COVID-19 Precautions" on August 31, 2020:

https://www.outdoors.org/category/articles/amc-outdoors/bulletin-around-amc

The programs explored a wide range of conservation and environmental topics, including clean water and marine ecology, creating and protecting green spaces, wind energy, invasive species, and recycling in New York City. Non-traditional subjects were interesting and educational, such as urban farming, sustainable landscape practices, solutions to U.S. food waste, wildlife in NYC, and industrial archeology and historical artifacts of the Morris Canal Greenway.

Presentations related to a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation and adventure travel topics were especially popular, often registering upwards of 200 participants. AMC members and friends were incredibly generous. Some, such as Ed Sobin, Rob McWilliams, James Dyer and Daniel Stern, gave two or more presentations, for which the committee is grateful!

Derick Lugo's The Unlikely Thru-Hiker; Nancy Rickerson's Hiking the Routeburn Trek; Rob McWilliams' The Uncertain Joys of Hiking Scottish Hills; Ed Sobin's Hiking Mt. Everest; James Dyer's Following in the Footsteps of T.E. Lawrence; Chef Glenn McAllister's Introduction to Drying Food; Curt Gellerman's Wilderness Canoe Expeditioning; and Leigh Hallingby's Virtual Tour of the Audubon Mural Project. Also super popular were a series of birding talks by the Audubon Society and evening yoga sessions by Daniel Stern.

Presentations utilized the Zoom platform to encourage group interaction. Almost all events were also live-streamed on Facebook to ensure overflow attendees could also actively participate. If you're interested in viewing any of these virtual programs, check out of the archives at https://www.facebook.com/AMCNYNJ/videos

Special thanks to everyone who organized and hosted online events: Eileen Yin, Peter Gourri, Rick Bryan, Dawn Riley, Carrie Ho, and David Hartree.

CHAPTER TREASURER

John Allman

The nine months ending September 30, 2020 reflected a reduced level of activity for the Chapter compared to the prior year, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, local cash balances (Chapter; Softball; Canoe and Kayak) increased from $90,985 as of December 31, 2019, to $121,017 as of September 30, 2020. The following chart shows that the Chapter's cumulative cash flow for 2020 became higher in comparison to 2019, mainly due to far less spending on lodging, rent, administration costs and other program expenses, offset partially by lower collections from programs.

2020 Financial Operating Performance

The New York – North Jersey Chapter began 2020 with a budget comprising $168,000 in revenue and net $215,000 in expenses for the full year, and thus a projected cash deficit of $47,000. The beginning of 2020 included several activities such as a successful weekend ski trip organized by the Young Members Committee, a climbing-focused Wilderness First Aid training course, and the 2019 Annual Meeting of Chapter members at City College of New York.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor and indoor gatherings were suspended in accordance with local and AMC-specific policies. Larger-scale events, including the Chapter picnic and Young Members Harriman Takeover and Fire Island weekends, were canceled. Chapter committees continued to meet virtually, however, with volunteers remaining connected by using cost-effective Zoom teleconference tools. This technology, together with enthusiastic volunteers, added popular new virtual programming events enjoyed by members and guests through collaborations with the Conservation, Membership, Program (newly founded), and Biking committees. Access to the home office at the West Side YMCA in Manhattan was suspended. The lease cost to the Chapter was terminated after March.

Limited re-opening in July under AMC's Phase 2 rubric guidelines enabled outdoor events with groups limited to 10 or less people, using social distancing, mask-wearing and sanitary protocols. These protocols allowed the Harriman Program Committee to operationalize 14 events and Wilderness First Aid to run four programs for the year. Other activity committees—including Biking, Hiking, Backpacking, Climbing, and Trails—also conducted various free outdoor events in accordance with the Phase 2 rubric guidelines set forth during the pandemic.

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From January–September 2020, AMC Revenue of $48,000 slightly exceeded the $47,000 for the same period, Year-to-Date (YTD) 2019. Larger gifts and endowment income overcame a drop of 11 percent in allocated member revenue for the four months preceding August.

Program revenues of $27,000 were only 25 percent of the annual budget and down 72 percent compared with the same period YTD 2019. Similarly, program expenses of $31,000 were 23 percent of budget and down 65 percent versus YTD 2019, while administrative expenses of $25,000 were 30 percent of budget and down 33 percent from YTD 2019. Net of the benefit of $11,000 prepaid in 2019 for 2020 expenses, the Net Local Cash Result of $30,000 is $15,000 higher than for YTD 2019. Adjusting for $16,000 in one-time-only items in 2019, and allowing for $7,000 of net outflows from Canoe and Kayak, results in the Chapter's cumulative cash position being $38,000 more than YTD 2019.

While activity levels have been lower, a variety of new initiatives commenced. An external study of the landscape of the Chapter's communication needs was completed, and a number of its recommendations will be implemented beginning next year, to improve messaging effectiveness. Key equipment was acquired by several committees in 2020 to further assist in their programs. The Chapter purchased new and replacement gear for the Climbing Committee; new canoes and a boat trailer for the Canoe and Kayak Committee; and a training mannequin and moulage kit for Wilderness First Aid.

Estimated Revenues and Expenses through the Reminder of 2020

By the end of 2020, the Treasurer anticipates $14,000 of additional revenue and $22,000 in expenses. This includes the final AMC allocated member revenue for the year, revenue and expenses from the remaining scheduled Harriman Outdoor Center and Wilderness First Aid events, expenses related to the virtual Annual Meeting and volunteer recognition, as well as some sundry administrative and potential DEI Committee initiatives.

Chapter Welcomes Major Gift from Bequest

The Chapter was fortunate to receive a significant bequest of $100,000 from a former Chapter member. This has been deposited in short-term reserves, with the intention of investing the funds in new DEI-related raining programs designed to increase representation of historically underrepresented people outdoors.

Excess Reserves Planning

Early in 2020, the Chapter's Executive Committee created a working group and approved various criteria to deploy the Chapter's Excess Reserves. So far, this has included larger equipment purchases by the Canoe and Kayak Committee and Wilderness First Aid from the local operating cash results, due to the over-budget surplus position and a $5,000 investment in AMC's Climbing Resource Protection Fund by the Climbing Committee.

Working with volunteers from all of the Chapter's committees and other AMC units, the aim is to continue this work in 2020 and beyond, identifying ways that make a portfolio of positive step investments which accelerate progress towards AMC's mission, in alignment with this mission and local Chapter goals.

Looking ahead to 2021

With the pandemic still active, AMC has advised to prepare as if Phase 2 will continue until next summer. As a result, all indoor and outdoor activities are limited to 10 participants or less. The 2021 budget likely will be a combination of continued virtual meetings and virtual programming, small group activities, and ramping up of the new committees during the winter and spring season. Hopefully, there will be more typical activities programming for the summer and fall seasons next year.

Like this year, the intention in 2021 is to be prudent with the management and use of Chapter funds. Beginning in 2021, QuickBooks software will be used to record Chapter financial transactions. Financial volumes for 2020 have been lower than YTD 2019, with 128 transactions in 2020 compared with 183 transactions last year. (In 2019, the total number of transactions was 219.) The goals of the QuickBooks project are to create improved financial controls, transparency, succession planning and data management.

Chapter Financial Assets Summary

The following sheet shows more details about the financial position for September 2020 YTD compared to last year and budget, and a revised estimate through the end of 2020. The information reflects local cash positions, as well as Chapter Reserves, Excess Reserves and Endowments held by AMC on behalf of the Chapter.

cont'd

Financial Annual Report	Sep-20	Sep-19	Variance	to Dec-20	2020	to Budget	2020	2019	Variance
	vs Budget %	vs Actual '19 %	vs YTD'19 %	vs Estim'2020 %	vs Actual'19 %	vs Budget %	vs Budget %	Prior Year	vs Actual'19 %
AMC Revenue									
Chapter Allocations	19,461	21,027	(1,566)	8,546	32,000	(3,992)	28,008	31,529	(3,521)
Endowment Income	25,112	24,647	465	-	24,500	612	25,112	24,647	465
Membership Bonus	1,660	1,230	430	720	5,500	(3,120)	2,380	4,710	(2,330)
Gifts	2,250		2,250	-		2,250	2,250		2,250
	48,484	46,904	1,579	**9,266**	62,000	(4,250)	**57,750**	60,886	(3,136)
	78%	77%	3%	16%	102%	-7%	93%	100%	-5%
Program Revenue									
Chapter	2,709	20,858	(18,150)	-	25,500	(22,791)	2,709	22,841	(20,132)
Activities	10,268	37,327	(27,059)	152	44,000	(33,580)	10,420	37,387	(26,967)
Facilities & Services	13,751	37,925	(24,174)	4,431	37,100	(18,918)	18,182	37,925	(19,743)
	26,728	96,110	(69,382)	**4,582**	106,600	(75,290)	**31,310**	98,153	(66,843)
	25%	98%	-72%	15%	100%	-71%	29%	100%	-68%
Total Revenue	**75,211**	143,014	(67,803)	**13,849**	168,600	(79,540)	**89,060**	159,039	(69,979)
	45%	90%	-47%	16%	106%	-47%	53%	100%	-44%
Program Expenses									
Chapter	(7,710)	(22,670)	14,960	(5,690)	(49,600)	36,200	(13,400)	(24,401)	11,001
Activities	(9,128)	(27,245)	18,117	(872)	(43,400)	33,400	(10,000)	(27,245)	17,245
Facilities & Services	(14,005)	(39,636)	25,631	(3,125)	(40,700)	23,570	(17,130)	(39,636)	22,506
	(30,842)	(89,551)	58,709	**(9,688)**	(133,700)	93,170	**(40,530)**	(91,281)	50,751
	23%	98%	-66%	24%	146%	-70%	30%	100%	-56%
Administrative Expenses									
Chapter	(12,946)	(30,740)	17,793	(7,404)	(55,200)	34,850	(20,350)	(43,498)	23,148
Activities	(9,804)	(6,282)	(3,522)	(2,306)	(27,200)	15,090	(12,110)	(7,432)	(4,678)
Facilities & Services	(2,517)	(476)	(2,040)	(2,483)	(1,700)	(3,300)	(5,000)	(476)	(4,524)
	(25,267)	(37,498)	12,231	(12,193)	(84,100)	46,640	(37,460)	(51,407)	13,947
	38%	73%	-33%	33%	164%	-55%	45%	100%	-27%
Total Expenses	(56,109)	(127,049)	70,940	(21,881)	(217,800)	139,810	(77,990)	(142,688)	64,698
	26%	89%	-56%	28%	153%	-64%	36%	100%	-45%
Net Chapter Result	19,102	15,965	3,137	(8,032)	(49,200)	60,270	11,070	16,350	(5,280)
	38%	98%	20%	-73%	-301%	-123%	23%	100%	-32%
Change in Prepayments	10,930	(576)	11,506	-	2,500	8,430	10,930	(8,130)	19,060
TFR (to)/from AMC Reserve	-	(61,570)	61,570	-	16,666	(16,666)	-	(61,570)	61,570
Net Local Cash Flow	30,032	(46,181)	76,213	(8,032)	(30,034)	52,034	22,000	(53,349)	75,349
	-100%	87%	-165%	-37%	56%	-173%	-73%	100%	-141%
Opening Local Cash Balances	90,985	144,334	(53,349)	-	90,985	-	90,985	144,334	(53,349)
Closing Local Cash Balances									
Chapter	114,079	89,568	24,511	(7,269)	55,965	50,845	106,810	82,400	24,410
Canoe & Kayak	2,773	4,296	(1,523)	(587)	2,296	(110)	2,186	4,296	(2,110)
Softball	4,164	4,288	(125)	(175)	2,688	1,300	3,988	4,288	(300)
	121,017	98,153	22,863	(8,032)	60,950	52,034	112,985	90,985	22,000
	199%	108%	25%	-7%	67%	85%	181%	100%	24%
Chapter Balances held by AMC									
O/bal - Chapter Reserve	106,600	4,322	102,278		106,600	-	106,600	4,322	102,278
O/bal - Excess Reserves	193,364	205,450	(12,086)		193,364	-	193,364	205,450	(12,086)
	299,964	209,772	90,192	-	299,964	-	299,964	209,772	90,192
* Gifts/Bequests Received	100,000		100,000		-	100,000	100,000		100,000
Excess Reserves Invested	(5,000)		(5,000)	(5,000)	(23,000)	13,000	(10,000)		(10,000)
Chapter Transfers	-	61,570	(61,570)	-	(16,666)	16,666	-	61,570	(61,570)
^ Investment Earnings	-	20,275	(20,275)	-	7,735	(7,735)	-	28,622	(28,622)
Closing Balances held by AMC	394,964	291,617	103,347	(5,000)	268,033	121,931	389,964	299,964	90,000
	147%	97%	35%	-1%	89%	45%	145%	100%	30%
Endowments held by AMC									
^ NY-NoJ Chapter (8 donors)	597,214	594,388	2,826	-	625,831	(28,617)	597,214	622,326	(25,112)
	95%	96%	0%	0%	101%	-5%	96%	100%	-4%
CHAPTER FINANCIAL ASSETS	1,113,194	984,158	129,036	(13,032)	954,814	145,349	1,100,162	1,013,275	86,888
	117%	97%	13%	-1%	94%	15%	113%	100%	9%

^ Assumes 0.0% 2020 Returns

YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

As with many other committees, the Young Members (YM) Committee started 2020 strong and then the COVID-19 pandemic waylaid its plans and activities. In January, YM hosted its largest-ever Winter Weekend trip at a new location — the Turn of River Lodge just outside of Killington, Vermont. A group of about 50 Young Members, both new and existing members, enjoyed a long holiday weekend full of downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sightseeing. The new location was a complete success and YM certainly will look to revisit the Turn of River Lodge for future trips, public health permitting.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the Young Members were not able to host our traditional Spring Kickoff event, our summer weekend at Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center, nor any Fire Island trips. The Committee had to abandon plans for a YM-focused paddling trip which would have been held in May. Committee member departures occurred; these included Co-Chair Emily Berry and Committee Member-at-Large Mai Fawcett. Activities were suspended for several months, from April through June, and resumed with regular hiking trips and Committee meetings in July. Twenty members in mid-September participated in YM's first "open meeting" since the pandemic began.

On a positive note, in 2020 Young Members have also assumed leadership positions on several key Chapter committees, including Hiking, Climbing and for the Chapter itself. The work of R.J. Lau, Tom Meehan, Stephen Greer, Cara Dorney and several other intrepid members to rebuild the Chapter's Climbing Committee is noteworthy.

Over the next six to 12 months, the goals of the Young Members Committee are to: Rebuild the core YM leadership group, and reestablish a co-chair for the committee and expand YM's roster of hike and activity leaders who can lead activities specifically tailored for Young Members.

Work with the newly appointed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) co-chairs to reflect the overall Chapter DEI goals on the YM Committee, and establish YM as a driver of DEI for the Chapter. Revisit co-hosted events with other Chapter activity committees such as Canoe and Kayak, Climbing, Backpacking and Conservation.

BACKPACKING COMMITTEE

The primary project for the Backpacking Committee this year was an expanded adult novice backpacking workshop. Prior to COVID-19 disrupting both programs, the Backpacking Committee had 80 participants and leaders who were to attend the adult program. Plans for another 80 participants in the family program were under way. Ultimately, the Backpacking Committee had to cancel the family program because New York State would not allow the use of its group campsites.

The adult program was reworked to offer three backpacking trips on each of two weekends, not to exceed the ten-person AMC COVID-19 imposed limitation, by conducting those programs in separate wilderness locations in West Virginia. Participation declined a lot due to COVID-19 concerns. However, the first weekend went as scheduled. The second weekend had to be canceled due to the threat of heavy rain from Hurricane Laura.

The Backpacking Committee has scheduled a follow-up backpacking trip for many of the participants enrolled in the second weekend program. In preparation, the Backpacking Committee conducted two, 2 hour virtual sessions using the Zoom platform. It is open to those participating and any participant who has dropped out and would like to attend. The Backpacking Committee plans to open both programs in 2021, with the addition of a program at Harriman Outdoor Center in the fall.

Forty trips were offered as part of the Backpacking Committee's regular programming in 2020 compared with 49 programs offered in 2019 for the Backpacking Committee's regular programming. In 2020, however, 18 of them were cancelled due to COVID-19, whereas last year, only five such programs were cancelled. While most leaders have decided not to lead during the COVID-19 pandemic, enough trips were completed so that two leader trainees will have been able to finish the process of becoming Backpacking leaders.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

After several years of efforts by many AMC volunteers, we are happy to report that in 2020 the Bicycling Committee has become one of our Chapter's most active committees. As the COVID-19 pandemic upended our way of life and led to a pause of normal activities, travel restrictions and quarantines, especially in the densely populated Big Apple area, cycling became an outlet for many people due to its convenience and natural ability to maintain a safe distance. After quarantine restrictions were eased, the demand for group rides and virtual bike workshops was significant. The NY-NoJ Bicycling Committee was able to, in a small way, fill that void and in July, August and September, organized more than 40 separate events, giving people an opportunity to safely connect with the outdoors, participate in the Committee's organizing, and learn through our trainings and bike maintenance workshops.

Most of our events were over-subscribed, with as many people on the waitlist as there were participants. Trips rated as 'easy' seemed to be the most popular, which may be because, although there are many group bicycling clubs in the Chapter's geographic area, they generally offer rides at a faster pace and longer distance. In addition, our bike leaders scout and plan rides which use dedicated trails through parks, with very little riding along heavily trafficked streets. Thus, by offering rides that are more accessible to a wider audience, our Chapter is able to establish a niche for the bicycling community which meets the needs of our members and which is not being met by other organizations.

The Bicycling Committee is also excited that the Backpacking Committee has made significant progress towards developing "bike-packing" as a unique opportunity for members and looks forward to adding more bike-packing trips to the calendar for the 2021 season. The Bicycling Committee is also working with the Canoe and Kayak Committee to develop several events in 2021, in which participants in both activities can start and end their activities in the same location, most likely in the lower Catskills. Stay tuned for another great year of cross-committee trip collaborations!

Lastly, in 2020 our Committee added four new Bike Trip Leaders to our ranks: Herb Zoota, Dimitri Akrivos, Loretta Brady and Andrew Ricci. Please join us in congratulating our new bike leaders and we look forward to their bicycle adventures in the near future.

CANOE AND KAYAK COMMITTEE

What a strange and interesting year it's been with the Canoe and Kayak Committee (CKC). At first there was a lot of excitement when Charles Michener began his tenure as Chair. He quickly realized it was time to upgrade the equipment. Michener began the process of buying a new trailer, several new canoes, and a variety of other equipment. This process was interrupted by the onslaught of COVID-19.

The CKC had managed to buy two of the three canoes proposed. A new trailer was ordered and the deposit paid, but now the trailer is in Canada, waiting for the border to re-open. Once that happens, members can go and get it. Of course, all major spending has been suspended at the request of the AMC. Two additional seats were created on the Canoe and Kayak Committee, one for social media with responsibilities for expanding visibility in that realm, and one for outreach. The outreach seat was created to facilitate collaboration with the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP). The individual recruited to serve in this position is a YOP volunteer. This is the culmination of a multi-year effort, yet this advancement, too, has been interrupted due to the pandemic. The CKC is confident that the interruption is temporary.

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CANOE AND KAYAK COMMITTEE

The pandemic also had a substantial effect on the CKC's schedule. The general feeling among CKC trip leaders has been one of caution. Combined with the AMC's requirements and recommendations, this has resulted in almost no trips which would require shuttle transport service. That pretty much eliminated the CKC's Whitewater program for this season and many flat-water trips as well, although the heroic CKC leaders who have been taking trips out always have had full events with waiting lists.

Despite the obstacles, there have been a number of bright spots this year. The CKC opened its paddle sport leadership training to other AMC chapters. This has helped the other chapters expand their paddling communities as well as that of the New York – North Jersey Chapter. The CKC Chair looks forward to many inter-chapter paddling trips in the future, having a good roster of leaders in training who are waiting for opportunities to become full leaders. A couple of CKC leaders also completed leadership training this year with the Bicycle Committee, which offers some interesting possibilities for inter-committee collaborations.

The very truncated season has also given some CKC members the time they might not otherwise have had to become involved with the Chapter's efforts for social justice. The CKC Chair is proud to report that three members of the CKC are also involved with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI). The CKC has committed to have anti-racism training as well as to encourage its entire community to do so. The CKC members are also looking forward to joint DEI and CKC trips or trainings as soon as possible.

Assuming that conditions allow in 2021, the CKC looks forward to an exciting year it had planned for in 2020. Next year plans include a full roster of trips and instructors, collecting the new CKC trailer, and continuing to upgrade its equipment. The CKC looks forward to the first of many collaborative efforts with the Potomac Chapter Paddlers, the YOP volunteers, and the DEI Committee members. These will be golden opportunities for growth and revitalization.

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CANOE AND KAYAK COMMITTEE

Finances

The CKC revenue in 2020 has been negligible, while its recurring operating expenses remained the same. The main expenses in 2020 follow.

$2,700 Barn rental for 2020
$2,400 Canoe trailer
$275 Website expenses for 2020-2021
$900 Purchase a used Swift canoe
$700 Purchase a used whitewater canoe

Trips

Official CKC trips and activities completed or likely to be completed through 2020 follow; additional trips yet to be determined.

3/14/2020	Mullica River
4/18/2020	Leadership Workshop
7/5/2020	Nissequogue River
7/10/2020	Ladies' Canoe/Kayak Weekend
7/12/2020	Lower Carmans River
7/18/2020	Hudson Kayak Camping
7/26/2020	Millstone River
8/1/2020	Mohawk River
8/5/2020	Hudson Kayak Camping
TBD	Erie Canal or Wallkill River
8/20/2020	St Regis Canoe Area
10/2/2020	Adirondack Fall Foliage
10/9/2020	Adirondack Fall Foliage
10/18/2020	Pine Barrens

CLIMBING COMMITTEE

The Climbing Committee's leadership team turned over in 2020, and we're excited that so much has been accomplished this year. We began the year scheduling indoor climbing events and honing our skills in preparation for the Spring climbing season, which regrettably was abbreviated. Many of our indoor climbing events were a collaboration between the Climbing Committee and the Young Members Committee, and through this joint effort we recruited ten great, eager climbers and leaders. Prior to the COVID-19 suspension, we were able to conduct several leadership training programs, which were followed by a two-day intensive course on scenarios and skills, which are required as part of our leadership training procedures.

In late winter, the Chapter's Climbing Committee participated in an adaptive climbing event at The Cliffs in Long Island City, NY, through which it connected with different organizations that specialize in getting people with disabilities out to the crag. Through that event, the Chapter's Climbing Committee combined efforts to host an adaptive climbing trip to the Gunks in late July. The Chapter's Climbing Committee leaders also got involved with three top rope outings to Peterskill and Harriman.

The Climbing Committee looks forward to resuming all of its activities in 2021.

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CLIMBING COMMITTEE

***Photo Caption:** The New York-North Jersey Climbing Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club recruitment exhibit at The Cliff of Long Island City, New York. Pictured left to right are Chapter members Bryan Gold, Kalli Schumacher, David Schneider, Stephen Greer, RJ Lau (seated, center), Jilian Keller, Sarabeth Brockley, Sheryl Choo, Ryan Tang, Yan Cheng, and Anthony Leong*

HIKING COMMITTEE

The Hiking Committee is pleased to announce and recognize these recipients of its first annual Leader Appreciation awards:

- New Leaders with the Most Hikes – Chris Leggate
- Most Hikes Among All Leaders – Marty Carp
- Most Beginner-Friendly Hikes – Leslie Arthur
- Most Public Transportation-Friendly Hikes – Joe Nigro
- Most Young Member Hikes – Heeday Nakahashi
- Most City Walks – David Lamb
- Special Recognition Award – Dave Sutter

Although the COVID-19 pandemic hiking season was off to a slow start, activities began to pick up in the late summer. The Hiking Committee has more than half-a-dozen leaders in training. They are working on completing their co-leading experiences, including one individual who will lead family-friendly hikes. The Hiking Committee hopes that the environment for hiking will normalize by the beginning of the spring 2021 season and that the existing restrictions will be lifted. Special thanks to Rich Siegalman and Mike Handelman for their excellent efforts overseeing the hike approval process and assisting leaders with the new registration process.

SKI COMMITTEE

The Ski Committee continues to partner with Miramar Ski Club to run a series of bus trips to their house in Vermont. Access to lifts serving downhill skiing at Stowe and Sugarbush is available, along with cross-country skiing.

The season was cut short in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic and there was little snow nearby early in the season. In addition, the activity's most active leader was unable to lead for most of the shortened season so there were many fewer trips. Enduring enthusiasm for skiing continues, however, as the Google group discussion forum on ski equipment, conditions, and so forth was very active, although few actual trips occurred.

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

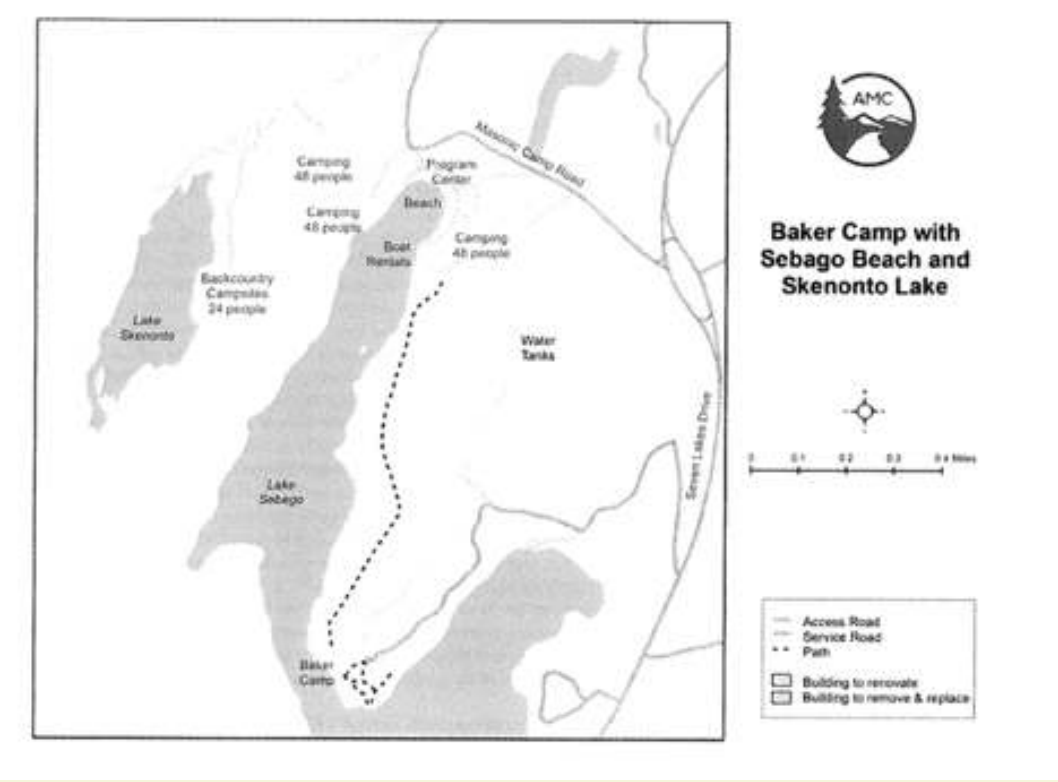
The softball season never officially got under way in 2020 as the New York City Department of Parks did not issue permits for the use of its fields. Hopefully, softball will resume in 2021.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Baker Camp and Lake Sebago

In April 2019 the AMC signed a 40-year agreement with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission to lease and develop a portion of Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman State Park known as Baker Camp and Lake Sebago. Various site surveys and architectural designs began during the summer last year and continued into 2020. As expected, the project was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so will be delayed. Development, which includes fundraising, project design and construction, is expected to resume in 2021. The Baker Camp opening is set tentatively for 2024, with the plans for the Lake Sebago portion of the project to become operational in 2025 or 2026.

Lake Skenonto, where 24 backcountry campsites are to be located on the east side of the lake, is included in the lease agreement. There is some possibility that development will be altered so that the backcountry locations become available sooner than originally planned. It's just about a 4-mile hike to those campsites from the Tuxedo, N.Y., New Jersey Transit train station, starting on the Ramapo-Dunderberg (R-D) Trail.



FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

"The goal (at Baker Camp) is to honor the tradition of New York, and the look and feel of camps in that area, but with modern amenities," said Vinnie Spiotti, AMC's director of lodging operations. "We have a huge opportunity here to preserve the experience of getting people out of the city and outdoors at their own pace."

The AMC has a lot of work to do before the Camp's estimated completion date in 2025. Tentative plans include renovating the 36 existing cabins, the recreation and dining halls, the nearby swimming beach, the boat launch, plus a day-use beach and hike-in campsites 1.5 miles north of Baker Camp. When completed, the Camp will be AMC's largest facility, with the capacity to hold 160 overnight guests.

Fire Island Cabin

After monitoring the situation with the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the spring and early summer of 2020, and knowing that the AMC intended to have its facilities follow the public health directives in place New York State, it became increasingly clear that the Fire Island Cabin would not be able to open to guests.

The next priority became protecting the property and its facilities. A Caretaker's program was put into effect. From June 20, 2020 to October 10, 2020, the Fire Island Cabin had two caretakers present 24/7. Requirements for the caretakers included viewing an AMC training video and signing liability waivers. Other than the caretakers and contractors, no guests or visitors were permitted on the property.

It was valuable to have a plan in place as Fire Island was inundated by people looking to escape the cities and spend time outside with their families. The Great South Bay was filled with new boat owners and every available house was occupied.

Some important work at the facility was completed this year. The north half of the cabin roof is brand new, and the bayside porch floor was replaced. More raised beds were added to the organic garden. Some sailboats were repaired. New shower doors were made and installed. Although zero income was recorded in 2020, volunteers found creative ways to reduce some expenses and the facility is in good shape to open next summer.

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FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center

Despite the challenges and uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AMC New York - North Jersey Chapter Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center successfully offered a selection of programs and activities from July through September this year. After a delayed opening in early July for The Stephen and Betsy Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC), the Chapter programs at Harriman were modified to comply with AMC reopening guidelines and increased safety for volunteer leaders and participants. This included modifying program reservations to utilize camping on tent platforms and shelters rather than indoor cabins, and smaller group sizes to enable increased social distancing while enjoying our time outdoors.

Over the course of seven weekends and 16 programs, 147 people, including the volunteer leaders, were able to enjoy the facilities at CHOC, including swimming, canoeing and kayaking in Breakneck Pond, hiking along plentiful trails, and gathering together to enjoy delicious food and amazing views. The many weekend programs during the summer included wilderness first aid skills, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, yoga, and wellness weekends, and a popular Women Unwind Weekend.

Whether you were looking to go on a challenging hike, enjoy a sunset paddle across Breakneck Pond, wake up to sun salutations on the dock, learn some new wilderness skills, or simply enjoy a good book in a hammock, these programs offered something for everyone.

The success of these programs would not have been possible without the hard work of the volunteer leaders and willingness of the participants to adjust to changing circumstances and conditions. For the future, the Harriman Program Committee looks forward to returning to a full schedule of programs and full-size groups.

Hospitality

Despite everyone's true desire to meet, and plans and possible alternatives considered for several Chapter-hosted gatherings this year, ultimately, these get-togethers, such as the Annual Meeting held on the campus of City College of New York in 2019, and an annual picnic or the Chapter holiday party, had to be canceled. However, groups continue to meet virtually, with a Chapter Committee Chairs meeting scheduled in October and the Chapter Annual Meeting in November.

Trails

In 2020, the Trails Committee and Chapter members continued to maintain and care for public trails and park land through partnerships with the NY/NJ Trail Conference and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. The hard work and dedication of these Chapter volunteers ensure safety and accessibility to trails for all those wanting to connect with nature and "Be Outdoors."

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FACILITIES AND SERVICES
COMMITTEE REPORTS

The challenges of COVID-19 limited AMC New York – North Jersey Chapter trail maintenance events and the number of volunteers able to participate in 2020. However, as soon as some restrictions were lifted, members were on the trails at the Stephen & Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman State Park and Pelham Bay Park, clipping back new growth, clearing obstacles and removing invasive species. Many other Chapter members continue to participate as Trail Maintainers in events organized by the NY/NJ Trail Conference throughout our region as individual AMC volunteer contributors.

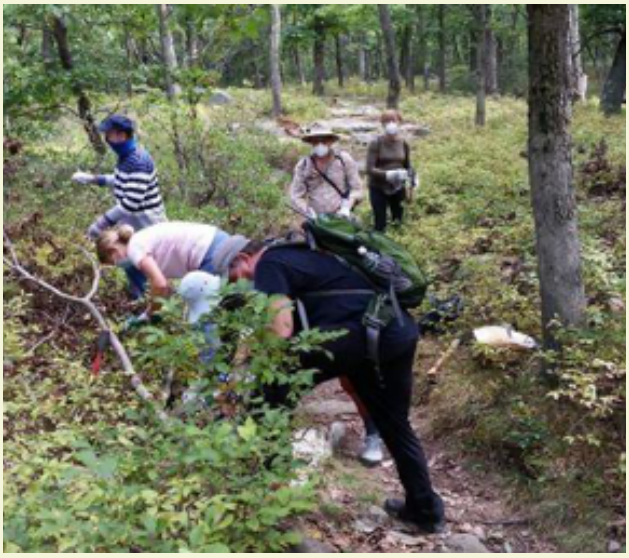

Photo Caption: AMC Chapter Volunteers (above) helped with on this Trail Stewardship event at Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman, NY, on September 6, 2020 and (below) at the Pelham Bay Park Trail Stewardship Event September 26, 2020.

Moving into 2021, the Trails Committee will continue discussions with the NY/NJ Trail Conference about strengthening volunteer collaboration. The Committee looks forward to continuing AMC-adopted trail segments and additional cooperative volunteer days, workshops and events

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FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wilderness First Aid Committee

The Wilderness First Aid Committee (WFA) started out 2020 with one class geared towards the Chapter Climbing Committee's needs. The class of 24 climbers was held at a Brooklyn location on February 8-9, 2020. This convenient location was selected because many of the participants were from Brooklyn and Queens. The class was a positive experience and the Climbing Committee Chapter Chairs said they would like to plan another class for 2021.

In July, another WFA class was held at the AMC Stephen and Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman State Park. Due to the pandemic, AMC policy limited the class size to eight students and two instructors. The two-day class was conducted under the AMC guidelines for social distancing and with the use of face masks.

A third WFA training program was conducted at the Harriman Outdoor Center on September 26-27, 2020. This class had nine students and one instructor. Prior to this class, the Chapter Executive Committee approved the WFA Committee's purchase of equipment for use in the training programs. The equipment included a mannequin with movable limbs and usable for CPR training, assorted rubber attachments that simulate broken arms, legs, lacerations, amputations and fake blood.

The September WFA training program used all of these items. The students appreciated the props very much. They said the props added to the realism by simulating bleeding and broken limbs.

With the pandemic limiting WFA class size to not more than 10 people, to accommodate the demand, two more will be added to the fall 2020 event schedule. These classes will be held at the Sterling Forest State Park, Tuxedo Park, N.Y., a location where the Chapter has conducted classes for the past several years.

cont'd

CHAPTER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

50-Year Member Recognition

Neale Albert
Robert Courtney

John McBride
Edward Reid
John Reilly

Ingeborg Stochmal

25-Year Member Recognition

Richard Andrias
Alec Bancroft
Margaret Bancroft
Richard Barcia
Dian Bieber
Graeme Birchall
Lisa Bogdan
Tim Brandon
Anne Bukata
Christopher Bukata
Frank Caputzal
Steven Cohen
Dustin Craven
Sharron Crocker
Rose Cryan
Mark Curci
John Denkowski
David Douglas
McBrien Dunbar
Cynthia Falls
Peter Zimroth

Stuart Falls
Adam Farb
Stephen Ferder
Edward Frankel
Paul Galizia
Elaine Garry
Cam Gelb
Victor Gelb
Joseph Graetzer
Allan Hanson
Kristin Hanson
Richard Hickerson
James Hivnor
Daniel Hunt
John Huntington
Ara Jingirian
Robert LaMagna
Joseph Laraia
Ronald Leir
Henry Levine
Mason Logie

Tommy Lupo
Ed McGroarty
Pam McGroarty
Gery Monaco
Barbara Mulder
James Murray
Dee Owen
Geraldine Panish
Thomas Regan
Leo Russ
Niki Shute
Richard Siegelman
Nava Simon
Ingeborg Simpson
Nancy Slowik
Raymond Sommerstad
Steven Sugar
Maria D. Vargas
Doug Wisniewski

In Memoriam

The Executive Committee of the New York - North Jersey Chapter extends heartfelt sympathy and appreciation for the members who passed this year, including Margaret "Peggy" Fitzgerald, Wayne Foote, Jill Hammel and Dean Constantine Gletnos.