

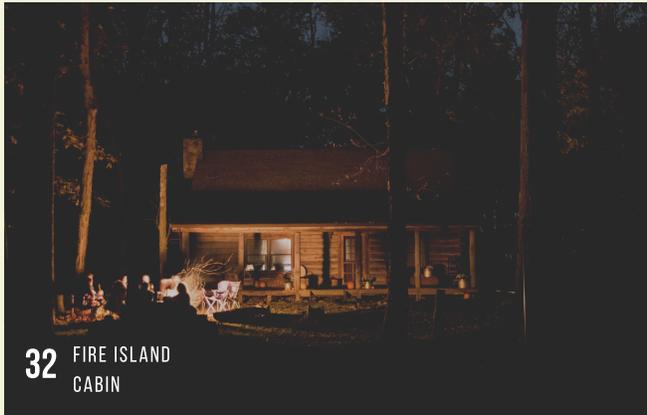
# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



New York - North Jersey Chapter



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# 2019 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair, Kaspar Alexander

Vice Chair, Richard Bryan

Treasurer, John Allman

Activities, Dawn Riley

Communications, Geraldine Sweeney

Facilities and Services, Cheryl Bobe

Secretary, Dimitri Akrivos

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Janet Ainsworth

## ACTIVITY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Backpack, David Mong

Bicycle, Eileen Yin & Dimitri Akrivos

Canoe and Kayak, Charles Michener

Climbing, RJ Lau & Stephen Greer

Hiking, Vlad Rud & Sandy Xian

Skiing, Ed Sobin

Softball, Fern Stolper

Young Members, Rafal Rogoza & Thomas Meehan

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Web, Benjamin Black

Membership, Carrie Ho

Archives, Jack Reilly

## FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Harriman Outdoor Center Programing, Eileen Yin

Fire Island Cabin, Diane Serlin

Hospitality, Mai Fawcett  
Trails,

- Supervisor, East of Hudson Trails, Herb Hochberg
- Supervisor, West of Hudson Trails, Bill Hladky
- Supervisor, NJ Trails, Steve Weissman
- Supervisor, Urban-Suburban Trails  
Kenneth West

Wilderness First Aid, Richard Dabal

Leadership, Ed Sobin

Advisory, Eileen Yin

# REPORT FROM CHAPTER CHAIR

What a year! Thank you to all who supported the Chapter and contributed so much in 2019. This year has been full of challenges, achievement, and growth across our Chapter. It was truly one to remember, with thousands of Volunteer-led Activity Trips, YM weekend trips and happy hours, this summer's 5th Annual Chapter Picnic attended by over 200 members at HOC, and the hugely successful Speaker Series with mountaineer Adrian Hayes (thank you for organizing Carrie!). We've also made strides with several larger initiatives outlined below, and expanded upon further in this Annual Report.

## **BAKER SEBAGO CAMP DEVELOPMENT**

The greater New York Metro Area is a strategically important region for the AMC, with diverse outdoor experiences from the Hudson River Valley to Fire Island, and a large, growing population. In 2016 the Harriman Outdoor Center opened and immediately transformed the activities and programming available to local NY/NoJ Members and outdoor enthusiasts. Thanks to the hard work of Volunteers and Club staff, 2019 was a record year for HOC, with 25 Harriman Program Committee Events and nearly 1,300 attendees.

Building on this momentum, the AMC signed a 40-year lease for the nearby Baker Sebago Camp in April '19. Expected to open in 2024-2025, the new facilities will further our recreation and conservation mission by quadrupling the available lodging accommodations in the area, providing a launchpad for outdoor activities, education opportunities, and environmental protection. Over the coming years the Chapter will contribute directly to the planning, development, and launch of this Camp. We can't wait to enjoy it together!

## **CHAPTER OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS**

After some mid-term leadership changes in the fall, the current Executive Committee was formed and we've been working closely these past few months in preparation for 2020. This year saw the development and rollout of several new Club policies, notably the Finance Reserves policy, and most recently the new Trip Ratings, which will be deployed in 2020. We also improved compliance with the Trip Posting requirements and use of the Activities Database.

On the Executive Committee, we've dedicated significant effort to build on past Leadership progress by consolidating Chapter operational knowledge on the Sharepoint website, so that we may fulfill our duties and facilitate future succession and responsibility handover. In particular, Rick Bryan, John Allman, and Geraldine Sweeney have gone above and beyond with their respective contributions. To encourage communication and collaboration we also invested in video conferencing equipment to fully leverage the Zoom service for all Chapter meetings (thank you Justin!). Swift deployment has enabled record attendance and participation at Executive and Committee Chair Meetings, including Hiking, Climbing, and Fire Island groups. Gone are the days of huddling around a cell phone!

Volunteer recruitment remains a full time job, as we filled a number of ExComm and Activity leadership positions, including Hiking, Bicycling, and Facilities & Services (thank you Henry and Rick!). The Climbing Committee relaunch was a particular bright spot, and we look forward to seeing the new leadership's continued growth.

2020 Goal DevelopmentThe Executive Committee has also been busy working on 2020 plans, and will finalize annual goals in January. Key focus areas we'll be anchoring quantitative and qualitative goals around include:

1. *AMC Mission Fulfillment*

- Conservation education and public awareness, including Earth Day 50th Anniversary promotion.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion focused programming to grow our collective identity and impact.

2. *Baker Sebago Camp development*

- Launch is several years away, but now is the time to collaborate with the Club on planning so that the coming seasons can be used effectively.
- Many new leadership opportunities, including site development volunteers and programming planning.

3. *Operational Excellence*

- Refine the new Member retention and Leader development playbooks.
- Revamp the NY/NoJ social media presence and communication processes, and partner with other Chapters to update local websites.

In closing, thank you again to all the Volunteers and Members who contributed this year. You are the reason this Club and Chapter are so special, and I can't wait to see our progress next year. Special thanks to the outgoing Executive Committee members, Dimitri and Carrie, for your many significant contributions. It's been a pleasure working alongside you, and we will miss your energy and insight! Infinite gratitude to past Chapter Leadership and Chairs, including Cynthia, Nathan, and Eileen. We'd be lost without you!

Respectfully submitted,



Kaspar Alexander  
Chapter Chair  
AMC, NY-NoJ Chapter

# 2019 Executive Committee



**Chair, Kaspar Alexander**



**Vice Chair, Richard Bryan**



**Treasurer, John Allman**



**Activities, Dawn Riley**



**Communications, Geraldine Sweeney**



**Facilities and Services, Cheryl Bobe**



**Secretary, Dimitri Akrivos**



# 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Several committees (Sailing, Skiing, Hiking, Backpacking) closed their bank accounts during December 2018, making their final direct financial reporting to AMC Finance as of year-end 2018. During February 2019, the bank account operated by the prior Climbing committee was closed, and it has also made its final direct financial report. Only the Softball and Canoe & Kayak Committees operated banks accounts separate from the Chapter's TD Bank account through 2019. The Chapter's PayPal account was also revived during the year, to facilitate quicker reimbursement of approved Chapter expenses, with 34 transactions totaling \$7,203 processed in 2019.

AMC Revenue of \$46,904 comprised a) Allocations \$21,027, b) Membership bonuses \$1,230 and c) Endowment \$24,647. An additional \$13,982 of AMC Revenue is expected during December.

Overall, 2019 net program revenue of \$86,449, net program expenses of \$90,766 and 1,296 attendees were similar to 2018. Highlights:

- **Harriman Program Committee** - conducted 25 revenue-generating events, generating \$34,282 in program revenue from 338 tickets sold. HPC programs incurred a net loss of \$2,121 for the year. Programs included kayaking, yoga, birdwatching, Latin dance, hiking, swimming, camping, novice backpacking, and doing nothing! All told, including HPC and other Committees, the Chapter incurred \$66,550 in lodging & food costs at Harriman, representing revenue for AMC.
- **Young Members** - conducted 5 revenue-generating events, generating \$27,606 in program revenue from 322 tickets sold, incurring a net loss of \$614 for the year. Highlights - MLK weekend Ski trip, HOC Takeover, two Fire Island Cabin weekends.
- **Hospitality** - conducted 2 revenue-generating events, generating \$11,502 in program revenue from 323 tickets sold, incurring a net loss of \$6,882 for the year. This included the annual dinner in January, and Chapter picnic in June.
- **Membership** - conducted 4 significant events with 219 attendees, including the Speaker Series at the Chapter's YMCA office and an event over the Memorial Day weekend in the Catskills. During 2019, the Chapter also recouped \$7,997 from the prior year's event.
- **Leadership** - conducted its Leadership skills weekend during May, with 29 attendees.
- **Wilderness First Aid (WFA)** - conducted 2 training classes in 2019, with 37 attendees

# 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT CON'T

Administrative costs totaled \$40,788, including:

- Rent sharing NYC office - \$16,200 through September (balance of \$5,400 payable in December).
- Insurance - Property & liability coverage costs of \$2,331, up 18% from 2018.
- Social media consultant - engaged during Q4 2018, costs incurred in 2019 through September total \$5,778.
- Videoconference equipment - purchased for \$2,220 during November, this gear will greatly assist communications and engagement with our Committees and AMC.
- Meeting costs, overhead & sundry - across ExComm and other Committees, totaled \$12,108.
- Net increase in prepaid expenses totaled \$2,150, with closing balance of \$3,950.

## **Budget and Operating Plan 2020**

The Executive Committee and Committee Chairs have spent time during the Fall to prepare and review Operating and Financial plans for the Chapter. These discussions have also focused on putting the Chapter's Excess Reserves to work to better fulfill and accelerate progress towards meeting AMC's key mission deliverables. As of writing, this process continues, and is subject to ExComm approval. Operating Plans for 2020 will most likely include expenditures and revenues related to the following continuing and new initiatives:

- Activity to continue and extend on programs conducted during 2019 and prior years, including via the Harriman Program Committee, Young Members and the various Activities, Leadership & Education (incl. WFA) committees of the Chapter. This will include steps to establish more vibrant Climbing and Biking programs to complement our strong Hiking, Backpacking and Softball programs, ways to reinvigorate the Skiing and Sailing committees, and creating new programming for Families.
- Increase focus on activities of the Trails and Conservation committees, intended to increase engagement with volunteers and members. This will include activities & events around Earth Day's 50th Anniversary, Clean Air/Water Acts anniversaries, as well as other opportunities to further the Chapter's goals around conservation advocacy.

# 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT CON'T

- Find ways to increase engagement with existing, new and prospective members, including member recruiting and on-boarding events, volunteer and conservation opportunities, cross-Committee programs to increase participation of a broad and diverse cross-section of members.
- Implement improvements in how we communicate with members and volunteers on our Committees, including via external tools (e.g. upgrades to Chapter website, social media outreach, publications, emails, event planning & advertising) and internal tools (e.g. SharePoint - AMC's intranet platform, video-conferencing tools, focused meeting agendas, etc.).
- Increase collaboration between the ExComm and other Chapter Committees, including changes to how meetings are conducted, exploring enhancements to our governance model, and learning about best practices elsewhere in AMC and beyond.
- Continuous improvements to Chapter financial processes, to ensure we remain good stewards on behalf of AMC



## **Excess Reserves Planning**

The Chapter has accumulated funds over the years in excess of its current operating and contingency requirements. In accordance with AMC's policies, the Chapter will be exploring various initiatives, over and above the Budget and Operating Plan, to deploy these funds over the next 3-4 years to accelerate and increase the scope of opportunities to meet the Chapter's mission & goals.

These initiatives may include purchases of new/better canoes, kayaks, backpacking or climbing equipment, new/test programs (e.g. new volunteer or investing opportunities in the Trails & Conservation realm), additional membership engagement through expanded Speaker Series events, website enhancement, etc. More information on how the Chapter and AMC are progressing with this program will emerge during 2020.

## **Chapter Assets Summary**

AMC implemented a new Reserves policy in 2019, which limits financial assets held in the Chapter's local bank accounts to 50% of budgeted operating costs, with all other Chapter financial assets held at HQ. Operating funds were \$87,950, Chapter Reserves were \$106,600 (100% of budgeted program revenues), and as of Q# 2019, Excess Reserves are 184,684 and Chapter-related endowments are \$594,388.

The Chapter also owns equipment related to its Activities Committees, including canoes kayaks & boat trailers, trail maintenance tools, softball gear, hiking/camping/backpacking/climbing gear, videoconference equipment, recognition awards, promotional/branded materials, and sundry office equipment.

I look forward to the opportunity in 2020 to serve all the volunteer leaders in our Chapter.

Respectfully submitted by John Allman, AMC NY-NoJ Chapter Treasurer, 12/9/2019

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# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Chapter's Conservation initiatives were re-booted in 2019, and we're setup well going into 2020. Most particularly, we played a significant role as a part of the Clubwide Conservation Committee (CCC), helping to develop the 'on-boarding' program for the Conservation position for all Chapters within the AMC.

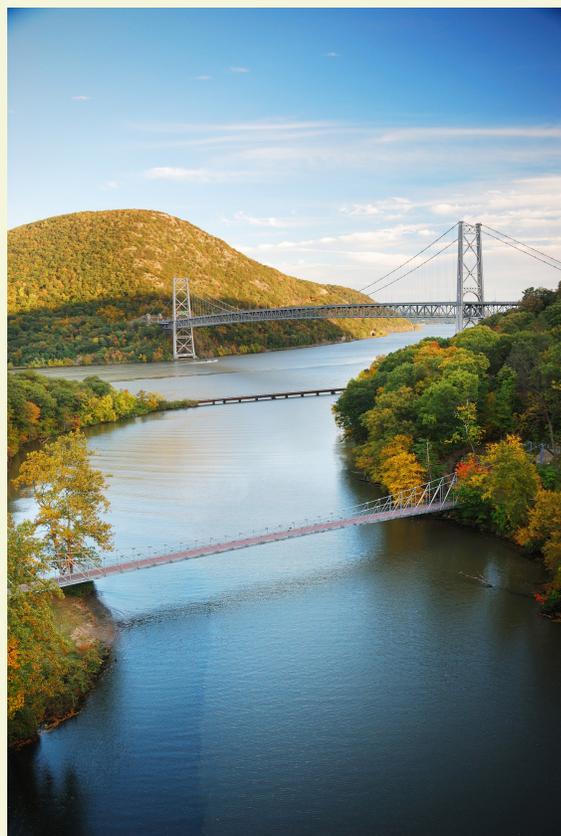
Various individuals within the Chapter managed conservation efforts 'close to home', including several beach clean-up days on Staten Island; 'leave no trace' education programs at Breakneck, and at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center, as well as numerous backcountry educational lectures to describe ways hikers and backpackers can reduce their impact on the environment.



Two significant conservation items were on the 'radar screen' of the Conservation Committee this year.

The first involves the proposal by the US Army Corps of Engineers to build movable barriers across most, or parts, of New York Harbor in an effort to mitigate the effects of sea level rise and coastal flooding, most especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

This is all well and good; the potential 'problem' is whether the Army Corps has sufficiently researched the impact these flood walls would have on the ecological health of New York Harbor and the Hudson and East Rivers.



The Hudson River is technically a tidal estuary and not a full-fledged river. Salt water from New York Harbor, and in turn the Atlantic Ocean, flows back up through the Hudson and mixes with fresh water from tributaries upstate to create a nutrient-rich environment. If the Corps' plan to install a five-mile-long gate across the harbor's mouth between Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and Breezy Point in the Rockaways came to pass.

It is possible the barrier would slowly cut off nutrients from the harbor and prevent contaminants from washing out into the ocean. It is possible that these offshore barriers would start to restrict the tidal flow, contaminant and sediment transport, and migration of fish. They would impede the tidal 'respiration' of the river. Potentially, a slow death would be inflicted on the river and that in time, the barriers would slowly, but surely, strangle the life out of the river as we know it.

# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CON'T

The Corps alternative plans include: building berms, dunes, and seawalls across the lower-lying sections of the New York–New Jersey waterfront, with small floodgates across a few waterways; a barrier across the Staten Island–Brooklyn gap spanned by the Verrazzano–Narrows bridge and gates along Jamaica Bay; and targeted berms and seawalls across targeted low-lying coastal areas without any gates. A second project of important concern to the Conservation Committee has to do with the impending shutdown of the Indian Point 2 nuclear reactor in April, 2020. Reactor 3 is scheduled to close in April, 2021. Reactor 1 was shut down and decommissioned in October, 1974.

There are two primary issues the Conservation Committee is keeping an eye on. The first has to do with the fact that the electricity generated by the Indian Point reactors has already been replaced with natural gas electric generating plants, mostly without any highly publicized public debate over adding yet more fossil fuel burning facilities to the East Coast.

The second issue has to do with the specific plans the utility has for removing the spent nuclear fuel from the reactors and transporting it away from the site. As we all know, the nuclear reactors are only a few miles away from where tens of thousands of people hike and boat and camp each year. One of the suggested proposals involves moving the spent nuclear waste by truck over the Bear Mountain Bridge; down Seven Lakes Drive, and then along Route 17 to the New York State Thruway; North to Interstate 84, and then West out of our area.

As of now, the Conservation Committee is staying abreast of developments on this issue; there are no plans to become more actively involved, as such would require approval of the AMC's Vice President for Conservation. On a more up-beat note, the Conservation Committee is planning, along with the entire organization and every AMC Chapter, to 'go big' with respect to the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2020. We are looking now for volunteers willing to help with these efforts. Interestingly, 2020 also marks the 50th anniversary year of the Clean Air Act, and the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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# ACTIVITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

# BACKPACKING COMMITTEE

2019 was another year of building up leadership to run trips. While we had a number of longtime leaders reduce the number of trips they led for various reasons this year we had sufficient numbers of new leaders come on to replace those trips. While we scheduled fewer trips this year than last (49 as compared to 62) we had fewer cancellations (5 as compared to 16) giving us a net of 44 trips run as compared to 46 last year. Our total participation was about the same. We may have had higher numbers than the previous year but we had many leaders involved in Mountain Leadership School in June instead of leading trips and several leaders helping new leaders on their first trips to provide support rather than lead their own trips.

As we did last year our focus has been on having a lot of trips geared for novice and beginner backpackers so they can learn the skills to safely enjoy the wilderness on their own. In addition to an adult novice backpacking workshop at Harriman we added one that was for families. This program received so much positive review afterward that we are making it a larger inter-chapter program in 2020 and have leaders committed already from several chapters

Another program for the year done in conjunction with the biking committee was to offer 3 and run 2 bike-packing trips. Two more trips for next year are on the schedule so far. As a committee we are committed to building up a group of leaders that can continue to serve the needs of the region with high quality backpacking programs.

As part of that effort we had 7 leaders complete the process of becoming backpacking leaders. Those new leaders include Richard Bryan, Jill Watkins, Paul Greenburg, Dean Witman, Jean MacFarlane, Mike Savas and Keith Maitland. We have a great group of additional leader trainees in the midst of their process of becoming leaders.

Additional training for our leaders is a valued objective. We had 6 leaders or leader trainees involved as leaders or participants with Mountain Leadership School this year. Those include: David Mong, Richard Bryan, Chris Bickford, Blase Hartman, David Varghese and Benjamin Black.

Leading more than a couple of trips per year takes a considerable amount of time and effort. Here are the leaders who scheduled or co- led 3 or more trips last year. We appreciate their service.



# BACKPACKING COMMITTEE CON'T

David Mong	21	John O'Brien	5
Chris Bickford	8	Howie Dow	4
Jill Watkins	7	John Hilley	4
Jean	6	Gregg Homeyer	4
MacFarlane		Richard	3
Ingrid Strauch	5	Breusch	
Dean Witman	5	Mike Savas	3
Richard Bryan	5	Paul Greenburg	3



# CANOE & KAYAK COMMITTEE

*Jake Lewis – Chair \* Marty Plante – Treasurer \* Suzanne Villages – Secretary \* Loretta Brady – Training Program Coordinator Activities*

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Hosted our annual well attended Beginners Whitewater Instructional weekend for both canoes and kayaks - getting the next generation of paddlers up to speed. Successful week long trips to Carolinas and Adirondacks. Weekend trips to Deerfield MA, Esopus NY, Yough PA, Mullica NJ, Salmon NY, Sedge Island NJ, and Oswegatchie NY. Day trips to Mongaup NY, Lackawaxeen, Lehigh, Raritan, Ramapo, Collinsville, Neversink, Pine Barrens, Great Swamp, Wallkill and Housatonic . Paddlers Holiday Party in NYC - our biggest social (in everyday clothing) of the year. Charles Michener was elected new Chair, and announced plans to update the canoe fleet and trailer.

# CLIMBING COMMITTEE



Stephen is an enthusiastic climber with experience across a wide array of terrains and styles. Whether its climbing Mt. Rainier, adventuring into the alpine trad routes of the North Cascades, or sport climbing at Smith Rock, he is always ready for a new climbing challenge.

As a self-described “Jimmy Chin Wannabe,” RJ is an avid outdoorsman with a love of climbing. His trips have taken him all over the world, from the mountains of Patagonia to the Italian Dolomites. He is a proficient climbing leader and is always learning new skills.



# CLIMBING COMMITTEE CON'T

The AMC NY-NoNJ chapter's climbing committee was officially restarted under new co-chairs, RJ Lau and Stephen Greer. A total of 7 new trip leaders have been recruited to restart the Climbing Committee 2020 program. The Climbing Committee joins with the Young Members (YM) Committee to support monthly climbing meet-ups at The Cliffs rock gym in Long Island City, New York. The Committee joined as the newest members of the Interchapter Climbing Committee (ICC), aimed at collaborating and building coalitions not only across the AMC but with outside organizations like the AMGA, AAC, and others. A total of 3 spring skill-building workshops and 14 climbing outings have been set for the new year

## CLIMBING COMMITTEE ATTENDS CT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

On cold November 10th afternoon, members of the AMC NY/NJ climbing committee saved the CT Education Chapter leader, Keith Spaar, who took a nasty spill in the crisp leaves near the White Memorial Carriage House in Litchfield, CT. Because of our quick decision-making, and situational leadership skillsets, we quickly treated his sprain and prepped him for extraction. We were not seasoned rescue rangers, or first responders, but instead were taught situational leadership through a series of classroom workshops and outdoor scenarios that weekend.

The Leadership Training course prepped the AMC's NY/NJ climbing group for a series of challenges and situations they might encounter leading groups on trips; highlighting how AMC's leaders must often adapt to new audiences and new expectations. Over the weekend experienced instructors facilitated leadership curriculum, and experiential learning. Overall the NY/NJ climbing committee leaders left with a newfound love for things like map orienteering and bonded over mutual appreciation for participatory decision-making and Leave No Trace (LNT) Ethics. Many thanks to Keith and his staff for letting us practice our Leadership skills on them first, and for a great weekend learning with new friends.



## SPRING-SUMMER 2020 CLIMBING WORKSHOPS

The Climbing Committee is looking to establish a series of workshops aimed at guiding aspirational new climbers towards their goals with the AMC and beyond. These courses are designed with new climbers in mind, building a foundation of best practices and proficiency in the areas of risk mitigation, climbing safety, proper ethics, and skills. We also hope these courses will uncover our committees' future leaders. From Gym to Rock: This course is designed around first-time outdoor climbers. It focuses on the transition from the gym to the crag. Intro to Lead: This workshop builds off of Gym to Rock by introducing concepts required to lead. It touches on multi-pitch scenarios, rappelling, belaying from above, and more. Toprope Anchor Building: This workshop is all about anchor building, focusing on building terrain anchors, gear anchors, and sport.

## INDOOR/OUTDOOR OUTINGS FOR 2020

In addition to our workshops, the committee is planning indoor/outdoor events focused around meeting new climbers, getting beginners outside, and providing opportunities for attendees to build a stronger community of climbing partners. Monthly new members climbing meeting at The Cliffs: Indoor climbing at the local gym focused on introducing new climbers to the AMC. Outdoor toprope: Beginners outing for climbers who have either never been outdoors or want to continue toprope at the crag. Outdoor sport: This event will provide opportunity for intermediate climbers with prior experience leading sport to get out and meet other climbers or improve their skills.



# HIKING COMMITTEE

The hiking committee had another excellent year. Over the last year the committee led 732 activities and hiked over 5,200 miles. That's more than the distance from New York to Los Angeles and back!

Our longest hike was the 37 mile Taconic Crest Traverse Hike lead by Chris Leggate, and our shortest hike was a 1 mile "Let's Talk Bears" family hike lead by Cynthia Tollo Falls.

We had 74 leaders post at least one hike. The top 10 leaders by number of hikes were: Marty Carp (69), Irv Reich (49), David Lamb (49), Leslie Arthur (43), Wanda Davenport (40), Joe Nigro (37), John Swanson (32), Rita Gollin (28), Mike Handelsman (28) and Jay Beilis (26) We have many new initiatives planned for the upcoming year including expanding our leader appreciation program and embracing "Meetup".





## SKIING 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 lift served downhill skiing at Stowe and Sugarbush is available along with cross country skiing. We're also offering a trip to another ski house in Vermont led by an AMC leader but without bus access.

Marty Carp has again loads of day trips in the New Paltz area. They're basically every Monday and Friday from December through February. And another leader is co-listing with ADK in the same area on weekends so if we have snow there will be lots of trips possible.

We moved from Yahoo group to Google group for discussion on ski equipment, conditions, etc. The groups are very active having hundreds of messages a season.





## SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

*The Softball Committee consists of ten members who organize the AMC softball activities. The committee meets annually in the winter and as needed during the softball season, April through late fall, weather permitting. During the season, and throughout the year, committee members contact each other via e-mail, in addition to our informal, frequent meetings on the field.*

We meet Sunday mornings at 11:00 am and play until 3 pm. Approximately thirty plus to fifty plus players show up each week. We have 2 fields and play 2 games on each. This year the softball committee has become more popular and, they often have enough players to play three games simultaneously depending on field availability.

Sides/teams are randomly chosen for each game allowing everyone to mix, mingle and team up with a variety of teammates.

AMC softball games include a diverse group of members that age from their twenties into their seventies. Players of all skill levels are welcome and we try to foster supportive, harmonious, injury-preventing atmosphere. This is also reflected in our rules of the games. We also try to accommodate a player's wishes, for example, as to a particular position he/she might want to play.

The games are posted on the AMC site and on Meetup. A camaraderie has developed amongst the participants. As an example, players use the Meetup site to encourage a sick player to recover quickly, to comment about the games, to enjoy reading one of our committee member's weekly diary. Players enjoy uploading photos of the games. Everyone looks forward to our annual pizza party. We collect \$5 from each player each week to cover expenses which include buying and transporting equipment; fees for field permits and Meetup.

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**Y O U N G  
M E M B E R S  
C O M M I T T E E  
R E P O R T**

## YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Thomas Meehan and Rafal Rogoza (incoming 2020 co-chairs John Perilli and Emily Berry).

The Young Members committee continues to introduce a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts to the AMC while hosting fun and informative events for the 20's/30's year old participants. In 2019 our outreach to gain new members included a spring event at The North Face store, a fall event at the Fjällräven store, Thirsty Thursday happy hours and first Sunday climbs at The Cliffs at LIC. Additionally, we hosted a winter sports weekend in Lake Placid, two YM weekends on Fire Island, a hut-to-hut trip in the White Mountains and our second annual inter-chapter YM weekend at Harriman.

We expanded our outreach with more social media posts and hosted events with partners such as Fat Tire beer, Patagonia and Fjällräven. We have an active calendar planned for 2020 and everyone is welcome to attend our planning meetings which occur on the first Wednesday of the month.

## FIRE ISLAND WEEKEND (NATIONAL SEASHORE HIKE)





FIRE ISLAND WEEKEND



HARRIMAN TAKEOVER (BACKPACKER COOKING WORKSHOP):



BEACH CLEAN-UP DAY



MLK WEEKEND



HARRIMAN TAKEOVER

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**COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**



# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In 2019, the Communications team made good strides in promoting Chapter specific messaging to our members – this included the relaunch of the monthly eBlast newsletter as well as focused social media postings. In 2020, building on this work, we will engage with a communications expert to conduct a Chapter-wide analysis of all current communications efforts and develop recommendations moving forward. As part of this effort, we will conduct a survey of the Chapter’s communications efforts, including its website, social media channels, Meet-up groups, email communications, and newsletters/publications.

We will assess current gaps in communication efforts or opportunities for growth or impact, and challenges or roadblocks to capitalizing on those opportunities. And finally, we will review current metrics collection and propose possible new tools to review current trends across all channels.

Our goal is to have an effective communications delivery framework where all of our membership feels well communicated to and all of our events are being promoted in a timely manner, so that more people can enjoy the outdoors with their local AMC chapter.

**Geraldine Sweeney,**  
**NYNJ Communications Chair**



## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The library and archives of the NY/No. Jersey Chapter were transferred to the AMC's historian, and located at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire, earlier this year. These records offer a history of the NY-NoJ Chapter almost from its founding in 1912 to the present day. The records span from 1914-2010 (albeit with many gaps), with the bulk of the material being from the late 1950s to the early 1980s.

The material is arranged by subject chronologically and includes brochures, clippings, correspondence, deeds, insurance policies, maps, minutes of meetings, pamphlets, photographs, and schedules; one-of-a-kind diaries and journals, films, logbooks, manuscripts, maps, memorabilia, organizational records, photographs, scrapbooks other rare documents.

The library is available for teaching, learning, research and public service, and many publications are available in digital format, and be accessed remotely at <https://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home.php> Enter Appalachian Mountain Club under Library Name; no password is needed.

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Chapter continued to face challenges in 2019 with respect to recruiting members. Across the organization, half the Chapters gained members over the past eight years, while membership declined in the other half. The enormous growth in popularity of the Meetup hiking groups in our area, while not solely responsible for our declining membership, has indeed had a major impact on recruiting new members. One of the items we are focusing on for 2020 is to educate the hiking and backpacking (and across all activities) community as to the added value which comes from becoming a member of the AMC. Most importantly, this 'added value' has to do with being part of an organization with nearly 150 years of history protecting the forests and waters of the North East. The AMC has established, through the use of member surveys, that as many people join the organization because of it's conservation efforts, as join to participate in Chapter activities.

The Chapter has done a remarkably good job over the past several years with respect to member retention. We attribute this, to some extent, to the successful guest speaker programs. At relatively little net cost to the Chapter, many hundreds of members participated in programs which welcomed notable speakers to present to the membership on various topics.

AMC Membership Data: 2011 - 2019

Year	AA*	BK	BN	CT	DV	ME	MH	NA	NH	NY	PC	SE	WR	Total
2011 Final	7,456	3,101	24,548	9,396	5,366	5,093	835	2,943	12,911	13,390	3,163	3,955	3,088	95,242
2012 Final	8,524	3,246	25,651	9,161	5,336	5,376	865	2,973	13,764	13,154	3,059	4,147	3,143	98,396
2013 Final	9,037	3,339	25,965	9,137	5,382	5,854	830	3,027	14,229	13,003	2,986	4,244	3,225	100,256
2014 Final	9,497	3,331	27,017	9,146	5,390	5,946	830	3,042	14,708	12,869	3,111	4,414	3,331	102,629
2015 Final	10,328	3,437	27,689	9,590	5,567	5,973	855	3,041	15,069	12,743	3,298	4,418	3,452	105,458
2016 Final	9,965	3,374	27,706	9,457	5,448	6,071	842	3,097	15,332	12,616	3,233	4,426	3,453	105,019
2017 Final	10,171	3,394	27,473	9,497	5,478	6,632	923	3,081	15,205	12,073	3,301	4,358	3,352	104,935
2018 Final	9,741	3,124	25,677	8,558	5,030	6,592	852	2,953	14,508	11,103	2,962	4,170	3,252	98,519
2019	9,673	2,998	25,662	8,361	4,972	6,589	850	2,977	14,168	10,771	2,975	4,175	3,168	97,336

\*AA indicates AMC members not affiliated with any particular Chapter

Separately, the Membership Committee, headed by Carrie Ho, produced numerous 'new member' and family-oriented programs at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center and at other locations. These programs were wildly successful and typically sold out.

Carrie Ho  
Membership Chair

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# FACILITIES & SERVICES REPORT

## FIRE ISLAND CABIN

We had a regular season, concentrating on programing, and policies and procedures to bring us more in line with the other volunteer camps and cabins (VCC's). Our year end numbers for 2019 are down from 2018. I think there are a few reasons:

The Call Center, which started handling our weekend reservations in 2018, added our midweek reservations this year. Long time guests, accustomed to calling the Cabin to reserve bunks, especially last minute, were confused by the change. We lost midweek bed nights because people didn't realize they could phone the Cabin, and if there were bunks available, they could just come out and pay the midweek manager or phone the Call Center from the Cabin. We'll need to clarify the reservations system for next year.

Our midweeks in June and September were poorly attended. However, these months are beautiful, perfect for long walks to the Sunken Forest, or the lighthouse, kayaking, sailing or just hanging out in nature. In 2020 the Cabin Leadership has plans to 'get the word out' to more activity members of the Chapter.

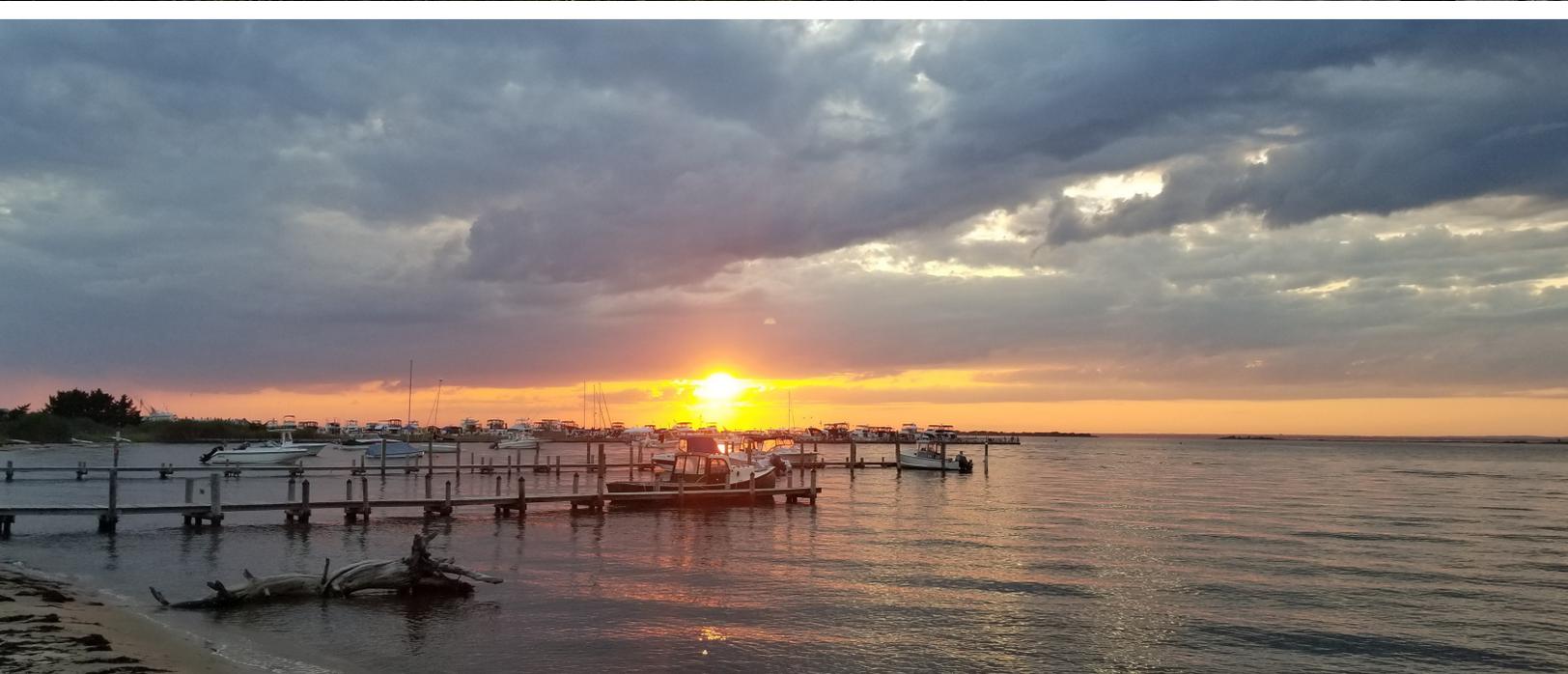
Our "dues," fees we pay to Boston annually, increased considerably from 2018 to 2019. We also had more expenses than usual in terms of property damage: a once in a lifetime hurricane lasting 25 minutes blew across the island and uprooted 5 trees, which then had to be removed by a landscaping contractor. The Bay porch had to be shored up with bracing, and doors had to be replaced. One lovely expense was the installation of fabulous ceiling fans in both dorm rooms, which cool the rooms even in the hottest weather.

## FIRE ISLAND CABIN

On to our 2019 season. We opened May 20th and closed for the season Oct. 3rd. As usual we had two Learn to Sail weekends, an Adventure Sail weekend for experienced sailors, and one midweek sail school. We had two Learn to Kayak weekends and both a weekend and a midweek for guests with kayaking experience. We also had a Learn to Canoe weekend for the first time in many years. We added two new kayaks and two Stand up Paddleboards to our “fleet.” Other activities included yoga, painting, chess and music. The Young Members Committee impressed us by buying two weekends outright and doing all the sales/marketing themselves. They sold out both weekends! Also, building on the relationship started last year with a fellow nonprofit group, Kids Passport to Adventure, the director fully booked the Cabin for a night in July and brought the kids out. The kids had a blast and will be out again in 2020.

What are some of the challenges we face?

We are a volunteer run facility that needs more volunteers to be able to continue, let alone have a future. For the first time ever, we held a meeting (on 11/16/19) to explain the dire situation we face. More than 100 people attended the meeting. The Chapter helped us by setting up their Zoom equipment so managers who could not attend in person were part of the meeting. Despite the good turnout and the many people who volunteered to try their hand at managing, and for some of the smaller roles, it is getting people to step up to assume the major roles on the Committee. I am the current Chair, and also still the Vice Chair. That situation cannot continue. Richard Barcia, a former NY/NoJ Chapter Chair is going to co-chair with me next year. We are actively seeking someone to train to be a Vice Chair, a Chair, and a Nominating/Governance role (which can be split in half). I know all volunteer organizations face this same predicament: how do we find, recruit, train and keep new volunteers? We are lucky to have many long-time weekend and midweek managers. By long time, I mean 20- and 30-year veterans. But, without new and younger volunteers, we will have to shorten our season, raise prices, and eventually become unsustainable as an AMC facility. We are at a critical juncture. We continue to have hope that guests who love the Cabin will fill the necessary roles and I am looking to the Chapter and especially the Young Members component of the Chapter to get more involved in the running of the Cabin. We have a few big expenses coming up this Winter. We have to replace one of our septic tanks, and at least one half of the Cabin roof. Luckily we have the reserves to fund these projects, but we need to find ways to increase our revenue next season.



# BAKER CAMP AND LAKE SEBAGO

The most exciting development for the Chapter this year occurred on April 1, 2019, when the AMC signed a 40 year agreement with the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission (PIPC) to lease and develop that portion of Harriman State Park which we know as 'Baker Camp' and 'Lake Sebago', and includes Sebago Beach, Skenonto Lake and approximately 40 acres on the North side of Lake Sebago. When completed (the camp will begin operations in the Spring or Summer of 2024, and is expected to be fully completed and operating in 2025), the project will be more than three times the size of the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center.

At least 36 cabins will be completely reconstructed or renovated; 47 tent platforms (and hammock poles!), and a significant number of backcountry camping sites (more than fifty) away from the primary facilities. The beach and boathouse will be renovated, and about 120 new rowboats, canoes, kayaks and possibly sailboats will be available.

A separate Outdoor Program Center will be developed at Baker Camp, and serve as a center for public education, including the Youth Opportunities Program, Teen Wilderness Adventures and the Teen Trails program, including A Mountain Climbing Classroom (AMCC), and serve as a base for educating teens on ecology, earth science, outdoor education and team building.

The AMC's Mountain Leadership School (MLS) will also be established at the new facility. The Chapter is already considering ways to elevate our activities programs to make full use of the new facility. To do so, the Chapter will need to 'step up its game' with respect to recruiting and training new activity leaders across the spectrum of our activities, and we intend to do so.

**For now, our 'boots on the ground' eyes and ears with respect to the development of this project is 'Friend of the Executive Committee' Jeff Soule, who has been an AMC member since 1998. Jeff is an avid outdoorsman, and has this report to make about his impressions of the project:**

# BAKER CAMP AND LAKE SEBAGO

*"I had the chance to visit the new Baker camp twice this year. I'm excited for members and city-dwellers to share the true potential of yet another stunning AMC property in Harriman State Park. This amazing property - in two parts - has something for everyone: mountain views, lake frontage, beach access, paddle potential, hiking, and more. The parcels are on Lake Sebago: the first, Baker Camp, which has overnight camping, and the second, about a mile and a half away, is a day-use Beach along with hike-in camping spots on old Masonic Camp Road. The Baker Camp property features are nearly a century old, and include: Adirondack-style one room cabins, the original mess hall, 3-room cabins with beautifully preserved stone hearths, and an all-stone Boat House. Many of these buildings were built by the CCC in the 1920s.*

***The Beach property is a huge beach front with an enormous parking lot. A short hike over the ridge to the south or a nice paddle ride takes you right to Baker Camp. If one were to walk to the to the North, they come to a picturesque secluded pond, with more breathtaking campsites on Lake Skenonto.***

*Between these two parcels, the potential for events that AMC could offer to the greater public is endless.*

*As if these features weren't enough, there is even more potential to this great outdoor adventure destination. With Baker Camp, we have mass transit access and a huge parking lot at the day-use facility, which ameliorates parking challenges that typically occur with public use outdoor sites. In fact New Yorkers can get to this idyllic spot right from Penn Station without a vehicle. Arriving at Tuxedo Station one can access the Ramapo Dunderburg trailhead and hike a few miles to these two beautiful camps!"*

# BAKER CAMP, BY THE NUMBERS

BY // KELLEIGH WELCH

AMC continues to grow its service to the greater New York City region with a planned destination just 3 miles southwest of the Stephen & Betsy Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC). The site, Baker Camp, has hugged the hilly northern inlet of Lake Sebago in Harriman State Park for 92 years. Originally used as a getaway for city executives in the 1930s and

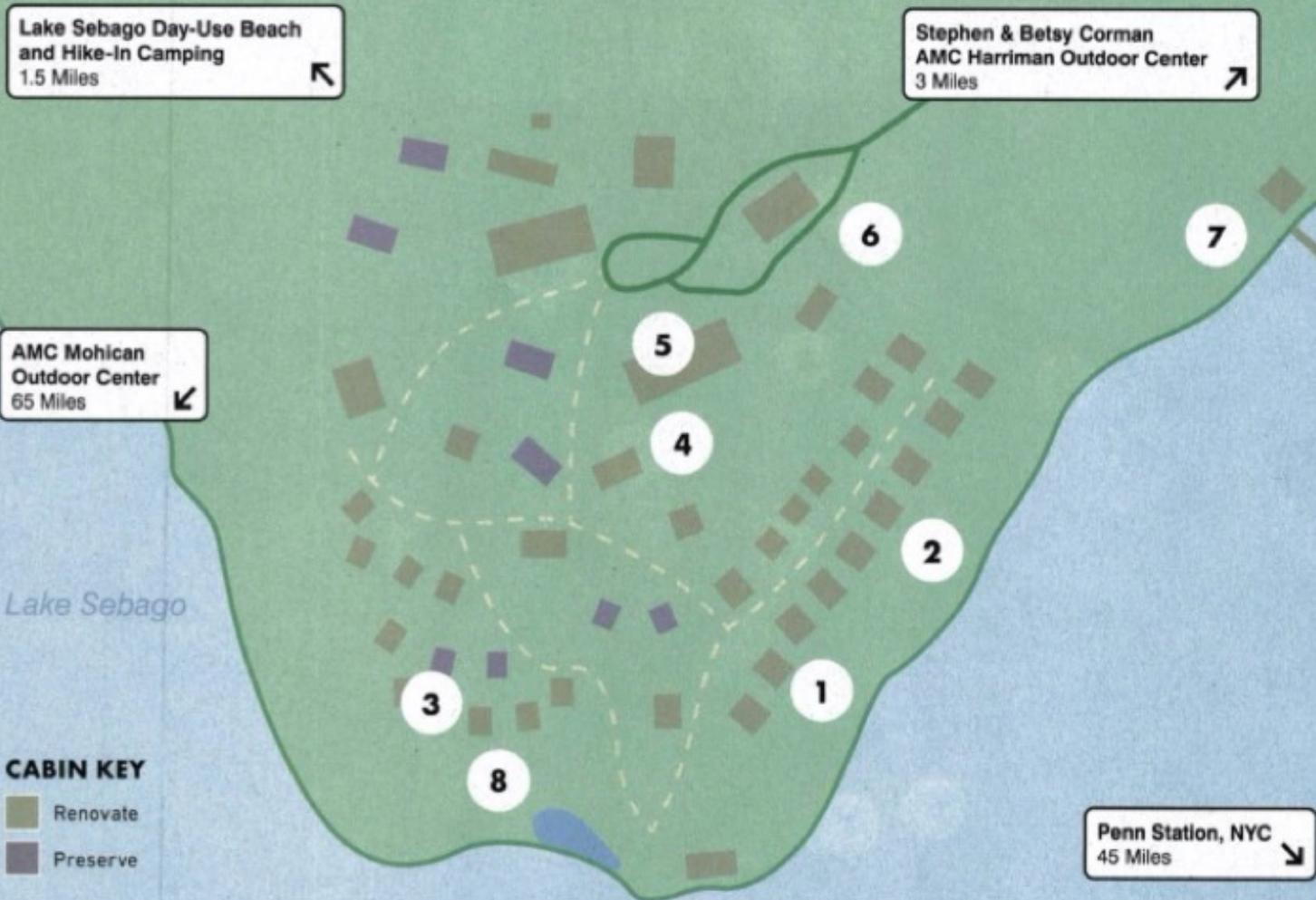
more recently as an overnight destination for city dwellers looking for an escape, it last hosted overnight guests in 2017.

Now, with a 40-year lease from the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, AMC plans to renovate the camp, once again welcoming visitors and providing ways for both day and overnight guests to get outdoors during Harriman State Park's season, from May to October.

"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," says 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."

That's no small job. AMC has a lot of work ahead before the camp's estimated completion date of 2025. Tentative plans include renovating the 36 existing cabins, plus 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 the largest AMC facility, with the capacity to hold 160 overnight guests. Here's what we know so far.



## CABIN KEY

- Renovate
- Preserve

**1** Baker Camp is home to 36 existing cabins, 30 of which are built into the hillside overlooking Lake Sebago. These lakeside cabins house two bedrooms and up to four beds each, plus a common area and a large porch, with shared bathrooms nearby.

**2** AMC is working with Cambridge, Mass.-based LDa Architects to renovate Baker Camp. LDa previously consulted on facilities at CHOC, Medawisla in Maine, and the Highland Center in New Hampshire.

**3** Due to a designation from the New York State Parks Department of Historic Preservation, AMC will preserve the look and feel of the rustic cabins. While some exteriors will remain intact, the more-damaged cabins will be rebuilt in the style of their predecessors.

**4** Six larger cabins have four bedrooms, capable of housing up to four beds each, plus common areas with stone fireplaces and bathrooms.

**5** AMC plans to offer Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant cabins, likely near the dining hall.

**6** Like CHOC, Baker Camp is accessible by public transit and the AMC shuttle.

**7** AMC plans to renovate the Baker Camp boat dock, with canoes and kayaks available to guests. Part of the lease also includes AMC managing the Lake Sebago beachfront, which can accommodate up to 5,000 or more day-use guests on summer weekends.

**8** Overnight guests will be able to swim from Baker Camp's private beachfront. ☼

## TRAILS

The Trails Committee's work preserving and maintaining more than 66 miles of trails East and West of the Hudson River continues to one of our Chapter's more notable conservation initiatives. Seventeen miles of these trails are in New Jersey (all of which are part of the Appalachian Trail system), and 8 ½ miles are East of the Hudson River. We maintain 37 miles of trails in the Northern end of Harriman State Park; more than 4 miles of trails (and access trails) directly surrounding the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center, and the same at the Pelham Bay Park Trail in the Bronx. Ken West takes care of the Pelham Bay Park trails, while Bill Hladky supervises our efforts West of Hudson (including Harriman State Park); Joe Rodriguez is responsible for the East of Hudson system, while Steve Weissman supervises the New Jersey trails maintenance teams, and is the Chapter's liaison to the NY/NJ Trails Conference.



One of the most challenging aspect of the work of the Trails Committee involves identifying and removing 'invasive species' from the parks and trails. The New Jersey Invasive Species Council (NJISC) has adopted the definition developed by the National Invasive Species Council, which defines an invasive species as "a species that is 1) nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." An invasive species can be a plant, animal or microbe.

Thousands of non-native species have been introduced to our geographic region over the past several decades. Although most non-native species do not become invasive or cause harm, the small percentage that do pose important threats to our environmental, economic and social welfare.



## TRAILS CON'T

Impacts include effects on human health, economic losses and harm to our natural environment. The gypsy moth and Asian long-horned beetle threaten our street trees and forestry industry along with the overall health of our forests. Some invasive species, such as the Asian tiger mosquito, are direct human nuisances. In rare but extremely serious instances, invasive species may lead to death in humans as evidenced by the recent West Nile Virus outbreak. Some of the most notorious invasive plants include purple loosestrife, mile-a-minute, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, Japanese stilt-grass, garlic mustard, Asiatic bittersweet, tree-of-heaven, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle and Eurasian water-milfoil. Forest pests and pathogens such as chestnut blight, Dutch elm disease and hemlock wooly adelgid have caused permanent damage to our forests.

Other species that have also caused serious damage include gypsy moth, dogwood anthracnose, beech bark disease, butternut canker, a group of non-native earthworms and a host of agricultural weeds and pests. Larger invasive animal species include the European starling, house mouse, brown and black rat, pigeon, mute swan and feral cat. Invasive species of marine habitats include Asian shore crab, MSX oyster disease and Dermo, European green crab and common periwinkle.



In 2020 the Trails Committee will continue its efforts on behalf of all hikers, backpackers, and wanderers through our parks and trails. As always, volunteers are always needed, welcome and appreciated. Please contact the Executive for Facilities & Services ([facilities@amc-ny.org](mailto:facilities@amc-ny.org)) if you would like to get involved in the Invasive Species Project, or are willing to donate even a few hours annually to help in trail maintenance efforts.

# WILDERNESS FIRST AID

The Chapter's Wilderness First Aid (WFA) program continues to serve as a cornerstone for the entire activity leader body. This is the 22nd year the Chapter has ran its Wilderness First Aid Program, and we estimate more than 1,000 people have been certified in WFA by the NY/No. Jersey Chapter.

Headed by Richard Dabal (pictured) the WFA committee recruits volunteers with an extraordinarily impressive array of certifications from the country's leading providers of wilderness emergency medical training. At the Sterling Forest Wilderness First Aid class in April, we honored Jonathan Silver with commendations for his 20 years of starting and running the WFA classes.



There were two WFA classes held in 2019: one in April at Sterling State Park with 24 students, and a second in July at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center, where 14 people were trained.

We currently have enough WFA volunteer instructors, however the Committee has tentatively scheduled to run additional programs in 2020, and for that reason is looking for more volunteers.

# WILDERNESS FIRST AID CON'T

We currently have enough WFA volunteer instructors, however the Committee has tentatively scheduled to run additional programs in 2020, and for that reason is looking for more volunteers. We may possibly ask other Chapters for assistance. On the schedule for 2020 are classes in April at Sterling State Forest, and two more at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center during July and September.

One of the challenges to be overcome in 2020 is communicating to our members that the Summer classes are available: the April class is typically over-subscribed as that is held at the beginning of the hiking (and all other activities, of course) season when more members are seeking to become leaders. Fewer members are aware we hold the WFA classes over the Summer and in the Fall.



# LEADERSHIP

This is the 4th year of the Leadership Committee and we're continuing to look for new ways to train more leaders. The Leadership Training weekend is being offered mid May at CHOC each year so that part of the program is stable and predictable.

## **Our goals are still the same:**

- 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. trip planning, incident reporting, trip talk at the start, using the ActDB and social media, liability issues, etc.) so that the activity committees can concentrate on the skills needed for the activity.
- Make it easier for AMC leaders to lead for different chapters if they move out of (or into) the NY/NJ area.

## **Activity highlights:**

1. While not run by this committee there at the club level there were some Young Member oriented (but not limited to YM of course) leadership weekends and also work done to partner with a local college to train their students. Those trained are handled as if they attended the chapter training. They still have to fulfill the requirements of the activity they want to lead for (e.g. lead 2 hikes with a mentor, etc.).
2. The Leadership Workshop Weekend at Harriman Outdoor Center was well attended and some changes were made to allow for more interactive learning vs. lecture in the classroom.
3. We are continuing to share new leader info between the nearby Delaware Valley and Connecticut chapters. This has been helpful to a few that live in between the 2 chapters. We're getting great help from the Delaware Valley leadership committee to help us train leaders. Hopefully over the next few years we'll have enough local trainers to run the weekend.
4. We plan to continue offering half day intro leadership classes at the club office next year, this past year there was only one half day class.

# LEADERSHIP CON'T

## Plans for next year:

- 1) Improve tracking the Leaders in Training as they progress towards becoming leaders.
- 2) Improve communication and assistance to help the Leaders in Training become leaders.
- 3) Run another Leadership Workshop (already scheduled for May 15-17 in Harriman).
- 4) Offer 3 half day classes and extend them from 4 hours to more like 6 to be able to cover more material.



## Congratulations to our FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS

Olga Roberts  
Jules Bellisio  
Lois Winkler

Marilyn Farrell  
Hildegard Jeenel  
Margaret Browar

Mark Winkler  
Joan Benson  
Arax Hicks  
Jacqueline Thompson

## Congratulations to our TWENTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBERS

Yona Davis  
Sydney Robertson  
Ellen Weber  
Barbara Kendall  
Bradford Kendall  
George O'Lear  
Donald Pachner  
Neal Spitzer  
John Barbato  
Edward Duncanson  
Jean Fletcher  
Wayne Frey  
Mali Hung  
Eloise Jamieson  
Joseph Jamieson  
Richard Leonard  
Peep Rebassoo  
Laura Rice  
Jerry Serfass  
Adam Slutsky  
Heather Slutsky  
Janis Slutsky  
Ann Watts  
Martin Zumsteg

Renee Gelblat  
John Jurasek  
Kirk Nixon  
Michele Scott  
Margaret Wood  
Julie Zuckerbraun  
Masayo Ando  
Rhoda Chaloff  
Kay Hoiby  
Leslie Kriesel  
June Auger  
Robert Feldman  
James Fitzpatrick, Jr.  
John Foord  
Bob Kain  
Stuart Levinson  
Deborah Shields  
Kenneth Silver  
Aaron Stern  
Kenneth Josselyn  
Patricia McHugh  
Abigail Norton  
Jerome Norton

Tony Stewart  
Ginnie Styles  
Don and Emilie Englund  
Donald Englund  
Phyllis Gulino  
Evelyn Silverman  
Jennifer Archibald  
Richard Brennan  
John Dennehy  
John Erickson  
Eugene Giuliano Jr.  
Mitchell Horowitz  
Gary McElvany  
David Morse  
Herbert Richman  
Elizabeth Santos  
Wayne Santos  
John Boomer  
Herman Charbonneau  
Paul Mah  
Bob McGuirl  
Andrey Pochtar  
Louise Belevich

# Congratulations to our TWENTY YEAR MEMBERS

Margaret Douglas  
Michael Lepore  
David Hogenauer  
Thomas Parliment  
Howard Grahn  
Lynn Groves  
Geoffrey Mort  
Manfred Janowski  
Linda Queller  
Marina Jackson  
Carlo Lipizzi  
Michael Brailove  
Albert Manganelli  
Michael Banas  
Joshua Wilner  
Marsha Hill  
Anna Bergen  
Elliott Bergen  
Jannie Chang  
John Reynolds  
Mike Austin  
Susan Smith  
Robert Else  
Ken Cartaxo  
Madeleine Guilmain

Todd Fairbairn  
Philip Cristantiello Ph.D.  
Lisa Dunham  
William Maus  
Aislinn McGuire  
Bonnie Gonzales  
Ed Strachar  
Miok Lee Salz  
Richard Salz  
June Duffy  
Frederick Dietrich  
Kathleen Dietrich  
Robert Ellsworth  
Setsuko Ellsworth  
Constantine Gletsos  
Seth Warren Ph.D.  
John Breen  
Diane Jennings  
Munyeey Pang  
Susan Farenci  
Maris Buckner  
David Garfunkel  
Mitch Ignatoff  
Vivian Holzer  
A. Lanette Spalding

John Elliott  
Betty Sperber  
Toby Golick  
Joel Solomon  
Robert Blackburn  
Ruth Ansell  
Allison Scola  
David Voremberg  
Colin Bell  
Suse Bell  
Elena Villalon  
Anna Kurz  
Hugh Watson  
Josine Veca  
Benjie Plotch  
Laurel Hoffman  
Janet Gottlieb  
Paul Schickler  
Isabelle Reynolds  
Terence Reynolds  
Karen Arenson  
Olaf Stiner  
Marsha Clark  
Jean Young  
Larry Palmer

*Special thanks to Tiffanie Burt for designing the 2019 Annual Report's layout and to the NYNJ Chapter committees who submitted photographs: Backpacking, Canoe and Kayak, Climbing, Fire Island Cabin, Hiking, Skiing, Softball, Trails, Young Members and Wilderness First Aid.*

