



NEW YORK-NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS



Annual Report

2017

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2017 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Cynthia Tollo-Falls

VICE CHAIR

Nathan Baker

SECRETARY

Rob Holbrook

TREASURER

David Lloyd

EXECUTIVE FOR ACTIVITIES

Ed Sobin

EXECUTIVE FOR FACILITIES & SERVICES

Oliver Dettler

EXECUTIVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Lee Hoffman

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Janet Ainsworth

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BACKPACKING

David Mong

BICYCLE

Kim Spelman

CANOE & KAYAK

Suzanne Villegas

CLIMBING

John Tedeschi

HIKING

Stefan Erwin

SAILING

John Sheets

SKIING

Ed Sobin

SOFTBALL

Fern Stolper

YOUNG MEMBERS

Thomas Meehan and Rafal Rogoza

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ARCHIVES

Jack Reilly

EBLAST

Susan Bernstein

MEMBERSHIP

Carrie Ho

SOCIAL MEDIA MODERATOR

David Hartree

TRAILS & WAVES

Ron Gonzalez and Marty Plant

WEB

Tat Yuen

FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADVISORY

Eileen Yin

CONSERVATION

Brittany Gollins

FIRE ISLAND

Diane Serlin

HOSPITALITY

Melissa Marine

NOMINATING

Henry Schreiber

TRAILS

Hope Rodgers

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Jonathan Silver

STAFF

NY-NoJ PROGRAM MANAGER

Justin Bailey

NY-NoJ PROGRAM MANAGER INTERN

Jasmine Santiago

NY-NoJ PROGRAM MANAGER INTERN

Ashley Stein

REPORT FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR



My two years as Chapter Chair have flown by fast because of the amazing work our volunteers accomplished. My term started off with goals of promoting community, communication and leadership within the Chapter. We did all of this while supporting the opening of the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC) and contributing to the initial ideas for using the camp.

There are many people that need to be thanked for their work contributing to the goals the Executive Committee proposed. The Young Members Committee chaired by Silja Tobin staffed our picnic committee. Melissa Marine, working with Silja, volunteered to be picnic chair and did such a great job we promoted her to Hospitality Chair. We had 175 people for the day and 120 for the night. It was so much fun that we decided to do it again in 2018.

Silja Tobin has served as the Young Members Committee Chair for the last two years. She helped develop a strong core group into a large community. Under her direction, trips to NH and the ADKS have been organized, Fire Island and CHOC weekends were extremely popular and most importantly we have a new group of leaders. We are very sorry to see her leave us, but Portland Oregon beckons. We cannot thank her enough.

The CHOC served as the center for so many Chapter Programs for the last two years. Eileen Yin, our former Chapter Chair, has worked endlessly on developing hosts and organizing programs that sell out. She spent most of last summer and this summer in camp working with volunteers to help get them

familiar with the facilities and organizing programs ranging from the very popular Yoga weekends, beginner backpacking, learn to paddle, Dark Skies, and of course hiking. Both members and non-members alike were introduced to the outdoors in the beautiful setting on Breakneck Pond. Next year we plan over 20 weekends, so be sure to sign up.

Our communications team headed by Lee Hoffman worked to get monthly eblasts out advertising our events. Trails and Waves has come out 3 times a year edited by Ron Gonzalez with layout design by Marty Plante. Tat Yuen never fails to respond to requests to update our website, usually within an hour! There have been monthly Open Houses to allow new and prospective members a chance to ask questions. Our Facebook likes have grown to over 3,200 "Likes". The Meetup Page reaches almost 9,000 people and helps bring in new members. In addition, we've been able to start up our Speaker Program series through the hard work of Carrie Ho. Many of these events have attracted over 75 people.

The Leadership Committee under the direction of Ed Sobin has worked endlessly developing the Chapter Path to Leadership. Henry Schreiber has devoted several Saturdays to teaching a shortened leader training class ensuring that all leaders have a minimum level of knowledge. In addition, the leadership committee held a weekend long class and trained 20 Leaders in Training. The training is already paying off with new names in the schedule.

It wasn't always easy getting all of this done, but I along with the rest of the Executive Committee and our many volunteers who went above and beyond sure had a lot of fun. Nathan, I wish you the best, you will make a great Chapter Chair and looking forward to seeing what comes next.

Respectfully submitted,

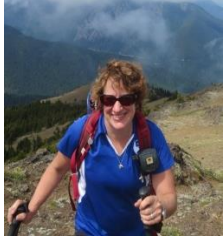
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia A. Falls". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cynthia" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Falls".

Cynthia A. Falls

NY-NoJ Chapter Chair

AMC, New York-North Jersey Chapter

Your 2017 Executive Committee ...



Cynthia Tollo-Falls
Chair



Nathan Baker
Vice –Chair



David Lloyd
Treasurer



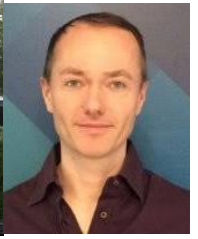
Rob Holbrook
Secretary



Lee Hoffman
Communications



Ed Sobin
Activities



Oliver Dettler
Facilities & Services

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Starting Balance from 2016														
	Bank Account	101,392.07	95,667.21	92,344.36	90,862.48	90,240.21	69,650.09	59,291.68	91,409.58	80,954.97				
	Paypal	26,058.61	26,475.81	26,236.89	25,314.50	23,671.16	22,867.69	11,078.90	10,095.01	10,095.01				
	Total Balance	127,450.68	122,143.02	118,581.25	116,176.98	113,911.37	92,517.78	70,370.58	101,504.59	91,049.98				
	Chase Account (approx)						5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00				
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2017 YTD
Income														
	Contributions	100.00								20.00				120.00
	Dues Ch Allocation	150.00					585.00							735.00
	Interest Income													0.00
	Online Memb Sales	1,490.00												1,490.00
	OTC/mail Sales													0.00
	Sales Expen. Joy St													0.00
	Sales Expen. Local													0.00
	Invest. Reserv. Dist							30,000.00		12,286.75				42,286.75
	Misc.	6,535.67			163.08									6,698.75
	Total Income													51,330.50
Activity Expenses & Income														
Annual Dinner 2016														
	Receipts	(750.00)												(750.00)
	Expenses	6,634.81						800.00						7,434.81
	Total Dinner													6,684.81
Conservation Committee														
	Meetings & Travel													0.00
	Misc						1,508.39							1,508.39
	Total CC													1,508.39
Executive Committee														
	Meetings & Travel	119.89	250.44	362.16		333.81	1,393.78				670.52			3,130.60
	Misc.	272.78		216.00			60.90			117.70				667.38
	Total Exec. Comm.													3,797.98
Harriman Prog. Comm.														
	Income						(186.04)	(5,381.77)	(4,122.64)	(1,712.99)	(11,240.56)			(22,644.00)
	Expenses	184.21			493.10	216.00	2,247.84	2,427.06	4,084.43	7,220.61	2,339.44			19,212.69
	Total HPC													(3,431.31)
Leadership Committee														
	Expenses						378.13							378.13
	Total Leadership													378.13
Membership Committee														
	Meetings & Travel		24.79		42.32	52.79	221.60				494.52			836.02
	Recruitment	249.40												249.40
	Total Memb. Comm.													1,085.42
Office and Administration														
	Ch. Managers Salary		1,344.00	1,344.00		2,016.00	336.00							5,040.00
	Dues & Subscriptions										35.00			35.00
	Equip. & Furniture													0.00
	Bank and Paypal Fees	23.67	13.57	28.47	10.57	(0.88)								75.40
	Internet & Website				30.00									30.00
	Insurance									1,813.00				1,813.00
	Meet-up Group		89.44			89.94					89.94			269.32
	Postage		82.70											82.70
	Recognition & Train.		481.83	368.00				368.00	6,892.82	182.11				8,292.76
	Rent		1,800.00			3,600.00	5,400.00		3,600.00		1,800.00	1,800.00		18,000.00
	Supplies	533.66		170.34										704.00
	Telephone													0.00
	Total Office													34,342.18
Program Manager														
	Travel and Meetings													0.00
	Merchandise				1,810.10			589.68			82.64			2,482.42
	Total PM													2,482.42
Trails Committee														
	Trails Weekend						1,429.69							1,429.69
	Misc							26.56						26.56
	Total Trails													1,456.25
Volunteer Appreciation Picnic														
	Receipts (Eventbrite)						(6,925.29)							(6,925.29)
	Expenses					9,518.91	9,983.89							19,502.80
	Total Picnic													12,577.51
Wilderness First Aid														
	Fees (PayPal)	(385.00)	(525.00)	(1,145.00)	(695.00)									(2,750.00)
	Expenses & Refunds	300.00		888.15	320.00	40.00	132.04	36.46		581.59	300.00			2,598.24
	Total WFA													(151.76)
Young Members														
	Meetings & Travel			172.15	417.59	287.81	75.78				190.00			1,143.33
	Misc.	111.91												111.91
	Total Young Members													1,255.24
Total Net Expenditures														61,985.26
Miscellaneous														
	2016 Reimbursements						1,225.49							1,225.49
	2016 AMC payments	6,288.00												6,288.00
	Theft (phishing)						5,450.00							5,450.00
	Total Misc.													12,963.49

ACTIVITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

BACKPACKING

David Mong, Chair

The NY-NoJ Backpacking Committee scheduled 47 overnight trips varying in length from 2 to 7 days. In total 46 of these trips ran which is pretty impressive. While the total trips we scheduled this year was lower than last, our total number of participants was higher at 318 vs 243 the prior year. Our focus has been on having a lot of our trips geared towards beginner backpackers so they can learn the skills to safely enjoy the wilderness on their own. 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.



BICYCLING

Kim Spelman, Chair

No report submitted.

CANOE & KAYAKING

Suzanne Villegas, Chair

INSTRUCTION

The year kicked off with our Annual Pool sessions, feedback was extremely positive, Master Trip Leader Vadim Stepaniuk had another great season.



Our

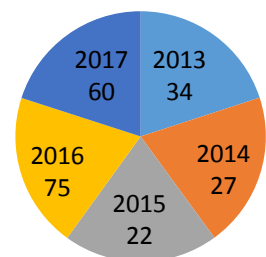


annual Instructional was held on the weekend of June 2 and combined both Canoe and Kayak.

ACTIVITIES

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

CKC TRIPS



FINANCE

We continue to hover around \$20k, and no new equipment was purchased.

TRIP LEADERS

The Canoe Kayak Committee met quarterly via skype. Among our many goals, we promoted a few more trip leaders who successfully completed their LIT. In addition, Rash Guards were presented a Trip Leader gifts.



CLIMBING

John Tedeschi, Chair

Summary:

- AMC NY-NoJ Climbing Committee celebrated its 91th birthday.
- Commemorating video slide show created for this occasion depicting major events, trips, and activities of club members was featured during our Annual Solstice Dinner in January.
- The Committee also continued support of the regions where we climb donating to the Ragged Mountain Foundation, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, Gunks Climbers Coalition, and Torne Valley Climbers Coalition that is building our the new Powerlinz climbing area in southern Harriman Park.
- Our Annual Spring Training Class yielded 15 new graduates.
- Continuing a tradition started in 2010, the Committee honored another volunteer with the Golden Cam.
- Popular monthly Rock/Ice Top Rope Socials continue. Weekly climbing schedule.
- 2017 Rock Climbing season kicked off with a Welcome To The Gunks weekend.
- Climbing/Safety workshops during summer of 2017 kept AMC climbing members in their top shape.
- AMC NY-NoJ Chapter's sponsored several members to undertake their Single Pitch Instructor certification.
- Annual Picnic in September marks the end of Summer.

Key 2017 Climbing Committee events:

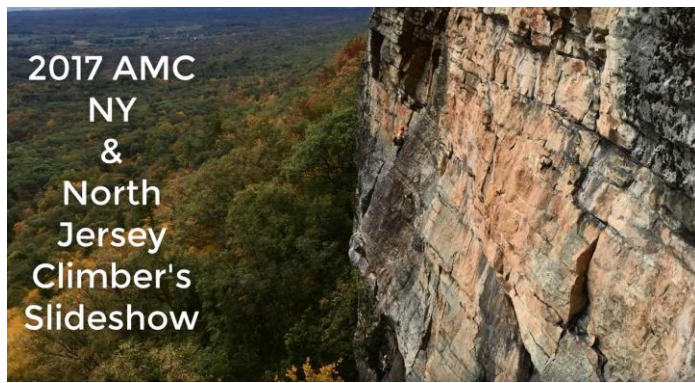
- Winter Solstice Dinner - January
- Spring Training Class took place in April
- SPI training with Alpine Endeavors – took place over the summer and early fall
- Welcome To The Gunks (WTTG) weekend and The Golden Cam Award – April
- Workshops – Summer 2017
- Rock/Ice Climbing Top Rope Socials – Once a month, every month
- Weekly climbing
- Annual Picnic (Gunks, Singerland Pavilion) – September 9, 2017

Winter Solstice Dinner/Slide Show

2017 marked the 105th year of the AMC NY-NoJ Chapter and 91th birthday of the AMC NY-NoJ Climbing Committee. The Climbing Committee was established in 1926 as the Mountaineering Committee and the first Chair was Percy Olton. Every year a club member creates a video slide show to celebrate our birthday. Just like last year, the request for photographs from our members resulted in a great turnout and therefore yet another exciting and eclectic slide show. The video premiered at the annual Winter Solstice dinner and was also shown at the Welcome to the Gunks dinner welcoming our 2017 training class graduates.

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzVKhxewpSbNUWgzUEJ5X1VjR0k/view?usp=sharing>

Enjoy....can you spot the climber??



Donations to The Ragged Mountain Foundation, Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

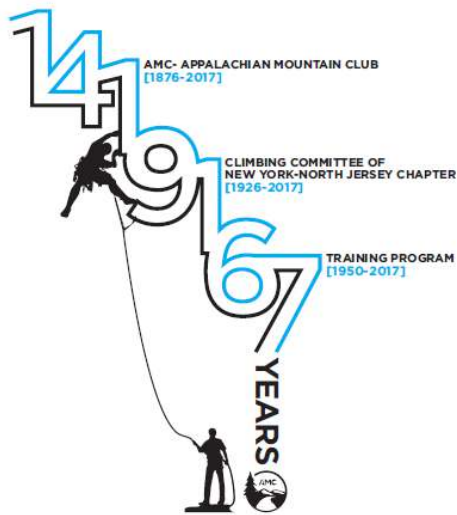
Our annual Spring Training class takes place at cliffs located in Southington Connecticut. Therefore in 2017 we continued support of Connecticut nonprofit organizations dedicated to conservation, preservation and maintenance of public access and trails in Connecticut Forests. We normally make a donation to the Gunks Rescue squad for their great effort in responding to climbers, hikers and bikers who enjoy the Shawangunks. Unfortunately, this year we could not afford to do so this year due to the unexpected costs with the summer picnic venue. Previously we were able to access the Pavilion at the Mohonk Preserve for free but this year they requested a \$500 fee

Spring Training Class 2017 and WTTG

Over the course of two weekends in April, the Committee initiated 15 new members. With skillful guidance of 17 Climbing Committee volunteers, the new AMC climbers learned skills needed to climb with the club. The Training Class culminated with Welcome to the Gunks (WTTG) event. The recent graduates are introduced to one of the best outdoor rock climbing areas in North East, The Shawagunks. Here is the class of 2017 !!



Our newest designed tee-shirt for the class for 2017 included much about the AMC climbing history.



The Golden Cam Award

The 2017 Golden Cam recipient is Mike Geramita who embodies the spirit of giving back to our AMC climbing community through his service and commitment. Since joining the Committee, Mike has been an active member helping organize our winter solstice dinner, treasurer and leading a portion of the participating at Spring Training Class. Thank you Mike!

Single Pitch Instructor training with Alpine Endeavors.

Although all of us enjoy and participate in top-rope climbing and multi-pitch climbing, advancing to be a confident lead climber (aka “being on the sharp end of the rope”) takes significant commitment and time. In order to assist a few club members in making this commitment, the club helped offset some of the costs. We continue growing our leaders by supporting their interests in obtaining their Single Pitch Instructor certification by sponsoring 3 members and would like to expand it going forward.

Carbs and Caffeine

One of our members suggested a Carbs and Caffeine program where the weekly registrar is provided \$20 to offset the cost for providing a morning coffee or bagel to help get things going before a day of climbing.

Top Rope Socials

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

Summer Workshops

Every summer the Committee organizes climbing workshops. In 2017, thanks to our experienced veteran members, the following climbing workshops took place:

- “Getting Back to the Ground” Workshop - The self-rescue workshop featured various rappelling techniques and belay escapes, all of which are invaluable when faced with climbing mishaps.
- Leading Workshops - In this one-on-one workshop, a new lead climber climbs with experience lead climber. During their session, depending on experience of the new lead climber, either on

mock-leads or actual lead, the climber receives suggestions on critical gear placement, anchor set-up, and gear retrieval.

- Anchor Placement Workshop - This workshop was offered for both leaders as well as seconds. Reliable gear placements and solid anchor building are key skills that make a climber safe.
- Rappelling with an injured climber – a very challenging endeavor when dealing with full body weight of someone hanging from single rope.

Wilderness First Aid

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



Annual Picnic at the Singerland Pavilion in Mohonk Preserve.

Keeping with our annual tradition, on September 9, 2017, our best event yet, the Annual Picnic, took place. Eveline Gottesman and volunteers did a superb job organizing it. Climbing and travel stories were told and the exchange of experience was priceless. A fun raffle brought this evening to an end. We honored the many attendees who have been committee members for decades.

HIKING

Stefan Erwin, Chair

The NY-NoJ Chapter Hiking Committee functioned smoothly and efficiently in 2017, with maximum participation and minimum friction among the many leaders who contribute to the running of the largest committee in the NY-NoJ Chapter.



The Hiking Committee has received frequent complaints about posting on Activities database, and the time it takes for approval. To promote expediency in posting, the hiking committee implemented a new approval process to expedite hike postings. Specifically, the committee removed all “reviewers” from the approval process. In conjunction, the committee increased the number of approvers. Presently, there are 13 approvers. In this manner, unposted but submitted hikes will not linger on the website.



This year we added around 13 new leaders. We have 112 leaders and co-leaders. The CCNY group has been especially active in this, and the hike posting field deserves special recognition. As there are still potential leaders in the pipeline, and our level of training has increased, it is expected that many new, quality hiking leaders will join the ranks this year.

This year there were 755 hikes listed on the activities database. The hikes ranged from short leisurely strolls to 20+mile adventures! The most active hiking leaders this year are:

70 Irv Reich
46 Joe Nigro
42 Mike Handelsman
34 David Tarlo
33 David Lamb
32 Wanda Davenport
28 Bob Susser
27 Jay Beilis
22 Rita Gollin
21 Rita Cohen
21 Bill Hladky
18 David Hartree
17 Rand Salani

17 John Denkowski
17 Gery Monaco
14 Steve Galla
13 Jane Levenson
12 Marty Carp
12 Robert Monczka
12 Hidetoshi Nakahashi
12 Stuart Falls
11 Hal Kaplan
11 Howard Millman
10 Tim Burrows
10 Rich Siegelman
10 Howard Braunstein

In this coming year, the hiking committee plans to revitalize the hiking section of the hiking website. This next year seems to be promising, with many hikes already listed in the database.



SAILING

John Sheets, Chair

2017 continued to be a transition and rebuilding year for the AMC Sailing Committee. As noted in previous year's report, many of the committee's sailing instructors who have been trip leaders for 20 to 30 years or more with the committee and they have either retired from their jobs, moved to other locations or are no longer leading trips, the committee is in the process of recruiting sailors to be instructors.

Since I began as the new Chair shortly before the 2015 sailing season started, we went into that season as well as the 2016 and 2017 season with terrific trip leaders. These included Dan Parietti, a seasoned AMC Sailing Committee veteran and expert Lightning (19' sloop) racer – who recruited Richard Leonard in 2016, also an expert Lightning racer, through the Nyack Boat Club on the Hudson River. In addition, Jesse Schaffer completed his third season with us. Jesse is a former Tall Ship captain, whom I recruited in 2015, as a new trip leader, through our sailing together for many years aboard Schooner Pioneer (103' 65 ton schooner) at the South Street Seaport <https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org/visit/street-of-ships/pioneer/> and aboard the Mystic Whaler (110' 100 ton schooner) <https://www.mysticwhalercruises.com/> out of New London, CT.



In our 2017 season, Dan Parietti and I did the springtime land class as usual at our AMC office at the YMCA Upper Westside at 5 West 63rd St. As always, during this class we summarize for attendees the two sailing programs that our chapter offers. These are the sailing trips and land classes with the AMC Sailing Committee and the sailing weekends or midweek programs at our AMC Fire Island Cabin, the "FIC". After the presentation of that information, we start reviewing basic sailing techniques, safety on the water, where we sail, which includes Manhasset Bay near Port Washington on Long Island Sound, New Rochelle, the Nyack Boat Club on the Hudson River and at the FIC. We play parts of a learn to sail video and answer any questions. We also cover how to register for a sail and we let all know that our programs are open to AMC members and non-members. We let them know the cost for a sail with the AMC Sailing Committee, which is usually \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. We recommend that they check the AMC website for the fees at the FIC.



We also let them know how to register for sailing trips and for the FIC sailing activities as well. Many who attend of land class go on our trips and programs as noted above.

In 2017, Jesse Schaffer and I lead sailing trips out of New Rochelle and Port Washington aboard 23' Sonars. We continue our long relationship with the Port Sailing School <http://www.portsailing.com/> and rent boats from them at the discounted rate of \$120 for a four-hour sail. They give us their non-profit origination rate, which is also tax-free. In the many years we have sailed with the school, they have not raised our rate. Over the years, our committee's sailors have developed relationships with the owner of the school and their staff. They like renting boats to us, as they know we are experienced and responsible sailors.



I lead a trip on the July 4th weekend three-day cruise on the 110' schooner Mystic Whaler, <https://www.mysticwhalercruises.com/>, owned and operated by my friend for over 30 years, Captain John Eginton, out of New London, CT. We sailed to Fisher's Island and Shelter Island and sailed around Shelter Island and back to New London. All had a terrific time.

I am happy to announce that Jim Datri a longtime AMC sailor with his own boat, is back on our committee and plans to do some sails next year on the Great South Bay and including the area near the FIC. Welcome back Jim! Dan Parietti let me know that he will continue to volunteer to teach the introductory sailing land class with me at the NY Chapter office in the spring of each sailing season. That will

be his contribution to the AMC Sailing Committee program going forward. Dan also noted that additionally, he would be willing to assist at the FIC on a short-term basis (once a season event), since he has duties to his Lightning sailboat fleet at Nyack Boat Club. <http://www.nyackboatclub.org/> The FIC sailing program under the leadership of John Maier, is doing very well and currently has, at last count, 12 sailing instructors. I understand that they have three sloops and many

Sunfish boats in their fleet. As usual, in 2017, the FIC sailing program had a number of weekend and midweek sailing instruction, practice and related activities as was noted on our website and through Meetup as well. For additional information, please contact John Maier via email at jam11385@yahoo.com.



Happily, we have a few people that are part of our apprentice program that seem to have the qualifications to be one of our trip leaders / captains in the near future. One of our goals is to rebuild the AMC Sailing Committee with new trip leaders / captains.

In 2016, we revived a long-standing tradition, an AMC Sailing Committee dinner / business meeting. We did not have the opportunity to do that in 2017 but hope to do so in 2018. Our current advisors to the AMC Sailing Committee are our former Chair, Norman Finkelstein and former Chairs and instructors / captains, Rita Kepich and Toni Cangialosi, and currently inactive instructors, Angela Berardino and Joseph Ryan. Joe is our Treasurer.

As often is the case, a number of the AMC Sailing Committee's trips that were scheduled, were cancelled due to weather or too few AMC sailors who registered for the trips. As always, some of our sailing trips had waiting lists as the trips were full.

We had many compliments from our students and a good time was had by all on our trips.

Financial summary 2017:

- Trip fees collected, approximately \$840
- Boat rental costs, approximately \$720
- Approximate current bank account balance: \$2,314

SKIING

Ed Sobin, Chair



The following were accomplished in the 2016/2017 season:

- There were less trips run this past season. Typically it's around 19 but last season there were only 9. This was somewhat expected with 2 of our most active leaders unable to lead. But we have had a few leaders start leading again so 7 leaders led the 9 trips which has added to the variety of offerings.
- The AMC Ski Yahoo group continues to be used by the ski community for exchange of information and arranging short notice trips. This year we are also using the Meetup group for day trips, and may use it for weekends depending on snow and leader availability.

There were 175 messages in the Yahoo group from October 2016 to October 2017. The prior season it was 201 so only 26 fewer than the prior season. There is still considerable interest in how to buy gear, snow conditions, and where to ski. In large part the number of messages depends on the availability of snow. As of November 2, 2017 there are 386 members which is 2 more than the prior year. Currently there are no email bounces in the group.

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

Obviously the Ski Committee's biggest barrier is lack of snow. It is difficult to recruit leaders for day trips when snow conditions are iffy at best. That said, there has been continued interest in using the AMC Ski Yahoo group and Meetup to offer short notice events when conditions are good – several were offered last season and more are expected for this season.

Mohican Outdoor Center sometimes has Cross Country Ski weekends not associated with the Ski committee.

We didn't offer any Miramar trips the last couple of years but this year we are again offering some Miramar trips. At least 5 are planned so far and there may be a few more. We are also working with them and the YM group to get more Young Members going on ski trips. Miramar is a good entry point as they have a bus picking people up in LI, NYC, and NJ so no cars are needed. They also go to large ski areas where it's easy to rent equipment.

Multiple leaders continue to spend considerable effort to put together interesting packages – please consider supporting their efforts by joining them for a great weekend of skiing.

We should be closer to our usual 15+ trips this year if the weather cooperates and the Miramar partnership is successful.

We invite all current skiers, former skiers, and prospective skiers to join us - almost all of the overnight trips welcome and encourage beginners – please check with the leaders. Both downhill and XC centers offer packages (day pass, group lessons, and rental ski equipment).

SOFTBALL

Fern Stolper, Chair



The softball committee consists of ten members who organize the AMC softball activities. We meet 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. We go over the rules/make announcements each week before the start of play. 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 (450+ members). 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. 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.



YOUNG MEMBERS

Co-Chairs Thomas Meehan and Rafal Rogoza

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

Committee:



Thomas Meehan
Co-Chair



Rafal Rogoza
Co-Chair



John Perilli
Secretary



Deborah Boone
Events Coordinator

In 2017, we have added a number of social activities such as weekend getaways and interchapter activities that have helped build strong bonds among new club young members with the goal of fostering leadership in the group.

We have established a core group of leaders that have helped the committee establish a level of consistency, imagination, and good communication.

Along with our monthly thirsty Thursday socials and committee meetings, we have successfully continued what are now annual events such as our MLK Ski Weekend and our Spring Kick-Off Party.

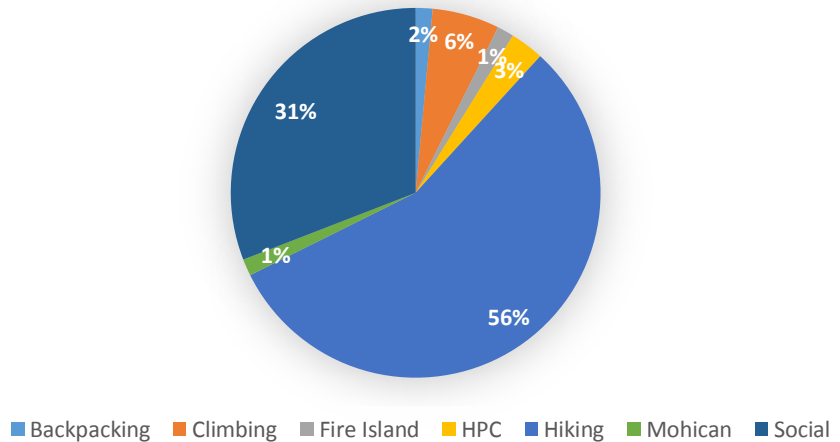
The YM committee board successfully transitioned to new leadership with members adopting new roles helping to continue our growth.

2017 Young Member Activities

YM Trip Breakdown YTD 10/31

Backpacking	1
Climbing	4
Fire Island	1
HPC	2
Hiking	38
Mohican	1
Social	21
Total	68

Activity Breakdown



Activity Highlights include:

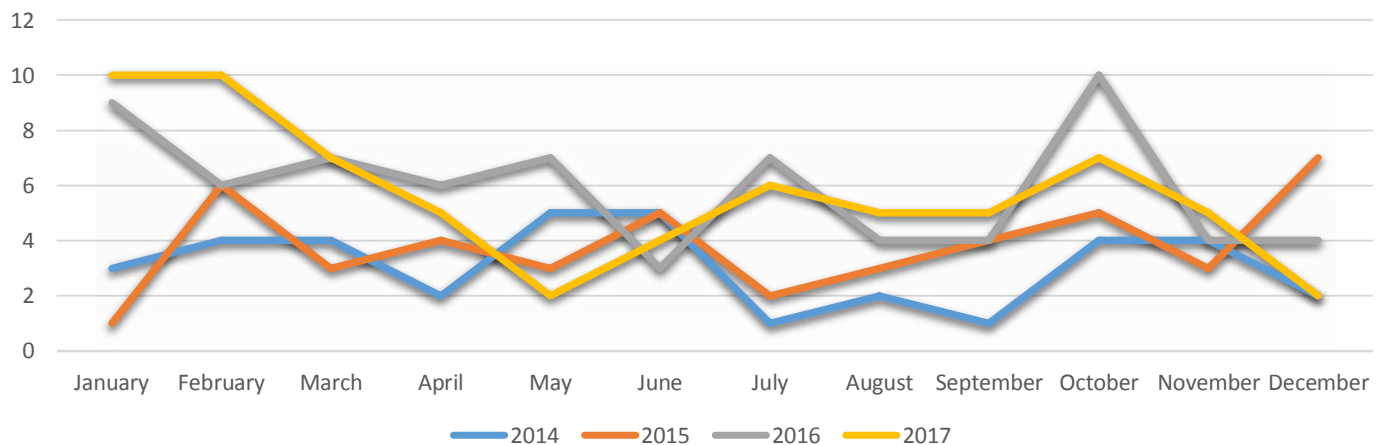
MLK YM Ski Weekend in the Daks
 YM Spring Kick-Off Party
 YM Weekend at Fire Island
 YM Fall Getaway Weekend in Harriman

2017 Growth

Once again, over the past year the YM activities have shown steady growth.

2014	2015	2016	2017 YTD
37	46	73	68

Of Activities By Month



Social Media

Social media has also been a massive success in 2017 with a 46% growth year to date moving from 623 members to 914 Year to Date. Engagement with the page has increased similarly.



2017 Goals

1. Increase the number of outdoor excursions and include more variety of activities.
2. Continue leadership recruitment and reward the volunteerism of dedicated leaders on our roster.
3. Build inter-committee relationships to help YMs transition into backpacking, climbing, and paddling.
4. Be great host for our YM interchapter activities.
5. Schedule 100 activities in 2018.

Leadership Committee

Ed Sobin, Chair

In this second year of the Leadership Committee we've continued what was started last year. Our goals are basically unchanged -

- 1) Make it easier to get new leaders trained and leading activities
- 2) Make sure potential leaders learn the basic AMC leadership skills that aren't activity specific (i.e. incident reporting, trip talk at the start, using the ActDB and social media, liability issues, etc.) so that the activity committees can concentrate on the skills needed for the activity
- 3) 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) We continued to run half day classes in 2017 teaching the basics to 22 potential new leaders.
- 2) The Leadership Workshop Weekend at Harriman Outdoor Center had 17 potential new leaders attending.
- 3) The Path to Leadership document was placed on the website
- 4) We have a process for sharing new leader info between the near by Delaware Valley and Connecticut chapters
- 5) A spreadsheet of potential new leaders was created to track them as they go through the process.

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 18-20)
- 4) Continue with the half day intro classes



COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

This year we focused on communicating a simple message to our current New York – North Jersey AMCs and (hopefully) future AMCs: *Membership Has Its Privileges*. Through *Trails and Waves* (beautifully put together and edited by Ron Gonzalez and Marty Plante); our monthly *eBlasts* (overseen by Susan Bernstein); and the Meetup App, we kept members up-to-date on all the incredible events and activities (most being led by fellow members) that are a priceless benefit of being in the AMC. And in an open letter to our community, our outgoing President, Cynthia Tollo Falls, highlighted the important conservation work that also makes membership in the AMC so valuable and important. In the coming year, we will continue to encourage members to take advantage of all the remarkable goings-on in our Chapter. But with rollbacks happening to our National Monuments and other attacks on our beloved wilderness areas, we will continue to communicate the vital role AMC membership plays in helping preserve these treasures. This year our message will be, *Membership Makes A Difference*.

TRAILS & WAVES

Ron Gonzalez and Marty Plant, Editors



Trails & Waves was published 3 times in 2017. All issues are available on the chapter website and can be found here: <https://www.amc-ny.org/publications/#.WkZsl1WnGUk>. It is now easier than ever to update your preferences to receive notices of publication. To update your preferences to receive Chapter email go to <https://www.outdoors.org/> and create an account. From there, you can update your membership to receive only the email you desire.

ARCHIVES

Jack Reilly, Chair

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

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

Carrie Ho, Chair

Yearly statistics

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 (as of Aug 31)
Year-end members	12,013	11,755	11,618	11,439	11,225	11,246	11,028
Year-end membership	9,259	8,958	8,842	8,710	8,464	8,507	8,295
Growth rate - Chapter, memberships	0.8%	-3.3%	-1.3%	-1.5%	-2.8%	0.2%	-2.5%
Growth rate - Club, memberships	4.5%	2.3%	2.0%	0.6%	2.9%	0.3%	1.3%
Club year-end membership	59,219	60,596	61,809	62,160	63,952	64,175	65,006

The chapter membership has **plateaued** in 2018.

Accomplishments in 2017 by Membership Chair

- Attended the Member Committee meetings in AMC Annual Summit (January) and Fall Gathering (October); and two (2) New York Chapter Committee Chair meetings. Contributed the add-valued idea to the Club.
- Hosted two (2) new members weekends in Harriman Outdoor Center and one (1) Mohican Outdoor Center. Invited Delaware Valley Chapter co-hosted the Members weekend and the responses were great.
- Launched and hosted seven (7) speaker talks from January to July. The topics were widely ranged from running the Long Path, skiing in Austria, white water in Grand Canyon, to Camino de Santiago, AT Thru-Hike, to Himalayan Kingdom and Kilimanjaro. The popular speaker series will be continued in 2018.
- Organized a hiking trip in Catskill Mountains in the Memorial weekend.
- Collaborated with Shorewalkers for a full-moon hike in November.
- Continued the Social Expedites in a beer garden, downtown.

Outlook in 2018

- The Membership Committee continues to host speaker series and the Expedition Socials.
- Continue to lead Catskills Hiking trip.
- New Members Weekend, Harriman Outdoor Center, July 20-22
- New Members Family Weekend, Harriman Outdoor Center, August 3-5
- New Members Weekend, Mohican Outdoor Center, September 7-9
- Medawisla Lodge and Cabins, Maine, July Fourth Weekend *** (the newly Lodge opened in 2017)

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

WEBSITE

Here are the most significant activities of this committee in the past year:

2/28/2017 We are now using EventBrite for event registration.

4/4/2017 Malware finding alert from Abigail Hyslip account manager of Charles River Interactive.

4/10/2017 Migrated over to <https://www.amc-ny.org>; annual fee of \$30 for SSL certificate as one step to resolve security issue.

4/18/2017 I deleted injected malware scripts from database. Problem was detected by Cynthia (with Kaspersky running in background) while searching for activity on our website 4/16/2017.

5/1/2017 Slides on banner are not auto-starting their rotation but rotating works once started manually. This seems to coincide with a WordPress update. I have not been able to fix this. As a workaround, all announcements, including links (from all the slides), are listed in topmost slide so as not to be overlooked.

7/18/2017 Schedule download not working.

10/25/2017 Schedule download not working.

10/26/2017 Casey Ajalat, HB committee webmaster in Boston replied that they no longer provide support. Faith Salter suggested contacting Jeff Carlson (Boston Chapter).

Outdoors.org has completed migration to WordPress.

FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADVISORY

Chair: Eileen Yin

The Advisory Committee provides two services to the Executive Committee: a) ad hoc advice and guidance upon request and b) management of the Chapter's Volunteer Recognition Awards.

In its advisory capacity, Eileen Yin suggested specific Payment Controls to the Executive Committee. Payment Controls would tighten procedures when the chapter issues outgoing payments. Some of the suggested guidelines include: 2-step payment approval process and payments sent only to independently verified payment instructions.

This is the first year the Advisory Committee oversaw the selection process for all four Chapter Volunteer Recognition Awards. The voting panel for Appie of the Year is comprised of past Chapter Chairs. The voting panel for all other awards is comprised of the Executive Committee, plus a Guest Appie, who this year is David Lamb. Members submitted 38 nominations this year, a record number, that indicates how many extraordinary volunteers there are in our chapter.

The Chapter's Volunteer Recognition Awards are:

- Appie of the Year Award
- Inspirational Award
- Ambassador Award
- Unsung Hero Award

Details of this year's Awards recipients are listed at the end of this Annual Report.

Congratulations to all the 2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards Recipients!

CONSERVATION

Brittany Gollins, Chair

The Chapter voted in a new Conservation Committee Chair in March.



The Erase the Trace campaign was continued at this year's Annual Chapter Picnic, with volunteers receiving gear, like t-shirts, that sported a member-made Erase the Trace logo. The Committee also hosted a Leave No Trace workshop where members learned about LNT principles and brainstormed ways they could participate in the Erase the Trace campaign.

The Chapter's Leadership Workshop Weekend was infused with conservation topics as well. In particular, the field scenarios included scenarios where leaders-in-training practiced Leave No Trace principles.

This fall, the Chapter will participate in the Club-wide efforts to support the permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Conservation Committee will host events to support members in contacting their elected representatives, like the "Congress for Conservation : Post Card Party" in November.

For 2018, the Chapter Conservation Committee looks forward to hosting Leave No Trace awareness workshops, encouraging trips to be held in areas impacted by the LWCF, furthering the Erase the Trace campaign within the individual Activities Committees, and hosting conservation topic speaker events and movie nights.

FIRE ISLAND

Diane Serlin, Chair

In 2017, the FI Cabin opened for guests May 15th, and closed on Oct 7th. We had a slow start to the season—despite the fact that May/early June is a beautiful time of year to be on Fire Island, we have a tough time convincing our guests. Our 2018 goal is to recruit some hardier visitors to fill the first few weeks of the season!

As the cabin is directly on the Great South Bay, the summer schedule included an assortment of water based activities. These events included:

Two sail schools, two learn-to-sail weekends, a weekend for more advanced sailors, and for guests who just want to enjoy a ride in a large sailboat, .two sloop sail weekends.

We also ran two learn-to-kayak weekends, and for experienced paddlers, a kayak trip weekend as well as a 3-day kayak midweek.

Other activities throughout the season: plenty of Yoga, Painting workshops, Chess, Live Music, and a Chocolate Lover's weekend.

We dedicated a weekend to Young Members, and were happy to see many of them return later on in the season.

Another YM weekend will be on the 2018 calendar. Two midweeks in the summer were reserved for families. They sell out every year.

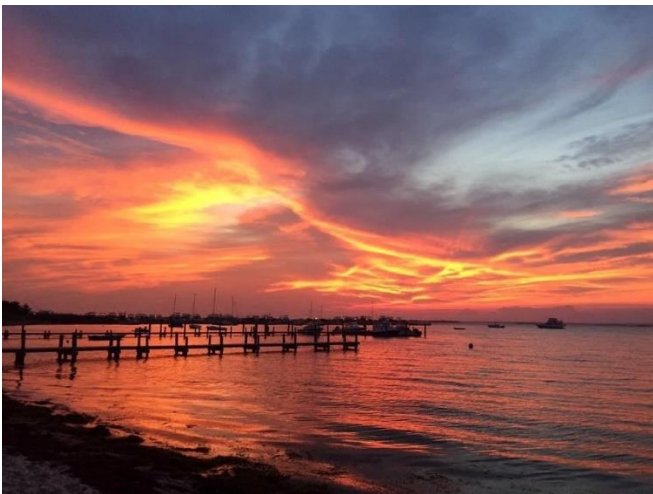
The Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) rangers run a popular trek and their group spent a night at the cabin. We added another FINS event—Park Rangers gave a presentation on the history of our National Parks, led a nature walk and seined the Bay to show the rich aquatic life right outside our door.

Our location on a barrier island means dealing with the effects of salt air and water. We are constantly fixing and upgrading our buildings and outside property.

Below are the major projects completed during 2017:

- Assembled side walls/tops to enclose the two new refrigerators with side panels & mahogany casings
- New bayside entrance gable with moisture barrier, siding & roofing for outdoor deck light
- New storm/screen door for porch entrance to Bay
- Doors added to the top kitchen open shelving to store paper goods
- Alcove restoration (outdoor shower area). Removed deteriorated siding, new sheathing. New jambs for shower doors.
- Reduced size of storage doors to clear wall. Cedar shingled back wall.
- Repair/replace kitchen cabinet and secured sinking sink. Added new back splash.

Our success relies on the roughly 100 volunteers who manage our weekends and midweeks, lead all the workshops, and treat our cabin and property with love. We throw a Thank You Party for our volunteers every year, but really, we can never do enough to show them how much their hard work is appreciated.





HOSPITALITY

Melissa Marine, Hospitality Chair

2017 NY-NJ AMC Chapter Annual Picnic Weekend

For the first time, we had the incredible opportunity to host and plan the 3rd Annual NY-NJ AMC Chapter Picnic as a full weekend event at the Harriman Outdoor Center. The event was a smashing success with 175 AMCs in attendance for the picnic and 120+ overnight! And it was so much fun that the executive committee decided to do it again in 2018.



A very special thanks to our volunteer-led picnic committee team including Silja, Rafal, Kerin, Rich, Stefan, Oliver, Rich, Justin, and Nathan who spent many, many hours behind the scenes planning and putting this amazing weekend event together!



Executive Committee Chair Meeting

We also organized our biannual meeting and dinner for committee chairs. We had a full agenda including Club Updates from Chapter Committee Meeting, Diversity, Equality and Inclusiveness Initiative, Annual Dinner, Leader Training Initiatives, and much more.

Thanksgiving at Bear Mountain

The tradition of Thanksgiving at Bear Mountain continued on in memory of Bob Susser, long time chair of this committee and hike leader. Wayne Foote stepped in to finalize the dinner and hikes. We are looking for someone who wants to take over organizing this event.

We look forward to organizing many more events in the upcoming year starting with the chapter's 105th AMC Annual Meeting & Dinner to be held on Saturday, Jan 6, 2018 At Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. This annual event will include: Election of the 2018 Executive Committee, Recognition Awards, Guest Speaker, Raffle and more. We hope to see you all there!

NOMINATING

Henry Schreiber, Chair

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

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

Nominees for the 2018 Executive Committee are:

Nathan Baker, Chair

Dee Mozeleski, Vice Chair

Rob Holbrook, Secretary

TBD, Treasurer

Kaspar Alexander, Executive Liaison for Activities

Lee Hoffman, Executive for Communications

Cheryl Bobe, Executive for Facilities & Services

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

The Nomination Committee members are:

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

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Hope Rodgers, Chair



Once again, our many hard-working maintainers took care of 9 miles of trails east of the Hudson, 17 miles in New Jersey, and 41 miles west of the Hudson, primarily in Harriman/Bear Mt. State Parks. A rainy spring and summer, as well as the continued proliferation of aggressive non-native vines and other plants, made for a challenging trail maintenance year. New growth was constant. A few more maintainers signed on in September to help with clipping, sawing and marking, so we hope the ragged bits are just about tamed.

After nine hard-working years on the job, Herb Hochberg resigned as chair of our east of Hudson trails. Joe Rodriguez, who has been working with him, is the new chair, so continuity is assured. Steve Weissman, who also runs maintenance for the AT in New Jersey, continued to supervise a highly organized group of maintainers in New Jersey. In Harriman/Bear Mt. State Park, Bill Hladky, always raring to go, supported, assisted and recruited a large troupe of maintainers.

In June, the chapter held its first trail maintenance weekend at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center. An enthusiastic group ranging from high school age to post-retirement signed up for the weekend. Participants learned principles of trail building and then practiced what they had learned on the new Pond Loop Trail around Harriman's Breakneck Pond. Lots of rock smashing, rock moving, cutting, and digging. From trail building theory, to tool selection, to hard labor, to tool cleaning and maintenance, there was a lot to take in. Many participants commented that they will never look at a trail the same way again. The weekenders drove home tired but intrigued. Experienced AMC staffer Jonathan Martin provided invaluable instruction, assisted by several hearty, patient young AMC trail builders.



The chapter now has a stash of trail maintenance tools at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center. These tools can be used for group trail maintenance outings, or for individual maintainers who don't have tools of their own. So we hope it's now easy for more people to join in maintaining our beautiful trails!



WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Jonathan Silver, Chair

The mission of the Wilderness First Aid committee is to provide professional quality wilderness first aid training to chapter members and to encourage members to get this kind of training. We stand ready to provide support to any unit of the club who wishes to learn more about wilderness emergency care.

During 2017, our twentieth year, we conducted 5 WFA courses. We trained over 60 chapter members and others in the basics of wilderness emergency care.

Maureen McCahery has been with us since our inception in 1997. During that time she has lead 21 courses and assisted in 12 more. She has also served as Co-chair for most of that time. Her work for the WFA committee has been invaluable and in no small part contributed to our success. Maureen will be taking a break from her instructor's position but will continue to advise the committee. Richard Dabal who has been with us almost as long will be taking the position of Assistant Chair.

We want to welcome Ethan Gracer on board as our newest instructor candidate. Ethan comes to us with a wealth of outdoor experience:

- Over 300 field days as remote wilderness guide and instructor for teenagers and young adults in Massachusetts, Utah, Oregon, and Alaska.
- 180 field days as a guide for a wilderness-based therapeutic intervention program.
- 170 additional field days as a participant in remote wilderness trips worldwide (North & South America, Africa, and Australia).
- Medical and Ground Search Volunteer for Deschutes County Search and Rescue in Oregon. 100 hours standard training, 16 hours supplemental medical training, responded to 5 medical missions in 2016.
- NOLS Semester and Wilderness First Responder Graduate.
- Consistent WFR and CPR certification from 2011 to present.

We will continue to run our voucher program in 2018. The WFA committee makes available two vouchers to each activity committee chair for distribution to people active in their committee. Each voucher is worth \$40.00 off the cost of a WFA committee sponsored wilderness first aid course.

The WFA committee is constantly on the lookout for new, qualified instructors. If you know of anyone who has significant pre-hospital emergency care (EMT, Ski Patrol, etc.) and outdoor experience, we encourage you to have them contact Jonathan Silver at WildernessFirstAid@amc-ny.org.

Jonathan Silver, Chair

Maureen McCahery, Chair Emeritus

Richard Dabal, Instructor, Asst. Chair

Jeffrey Alpert, Instructor

2017 CHAPTER AWARDS

2017 CHAPTER 25 YEAR MEMBERS

John Andrews	Robert Halversen	Pauline Nevin
Carol Andrews	Michael Handelsman	Patrick Nucciarone
Deborah Baumann	Dennis Hillerud	Susan O'Malley
Salvadora Benavides	Sylvia Hoisington	Jay Perler
Christine Benton	Cecila Horne	Jeffrey Raskin
Robert Bodenstein	Jeffrey Kahn	Anita Richmond
Jeff Bross	Mark Kassop	Keith Richmond
Frances Buchinsky	Helga Kelly	Marshall Ries
Michael Buckley	Joann Kunz	Robert Roth
Sara Buckley	Karl Kunz	Catherine Roth
Barry Burbach	Edward Labuda	Shelly Sender
Laurie Campbell	Mark Lamhut	Jung Seo
Lynne Cashman	Elfriede Lamhut	Steven Shaffer
Marvin Chinitz	Ron Lancaster	Ellen Shulman
Noah Chinitz	Susan Leboff	Robert Spieler
Brian Coan	Linda Lebowitz	Susan Spieler
Daniel Cohen	Virginia Letourneau	Janet Sullivan
Brooke Coneys	Mitchel Major	Caesar Sweitzer
Chris Duston	Carol Marian	Peggy Sweitzer
Mona El-Gayar	Marlene Marozzi	Martha Tack
Bernard Epstein	Robert Mawhinney	Starr Tomczak
Dorothy Erickson	Susan McCormack	Joe Weber
Al Erickson	Brian Meyer	Bruce Weiner
Paul Finker	Raymond Migut	Roscoe Woods
Anne Fontek	Elizabeth Milner	Priscilla Wu
Greg Frux	Janet Morgan	Ralph Zelman
David Geisler	Peter Moss	Susan Zwick
Mark Grayson	Ernest Mozer	

2017 CHAPTER 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Eileen Benson	Francis Hubbard
John Bradley	Susan Meyer
Maria Curry	R. Rau
Colette Flake-Bunz	John Seinoski
Muriel Hicks	Joan Woods

2017 CHAPTER MASTER LEADERS

Jill Arbuckle	Howard Israel	John Sheets
Nathan Baker	Judy Kossover	Jonathan Silver
Tim Burrows	Maureen McCahery	Dave Tarlo
Rich Dabal	Robert Monczka	Chris Viani
Steve Galla	Fred Polvare	Steve Weissman
Bill Hladky	Irv Reich	
Herb Hochberg	Hope Rogers	

2017 CHAPTER 20 YEAR VOLUNTEERS (continued from 2015)

Richard Wolff
Rich Anderson
Ken West
Robert Riordan
Mary Hilley
Margo Moss
Ron Gonzalez
Ron Phelps
Dean Gletsos
David Sutter
Jill Arbuckle
Janice Bortree
Minu Chaudhuri
John Fitzpatrick
Wayne Foote

Wayne Foote
JoAnn Gisolfi
Bill Hladky
John Jurasek
Hal Kaplan
Judy Kossover
Rick Levine
Irene Logan
Mason Logie
Dorothy Lourdou
David Sutter

Naomi Sutter
Tim Watters
Nancy Wolff
Maureen McCahery
Jonathan Silver
Art Portmore
Jack Reilly
Jim Robbins
Henry Schreiber
Lenny Grefig
Marty Plante
Rich Breton
Wanda Davenport
Marty Cohen

2017 APPIE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to all the 2017 Volunteer Recognition Awards Recipients!

- **Appie of the Year Award** : For an individual who gives selflessly of him/herself for the good of the club; one who works tirelessly, often behind the scenes, organizing, leading in fact and by example; someone who has served in this manner for several years, thus over time continuing this commitment; an active volunteer, rather than someone who served well in the past, or for a limited time. The Appie exemplifies what is best about the volunteer ethic that makes our Club, and most particularly our Chapter, so special.

Nathan Baker



Nathan's role in our Chapter goes far beyond his official title of Chapter Vice Chair. His knowledge, people skills and business acumen have been instrumental in our Chapter's many accomplishments. Nathan is an outdoor leader for our paddling, ski and hike committees. He brought this knowledge to the Executive Committee as Activities Executive. While serving in this role, he helped development our Chapter's initial standard Leadership program. In addition, he served on the Harriman Advisory Committee and contributed countless hours of volunteer time helping get the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center ready for opening day. He did so well, the Chapter promoted him to Vice Chair, with the intent he become a future Chapter Chair. As Vice Chair, Nathan helped us shape a financial plan and helped further develop our Leadership Committee, including teaching at our weekend class. Nathan, also known as Mr. Hospitality, worked on all 3 of our Chapter Picnics including our first Chapter Weekend event. He helped mentor the event

leader and the picnic committee. This first ever Chapter Weekend was a huge success, with nothing but praise coming from attendees. At every meeting, picnic, dinner, activity, and volunteer event, Nathan's touch is everywhere from the food consumed, to the goodie bag and raffles, Nathan's attention to detail separates him as a volunteer who goes above and beyond. Nathan has said that no job is more satisfying than leading successfully for the Appalachian Mountain Club, especially when they leave a Chapter event happy and more connected to the outdoors. Nathan will be taking on the role of Chapter Chair as of January 2018.

2017 INSPIRATION, AMBASSADOR, AND UNSUNG HERO

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



David Mong

David organizes and leads more backpacking trips than all other leaders combined, thereby bringing newcomers into the sport and to the Club.

He also leads for a wide variety of participants, ranging from his numerous beginner events to "hardcore" winter backpacking trips. He enjoys teaching novices, plans meticulously, explains thoroughly, is unfailingly patient, and loves to share his knowledge and experience.

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



Russell Faller

Russ leads and mentors many varied wilderness skiing, backpacking, paddling and river clean-up trips every year. His events are often run as joint trips, partnering with other outdoor organizations such as the Adirondack Mountain Club and Riverkeeper, which introduces their members to the AMC. Russ is a master of wilderness skills with a unique laid-back, calming style that inspires participants to notice how civilization and nature co-habitate.

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

Miho Izumi Estay

Miho has the thankless but necessary task of collecting the weekly fee from all Softball players who show up (which can be as many as 60 or so!), tracking down and reminding those who forget, and then schlepping to the bank to deposit it all in our account. She then diligently photocopies receipts and sends a copy to all committee members. Beyond that, the day after each game, for no reason other than her love for the game and the group, she writes up and emails a "Softball Diary" to everyone who played, recounting the highlights of the games, praising players for their good plays or hits, recalling anything funny that might have happened, and humbly mentioning areas where she'd like to improve. Everyone looks forward to her diary, that is made all the more impressive because English is not Miho's first language. Miho is unfailingly cheerful and welcoming and has a great sense of humor.



GET OUTDOORS WITH THE AMC!

NEW YORK-NORTH JERSEY CHAPTER