

# Mountain P A S S A G E S

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## AMC NH Chapter Excursions Spring School

*Friday, April 27 7:30 p.m. – Sunday, April 29, 2018 4:30 p.m.*

*Cardigan Lodge, Alexandria, NH*

Our renowned weekend workshops, covering most every aspect of safe three-season backcountry travel, are designed for hikers of all levels!

**Choose from one of seven available workshop sessions, each filled with field exercises, instruction, lectures, and discussions.**


If you're not sure which class is right for you, ask our workshop directors (see contact info below). Choose from one of the following workshops:

### **Basics of Outdoor Safety: Beginner & Intermediate Classes**

Instruction in general mountain safety, equipment, route finding, map and compass, off-trail navigation, weather, trip planning, nutrition and emergencies in the mountain environment. Be prepared to spend about 5 hours outdoors on Saturday going about 2-3 miles. Sunday you will spend about 4 hours outside and go 2-3 miles.

### **Map and Compass**

Covering everything you wanted or needed to know about map and compass use, this work-

SPRING SCHOOL, TO PAGE 2 

## OUR MISSION

The Appalachian Mountain Club is the nation's oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization, and promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters and trails of the Appalachian region. AMC has more than 100,000 members, 16,000 volunteers, 450 full-time and seasonal staff. The New Hampshire Chapter is the second largest of the 12 Chapters within the Club.

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MARCH-APRIL 2018



## AMC Spring Bicycle Coffee Ramble Challenge:

Need encouragement to get out for early season rides? Take the AMC Coffee Ramble Challenge. A Coffee Ramble is a casual cycling activity for anyone who likes to ride their bike and drink coffee (or coffee-like beverage).


### **The general idea:**

- over the course of approximately 6 weeks,
- ride your bike to 7 different places

- each ride must be at least 2 miles round-trip each time
- drink 1 cup of coffee (or similar), on each ride
- & take pictures as proof of your coffee ramble

### **Coffee Ramble Challenge Rules:**

Ride your bike to 7 different coffee shops from Friday April 20 through Sunday, May 27. Any place that sells or serves coffee, tea, cocoa,

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 **SPRING SCHOOL,  
FROM PAGE 1**

shop will be a small group of 8 participants and 2 instructors who will spend the weekend together reviewing and learning the details of map and compass skills, culminating in field exercises that will include off-trail (bushwhack) navigating. Be prepared to spend about 5 hours outdoors on Saturday going about 2-3 miles. Sunday you will spend about 4 hours outside and go 2-3 miles.

**Backpacking:  
Beginner &  
Intermediate Classes**

For those who want take their skills beyond day hiking and learn how to spend the night outdoors, instruction will be offered regarding backpacking equipment, campsite selection, route finding, map and compass, weather, trip planning, cooking and emergencies. Small groups of 8 participants with 2 instructors. Be prepared to spend about the majority of your time outdoors on Saturday going about 2-3 miles. Sunday you will spend about 4 hours outside and go 2-3 miles.

**Advanced Backpacking**

Instruction will focus on learning to plan and implement week long or longer trips. Participants will need to provide

their own backpacking equipment (we can occasionally assist those who do not own a tent; contact instructor). Be prepared to camp out both nights and spend almost all weekend outdoors, Saturday going about 2-3 miles. Sunday you will spend about 6 hours outside and go 2-3 miles.

**Leadership and  
Mountain Skills**

For those who have good three-season hiking skills and wish to enhance them and/or wish to run trips of their own. Exercises will include planning, organizing, and conducting trips with an emphasis on leadership techniques and group dynamics. Also covered will be accident scene management, medical considerations, and off-trail navigation. This course is also designed for those who may desire to become an AMC NH Chapter Volunteer Trip Leader. Be prepared to spend about 5 hours outdoors on Saturday going about 2-3 miles. Sunday you will spend about 4 hours outside and go 2-3 miles. All travel will be bush wacking.

**Trail Work Instruction**

Learn how to perform basic trail work, such as cleaning water bars, painting blazes, brushing, and replacing signs, through hands on experience.

Tools will be provided. Be prepared to spend about 5 hours outdoors on Saturday going about 1-2 miles. Sunday you will spend about 4 hours outside and go 1 miles.

**Application:**

ALL WORKSHOPS are for any adult who wants to learn and have a great time! Our weekend begins Friday evening at 7:30pm and ends Sunday afternoon at 4:30pm. Cost is \$165/members and \$185/nonmembers, and in-

cludes lodging, excellent meals, materials and instruction. Registration go to <https://AMCNH.registration.qilan.com>

**Workshop Director:**

If unsure of attending and need more info please contact Director Rick Silverberg (603-225-5921, evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 pm or [synergyc@aol.com](mailto:synergyc@aol.com)) Bob Humphrey 603-456-3708 Evening after 6:30 or [bobh@mcttelecom.com](mailto:bobh@mcttelecom.com)

**— MORE UPCOMING EVENTS —**

**Adventure Hiking Dogs & Their Humans**  
**SEE PAGE 3**

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**Reel Paddling Film Festival**  
**SEE PAGE 3**

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**AMC's Mountain Leadership School**  
**SEE PAGES 3, 4 & 5**

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**Ski Calender**  
**SEE PAGES 6**

**MOUNTAIN PASSAGES**

**Volume 44, No. 2  
March/April 2018**

Mountain Passages is published six times a year by the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. 1758; outdoors.org/membercenter

**Submissions.** Members may submit articles or photos (hi-res jpegs) to newsletter@amc-nh.org. Articles may be edited at the discretion of the editor to meet space and style requirements. Publication is on a space-available basis. While Mountain Passages does not pay for submissions; a byline or photo credit is given. Contact Mountain Passages for reprint permission.

**Advertising.** The AMC NH Chapter members enjoy the outdoors year-round by hiking, paddling, skiing, backpacking, climbing and biking and more.

For information and the Ad Rate Sheet, send an email to newsletter@amc-nh.org. We reserve the right to refuse any submission, photo or advertising that is not consistent with the mission of the AMC.

**Address Changes.** Address changes or other changes to your membership must be made through AMC Member Services at 5 Joy St. Boston, MA 02108; 800-372-1758; outdoors.org/membercenter

Please note: Member address updates cannot be handled by AMC-NH officers, committee chairs, or the newsletter editor.

**Mountain Passages Online.** If you're receiving Mountain Passages through the mail, please consider signing up to get the electronic version instead.

You'll get added resources not available to print subscribers: direct links to emails, forms and online information, color photos, online registration forms.

To sign up, go to [www.outdoors.org/membercenter](http://www.outdoors.org/membercenter) and set your AMC-NH Chapter newsletter preference to online.

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**Advertise Here to Reach 10,000  
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ISSUE	DEADLINE	AD SIZE	PRICE (per issue)
Jan/Feb	December 1	1/8 page	3.5" w x 2.5" h \$100
Mar/Apr	February 1	1/4 page	3.5" w x 5" h \$160
May/June	April 1	1/2 page	7.5" w x 5" h \$250
July/Aug	June 1	20% Discount for advertising in six consecutive issues, with prepayment	
Sep/Oct	August 1		
Nov/Dec	October 1		

For questions, or to submit ad: [Advertising@amc-nh.org](mailto:Advertising@amc-nh.org)  
Please send ads as color PDF or jpeg high-resolution files, at correct size. Ads will appear in color in on-line version and black and white in print version.

Mail check for advertising to:  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
c/o Ron Janowitz, 88 W Haven Rd., Manchester, NH 03104

We reserve the right to refuse ads that are not related to the mission of AMC. We do not provide proofs and accept no liability for errors beyond the cost of the ad.

# Mountain Leadership School – Iceland

SEAN BUCKLEY

As Jo moved south on the Laugavegur trail in Iceland the rain began moving off in slanting columns drifting east. The sun reappeared, but more rain could be seen upwind sweeping slowly over the mountains. For now, things were fine with a massive crescent rainbow filling the sky to the northwest. It was day six in these wild mountains just south of the Arctic Circle.

Jo thought back to her first day--Jo's group had met near the old harbor in downtown Reykjavik. Greeted there by Alfi who would be their guide and leader for the next ten days. They were twelve travelers from Europe and North America. Iceland's wilderness had greeted Jo's group with driving hori-

zontal sheets of rain. Yet, after dropping their gear at a mountain hut, the group had hiked out in the afternoon and the walk reminded Jo of a day in the White Mountains last June with AMC's Mountain Leadership School (MLS). She had learned in the New Hampshire Mountains that good rain gear can keep you comfortable (and safe). Jo had selected her gear for this trek using her MLS checklist--Base layer, fleece mid-layer, and a shell. She had experienced these conditions before and was comfortable and confident.

However, not everyone was fine. The group had hiked around the side of a large hill, straight into the full force of the wind. With Alfi up front leading the way, Jo glanced back to check those behind. She noticed two

hikers had stopped 50 yards back. Jo gave a shout over the wind to the group and turned around.

Back down the trail were Kay and Ben struggling with Kay's rain gear. Kay had commented in the morning that she liked a poncho because it could double as a pack rain cover. Now, the poncho was flapping violently around Kay's head and neck. Kay couldn't see with the fabric flapping in her face, and worse, she was fully exposed to the pelting rain and cold wind. As Jo reached the couple, she pulled off her own pack and reached in, bringing out her "just-in-case" bag. Among other items, the bag contained 50 feet of paracord. In moments Jo wound the cord round Kay's waist, snipping off a length with the scissors in her Swiss Army knife. Ben and Alfi working together held down the poncho as Jo wrapped the cord around Kay. With a quick slip knot, the poncho was secured in place. The four trekkers exchanged smiles as water dripped off their chins, and they continued down the trail.

Jo remembered her time at Mountain Leadership School.

She had learned so much during the program--from the MLS team, from the course materials and from the others in her field group. After dinner one evening, sitting around their camp stoves, one of her teammates had reviewed the items in his "just-in-case" bag. Since then, Jo carried a "just-in-case" bag too.

The next afternoon, as the group rounded a bend in the trail, Jo saw a new challenge--a substantial river with no bridge in sight. This river wasn't like the other water crossings they had forded easily wearing water shoes or sandals. This was a braided maze of fast moving waterways and gravel bars perhaps 200 yards wide. On the far shore, Jo watched as two hikers, independently bracing themselves with their trekking poles moved carefully through the fast-moving water channels from one gravel bar to another. Jo felt a slight thrill.

At the same moment, Jo realized this wasn't going to be easy for everyone in the group. Abilities in the group varied, and earlier Jo had responded by forming a quiet partnership

ICELAND, TO PAGE 4 



## ADVENTURE HIKING DOGS & THEIR HUMANS

An AMC-NH and Concord Reads 2018 Program

Thursday 3/8 @ 6PM | Concord Public Library | 45 Green St.

Adventure hiking dog Cole, a 5 year old Shiba Inu, has been hiking with his human Alton Eckel for four years. Among other accomplishments, they've hiked the Northeast 115 and all 48 high peaks of the NH White Mountains in every season. Alton will discuss Cole's certifications and accomplishments, the pair's hiking adventures, what trial and error precautions they used when they began adventuring together, and how they approach hiking in New England's sometimes treacherous winter and summer seasons.

CONCORD MONITOR

CONCORD READS

CPL

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

## Reel Paddling Film Festival

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

MIKE HOCEVAR

The AMC- NH Chapter Paddling Committee will sponsor the upcoming Reel Paddling Film Festival this April. A night of short films featuring the beauty and adventure of canoeing and kayaking, the event runs April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Red River Theater in Concord, N.H. This is a fundraiser for the

Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

The AMC-NH Paddling Committee hosts canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up-paddleboarding trips throughout New England and host a table in the lobby of the theater to promote upcoming trips. Attendees will have the chance to speak with trip leaders. Tickets are \$12 and available at [northernforestcanoetrail.org](http://northernforestcanoetrail.org)

## 🌿 SPRING BICYCLE, FROM PAGE 3

etc. as the case may be – qualifies as a coffee shop. Reusable cups or mugs are highly encouraged!

Coffee Shop Without Walls. You may also ramble to a Coffee Shop Without Walls. A Coffee Shop Without Walls is a place like a park or campsite. You ride your bike to this place and proceed to make and/or drink coffee.

Eligible beverages. Coffee, Hot chocolate, Tea, Apple cider etc.. Note: Drinks do not have

to be hot! Iced Coffee or Tea are okay. They just have to be coffee-type drinks. Again, reusable cups a plus!

Two Rides Maximum Per Week. Only 1 coffee shop per day counts and a maximum of two rides per week qualify. As the challenge kicks off on Friday, the week is considered Friday through Friday.

Minimum Distance. Your ride must be at least two miles total, but there is no maximum.

Documentation. Take a photo during your ramble or

provide some other form of evidence that you rode your bike for coffee, and submit it as verification. Please note:

- where you went (e.g. Fiddlehead's in Hancock)
- date you went there;
- what you drank;
- a detail or two about your coffee ride; and
- total mileage. (If you find any "must visit" coffee shops or tea places please share that as well.)

When you have completed your 7 coffee rambles, Submissions may be made by emailing your photos and narrative to

[nhamcbikegroup@gmail.com](mailto:nhamcbikegroup@gmail.com), put coffee in the subject line. **Please enter your submissions by June 6, 2018.** First 10 complete submissions will receive a AMC thermos cup for their future coffee rambles.

Please note we would like to share your experience with others, if you do not want your submission or photos published, please indicate "do not publish" when you send your documentation in.

## 🏔️ ICELAND, FROM PAGE 1

with their guide Alfi. Alfi led the group from up front and Jo would help at the back. Together they maintained an efficient pace suitable for all the group members. In particular, Vivian, an older experienced hiker, had an infectious cheerful attitude that lifted everyone's spirits, but had found the pace challenging at first.

As the group sat down to remove boots and put on water shoes, Jo thought back to the river crossing techniques she had learned in MLS. Jo asked Jason if he would cross with her and Vivian as a team of three. Jason, Jo and Vivian unfastened hip belts and sternum straps, and locked arms at the elbows with Vivian in the middle. The three waded into the river – six legs and two hiking poles working together as one. The water was icy cold, milk white and flowing fast but the team of three crossed it securely. Even in the deepest channel the trio moved steadily towards the far bank.

After just minutes of concentrated effort, they were sitting on the far side of the river, drying feet and putting on boots. There were five miles of trail



*On the trail in Iceland, Rainbow following a storm.*

remaining today before they reached their final mountain hut of the trek, then two more days of hiking in the Thorsmork valley before returning to civilization.

As the group got to their feet, Jo moved easily, realizing with satisfaction that every day on this trek she had applied something from her time at Mountain Leadership School. Attending MLS had been one of the best

decisions she had ever made. Jo wasn't sure where she would travel for her next wilderness adventure, but she was sure that wherever she went, she would have the skills she needed. MLS would be there with her.

***This is a dramatized composite story that illustrates how Mountain Leadership School alumni have applied their leadership skills during subsequent backcountry***

***experiences. AMC's Mountain Leadership School runs each June in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The 5-day program specializes in leadership and backcountry skills development, utilizing a learn-by-doing instruction method. For more information about MLS, visit the MLS website at <https://www.outdoors.org/skills-leadership/mountain-leadership-school>.***

# APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB MOUNTAIN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

## LEARN TO LEAD

- Leadership styles
- Trip planning
- Group dynamics
- Accident scene management
- Map and compass
- Low-impact travel

... and more

And everyone made it out safely... Not every wilderness adventure ends with that headline but the ones that do usually share a common element: the group was trained and prepared for the conditions they faced. The AMC's Mountain Leadership School makes that difference! We are the AMC's most comprehensive outdoor leadership development program, and our courses are applicable to hiking solo, with friends, or as a trip leader.

Unique to MLS is an experiential learning model in which you use new skills as you acquire them. This hands-on approach is optimal for long-term retention of critical skills. We have multiple offerings, so whether you are relatively new or highly experienced in the outdoors there is a course for you.

All programs are staffed by highly experienced AMC volunteer instructors with vast backcountry experience. Offerings include: standard, advanced, and women's only. Each program includes five days in the White Mountains of NH, beginning with an instructional day at AMC's Highland Center followed by four days of backpacking. In the field you will be a leader, co-leader, and participant as you learn the interpersonal and technical skills needed to take charge in the backcountry.

If you've ever thought about leading or simply want to be better prepared for the challenges of the outdoors, then MLS is the school for you.



### 2018 DATES

- June 11 - 12 | SOLO Wilderness First Aid & CPR
- June 13 - 17 | Mountain Leadership School Courses:
  - MLS for Backpack Leaders
  - MLS for Backpack Leaders - Women's Specific
  - MLS Advanced Skills

**AMC Highland Center in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire**  
Register: (603) 466 - 2727 | [www.outdoors.org/mls](http://www.outdoors.org/mls)

[www.outdoors.org/mls](http://www.outdoors.org/mls)





# 2017/18 AMC NH Skiers calendar

Date/locations are tentative! Please check with leaders and online at:  
<https://activities.outdoors.org> Blue writing is for midweek trips  
 Questions? [valerio.viti@gmail.com](mailto:valerio.viti@gmail.com)

Trip	Social
Clinic	Trail work

Date	Event	Where	Activity	Style	Level	Leaders
Mon 1/1/2018	Ski the Sherburne trail on New Year!	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	BC downmountain	All	JR, Tyson
Thu 1/4/2018	Telemark Clinic	Gunstock NH	Clinic	Telemark instruction	All	Scott, Paul
Sat 1/6/2018	Kearsage South, Lincoln Tr	Kearsage NH	Trip	Light BC	All	Marty, Joel
Sat 1/7/2018	Family xc ski trip	Southern NH/TBD NH	Trip	Light BC	Beg/Int	Emilie P
Sat 1/13/2018	Weekend of XC in Vermont	Sterling VT	Trip	Light BC/XC	All	Ted, Emily T
Sun 1/14/2018						
Sat 1/13/2018	Tuckerbrook	Cannon Mt NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Brian, Matt
Sun 1/14/2018	Smarts Brook	Waterville Valley NH	Trip	Light BC	All	Grigory, Joel
Mon 1/15/2018	Intro to Light BC, Skins, series of 6 classes	Lebanon NH	Clinic	Light BC	Int/Adv	Valerio, Simon, Casy/Nik
Tue 1/16/2018	Lunchtime Skate skiing at Oak Hill	Hanover NH	Trip	XC resort	All	Valerio
Tue 1/16/2018	Telemark Clinic	Gunstock NH	Clinic	Telemark instruction	All	Scott, Paul
Wed 1/17/2018	Intro to Light BC, Scales, series of 6 classes	Lebanon NH	Clinic	Light BC	Int/Adv	Valerio, Sofia, Erik
Sat 1/20/2018	Winter School I: Ski classes for Intro/Interm/Adv BC skiing	Cardigan NH	Clinic	Workshop	All	Scott
Sun 1/21/2018						
Sat 1/27/2018	SC + SheJumps Ski Trip	Cardigan NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Beg/Int	Casy, Margaret
Sun 1/28/2018	Stoddard Hill	Stoddard NH	Trip	Light BC	Beg/Int	Emilie P, Emily T
Sun 1/28/2018	Bolton-Trapp traverse	Bolton VT	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Tim, Thor, Joel
Sun 1/28/2018	Cog railway	Bretton Woods NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Beg/Int	Nik, Tyson, Erik
Tue 1/30/2018	Lunchtime Skate skiing at Oak Hill	Hanover NH	Trip	XC resort	All	Valerio
Fri 2/2/2018	Evening ski social at Storrs Hill	Lebanon NH	Social	Resort downmnt	All	Valerio, Nik
Sat 2/3/2018	Kancamagus Brook Trail to Livermore Tr	Waterville Valley NH	Trip	Light BC	Beg/Int	Darrell, Jillian
Sun 2/4/2018	Cedar Brook	Lincoln NH	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Joel, Tim
Tue 2/6/2018	Doublehead	Jackson NH	Trip	BC downmountain	All	Tim, Al
Fri 2/9/2018	Evening ski social at Storrs Hill	Lebanon NH	Social	Resort downmnt	All	Valerio, Casy
Sat 2/10/2018	Thunderbolt	Mt Greylock MA	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	JR, Matt
Sat 2/10/2018	Cog railway	Bretton Woods NH	Trip	BC downmountain	All	Tim, Becca
Sat 2/10/2018	Overnight ski to Black Mountain	Black Mountain NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Beg/Int	Jen G, Ted
Sun 2/11/2018						
Sun 2/11/2018	Wildcat Valley	Jackson NH	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Scott, Margaret
Sun 2/11/2018	Intro to BC for young members	Cardigan NH	Trip	BC downmountain	All	Valerio, Jed, Casy
Sun 2/11/2018	Greely Pond	Waterville Valley NH	Trip	Light BC	All	Tim, Sean
Mon 2/12/2018	Connie's Way	Mt Washington NH	Trip	Light BC	All	Tim, Al
Tue 2/13/2018	Telemark Clinic	Gunstock NH	Clinic	Telemark instruction	All	Scott, Paul
Sat 2/17/2018	Light BC class finale	Moose mt NH	Clinic	Light BC	Int/Adv	V, Sofia/Erik/Simon/Casy/Nik
Sat 2/17/2018	Kilburn Loop	Pisgah NH	Trip	Light BC	Beg/Int	Darrell, Emily T
Sat 2/17/2018	Mount Washington Overnight	North Conway NH	Trip	Light BC/XC	All	Ted, Al
Sun 2/18/2018						
Sat 2/17/2018	Avalanche awareness class	Crawford Notch NH	Clinic	Workshop	All	Marty, Casy, Matt, JR
Sun 2/18/2018						
Sun 2/18/2018	Rochester Gap	Rochester VT	Trip	Light BC	All	Jed, Jillian, Thor
Sat 2/24/2018	Mt Mansfield traverse	Underhill VT	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Valerio, Dave, Nik
Sun 2/25/2018	Brandon Gap	Brandon VT	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Nik, JR
Sat 2/24/2018	Mineweska State Park	Kerhonkson NY	Trip	Light BC	Beg/Int	Matt, Jillian
Sat 2/24/2018	Winter School II: Ski classes for Intro/Interm/Adv BC skiing	Cardigan NH	Clinic	Workshop	All	Scott
Sun 2/25/2018						
Sun 2/25/2018	Moosilauke Carriage Rd	Warren NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Erik, Paul
Mon 2/26/2018	Wildcat Valley trail with a twist	Jackson NH	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Al, Tim
Tue 2/27/2018	Mt Hale	Twin Mountain NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Becca, Margaret
Tue 2/27/2018	Lunchtime Skate skiing at Oak Hill	Hanover NH	Trip	XC resort	All	Valerio
Thu 3/1/2018	Telemark Clinic	Gunstock NH	Clinic	Telemark instruction	All	Scott, Paul
Sat 3/3/2018	Pemi Ski Thru	Lincoln NH	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Scott, Tim
Sat 3/3/2018	Adirondaks weekend	Adirondaks NY	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Casy, Dave, Jen, Tim
Sun 3/4/2018						
Sun 3/4/2018	Merrill Loop Moosilauke	Moosilauke NH	Trip	Light BC	Beg/Int	Emilie P, Thor
Sun 3/4/2018	Camels Hump West Side	Huntington VT	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Valerio, Aaron, Emily T
Sat 3/10/2018	Cedar Brook	Lincoln NH	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Emilie P, Erik
Sat 3/10/2018	Crescent Ridge	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Nik, Gunnar, Ted
Sun 3/11/2018	Steeple Trail	Stowe VT	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Thor, Casy
Tue 3/13/2018	Telemark Clinic	Gunstock NH	Clinic	Telemark instruction	All	Scott, Paul
Tue 3/13/2018	Lunchtime Skate skiing at Oak Hill	Hanover NH	Trip	XC resort	All	Valerio,
Sat 3/17/2018	Gulf of Slides snowfields	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Becca, Al, Jen G
Sun 3/18/2018	Avalanche Brook	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	Light BC	Int/Adv	Emilie P, Al
Sat 3/24/2018	Chic-chocs, 8 days of powder skiing	Gaspe peninsula QC	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Casy, Marty, Margaret
Sun 4/1/2018						
Sat 3/24/2018	TBD					
Sun 3/25/2018	TBD					
Sat 3/31/2018	Oakes gulf	Mt Washington NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Brian, Tyson
Sun 4/1/2018	TBD					
Sat 4/7/2018	Big Jay weekend	Jay Peak VT	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Valerio, Margaret
Sun 4/8/2018						
Sun 4/8/2018	Gulf of Slides	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Nik, Matt
Sat 4/14/2018	Monroe Brook Slide	Bretton Woods NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Adv	Thor, Paul
Sun 4/15/2018	Tuckerman Ravine	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	Tyson, Nik
Sat 4/21/2018	Tuckerman Ravine	Pinkham notch NH	Trip	BC downmountain	Int/Adv	JR, tbd
Sat 4/28/2018	End of Year party	Mt Washington NH	Trip	BC downmountain	All	Valerio, Paul



Valerio and Paul, October 2017



# Conservation Corner

## *Proposed Cog Railway Hotel Unearths Potential Conflicts Atop Mount Washington*

STEVE FRACKLETON

The need to protect an increasingly threatened and fragile ecosystem atop Mount Washington has clashed with the interests of the Cog Railway and its proposal to construct a 35-room hotel in the alpine zone on the highest mountain on the East coast.

The proposed hotel would be built by the Mt. Washington Cog Railway and would abut the company's existing tracks at an elevation above 5,000 feet, typically considered the alpine zone in the White Mountains, and adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. In response, a small group of outdoor enthusiasts have formed a non-profit

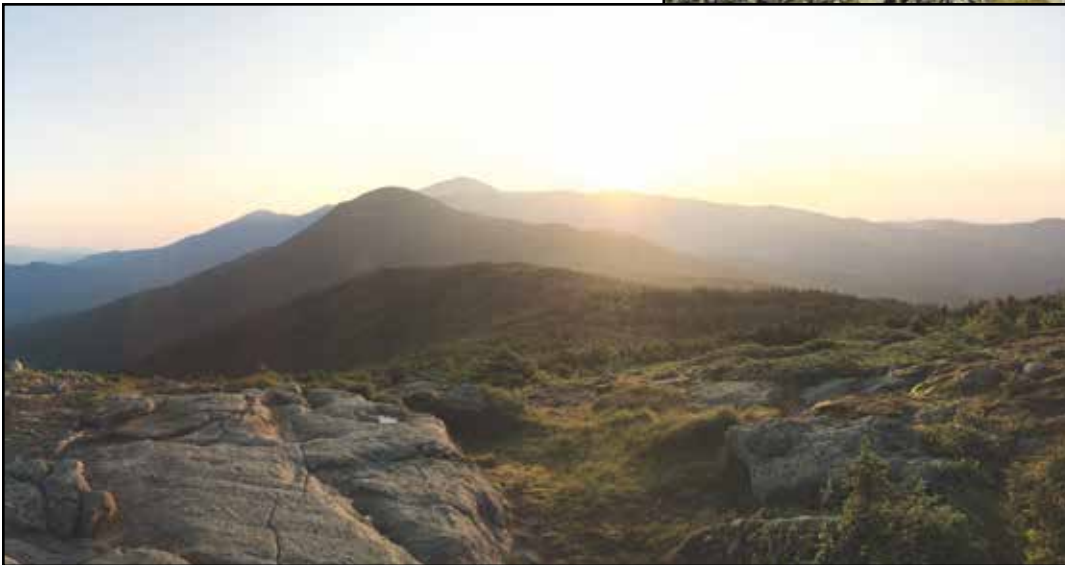
organization known as Keep the Whites Wild that hopes to preserve and protect the ecology of the White Mountain region. In 2017, the group organized Protect Mount Washington, a campaign specifically to fight the construction of the proposed hotel in the alpine zone.

In recent months, however, attention has shifted from the proposed hotel to the late 2017 construction of a snowcat road parallel to the Cog Railway's tracks. This road was built without county or state construction permits. A lawyer representing Keep the Whites Wild, Jason Reimers, argues that

the road is a private road and therefore falls under the zoning ordinance for unincorporated areas.

The owner of the Cog Railway, Wayne Presby, has disputed

this, calling it a recreational trail, and as such, did not require a permit to construct. "We are allowed by right under the Coos County zoning ordinance to have a snowmobile



trail, an ATV trail," Presby said after a Coos County Commissioners meeting in December. Presby went on to explain that he may experiment using a snowcat to groom the trail and bring paying customers to the summit during winter months, possibly using a 12,600-pound multi-passenger vehicle.

The county will determine if the snowcat in question should be classified as an ATV. The road construction is cur-

CONSERVATION CORNER,   
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### AMC NH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chapter Chair** ..... chairnh@amc-nh.org  
Frank Miller

**Vice Chair** ..... vicechairnh@amc-nh.org  
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## 'Mountain Passages' is only the beginning...

From hiking to biking, AMC's New Hampshire chapter has it all. Visit our website at [amc-nh.org](http://amc-nh.org) and read more about us and our many year-round events.

### CONSERVATION CORNER, FROM PAGE 7

rently being reviewed by the Coos County Planning Board. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for February 28, and as of publication, an agenda for the meeting was unavailable.

The fragility of the ecosystem above tree line on the Presidential Range is well documented, and construction of a hotel in the alpine zone and the construction of a service road to that location are cause for concern and need to be carefully reviewed by the appropriate county and state agencies. A 2014 study by the University of Connecticut concluded that alpine zone construction damage could take decades, or longer, to heal. The AMC, along with five colleague organizations, wrote to the Coos County Planning Board arguing that a hotel in

that location is inappropriate and contradicts the county's own zoning and masterplan. A copy of the letter can be found at the AMC website, [outdoors.org](http://outdoors.org)

The Cog Railway is a privately-held company and an important tourist attraction in Coos County and the greater White Mountain region.

If you are interested in learning more about the proposed hotel project, information can be found at the Protect Mount Washington website, where you can sign a petition, share the Protect Mount Washington Facebook page with your network or donate to help fund expenses for continued education and outreach activities conducted by the Keep the Whites Wild group: [protectmountwashington.org](http://protectmountwashington.org)

## Avalanche Awareness



*Photo courtesy of Casy Calver.*

### CASY CALVER

The AMC-NH Chapter Ski Committee's annual Avalanche Awareness Course was February 17-18 at Highland Center at Crawford Notch. Twelve participants and three ski leader instructors covered topics including snowpack,

weather, terrain and human factors. Students learned about search and rescue using avalanche transceivers as well as basic snow-pit skills. Dates and location for the 2019 course will be announced in September.