

AMC NH CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

October 2019 through October 2020

From October 2019 through March 2020 we engaged in the our usual activities: many trips to lesser known trails, 2 winter school weekend trainings, our popular winter hiking series, river running rescue, pool rolling, top rope safety management, backcountry telli skiing instruction, trail maintenance, bike packing and conservation education, planning for the new chapter webpage, preliminary plans for one hundredth anniversary celebration of the chapter, 20's and 30's camping, and special new members socials. As busy as ever, in any normal year. Then everything went silent.

We were locked down. Everything stopped !

What happens when a group who is always outdoors in perpetual motion is hit with messages that say keep your social distance, stay at home, you're under lockdown?

Discussion commenced about alternative activity online meetings. Requests came in to purchase and activate a Zoom account for the chapter. We increased work on the new website, and held active discussions about how to use our chapter reserves. The Chapter Executive Committee agreed to contribute to the Rumney Rocks restoration project and the funds successfully transferred.

Representatives from the chapter participated in development of the AMC rubric for planning and leading activities under Covid 19 protocols.

Equipped with new Covid 19 protocols, some leaders began to explore leading trips with very small groups while social distancing more than 6 feet from each other on the trail, wearing masks in parking lots, with no overnight accommodations, no group cooking, and no carspots or carpooling.

As we progressed into spring, people began to hike "local", exploring conservation land, Town Forests, school forests, Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests properties, and various other public lands, avoiding the busy trailheads in the White Mountains (which were closed).

Chapter excursion leaders began to report on how it worked to do trips under Covid 19 protocols: complicated, but doable for hiking, biking, & paddling.

Since gatherings were not possible, all meetings switched to Zoom. Several individuals in the chapter began to experiment with all of Zoom's features, and we upgraded to the Pro version. We now can have 10 hosts at a time. All training sessions and activities went virtual toward the end of September 2020. This included the Chapter's first annual meeting held in October 2020 completely on Zoom. Plans were developed for this year's winter hiking series and leadership

training to be done with virtual sessions followed by field days under Covid-19 hike protocols. All committee meetings of the Chapter Subcommittees are being held on Zoom.

This year also saw some administrative challenges, when our Vice Chair for 2019-2020 disclosed that he would not be able to accept his nomination or undertake the role as Chair due to medical issues . A special study committee was formed to review possible ways to deal with the situation. Ultimately a bylaws committee was formed and suggested several changes to bylaws that would accommodate a chairperson of the Chapter to have a 3rd one-year term in an emergency. The amended bylaws were proposed to the executive committee and approved. Then the bylaw amendment was forwarded to the nominating committee, the annual meeting committee, and ultimately publicized to the membership to be voted on at the annual meeting. The bylaws changes were approved and for the first time in many years the Chapter had a Chair serving for three consecutive one-year terms. The new Vice Chair assumed the role in May and agreed to be mentored intensely during the 2020 2021 year and would be willing to accept the nomination as Chair in the fall of 2021 after only one year in the role of Vice Chair.

We are going into the new year planning for our 100th Anniversary as the NH Chapter. We are also actively planning many outings under Covid -19 protocols and many virtual training sessions and meetings.

Respectfully,
Rick Silverberg, Chapter Chair

AMC NH CHAPTER SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ninety-two AMC Members and guests joined the New Hampshire Chapter at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH.

NH Chapter Chair, Rick Silverberg welcomed the crowd and reviewed the Chapter's accomplishments during 2019. He thanked the retiring Executive Committee members Wanda Rice and Beth Zimmer for their service and presented them with the Chapter's traditional gift of a striking framed White Mountains photograph by Paul Hopkins.

Chapter Vice Chair Jim Kent introduced the Nominating Committee, Dan Heon and John McHugh, who presented the slate of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2019-2020. All were nominated, seconded, and voted by the members to lead the Chapter in the year ahead.

Faith Salter, AMC Representative, gave a presentation about the wider Club initiatives and goals as we head toward the 150th year of AMC. Especially important are bringing diversity and inclusiveness to the forefront of AMC culture, as well as promoting the engagement of youth in the Outdoors.

Membership Chair Jamie Gillon welcomed our special guests, the 50-year and 25-year continuous Members. He presented each with a recognition award.

The raffle winners were announced and the niece of 50-year member and awardee Carl Quimby won the grand prize of a complimentary night's lodging at the AMC Lodge or Hut facility of their choice. Word spread that she will see that Carl has a chance to enjoy using that prize! Many thanks to AMC for donating this to the Chapter.

Programs Chair Debbie Marcus introduced the Keynote Speaker, New England Outdoors journalist and media personality Marty Basch who informs and entertains outdoor lovers in New England and beyond through his syndicated columns, books, and articles. He is the winner of several national and regional writing awards. Basch entertained the audience with his bicycle touring experiences, including a close encounter with a grizzly bear in Denali National Park. Members were tuned into his description of bike routes in New England, including a backroads route in Vermont traveling from the Canadian border to Massachusetts and a route crossing the state of New Hampshire.

In 2019-2020 th AMC NH Executive Committee held monthly meetings (with the exception of January, July and August. Meetings held in April, May, June, and September were conducted via the Zoom meeting platform due to Covid-19 restrictions. Minutes from these meetings can be found on the Chapter website.

The following slate of nominees for the NH Chapter Executive Committee was presented and accepted by members for the year 2019-2020 at the 2019 Annual Meeting:

Officers 2019-2020

Chair	Rick Silverberg
Vice Chair	Jim Kent
Treasurer	Kerry Landry
Secretary	Debbie Marcus

Committee Chairs 2019-2020

Bike	Hiel Lindquist
Communications*	Jen Kimball & Christina Cozzens
Conservation & Education	Paul Hopkins
Excursions	Larry Yetter & Dan Heon
Membership	Jamie Gillon
Mountaineering	
Newsletter	Bob McLaughlin
Paddling	Robin Diamond, Roscoe Diamond, & Paul Berry
Programs	-open-
Ski	Paul Pinkham, Valerio Viti, Thor Smith
Trails	Bill Foster & Richie Holstein
Website	Paul Berry & Stephanie Howes
Young Members	Jamie Cullinane

*temporary committee

Ex-officio members of the Executive Committee:
Immediate Past Chair Frank Miller
Regional Director John Mullins

Respectfully,
Debbie Marcus, Secretary

AMC NH CHAPTER TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial position of the AMC New Hampshire Chapter has remained strong through 2020. While the workshop income and expenses have declined due to the pandemic, our members and volunteers have continued to support the chapter in new and inventive ways. We appreciate all of you, thank you for your continued support.

This year like most organizations, we have increased our spending on video communication in order to reach out to our members with activities and conduct business internally. We have also invested in PPE for our leaders and participants to allow for in person social distancing events. Our volunteer leaders are continuing their training and certifications through new hybrid classes of Wilderness First Aid and CPR.

New this year we are proud to have contributed to the Access Fund toward the restoration of Rumney Rocks climbing area in Rumney, N.H. Conserving this beautiful area and keeping the climbers safe is of utmost importance. We also remain excited about our next project of raising funds toward an accessible trail on Mt. Cardigan, something we have been saving for over the last few years. Building an inclusive trail for all to enjoy is an investment that is near and dear to our hearts.

In closing I would like to extend our gratitude for all the support that the AMC NH Chapter receives from you, our members and volunteers. Be safe and well.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry P Landry

AMC NH Treasurer

2020 Report to the New Hampshire Chapter from AMC's Northern Regional Director

I'm pleased to update the New Hampshire Chapter membership on AMC-wide actions and progress for 2020, especially AMC's response to COVID-19, our progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and the upcoming AMC Annual Summit.

Responding to COVID-19. From the first week of March, AMC was very cognizant of the serious health risks associated with COVID-19, wanting to protect its membership and employees. The Board of Directors, AMC staff, and chapter leadership collaborated on decision-making, actionable guidance, and support for necessary changes to the operation of all AMC elements. AMC's Volunteer Relations Department communicated these decisions weekly to chapters providing guidance on suspending in-person activities, recommending options for online meetings instead of face-to-face gatherings, and sharing a safe reopening rubric on when and how chapter-led outings could begin again.

To keep our community connected while outdoor group activities were not possible, chapters ramped up email communications and initiated group online sessions covering outdoor skill learning, photo sharing, and reports of previous outdoor experiences. As restrictions on outdoor activities eased and hiking local trails again became possible, AMC developed training for how chapter leaders could once again move outdoors in small groups to capitalize on the mental and physical health benefits from being outdoors in nature.

While implementing the usual full slate of outdoor excursions and trainings is not yet possible at this time, I know everyone within AMC and the New Hampshire Chapter looks forward to the time when it's possible to reinstitute their traditionally full slate of outdoor offerings.

Addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. As the June 5 statement and email from AMC CEO John Judge made clear, not only is there no room for racism or exclusion in our organization, but we need to consciously examine and increase our efforts to be more open and welcoming to all.

Our new AMC150 mission, vision, and values are one step in that process. As they make clear,

"AMC's mission is to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors for all. We envision a world where being outdoors is an integral part of people's lives; where our natural

resources are healthy, loved, and protected. (Furthermore,) AMC strives to be a diverse and representative organization committed to increasing access to and engagement with the outdoors for all people, with leadership, activities, and participants that reflect the diverse communities we serve.”

Not only as volunteers and leaders for AMC but as thoughtful and responsible human beings in this world at this time, we need to strive to fulfill our organization’s mission, vision, and values, especially when viewed through a DEI lens. Some chapters have already been working to make DEI an integral part of their chapter’s framework, and all chapters will be working on that as we go forward. Not only is it the right thing to do for humankind, but expanding AMC’s conservation mission through our DEI efforts is good in the long run.

AMC’s Annual Summit is coming to your home in January 2021! For those of us in the North Country, the Annual Summit, long held in the Boston suburbs, has always been a fun, educational, and celebratory day bracketed by a long drive on both ends. Responding to COVID-19, but benefitting those of us up north, this year’s Annual Summit will be virtual, accessible to anyone anywhere with a Zoom account. The day will be chock full of the usual events: outdoor skill workshops, educational sessions, AMC property updates, volunteer service awards, and reports from the BOD including the 2020 year-end financial report. All of this is happening in your living room on January 23, 2021. Look for registration information coming up on outdoors.org.

Finally, a tip of the hat to Rick Silverberg, your chapter chair, for guiding us through this unusual year. Faced with a unique and changing set of circumstances, Rick helped the chapter respond in ways that maintained chapter continuity, helped members stay informed and engaged, and settled us into a good stead to face whatever comes our way in 2021. I look forward to another successful year working with the New Hampshire Chapter!

Happy trails to all,

John Mullens
Regional Director, North
AMC Board of Directors

AMC NH CHAPTER BIKE COMMITTEE

The start of the year 2020 looked like another fruitful year of biking activities for the AMC-NH bike committee until the pandemic hit. Unfortunately all events were cancelled starting in the

spring. Although events were again allowed starting in late summer, following guidelines from AMC, no further events for 2020 have been scheduled. We hope to get up and start riding again in 2021.

AMC NH Bike Committee
Hiel Lindquist

AMC NH CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

AMC NH Newsletter Committee

Mountain Passages, the NH Chapter newsletter, circulates to approximately 1,200 print subscribers and approximately 6,800 email subscribers. This year we switched from a six issue per year printing schedule to a four issue per year schedule. The four issue per year schedule allows us to focus on seasonal activities and has resulted in larger issues. Under the six issue per year schedule, each issue was 8 pages long, but under the four issue per year schedule, the first two issues were 12 pages and the Fall Issue was 18 pages.

Bob McLaughlin continued as editor and Jessica Clifford continued her work on design and layout, and this year Brett Billings returned as co-editor.

Mountain Passages reflected the year 2020.

- **The first issue, Winter 2020, was published in January and was full of trip previews and encouragement of social gatherings.**

- **By the time the Spring issue was published in March, times had changed. Announcements of postponed and cancelled activities, and articles entitled “Dos & Don’ts of Getting Outside Safely,” “The Trail Less Taken—Outdoor Adventures Near Home” and “COVID-19 and the AMC” signaled the changed circumstances. The issue also included Paul Hopkins article on climate change, Richie Holstein’s article on hiking on muddy trails, and an article commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.**

- **The Summer issue was almost completely dedicated to stories about hiking in the pandemic. Articles included suggestions for hikes close to home, finding alternative sources of water, deciding whether to hike with friends, and tips on what to pack when you did hike. Thanks to Rick Silverberg, Brian Wazlaw, Christina Cozzens, and Brett Billings! We also featured a story by Veronique Roy about how her family used the time**

with children at home in “‘Keep them interested,’ they said,” and introduced a new series “Where in the Whites?”. Finally, as part of the commemoration or the 100th anniversary of our Chapter, we started a new series on development of hiking in New Hampshire.

- The Fall issue continued the theme of hiking in the pandemic with articles by Tim Kennedy, Lu Ann Laquerre, and Bob McLaughlin. The series on the history of hiking continued with “Creation of the Trail System—White Mountains and Beyond.” Finally, Ty Gagne, the keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting, gave us permission to reprint his short piece “Footprints in the Snow.”

A big thank you to all the authors! We are always looking for new material and ideas for articles. Don't be shy!

Current and past editions of Mountain Passages dating back to 2015 can be found on AMCNH.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob McLaughlin, Brett Billings & Jessica Clifford
Newsletter Committee

Communications Annual Report

The communications committee has been working hard on growing our social media accounts and outreach. We have increased both the Facebook and Instagram followings by over 100% each in the past year. We will continue to grow these numbers and use a post strategy that includes a mix of helpful hints/tips to keep people interested and event/activity promotion. We hosted two contests on our page to attract engagement and followers. These proved to be quite popular and would like to continue doing more next year. We're also increasing our photo library for club use.

AMC NH CHAPTER CONSERVATION EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMC NH CHAPTER EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

AMC NH Excursions Committee

The AMC-NH Excursions Committee (also known as the “Hiking Committee”) had another productive year. Here are some highlights:

Volunteer Hike Leaders

The backbone of our group is our cadre of about 100 highly trained volunteer hike leaders. In addition to continuing education on safe group hiking practices, hike leaders had an opportunity to participate in some extended learning in the form of: refresher session in the use of winter emergency gear; wildlife tracking workshop; and a tree identification workshop. We would like to welcome the following new leaders into our committee: Robert Reenan, and Rick Wehrhan. Many of our leader candidates have put their plans on hold waiting for restrictions to be lifted.

Day Hikes, Workshops and Outings

By far, our most important and known outreach comes via our day hikes and outings. Even though our activities were stopped in March and have slowly started to resume by late summer, our leaders have led over 50 day hikes, workshops and outings throughout the past year in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York.

Winter Hiking Series

We continue to have a vibrant Winter Hiking Series (WHS), a workshop series which was started nearly 20 years ago. Larry Yetter serves as WHS Director and together with volunteer winter hike leaders, they help train over 25 hikers each year how to safely hike the higher peaks in winter. The series kicks off with a weekend workshop offering a series of lectures and hikes beginning in late fall and continuing into winter. Many of our Class 1 (Winter) hike leaders used this training to help prepare for the role of becoming a winter hike leader.

Over 55

Patty Anderson and Kathy Rockwood chair our Over 55 Group. Through their efforts combined with other volunteers, we have grown our offerings to nearly 20 events specifically aimed at our Over 55 members.

Family Group

The Family Group of Excursions continues to flourish, and we thank Heather Layton for her leadership. The November Fall Weekend Family Gathering at Cardigan Lodge has seen families coming year after year. The volunteer leaders within Family Group have also offered 11 events including day hikes as well as hut overnights.

Winter and Spring School at Cardigan

A central part of our outreach and education comes from our annual weekend workshops offered three times a year at Cardigan Lodge, under the continued leadership of Workshop Director Rick Silverberg. During the winter sessions, we work in concert with the Ski and Mountaineering Committees and to offer an array of skiing, snowshoeing, winter hiking and winter camping workshops. Unfortunately our Spring session in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19. Typically, the spring session offers an array of hiking, backpacking, and map and compass workshops. Prospective hike leader candidates are invited to take one of our leadership workshops during either of the three sessions.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dan Heon & Larry Yetter
Excursions/Hiking Co-Chairs

AMC NH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Appalachian Mountain Club, New Hampshire Chapter Membership Committee Report

The Membership Committee handles not only tracking of chapter and club wide membership trends, it is also the committee responsible for outreach to new/newly active members, often answering general questions and providing referrals to the activity committees that best match members' interests.

Membership in the New Hampshire Chapter currently stands at 12,938 members. The club holds a membership of 88,224, spread amongst 12 chapters. We are currently the second largest of the 12 chapters, behind only Boston, a position we have been in since 2011.

While the club and chapter membership are still large, both are in decline. As the charts and graphs below illustrate, membership club-wide has declined since its all-time peak in 2015. Decline has been consistent across all chapters, at a similar rate. It is unclear what the cause of this is, but it seems to be a trend that is bigger than anything we are doing at the local chapter level.

Since the last annual meeting, the committee hosted two seasonal in person membership socials. In December, we had our largest social to date for a presentation by the ski committee that drew over 30 attendees to Concord. We followed that up with a Seacoast event that drew 10, and featured presentations of Excursions' workshops. We had planned to host two more, but Covid-19 forced that not to happen. In September, we held the first ever Zoom Social, which was attended by over 20 people. The featured presentation was group hiking within Covid safety protocols as well as information on the Winter Hiking Series.

Another effect of the Covid-19 induced ban on large gatherings was the cancellation of the Discover Wild NH Day, which we have hosted a booth at for several years. This event is put on by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and is the state's largest gathering of outdoor groups and enthusiasts, frequently attended by over 10,000 people. Assuming the situation with Covid-19 improves, we hope to resume these in-person events next year. Otherwise, we will be continuing to find new ways to reach out virtually.

Regards,
Jamie Gillon
AMCNH Membership Committee Chair

AMC NH CHAPTER MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

As volunteers of the AMC we all know what a difficult year this has been for many reasons. It has been a maze of zoom meetings, policy discussions, drafts, changes, and back to the "drawing board", over and over again. It is a year like none other I can recall, pandemic crisis, diversity issues/policies/systemic changes, support for the true meaning of the AMC mission. These issues and more have dominated the AMC "family of volunteers".

As for the Mountaineering Committee, it has been even more difficult to find the "new ground" required in these times. Mountaineering is an "intimate" activity, more so than most. Close proximity, face to face communication, shared gear, the list goes on. Climbing was set to be part of the "phase 3" of the AMC "Covid-19 response to "restarting". Not sure that has happened quite the way outlined. Our yearly report regretfully reflects all these factors.

To start with, the MC has two new co-chairs to head the committee for the next two years, Manda Knight and returning Tom Sintros. We ran a few ice outings/clinics, before all the virus protocols became necessary. All were well attended and enjoyed by all.

A number of MC members/leaders took the Covid Training and we are waiting to get a final count of how many have completed this program.

As far as climbing goes, Darrell sent a note that he has resumed climbing at Vertical Dreams in Manchester on Mondays.

MC requested continued financial aid through the ICC for the Rumney Restoration Project of \$10,000. Chapter approved.

Manda and I have been part of ICC meetings and initiatives/projects.

These include, support for Black Lives Matter, support of the DEI and YOP, financial and physical support for the new Hanging Mountain Climbing area in southern Mass and much work on the development of protocol for safe climbing in this pandemic world.

Manda ran a NH Chapter Trail Workday to support the WMCC efforts to get Hanging Mountain in Massachusetts ready to open to the public. We had 5 registered participants who were able to join and support this cause. It was a beautiful day outside on the trails, and all participants had a positive experience. The crew spent time breaking large boulders, moving dirt and buckets of stone, and creating safe trails for future climbers to use at the crag.

Manda spent some time this summer exploring alternative locations, such as Bear's Den in Keene, Rines Hill in Alton, and Found and Lost Ledge on the Kanc, as potential areas for leaders to host climbing clinics and events. The goal was to seek out less crowded venues that would allow for phase 3 climbing and meet social distancing guidelines. Places like Pawtuckaway and Rumney, which are often used by the NH chapter, tend to draw large crowds during the climbing season.

Recently released, "An Ice Climber's Guide to Southern New England and Eastern New York" by Todd Swain, has over 200 areas for ice climbing and also features NH Chapter MC leaders, George Adams, Ben Greene, Jen Dickinson and Tom Sintros. There are photos and credits of first ascents, group climbs, clinics that have involved our current leaders. Great addition to our committee as it offers little known places to offer outings without the crowds as well. Todd is a very well known climber who has many credits of first ascents in the White's. One climb in the Flume area is named for him.

We are hopeful that there may be an ice climbing season and that we can get back to offering the same outdoor experiences we love and wish to share with a greater and diverse community.

Tom Sintros & Amanda Knight Co-Chairs

AMC NH CHAPTER PADDLING COMMITTEE

AMC NH CHAPTER PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

I was happy to volunteer as Programs Co-Chair in June of this year. Due to Covid-19, we are not scheduling our usual indoor events, but we plan to do so as soon as safely possible.

AMC NH CHAPTER SKI COMMITTEE

Ski Committee Report September 2020

For the 2019-20 winter season, the Ski Committee again offered a variety of backcountry and nordic ski trips, instructional clinics, and pre-season trail work activities for all public participants. For the active ski leaders, additional clinics and training were provided or funded to improve the skills, knowledge, and safety we can provide on our ski outings.

The 2020 ski season was shortened by the pandemic shutdown, and about 10 planned trips in March and April had to be cancelled. These included our annual spring skiing trips to the Mt Washington ravines, and a week of backcountry skiing in Quebec (deferred until 2021).

Trips

Ski Committee outings this past season included the following trips for all participants with appropriate skills. As dictated by weather and snow, some of the day trips were re-located, re-scheduled, or cancelled. It was a challenging year to find deep skiable snow, even by New England standards, but many good turns and schusses were still found by our determined and enthusiastic AMC skiers.

- 25 ski day trips (cross-country, light backcountry, and down-mountain backcountry) for a variety of skill levels in NH and VT.
- 1 weekend of down-mountain backcountry skiing in the Adirondack Mountains of NY.
- 3 days of pre-season trailwork on the ski trails at Cardigan Mountain and at Pinkham Notch, NH.

- 3 days of ski-trail work in the White Mts, in collaboration with Granite Backcountry Alliance.

Clinics and Workshops

Ski Committee leaders offered 8 days of instruction to backcountry winter travelers in 2020. These included:

- 1 weekend Avalanche Awareness class at Pinkham Notch, NH.
- 2 days of 'Ladies' Resort to Backcountry' clinics at Mt. Cardigan, NH.
- 2 weekends of back-country skiing instruction at the AMC-NH Winter School at Mt. Cardigan.

Ski Trip Leaders & Training

At the close of the 2020 ski season, the Ski Committee has 29 ski leaders and 2 leaders-in-training (LiT). Two new trip leaders completed their LiT requirements and became full ski leaders in 2020.

In addition to mentoring new ski leaders, the Ski Committee supports development and currency of active ski leaders' skills and knowledge in backcountry travel, skiing and instructional skills, and group leadership. Two programs were offered by experienced Ski Committee leaders in 2020 to benefit their fellow SC volunteers:

- Pre-season Ski Leader Training day at Cardigan Lodge.
- Alpine skiing clinic at Loon Mtn, NH, instructed by SC leader Ted Stever.

In addition, a number of active ski leaders benefited from the following training that was funded by the NH-Chapter/Ski Committee:

- Wilderness First Aid training at SOLO.
- Eastern Snow and Avalanche Workshop in Fryeburg, ME.
- Telemark skiing clinic (w/ PSIA instructor) for ski leaders at Loon Mtn, NH.
- Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) teaching & technique clinics.

Outreach

In December, the Ski Committee joined forces with the Membership Committee to pack the house full of interested participants at a Membership Social in downtown Concord, NH. This presentation by the Ski Committee was part of MC's series of programs highlighting NH Chapter activities of seasonal interest, and included a slideshow about the history and variety of backcountry skiing in New England, and the Ski Committee's many related offerings of instruction and activities.

The Ski Committee also draws interest by maintaining an Instagram account, @amcnhski, with weekly posts about skiing in New England. The account currently has about 700 followers. Many thanks to leader extraordinaire Dave Achey who started and runs the account.

Summary

The NH Chapter Ski Committee in 2020 continued its success in supporting a skilled pool of ski leaders, and offering a wide variety of ski trips and clinics for all skill levels through a challenging ski season. The season started with little powder but a good snow base that boded well, until it was eroded by a prolonged melt. That cycle repeated itself, but there was good skiing to be had if you picked the right day. Many AMC skiers had some fun days in the winter woods from January through early March, making the best of our changing snow. Then the highlight of New England skiing – spring corn snow – was left unskied when the world locked down in March and April. We look forward to a return to the snowfields in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerio Viti
Thor Smith
Paul Pinkham
Co-Chairs, Ski Committee

AMC NH CHAPTER TRAILS

Between the pandemic, illnesses, and injuries, the Trails Committee has precious little to report for the year.

The most positive note is that we enjoy helping and working with other trailwork organizations and adopters. We've worked with local trails, the Forest Society, Wonalancet Outdoors Club, the US Forest Service, and Trailwrights. And with true trailworker mindset, we tend to clear minor problems as we hike.

We have plans for the remainder of the season, from finally getting out to our adopted trails, to a staff- led trails day along Cardigan hiking trails, to the annual co-operative

effort with the NH and Boston Ski Committees on the Cardigan ski trails. Both of the latter typically involve large groups, and will be significantly curtailed in light of COVID-19 restrictions.

Of note to the chapter is the complete turnover of the Cardigan Lodge staff and the resignation of the Cardigan Region Leader overseeing trail adopters. An effort to recognize Tom Fisher, the former lodge manager, has stalled due to budget restrictions. The current manager and assistant are only hired into December; plans beyond that include some sort of caretaker working over the winter.

The Region Leader may also not be directly replaced, or the description and title of that position may change, with a possible educational component and with aiding in AMC's response to NH and WMNF inquiries about trail adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Holstein and Bill Foster