

AMC NH chapter annual report 2021  
Chapter chair Rick Silverberg.

2021 is the 100th anniversary year of New Hampshire chapter of the Appalachian Mountain club. The Chapter was originally called the Merrimack Valley Chapter when it was formed in 1921 by a small group 26 individuals and has grown to over 10,000.

Preparations for celebration of the 100th anniversary of the chapter started with gathering information in 2020. An email went out to chapter members requesting access to any early chapter histories and other materials that could be borrowed. This was extremely productive! It reminds us you never know what you're going to get until you ask. Early in the quest for information one of the former chapter chairs from the 1980s contacted me to let the chapter know that he had a box given to him by his father who was a chapter chair in the 50s. He invited me to come and look at the materials and talk. What a treasure trove of information . This box included journal type books of handwritten incorporation documents, list of incorporators minutes and correspondence from 1921 through 1973. An incredible amount of detail spelled out on the pages. Minutes of meetings of the executive committee, listings of trips, trip reports, letters and notes from people about their efforts that were building community and growing the chapter. The committee that formed to work on the 100th anniversary celebrations had a complicated task trying to plan activities over a pandemic year in which large gatherings were not possible. The creative juices helped the committee come up with the idea of doing outings, hikes, paddling trips and mountaineering that would have 100th anniversary theme in mind. We arranged for hikes to places mentioned in the early trip listings, most of which were in the southern third of the state, many close to Manchester, Concord or Nashua. The White Mountain National Forest trails were just getting developed at that point. The trip reports included many interesting accounts explaining that these early groups took the trolley to the starting points of the hike or would gather at commonplaces and then ride several cars to guesthouses somewhere near trails or lakes for weekends as a group. The year progressed with Bike rides, paddling, trips to climbing locals cliffs. These were all recorded in the wonderful accounts of trips that the chapter frequented in the 1920s 30s and early 40s.

These 2021 trips were done as history hikes and many were geared for beginners to stimulate interest in the chapter for the next generation . This gave us another opportunity to introduce new members to the breath of activity of the chapter in the past, present, and planned for the future.

This was also another year of intensely using Zoom for speakers, educational sessions, and meetings , with virtually all of our meetings held on electronic means including last year's and this year's Annual Meetings

The chapter met its goals of having each one of the committees conduct at least two online meetings or training sessions. Despite the pandemic we were able to conduct three leader training sessions, indoor rock gym training, several pool rolling sessions, trail work outings and

new members socials on zoom, some ski clinics and back country trips, all of which followed Covid - 19 protocols.

This was a year of rebuilding heavily recruiting for positions that were turning over on our executive committee. The nominating committee utilized electronic means as well as our tried-and-true word-of-mouth technique and recruited new individuals to fill vacant slots for a full roster presented for voting at the annual meeting October 23 2021.

This year also brought some changes in our ability to interact with other chapter representatives, limited by not having in person Fall Gathering, Annual Meeting or Chapters Retreat, all held by substituted online activity. For those of us involved in the club for many years we found this to be very difficult, having grown accustomed to having personal interactions and developing friendships with other chapter officers, and regional counselors at these events. These out of meeting communications could not be replicated by online activity. And made us long for getting back to cross chapter, cross region meetings as soon as possible. The sharing across chapters and the ability to talk about shared experiences and share notes has gone on for the past hundred years and many do not want to loss this aspect of the Club.

Last year also saw us making a change in our bylaws which allowed a chapter chair to have three consecutive one-year terms. The third-year under special consideration when substantial difficulties in recruiting a new vice chair occur, this and the other small changes we made to the bylaws , which we believe will serve the chapter well future.

It has been my honor and privilege to the serve as chapter chair for the past three years.

Rick Silverberg  
Chair  
AMC NH Chapter  
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