



**104<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the  
Appalachian Mountain Club –  
*New Hampshire Chapter***

**November 1, 2025**

## Chapter Chair Report - NH Chapter 2025

There's a lot to say but I'll try my best to keep things brief, which is tough when you have such a high caliber of leadership, activity offerings and volunteer dedication. I've struggled as the Chair to find ways to make my own impact, between our chapter representatives to the club for our leader training initiatives and the mountaineering committee hosting one of, if not the, largest event (Schistmas) of the decade, it's difficult to be unique, find groundbreaking projects to take on and leave a mark. I guess this is the best thing someone in my position could ask for. This chapter truly has it down to a science. The activity committees are phenomenal at what they do, our web and communications committee are dialed in making sure we're getting our message out there consistently and make sure it looks good too. Even our vacancies have drawn attention from one another and there's been an overwhelming feeling of selflessness when committee chairs step up in our monthly meetings to say, "I'll help too." Point is, I don't mind not making an impact when the folks in this room have made plenty. This report can go on to just be a brag column about the wonderful items this team has been able to check off for 2025.

Did you attend a meeting this past year? You can thank **our programs, web/communications, and membership teams**. They keep an eye on everything, stay in touch with AMC HQ, and refine our website, Instagram and Facebook postings to make sure you know about them.

Did you attend a climbing night/day? Thanks to our zealous **climbing/mountaineering committee** there has been an abundance of activities for you to choose from. I mentioned **Schistmas** earlier, this event had over 120 registrants/attendees for a weekend of camping, climbing and camaraderie. Monthly gym nights have remained a consistent expectation for our members, and their outdoor presence they've established is definitely one to keep an eye on. If you didn't attend a climbing event this year, I HIGHLY recommend you start looking at the Outdoor Connector closely and sign up for one.

Was there a **ski day** that you were dying to get on but even the waitlist was full? Yeah, no surprise with the winter we had. I can assure you that when the **ski committee** plans their events they book up every free weekend they have for this chapter. It's a level of dedication I am continuously impressed with. Camel's Hump and Big Jay are, from what I hear, recurring favorites, and you cannot forget about Cardigan as an all-time favorite. The leaders over there are fanatic powder hounds and even in the summer the conversation always mentions snow (it's crazy that they don't do summer back country tours). When you meet a ski leader, thank them for wearing their pajamas inside out and throwing ice cubes in their toilets.

What **paddling** trip did you most enjoy this year? There are a few just looking at the list that I'm sure come to most of your minds. Annual trips up to Knubble Bay, some white-water action,

Chapter Chair Annual Report  
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and safety training that can make you all masterminds of the water. The paddling crew is special in NH, very well known throughout the club, and an exciting group to be a part of. The creativity of the leaders is impressive at the minimum. The variety of trips that explore Maine and all parts of NH make it easy to sign up for an unforgettable adventure.

Was there a **hike or backpack** that stood out the most in your mind? There's nothing quite like a white mountain "suffer fest" as some may call it, but the breadth of activities **the excursions committee** has fostered ranges from easy, flat walks for the famous Wednesday Night Hike series to a night summit of a 4000-footer in VT to a 2-day backpack of the Pemi Loop. You have nothing but options in NH and the leaders have certainly given you the best of the best access to the WMNF and beyond. The co-chairs approve hikes 5/7 days a week, so not only are the leaders busy cranking out trips, but the co-chairs are just as busy reading through them before clicking that go-live button. You can always hike, but hiking with this group is special.

Finally, and probably the most underappreciated work of our chapter, I will ask you: did you hike a trail this summer without a single fallen tree, puddle of water, or even branch in your footpath? If you answered yes, you can thank our version of Trail Angels on the **Trails Committee**. They work tirelessly to make the trails not only walk/hikeable but the most pristine in New England. I remember hiking in May in the Adirondacks and having a breakdown over the amount of water on the trail. It wasn't until my hiking partner said, "yeah we're spoiled in NH with the condition our trails are in" and he was right. The crew here loves mud and gets others to love it just as much. They move massive boulders for drainage, they offer countless hours to the **Cardigan Mountain State Park and the All Person's Trail**, while also adopting trails throughout the WMNF. We are grateful for their extremely hard work and the community they've cultivated.

If you haven't gotten the overwhelming sense by now that we love our volunteers and the work they're doing, then I haven't done my job. I encourage everyone to reach out to these leaders and ask them what brings them to the AMC. I bet you'll learn something new.

As I finish writing this recap of the incredible year our chapter has had, it's time to think about the future. It is with great excitement to pass the torch to a dedicated leader, learner and steward of the outdoors. She has been involved in leader training, Spring School, paddling, winter school and more. Her drive to educate about the outdoors, leaving no trace, and sustainable experience in the outdoors gave her a stint as our Conservation and Education Chair. While that door may have closed, this one has opened, and I am excited to introduce **Diana Moore as the AMC New Hampshire Chapter Chair as of November 2025**. Happy Trails!

- *Selene Berube*

## Treasurer's Report

A lot has changed since taking over as Chapter treasurer just a year ago. The Excursions and Paddlers bank accounts were merged into our main Chapter account. New policies adopted by AMC resulted in the NH Chapter returning \$28,031 to HQ in January of this year. These policies have been amended again and will result in the Chapter returning approximately \$103,000 including \$53,015 in cash reserves this coming January. Our Chapter will no longer have any cash reserves.

In the past, the annual treasurer's reports were presented describing the health of the Chapters finances as if the funds within the Chapter belonged to the Chapter. With the new bank balance restrictions and money sweeps by HQ, future treasurer reports will generally just be a statement of our annual expenses vs. our annual budget. Going forward, after the money sweep is complete each January, our balance sheet that once showed more than 230k in assets, will only show the 96k in Bernice Johnson Funds held at AMC plus an amount equal to 50% of our chapter's annual budget. Based on what I've observed in the past year, I don't see these new policies affecting any of the Chapters' day-to-day activities.

In the meantime, our 9/30 balances are as follows:

Unrestricted Checkbook Balance	86,028
Bernice Johnson Fund @ NH	0
Bernice Johnson Fund @ HQ	96,291
Cash	53,015
Invested Reserves	0
Credit Card Balances	8,973
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$226,361</b>

- *Jon Randall*

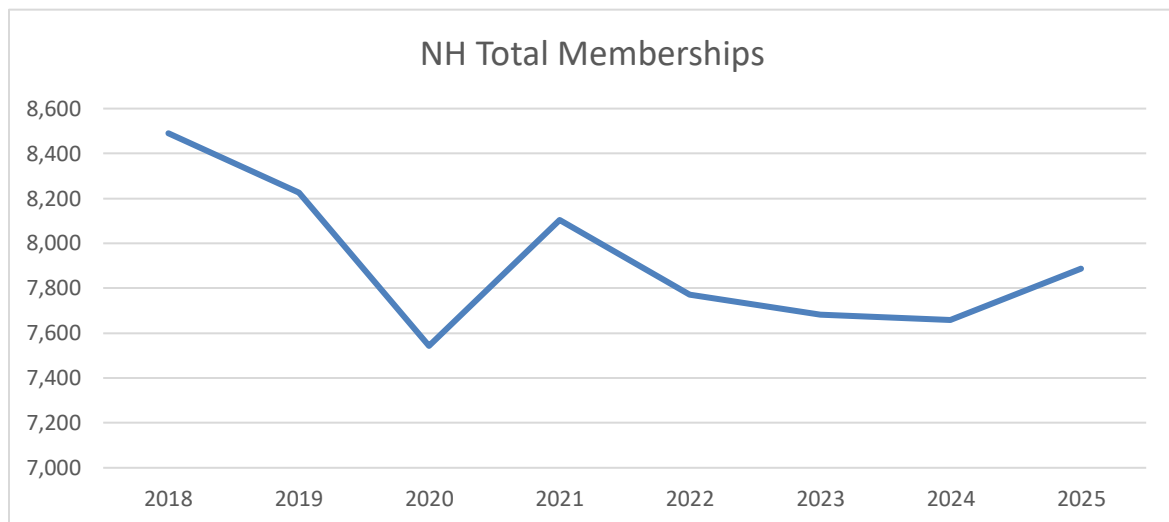


## Membership Report

Membership is a funny thing. It's the figure AMC builds its goals around, it's the conversation piece of every meeting and it creates a sense of urgency a lot of us volunteers never thought we'd be concerning ourselves with. However, we have touch points with the membership the most. The paddling, hiking, climbing, skiing, programs leaders do their best to post trips that make members excited to be a part of this community, contribute to the community and speak highly of the community. The story for NH isn't any different than other chapters, so the following paragraphs will give you some insight into how we think about membership.

New Hampshire is the second largest chapter in the AMC with 7.9 thousand active memberships. Which of those are active members, we couldn't tell you, but from the 423 activities and programs our chapter has hosted we can imagine that there's quite a bit that make the most of their membership.

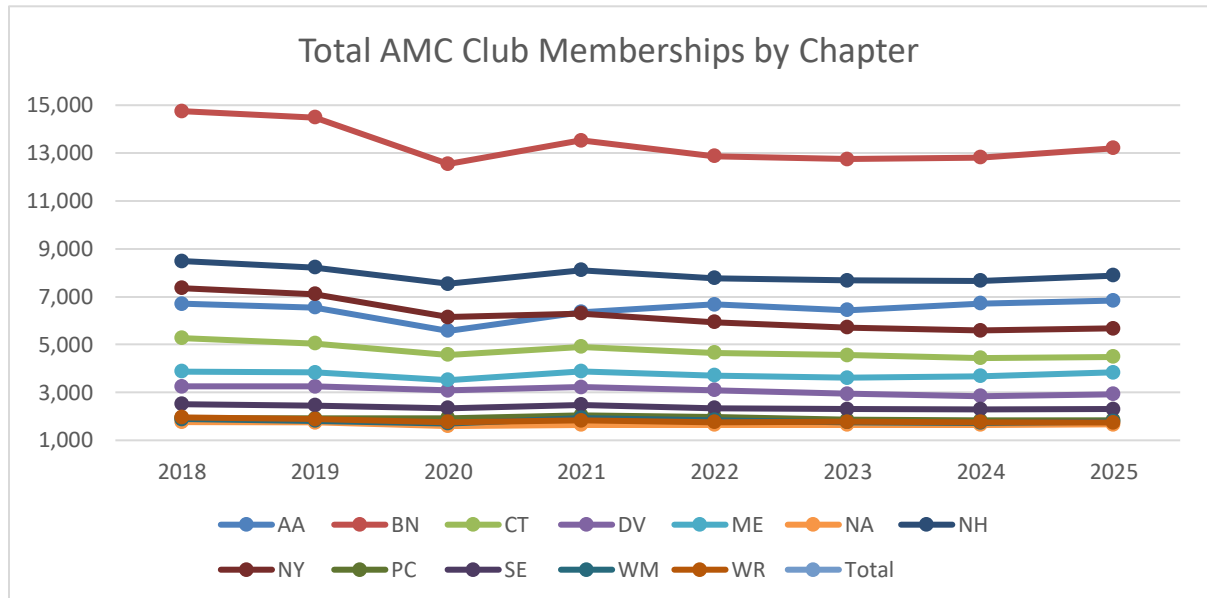
Over the last 7 years we've experienced a lot of turbulence. The pandemic rocked our numbers to a historic low (maybe not historic considering we've been around for 104 years) and they have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels even in 2025. Dues paying members are the reason that we can host the annual meeting and reimburse volunteer leaders for expenses incurred while leading trips, acquiring certifications and going through proper training.



*2018-2025 Total NH Memberships*

We stack up against other chapters nicely. By sheer volume we are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest chapter in the club. Boston Chapter is a little under double the size of NH, so we can't compare our experiences with membership apples to apples. Smaller chapters like Southeast Massachusetts and Maine have experienced decreases in membership similar to ourselves from the pandemic, but at a much less

aggressive rate. We see both declining at -0.1% over the last 7 years where other chapters like CT (-2.0%), Boston (-1.4%) and NY/NoJ (-3.2%) have declined more aggressively (NH has declined at a -0.9% rate since 2018). Joining the AMC doesn't just get you access to discounts at huts and Adventure Travel trips and it certainly isn't just a donation to a sustainability organization. The membership fee allows chapters to operate at a level of any other non-profit organization like developing proper training modules for a more inclusive community, collaborative research that contributes to our understanding of climate change, employing hut and lodge workers and providing opportunities to underprivileged communities to get into the outdoors. These are just a few of the important initiatives that the AMC relies heavily on membership dues to carry out. Next time you think of not renewing your membership because you "can't bear to spend another \$50 this year", we encourage you to dig a bit deeper on outdoors.org before pressing cancel.



2018-2025 Total Club Memberships by Chapter

You've read our spiel about numbers, now let's talk demographics: The AMC looks at 7 different categories of membership each year: Family, Family Life, Individual, Lifetime, Senior, Under-30 and Youth Leader. There's an everlasting desire to increase our under-30 membership each year and, to take it a step further, increase their participation in leadership roles. Over the last year we have seen the 20s & 30s membership grow to 203 memberships for 201 members placing us the second largest chapter home for 20s & 30s members. We have the second largest membership demographic of family memberships at 9.0 thousand members which makes up just less than 50% of our chapter membership. If you or someone you know is interested in the family trips please refer to our Excursions Committee under amcnh.org.

We are proud in NH to host a variety of membership types and be a breeding ground for top tier

experiences. Ask us questions about how your membership can serve you better and what it can mean for generations to come.

## Communication/Website Committee Report

The AMC manages and coordinates a huge number of activities, programs and resources across its chapters. AMC promotes these to members, prospective members and the general public at three levels: AMC parent (across all chapters) communications, AMC chapter communications and chapter activity communications. Our committee manages communication channels and programs at the AMCNH chapter level.

Our channels include our chapter website ([amcnh.org](http://amcnh.org)), email, and social media channels including Facebook, X, Instagram YouTube and Meetup. AMCNH no longer uses traditional mail.

The AMC Parent maintains a searchable database and calendar called the “[Outdoor Connector](#)” for most AMC activities across all chapters. Links to the outdoor connector can be found on [AMCNH.org](http://AMCNH.org), the [AMC website](#) and many of the activity pages and activity sponsored social media sites.

The [AMCNH.org](http://AMCNH.org) website also features links to membership enrollment, the main AMC website ([Outdoors.org](http://Outdoors.org)), descriptions and contact information for specific activities including, excursions (hiking), mountaineering, paddling, skiing, trail maintenance, conservation and membership, posts highlighting certain events and news, *Mountain Passages* - a blog style Journal specific to AMCNH, chapter policies and organization. According to our web site statistics which we started tracking in February 2025, AMCNH.org served approximately 11,000 unique visitors via 22,000 page views over 8 months through September.

During 2025 AMCNH began emailing a quarterly newsletter generally providing links to new *Mountain Passages* reports and posts of upcoming events and news. This email is sent to an extended New Hampshire audience of approximately 17,000 addresses. If you are a member but are not receiving these emails, please check with **AMC Member Services (603) 466-2727** to ensure they have your correct email address AND that you are signed up to receive newsletters. (Many longer term members are not registered to receive newsletters as email delivery was not offered as an option and the Club determined the default setting to decline inclusion in newsletter distribution.) AMC headquarters manages other email communications including an AMC monthly newsletter, promotions for trips and merchandise, general news and a new monthly communication called “The Club House” sharing a mix of national and chapter news and events.

AMCNH manages chapter level social media accounts on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube and Meetup. These accounts have approximately 9,000 followers. Additionally, some of the activities (e.g. hiking, skiing etc.) maintain and manage their own social media

accounts for their activities, mostly on Facebook. These accounts often serve as the most current and visited resources for reports, news, discussion and information about the activity. Please refer to activity pages on the [AMCNH.ORG](http://AMCNH.ORG) website for links to these social media accounts.

- *Andrew Collins*
- *Ham Mehlman*

## Excursions Committee Report

The Excursions Committee had a very successful and productive year. Our leadership roster stands at a robust 79 Leaders including 2 new leaders and 4 who stepped up to higher classifications, with another 15 who are in training to become leaders. With over 90 of us, we combined to lead an impressive number of events that drew over 950 total participants.

- 2 Backpacking trips
- 10 Educational workshops
- 6 Snowshoeing trips
- 180 Day Hikes

Some highlights included the first ever Sexual Assault Awareness Month Hike Series led by Mjo McCarthy, who was interviewed about this on New Hampshire Public Radio. The Wednesday Nigh Series was incredibly successful, with over 30 beginner friendly hikes held on evenings throughout the state, giving many members a great way to get outside after work. The 55+ sub-committee was incredibly busy, including over a half dozen Wednesday morning hikes aimed at retirees who want to enjoy uncrowded weekday trails, while the 20s & 30s group started offering Friday Night hikes for the younger crowd who want to kick off their weekends by getting outside.

On an educational front, the Winter Hiking Series was once again sold out, teaching a new group of hikers how to hike safely in the most high-risk months of the year. All three Sessions of Cardigan school were very successful with members learning skills such as backpacking, of trail navigation and leadership skills. The women's+ series returned with a five-event series that includes many of these topics as well.

Looking ahead to 2026, we have plans to add a fifth leadership training in June, in addition to the October, January, February and April sessions that we currently offer, in hopes to have even more Leader Candidates enter the pipeline.





## Leadership Training and Development Committee Report

During 2025, the major work of the Leadership and Training Development Committee continued along a similar path to 2024. The leaders of the committee worked with the Central Staff from AMC and leadership training development directors from other chapters to develop the online training module "Fundamentals of Leadership". It was agreed in the New Hampshire chapter by excursions that they would use this as a supplemental training material that would be sent to individuals who would be participating in training sessions before their arrival. This helps to get them grounded in the basic concepts. We would not use it as the sole way of training a leader. Even for Class I, the lowest level of leadership, local walks and short hikes, candidates would be required to read this material before coming to a session, and then still come to a training session and do several mentored hikes. Other committees within the chapter have been offered this training module and suggested it to people before they attend their in-person leadership trainings.

Training continued with excursions offering two winter schools and a spring school jointly with the Skiing Committee. These were attended by many individuals, and some of the sessions were in hard skills (snowshoeing, map and compass, various levels of skiing, winter camping). Leadership training and development were offered, with three groups during the course of the year:

- Fall training
- winter school 1
- Winter school 2
- Spring school for leadership

Individuals went through these courses. Most have proceeded to start their mentoring process. Similarly, the Paddling Committee and Mountaineering Committee offered training sessions for their new and upcoming leaders. And have several that are in the mentoring process or have become new leaders.

Significant planning has occurred within Excursions around the development of additional leadership training opportunities. After much discussion by the Leader Review Board and the Excursions Committee, and the Leadership training committee within Excursions, it was determined that for Fall, Leadership would be a combined Class 1 and 2. If we have enough participants, which we do, we would offer two sessions on the same day with Zoom meetings beforehand. We've have 12 people registered for this training coming up on October 25. Excursions also determined that we would add a one-day Class 3 Leader Training in June of 2026. This is in addition to the two winter schools, the spring school, and the fall training sessions.

During executive committee sessions of the New Hampshire chapter, it was agreed that we would adopt the use of Community Engagement training that has been developed by AMC Central, with the suggestion that all ex-coms members complete it by January of 2026.

- *Casey Calver*
- *Rick Silverberg*

## Paddlers Committee Report

**FALL MEETING** held on September 14, 2025, at White Farm in Concord, NH.

After a great potluck lunch, we started the business meeting with a thoughtful presentation on the history and reflection on New England rivers by Russ Ford, a Vermont paddler who has completed the Northern Forest Canoe Trail in sections over a 20 year period. Thanks, Russ!



### Labor Day Weekend Paddlers Gathering

We had 40 campers this year enjoy the Great North Woods in Errol, NH at Clear Stream Campground. Every day we had trips led by volunteers on flatwater, quickwater, class 1 and 2 rapids. It was a great community event that brought together old friends and new faces.



**Whitewater Adventures in Quebec City on the Jacque Cartier River in partnership with MVP**



**Sea Kayak Adventures on the coast of Maine in Acadia National Park**



## Lake Touring Paddle Adventures on Lake Sunapee



## Canoe Adventures on the Androscoggin River



# Ski Committee Report

For the 2024-25 winter season, the AMC New Hampshire Ski Committee offered a variety of backcountry and Nordic ski trips, 6 days of instructional clinics, and pre-season trail work activities for approximately 107 participants.

There was high demand for outdoor activities this season and most trips were well attended.

## Trips

Ski Committee outings this past season included the following trips for all participants with appropriate skills. As dictated by weather and snow conditions, some of the day trips were relocated, rescheduled, or canceled.

- 19 ski day trips (cross-country, light backcountry, and down-mountain backcountry) for a variety of skill levels in NH and VT.
- 5 days of pre-season trail work on the ski trails at Cardigan Mountain and at Pinkham Notch, NH.
- A wide variety of family-friendly down-mountain and Nordic trips, including those targeted to teens, tweens, and families with younger children.
- A series of resort-to-backcountry clinics and trips, led by female ski leaders (but open to all), were planned beginning with an introductory skin and ski at Magic Mountain, VT, in January, followed by trips in February and March, which offered a progression in technical difficulty and skills required.
- A weekly dawn patrol skin and ski at Whaleback Mountain in Enfield, NH.
- A week of backcountry skiing in the Gaspésie National Park in Quebec, Canada.

## Clinics and Workshops

Ski Committee leaders offered 6 days of instruction to backcountry winter travelers in 2025. In January, we added to our eighth year of resort-to-backcountry clinics, with a January clinic at Magic Mountain. Our two annual Winter School weekends were well-attended by skiers, despite this season's challenging snow conditions. A clinic on mogul and glade skiing at Bretton Woods was held in February.

## Ski Trip Leaders & Training

At the close of the 2024-25 ski season, the Ski Committee had 32 ski leaders and 5 leaders-in-training (LiTs): Bruce Gokey, Andre Gratto, Amber Porter, Daniella Reichstetter, and Reinmar Seidler. .

In addition to mentoring new ski leaders, the Ski Committee supports development and maintenance of active ski leaders' skills and knowledge in backcountry travel, skiing and instructional skills, and group leadership. Our annual tele (instructor: Keith Rodney) and alpine (instructor: Ted Stever) early season clinics for leaders were held in December 2024 at Loon Mountain. Both days were well attended by leaders and LiTs.

Ski leader Chris Peter completed AIARE 1 & 2 courses, and the avalanche rescue course.

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

- Wilderness First Aid training
- PSIA ski clinics

## **Outreach**

The NH Ski Committee draws interest by maintaining an Instagram account, amcnhski, with weekly posts about skiing in New England. The account currently has 1881 followers. Many thanks to leader Christina Park who runs the account.

Lynn Fischer continues to support the committee as our newsletter editor. She has done a terrific job compiling trip reports in a very professional-looking newsletter.

The website underwent a larger update to the structure and content, led by Hamilton Mehlman who worked with the ski committee chairs.

## **Summary**

The NH Chapter Ski Committee in 2024-25 continued its success in supporting a skilled pool of ski leaders, and offering a wide variety of ski trips for all skill levels through a challenging ski season. But we are looking ahead and feeling hopeful for 2025-26!

- *Casy Calver*
- *Chris Peter*
- *Jillian Willard*

## Trails Committee Report

The trails group has been busy this year, in supporting many groups. Such as the Lakes Regain Conservation Trust, the Bedford Conservation Commission, Gilford Town Forest, Gilmanton Conservation Commission, Cardigan Hiking, Ski and APT Trail, Crotchet Mountain Assessable Trails, Society for the Protection of NH Forestt on Mount Monadnock and the White Mountain National Forest area.

Work to keep the APT at Cardigan is ongoing as is trying to keep the trail open for all to use. Some of the Ski Trails clean-up has been started and the Annual Ski Trail, with the support of the Boston Ski group, will be taken place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November

It's thru the generous help of many people we have been able to support so many systems. So, to you all I wanted to say Thank You for all of the support. If there is any way that we can support you, please let us know.

- *Heather Blease*
- *Frank Miller*
- *Bill Foster*

## **AMC NH Nominating Committee Slate of Officers for 2025-2026**

The Nominating Committee Presents the following Slate of officers for the 2025-2026 AMC NH EXCOMM.

NOTE: Action at the New Hampshire Chapter Annual Meeting on November 1, 2025. –Vote in a Slate of Officers for 2025-26.

### *Officers:*

**Chair:** Diana Moore

**Vice Chair:** OPEN

**Treasurer:** Jon Randall

**Secretary:** Robin Diamond

**Past Chair:** Selene Berube

**Regional Dir:** Karen Brace

### *Committee Chairs:*

**Biking:** OPEN

**20's and 30's:** Selene Berube

**Communications/Website/Social Media:** Hamilton Mehlman, Andrew Collins

**Conservation:** OPEN

**Excursions:** Jamie Gillion, Bill Nesheim

**Leadership Training:** Rick Silverberg, Casy Calver

**Membership:** Thom Loef

**Mountaineering:** Adam Berthiaume, OPEN

**Paddling:** Frank Harrison, OPEN

**Paddling:** Paul Berry

**Programs:** Robin Diamond

**Ski:** Casy Calver, Jillian Willard, Chris Peters

**Trails:** Heather Blease, Frank Miller, Bill Foster

**Chapter Historian:** Paul Berry

Nominating Committee – Chair, and all Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

### **Retiring from NH ExComm:**

Valerio Viti - Leaving ExComm, stepping down from ExComm, 8 years skiing, 5 years chapter VC/Chair/past-chair , total 13 years

David Crocco- Leaving ExComm stepping down from Mountaineering - 3 years

Jack Hutchingson - stepping down from 20's and 30's, 4 years

Jamie Cullinane - stepping down from 20's and 30's, 2 years

Bob McLaughlin – stepping down from Communications

### Past AMC NH Chapter Chairs

1921 Frank E. Heald	1921 John R. McLane
1920-22 Wilbert F. Gilman	1923-25 Louis P. Elkins
1926 Wilbert F. Gilman	1927-29 William C. Brunel
1930 Julius C. Sturm	1931-32 Dr. John Worthen
1937-38 Reed Gourley	1939-40 Walter T. Winch
1941 Avis Cross	1942-43 Elizabeth Crosby
1944-45 Arnold Perreton	1946-47 Earnest C. Goland
1948-49 Osgood E. W	1950-51 Almon G. Harris
1952 H. Shirley Dwyer	1953 Harry Birch
1954-55 Charles V. Tallman	1956-57 Florence W. Harris
1958-60 J. Clifford Gallant	1961 Dr. Harry C. McDade
1962-63 Mrs. Luther G Dearborn	1964 Robert Hill
1965 Dr. Ursula Sanders	1966-67 Mrs. Miriam Underhill
1968-69 Terence P. Frost	1970-71 Dorothy G. Burak
1972 S. Robert Colby	1973-74 E.H.B. Bartelink
1975-76 Ruth Houghton	1977 Holly Anderson
1978-79 Robert C. Hansen	1980-81 Paul S. Shaw
1982-83 Harry Wescott	1984-85 Henry Peterson
1986 Jay Seavey	1987-89 Douglas F. Wyman
1990-91 David L. Harrigan	1992-93 D. Kurt Piper
1994-95 Kathleen D. Piper	1996-97 Roger R. Scholl
1998-99 Andrew H. McBride	2000-01 Anne Melvin
2002-03 C. Pete Mason	2004-05 Robert Harrington
2006-07 Ruth "Sam" Jamke	2008-09 Paul Berry
2010-11 Eric L. Savage	2012-13 Karen J. Thurston
2014-15 Wayne C. Goertel	2016-17 Bill Warren
2018 Frank Miller	2018-2020 Rick Silverberg
2021-2023 Valerio Viti	2024-2025 Selene Berube

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