Fellow Appies,

At times, I don’t know how to feel about the seasonal transition to the cooler seasons. I get a little melancholy with the passing of the summer. The weather was phenomenal and I kayaked the Pemi until it ran dry. I hiked more peaks than in recent years. On one trek I was thrilled as I watched my son bag his 48th 4,000 footer; 47 of which were with me. A group of us went on an AMC trip to the Phoenix Shelter at Trout Pond which the Worcester Chapter helped build and now helps maintain. While taking a break from helping to blaze a boundary, I borrowed one of the canoes and pulled in a couple native trout. They are so beautiful I felt guilty I caught them so I gently released them back to the crystal clear waters that they call home. On a trip to the Whites for the annual AMC White Mountain Boogie, Blues, Camp, Hike, Bike and Paddle I did more dancing to the boogie and blues than I did hiking…but that's okay…right?

Hey…lighten up buddy. I get to look forward to snowshoeing the Quabbin and participating in the Greenway Challenge with the AMC. On the weekend after Thanksgiving I will help a group of crazy Appies haul a turkey and all the fixing to Carter Hut for a weekend of hiking, eating and probably some Yatzhee! One of these years we are going to get a live turkey and make it hike in. I am sure I will get the opportunity to participate in an AMC overnight trek where my zero degree bag won’t be enough to keep me warm at night. At least once I will do some x-country skiing that will end with a bottle of wine in front of a fire. Perhaps on one of the AMC trips I will have the opportunities to take a break and cut a hole in the ice and say hello to another one of those native trout…..could happen. Okay…bring it on! How about you? We can get melancholy during the spring thaw!

On a final note, at the time of this writing, a group of a dozen or so of your fellow members are putting together the final plans for the AMC Fall Gathering. The Fall Gathering is a club wide event that each chapter takes turns hosting every 10 years or so. It is very stressful to plan and I want to thank all the team who helped pull it off. You know who you are….thanks so much for making the Worcester Chapter look good once again. A special thanks to Pam Landry who gave at least nine months of her “free time” to manage the event. Pam, you are the best…thanks!

Keep your feet moving (and perhaps do some more dancin’),

Steve
The Trail was originally constructed by the CCC as a ski trail in the 1930’s, however since it has become very popular, it has widened considerably into a steep, eroded trail. Join the trial committee for the Reconstruction and trail hardening work which consists of setting rock steps, building rock structures for drainage and waterbars and setting scree walls for trail definition. On different days we will be splitting rock, quarrying rock with high line systems or building the trail treadway itself.

Join experienced leaders to learn the fundamentals of safely moving rock, trail stabilization and treadway protection. Learn the mechanical advantage of moving rocks with a grip hoist and highline system. Tremendous opportunity to be involved in a local project whose results will be around for decades. Tools and training available, bring lunch, water, and work gloves. We will be working both days rain or shine, rain often shortens the day but has never cancelled the work.

Meet behind the Wachusett Mountain Visitors Center, 8:30 to 4:30.

Register with Steve Crowe (508-450-1091), steve@SunshineLandscapingCo.com

Check with the leader as we often work on Friday to get the grifhoist set up for the weekend.

Dates for this year include:

September 25 and 26  Saturday and Sunday
October 16 and 17  Friday and Saturday
November 6 and 7  Saturday and Sunday

Thank you, Steve

Volunteers of the Month

Pat Lambert, Vice Chair

The Volunteer of the Month (VOM) is a non-Executive Committee member who has gone above and beyond the call to duty in supporting our Chapter. Congratulations to the following winners:

June      Steve Gabis
July      Vitty Ciras
August    Chris Fogarty

VOM’s will be entered to win a prize at the Chapter’s annual meeting in November. In the past, we have given away a free stay at an AMC destination. If you know of a volunteer (who is not a member of the Executive Committee) who you would like to recognize for their contributions to the Chapter, please e-mail Pat Lambert (plambert119@yahoo.com) by the 25th of the month. Winners are selected at our monthly Executive Committee meeting. Thanks!
By Barbara Dyer

Sound exciting? Well if you were with our Worcester Chapter paddling group this summer, you bet it was exciting! We maneuvered our way through the Deerfield River, Boston Harbor, Portsmouth, and Kittery as some of the exciting trips. Ask experienced paddler Lynne Sarty how her adventure on the Deerfield went and she will tell you she was happy to retrieve her kayak back after it got twisted into the rocks while we were going down the river on what seemed to be a float trip with a few class 1-2 rapids. That was until we hit a rapid that lodged the kayak in the middle of the river so that she was unable to not only get her kayak, but also herself out of the swift currents. Our group watched helplessly while the leaders grouped up and all the commotion went on of throwing ropes, yelling over the currents, talks about being trapped in her skirt and needing a knife to cut, etc.

Many of our 20+ participants watched on the banks while a team of our experienced paddlers including Ken Pickren, Russ Hammond, Janette Blanchette, Judy and Bruce Wester, Elaine Cibelli, and our fearless leader Dave Cole amongst other good friends came to her aid by riding the current upstream and ferrying Lynne safely to shore with a canoe that she grabbed onto. She had been in the water for some time so was quite cold and of course shook up from the experience that at one time or another paddlers may have conquered themselves. Phew – thank god she was safe!

We ended the night with a stroll through the beautiful Bridge of Flowers and dinner in the cool town of Shelburne Falls. We were told by the rafting companies that the Deerfield would drop in a couple hours and that we could likely retrieve the kayak, but it didn’t quite happen that way. It was lodged tightly still at nightfall and it finally broke free the next day when Lynne returned to find it being driven down Rt. 2 by a stranger who turned out to be a rescuer who had heard from the police that it would be a boat recovery, fortunately not with a person attached. All ended well with a laugh about chasing her kayak, a sigh of relief, and a happy kayaker to get her precious boat returned, although not in the same condition it was. Great job to the team for a successful ending!

Next, my turn for another adventure... We set out for my second annual Portsmouth Harbor run in August. For those long time members who actually read the newsletter you might recall my article last year titled “The Perfect Day” on this same trip. We had a large group of 25+ AMC experienced paddlers entering the ocean waters and coves of the spectacularly quaint Portsmouth Harbor. It was another picture perfect day exploring beaches, lighthouses, hitting the rolling waves, and being amongst good friends. Days like this don’t end much better unless you spend the night at a nice hotel in town eating seafood, more socializing, and hitting a few pubs as a group of us did. Warm August breezes, moonlit harbors, a lively town, and a good time at the great Gaslight Brewery eating many delicious pizzas ended the day perfectly.

The next morning we launched on a non-AMC sanctioned trip for what was supposed to be a Gilligan’s Island type of three-hour tour through the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge along the coast of Kittery, Maine. Our group wanted a bit more challenge to explore the open sea where the surfline was about 300 yards out in shallow shoal water so we ventured into the wild Atlantic. After playing in a few waves, but not being the most experienced sea kayaker, I realized I better head back towards the shore. When I was turning my boat I got sideswiped by a strong wave and plunged into the frigid Maine waters. I tried to get back into the boat and realized it was partially submerged going down quickly – going, going, gone flooded without an option to get back in so left it in the Atlantic where it was retrieved by a team in our group. We had to quickly regroup and figure out plan B. I grabbed the side of Elaine Cibelli’s kayak but we weren’t moving too fast fighting the surf. I was now getting cold, not thinking clearly, and had crazy thoughts of being shark bait while touching things in the ocean that sent even more shivers up me realizing how vulnerable I was. Captain Cole then instructed me to grab his kayak line without knocking him in too by holding the side of his kayak and keep my legs up while he paddled me out of the shallow shoals. That was a challenge in itself. Once we were in deeper water I was then instructed to climb onto the back of his kayak. This is a challenging rescue move in surf conditions, but I was aided in my success due to practicing this move with the boy scouts. I was paddled safely back to a remote beach, where a man was there to help if needed as he witnessed the rescue. He suggested I walk the beach to warm up which helped a lot.

I was shooken up, feeling numb after being submerged in the water, and my mind was running on adrenaline and it seemed much longer than the 20 or so minutes it took to be rescued. Once at the beach, I was told to get back in my kayak they ultimately retrieved and go around to the next cove to where we launched. No way I thought! That is not what I wanted to do but like they say once you fall off a horse, get right back on and in hindsight was the right thing to do. I had to and this time we rode the waves in successfully and learned another lesson about returning to shore in waves. Special thanks to Elaine Cibelli, Jim Walsh, Michael Menard, Dave Cole, and Steve Gabis for their team efforts in retrieving the boat, their leadership and friendships. It sure put another adventure in my summer! I now respect the water even more and learned a great deal from our experts and will continue to learn and take more classes. All ended well with fried clams and ice cream, the way all great trips end. Special thanks to Elaine Cibelli, Jim Walsh, Michael Menard, Dave Cole, and Steve Gabis for their team efforts in retrieving the boat, their leadership and friendships. It sure put another adventure in my summer! I now respect the water even more and learned a great deal from our experts and will continue to learn and take more classes.
AMC is Halfway to Rebuilding the Oldest Hut in the System - Just $500,000 to Go!

A n AMC hut is rebuilt once every six or seven decades. The last great rebuilding project was in 2000 when the new Galehead Hut was constructed. In 2010 it will be Madison Spring Hut’s turn. After 70 years in the harsh alpine environment and hosting hundreds of thousands of hikers, Madison is ready for an overhaul.

The welcoming sight of Madison Spring Hut, nestled in the alpine tundra between Mounts Madison and Adams, is a favorite for many hikers. It is AMC’s oldest and most historic hut. Built in 1888 and modeled after the European alpine huts, Madison is where the AMC hut system began. First built for $701, it featured two-foot thick stone walls that could shelter 12 hikers with a separate space for women. In 1906, a second room was added and in 1911 a second stone hut, called “Number 2” was built. A third hut, Madison “Number 3” was added in 1922 to provide more dormitory space for the increasing numbers of hikers crossing the Presidential Range from Lakes of the Clouds Hut, which had been built in 1915. By 1929, all services were consolidated in Madison “Number 3” with the addition of a kitchen, dining room, and crew quarters, and Madison “Number 1” was demolished and some of its stones used for the foundation of the enlarged hut.

A devastating fire destroyed Madison in October 1940 when its two crew members were transferring gasoline to run the electric light generator. Only the stone work from the original “Madison 3” and the foundation under the 1929 addition remained intact. They would be reused for the rebuilding of the hut. Work began the day after the fire and, by August 1941, the hut was fully operational again, thanks to an army of packers and donkeys who hauled supplies that fall and spring.

Nearly 70 years, countless guests, and dozens of crew members later, the 1940s hut needs to be rebuilt. The 2010 rebuilding will preserve the historic 1929 core of the hut and the stone walls of the bunkrooms, but will expand on the limitations of the current layout and replace the flush toilet and overworked septic field with a waterless system. The footprint will expand by 700 square feet, and will make efficient use of the courtyard area on the Mt. Madison side of the hut. The expanded dining room and sitting area will allow guests to enjoy incredible views of J. Q. Adams, Durand Ridge-Air Line, and Randolph.
AMC Hike Marks Several Milestones

By Steve Ciras

September 11, 2010 marked the 9th anniversary of the falling of the World Trade Center towers which changed so many lives and changed America in so many ways. For the fifth year in a row the Worcester Chapter participated in the Flags over 48 hike in which groups flew our Flag over all 48 of the 4,000 footers in NH simultaneously for two hours in memory of all those who lost their lives in that tragic event. Our Chapter sent two groups of hikers to the summit of Mount Waumbek and constructed a 16 foot flag pole to raise the flag over the wooded summit. This hike also marked the achievement of Bills Zahavi’s summit of his 1st four thousand footer, on his XX birthday and the summit of Steve ‘Vitty’ Ciras (son of our Chapter Chair) 48th four thousand footer. The event culminated in a cook-out and sleep over at the “Worcester Chapter Northern Outpost”.

Cast Your Vote For Appie of the Year!

The Chapter’s highest honor is the “Appie of the Year” is awarded to a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the chapter over the past years, someone who contributions to the chapter and/or club have made a difference. If you know someone who is deserving of this recognition please consider nominating them for Appie of the Year. Please send me a short note or email with your nominee and why they should be Appie of the Year by October 23rd. Thanks! Steve Ciras

“Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Nominee’s”

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<th>Chair</th>
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<td>Endowment</td>
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<td>Michele Simoneau</td>
<td>Young Members</td>
<td>Rob Trotte</td>
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Circumstances demanded that friend and cycle-touring pal Gillian stay closer to her home in England this summer, so we decided a cycle tour of the wide open spaces of Scotland would fit the bill nicely. The plan was simple: After my flight, make a long day’s drive to Glasgow, then take an early train to Oban, where ferries leave for the near islands and western islands of the Hebrides. Cycle (and ferry hop) in a generally northward direction, then at some point hop a ferry to Skye, cycle to one last ferry to Mallaig, then catch a train back to Glasgow.

All though July coincides with Scotland’s summer school holidays, we booked only two nights’ lodging ahead of time, to maximize flexibility in our plans. The two nights were booked on the smallest islands where lodging options are most limited. As a backup, we brought minimal camping gear to use according to Scotland’s Access Rights laws which define the rules allowing wild camping on private land. While it was sometimes in doubt, we always eventually slept with a roof overhead, thanks to a hostel guidebook and Blackberry, resourcefulness, and friendly locals.

While packing over the July 4th weekend in the 90-degree heat here at home, it was hard to imagine being cold ever again. Summer in Scotland isn’t summer in New England, so the warm and wooly items came out of storage and into the panniers. We didn’t always wear several long-sleeved wool layers, fleecy cycling tights, long-fingered waterproof gloves, neck gaiters, raincoats, waterproof trousers, and shoe covers, but on some days the whole list was worn all at once. Glorious sunshine warmed us on other days, while the wind made cycling very challenging in some locales, and nearly impossible for short stretches.

Some ask why we chose a place synonymous with notorious weather for a cycling holiday. Scotland’s slow 10 p.m. summer sunsets, unspoiled coasts, shaggy highland cattle, its warm sunny days (which do happen) and non-stop hospitality make it a very pleasant and relatively easy place to tour, if well-prepared for the weather. Sitting by a coal fire to keep warm in July may not suit all tastes, but after a cool, wet, breezy day spent cycling through stunning scenery there’s nothing better.

This July I had the pleasure of being part of the team of fill-in Hut Croo at Mizpah Hut and Lakes of the Clouds Hut. What an experience to join a handful of extremely dedicated volunteers who give up their vacation time to partake in this annual event. It was so fun to meet all the AT Thru-hikers, guests, and day visitors. We cooked, cleaned rooms, washed many dishes, served lots of delicious food created by our special volunteer chefs, welcomed visitors, provided first aid, and enjoyed 5 days 4 nights of wild weather in the mountains. A large girl’s camp came through drenched from the wild weather so that was an interesting undertaking. Thru-hikers were tired and injured and needed a little TLC to keep going to Maine. Temps were hypothermic conditions with wet, extremely windy, and in the 40’s on top of Mt. Washington. A good reminder to all to be careful of exposure up high even in summer. Living it was quite the experience but I was warm and happy on the inside and was glad to be on the Croo helping those who sought shelter from the storm. We had a lot of laughs, made some great new friends, and learned a lot about mountain hospitality. The Croo works very hard tending to our AMC guests and kudos to them for all their efforts in making our experiences memorable. Thanks AMC!

We are considering making the The Wachusett View a paperless newsletter. Most organizations no longer publish paper newsletters. It is more cost effective and more importantly for our organization, it is more “green” and will reduce our carbon foot print. If we decide to go electronic the goal is to do it after two more paper issues from this issue. To make sure you don’t miss an issue, register now for your electronic version. Go to www.Outdoors.org, sign up for the “Member Center”, go to “Newsletter Preferences”, register your email address and select “electronic”.

6 amcworcester.org
AMC’s August Camp is the oldest tradition in the AMC. Three Mile Island and Echo Lake were both originally founded and used as August Camps. This year August Camp was held in the Canadian Rockies, Beaverton to be exact.

I set out for Canada via Montreal and a cross country train trip which included stops in Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Jasper. After a day at the Calgary Stampede, a world famous rodeo, I met the remaining Croo members at the airport. We spent a hard week setting up tents, tables, ovens... and finally on July 17th, we welcomed our first group of campers. Worcester chapter members Bruce and Judy Wester and Jay were some of the first campers to arrive. AMC members come to August Camp for 1-2 weeks and each week has its own special feel. We have campers that have been coming for over 25+ years! This year we had an age range of 13 to 94 years old. Campers are met at the airport and driven to camp. Usually this is an easy process but this year due to Canadian road construction the 3 hour short trip became an all day affair.

Camp is a magical experience and each day the campers choose from four different levels of hikes and sometimes mountain bike, horseback riding, or rafting trips are planned. New to camp this year was a herd of free range horses. Each morning the campers would wake up to the horses munching outside their tents and then trying to steal their lunches. An especially curious horse, Boomer, often had to be shooed away from the food tents. He was too smart for his own good. The horses belonged to Beaverfoot Lodge which was ¼ mile up the trail from our campsite.

Beaverfoot Lodge is a great example of conservation, education and recreation working together. Beaverfoot Lodge is off the grid and creates all of its own electricity through hydro power from the river. The hydro power also heats water for showers and for the heating system in the house. It was a great example to see how a family can not only live off the grid but can run a Lodge, ranch and camp off the grid.

Next year for the first time in a while August Camp will be held in the same location. There are 6 National parks near Beaverfoot so even if you came this year there are still plenty of hikes to do. As always, camp is the last two weeks in July and the first two weeks in August. Registration begins in January. All the information is on the AMC website www.outdoors.org. Sign up early because it fills up fast. Hope to see you next year in the Rockies!
To see the full color version of the newsletter visit the web site at www.amcworcester.org/newsletter.htm

Editor, Barbara Dyer. All newsletter submissions should be sent to barbaradyer@hotmail.com. We reserve the right to edit for length and content. All contributions are welcome. Winter deadline December 15.

Newsletter Design, Bob DesRosiers. Graphic designer/photographer. Questions/comments about design services or the newsletter to bob@1uniquestudio.com or visit my web site www.1uniquestudio.com  Photo inlay by Bob DesRosiers.