

## Maine Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club Annual Report – 2007

2007 was a great year for the Maine Chapter. We built on 2006 and reached new levels of efficiency and member involvement as follows:

The Maine Chapter website is now fully functional and is used by more people than ever before thanks to the expertise and many volunteer hours donated by Tim Flight, our webmaster.

The outings committee has regained its usual vigor and has sponsored and inspired a wide offering of trips, hikes, trainings and workshops which bodes well for the future vitality of the chapter. The participant numbers are up and the offerings are diverse and interesting.

Jeff Aceto, chair of the meetings and education Committee, continues to entice interesting presenters to share their experiences and expertise with all who attend these fun meetings. Jeff is the consummate host and organizer of these events which help the

chapter put its best foot forward in a public setting.

The biking group, led primarily by Denise Courtemanche, schedules a wonderful array of wheeled adventures which are well attended.

Dave Wood has revitalized the paddling committee. He scheduled a nice variety of flat water trips in different locations throughout much of the state. Peter Roderick led a sea kayaking trip at the annual meeting and promises to increase such trips in 2008.

The conservation committee continued its excellent work with outings, workshops and potlucks which were timely and well-attended. Peg Nation finished her term on the committee with her usual enthusiasm. She helped to design a nature trail at Little Lyford Pond Camps which bears her name - a fitting tribute to a long-time AMC volunteer. Jane Danielson worked with Peg to make the transition to a new team of conservation chairs seamless.

Greg Hansel and Wyman Briggs led several family trips which were well-attended. Their efforts to bring the family

outings committee back to life are paying off.

Bob and Brenda Cummings continue to publish the most interesting and best looking chapter newsletter in the AMC. We tend to take their consistency and professionalism for granted but obviously they put a lot of time and effort into making sure we have all the news that fits. Bob has expressed his support and enthusiasm for an online version of Wilderness Matters which will hopefully premiere soon.

Our public relations chair, Jeanne Christie, continued her usual good work which was especially evident with our annual participation at the Common Ground Fair. We saw a significant number of visitors at our booth which was very gratifying.

Joleen Rice, an at-large member of the executive committee, stepped up each time we needed someone to help with an event, solve a problem or offer a wise bit of advice regarding how to best handle a perplexing situation.

Evelyn Sawyer did a great job as secretary. We will miss her professionalism and succinct commentary that marked her term as scribe.

Laura Flight was invaluable in her role as vice-chair. She ably assisted the chapter chair on more times than he can remember. She also organized another very successful annual meeting held at Camps Jordan in Ellsworth. The chapter is in good hands as Laura moves into the chapter chair position.

Denise Courtemanche continued her excellent job of keeping the books and offering sound financial advice while serving as chapter treasurer.

Ben Smith finished at his term as membership chair in his usual efficient manner. We wish Ben much success in his new endeavors.

The trails committee had another successful year. It was especially gratifying to have a large turnout for all trips throughout the trail work season. Keith Chapman continued his excellent work especially on the trails in southern Maine, often working on several projects on weekends when there was no official work trip scheduled. His contributions are invaluable.

The chapter was involved in the Snofest 2007 held in Greenville which is becoming an annual event on our calendar.

We will continue to reach out to our neighbors and members in that area.

Peter Roderick

September 29, 2007

## **Biking Committee Annual Report**

Our rides began in May and will continue into October as long as the weather co-operates. We have had our traditional Tuesday evening rides and some Sunday rides.

The Tuesday area rides range from Bath south to the Kennebunkport. Mother Nature has been very kind to us this season and we have only had to reschedule one ride. Our first ride began on May 1<sup>st</sup> this year and our last ride was September 25<sup>th</sup>. The mileage has ranged from 10 to 20 miles. After the rides, we enjoyed either a potluck at a leader's home or a meal at a local restaurant.

The Sunday rides have been longer. We have ridden up to 40miles with lots of hills. Our rides have taken us as far north as Rockland for the Lobster Ride and as far south as York. We have enjoyed picnics by the ocean as well. I plan to continue

riding through October on Sundays and maybe some Saturdays as well.

I would like to thank my group of leaders who have helped me though out the summer season. They are Joyce Donald, Jim Tiener, Andy Chabot, and Carolyn Welch. I would also like to thank those who have invited us to their homes for potlucks after the rides. The food was great and the hospitality and time to socialize was even better!

In attendance, we had as few riders as two and as many riders as 13.

If anyone is interested in becoming a leader for next year, please let me know.

I have enjoyed the rides and I hope that everyone else has also. See you next season!!

Respectfully submitted by  
Denise Courtemanche

On behalf of my Co-Chair Wyman Briggs and me, here is a brief report on the Family Outings Committee:

### 2007 Activities

1. May 20, 2007: I led a hike up Ossipee Hill for 13 participants under my mentor Joleen Rice. Joleen's sister, Wanda Rice, was co-leader. I attach an email containing my detailed report.

2. June 23-24: I led and Wyman co-led an ambitious overnight trip to Little Lyford pond and hike of Gulf Hagas for 34 participants. I attach an email containing my detailed report.

3. September 8, 2007: Wyman led a Dodge Point hike. We had a total of 12 participants. July 22, 2007: Wyman led a Spurwink River paddle from Route 77 to Higgins Beach. We had a total of 7 participants.

2008 Plans

Wyman and I recently met and planned four outings for 2008. We are still working on dates, details and publicity blurbs.

1. Admiral Peary home and Eagle Island day trip led by Wyman.
2. Overnight to Medawisla Wilderness Camps and hike of Mt. Kineo led by Greg and co-led by Wyman. Limited to 24 participants.
3. Overnight to Cold River Camps led by Wyman.
4. Day hike geared for younger kids on Mt. Willard in Crawford Notch led by Greg. The hike up this 2,815-foot spur of the Willey Range is fairly steep and closed in by trees. The end of this hike, though, rewards with stunning panoramic views of Crawford Notch. Difficulty: Moderate; Distance: 3.2-miles round-trip; Elevation change: 900-foot elevation gain; Estimated time: 3-4 hours.
5. Maine Fall hike of Pleasant Mountain led by Wyman.

Annual Report  
Meetings and Education Committee  
AMC, Maine Chapter  
September 13, 2007

The Meetings and Education Committee's report for Fall 2006 to Summer 2007 is as follows:

- Potluck events were held in 2007 as follows:

Date	Topic
Wednesday, January 24, 2007	Thru-hiking AT
Wednesday, February 28, 2007	Traveling in New
Tuesday, March 13, 2007	Experiences of a Guide
Wednesday, April 18, 2007	Sleddog Appren School
Thursday, June 21, 2007	Maine Woods In

- For Fall 2007 to Summer 2008, conceptual topics for potluck events are as follows:
  - Ken Hutchins, Alaska trip
  - Katie Kozin, India Trip
  - Sarah Hale, long distance bike touring
  - Spencer Meyer, New Zealand trip 2007
  - Climate Change

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Aceto  
Meetings and Education Committee  
AMC, Maine Chapter



**MAINE CHAPTER**  
**APPALACHIAN**  
**MOUNTAIN**  
**CLUB**

**Membership  
Committee Annual  
Report**

As of the end of July 2007, the Maine Chapter had approximately 3,874 members, up slightly from just over 3,700 members for the end of July in 2006. This increase of about 4% is likely due to the increased publicity of the Maine Woods Initiative.

**Recommendation: Membership Chair specifically, but other Chairs should work closely with AMC staff, including Boston staff and Bryan Wentzell, in order to focus efforts toward this major AMC effort in Maine.**

The “Membership in a Bottle” campaign has come to a close. It was determined at a club level that the low level of renewal from this method of recruitment did not warrant the expense of the bottles and discounts they contained. The Maine Chapter Membership Chair does not have any bottles left, but there are currently a small number left out there. I would like to thank Joleen Rice for her assistance fulfilling the last several requests over the last two months.

**Recommendation: The Executive Committee should determine the number of bottles in our possession and either turn them in to the Chapter Chair for Chapter use, or to Jeanne Christie to be used for public relations purposes.**

Earlier this spring, the Chapter has had at least two discussions regarding involvement with the “Teens to Trails” program, whose mission is to create and support outing clubs at Maine high schools (<http://www.teenstotrails.org>). A chapter member who has worked as a principal in Maine attended a committee meeting and offered to assist by writing letters and speaking with his personal and professional contacts. I am friends with a “Teens to Trails” board member, who may be able to attend an Executive Committee meeting to explain more about the group.

**Recommendation: The Executive Committee should decide if the Chapter should formally engage with Teens to Trails, and if so, choose someone to lead the effort. A partnership with this group might take one of several forms of support, and would bolster membership overall, with particular importance to Family Outings and Young Members.**

Postage has been the Membership Committee’s largest expense over the last three years. Postage prices have increased significantly over the past year. To mail a newsletter with a welcome letter to new members cost \$0.49 last summer. The price has increased twice and the cost to mail the same newsletter and letter

now costs \$1.00. There are usually between 30 and 50 of these letters to mail monthly, sometimes more.

**Recommendation: The Executive Committee should discuss the value of mailing newsletters to new members in this fashion. This task has been the main monthly duty of the Membership Chair (and my valuable committee member, Jennifer Gennaco). The Committee should decide on what kind of special mailing might be of more value and impact for new members to warrant the relatively expensive mailing, or figure out a way to include the new members in the regular, bulk rate mailing.**

On a personal note, this is the close of my final term as Membership Chair. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve the Maine Chapter in this capacity for the last three years. Working with such a dedicated group of outdoor enthusiasts has been great. I will of course remain a committed member of the Chapter, and would be happy to assist the Chapter when my time or skills can be used in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Smith  
Membership Chair

### **Newsletter Committee Report**

Your Newsletter Committee published six issues of Wilderness Matters during the past year. Each issue reported on club activities, past and planned, and on important news effecting Maine trails. It was all made possible by the many chapter committee chairs and members who contributed their news for each issue.

We are hesitant to mention specific names for fear of inadvertently leaving someone out. But we will anyway. Peter Roderick and Laura Flight, our president and vice president, did an incredible job of helping to keep the club informed. Spencer Meyer kept the list of outings up to date, despite an email hitch that makes it impossible for him to receive my emails, a problem that continues. But Spencer came through issue after issue, regardless. And thanks to Dave Wood who kept us informed of canoeing matters.

And before I forget, special thanks to Peg Nation, who took over the regular nature column vacated by Mag Wine after 25 years.

We welcome contributions and photos from AMC members. We prefer that materials be sent electronically to [Ellen@clinic.net](mailto:Ellen@clinic.net). But if you prefer to use the post office, just send them to Bob Cummings, 616 Main Road, Phippsburg 04562.

Our six issues are January-February, March April, May-June, July-August, September-October, and November-December.

Our nominal deadline is the first day of the month prior to the issue. Thus the deadlines are Dec. 1, February 1, April 1, June 1, August 1, and October 1. However, always notify us if you have last minute items. Often we can use material for a few days after the deadline.

We use Adobe Pagemaker 7 to lay out each issue. We print the pages on 11 by 17 inch paper, and send the pages to the Times Record newspaper in Brunswick "camera ready" for printing.

If I notify the newspaper a week ahead of the date that I will have the pages ready, they usually have the printed papers ready within 48 hours, often within 24 hours. I then drive them to a mailing house in Scarborough, which prints addresses on the newsletters and gets them to the post office.

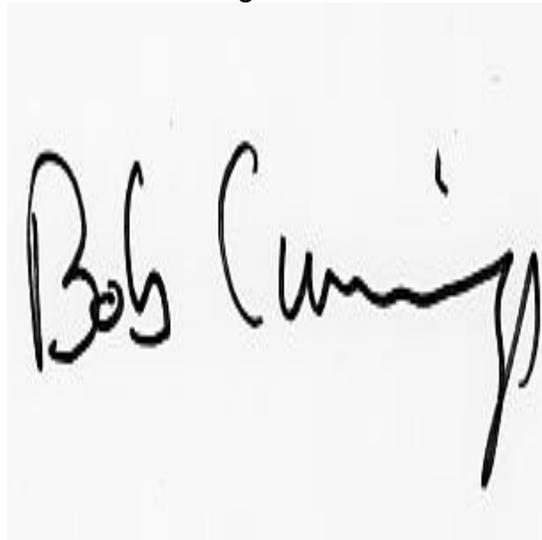
Each issue costs the chapter around \$1,100 – around \$350 for printing and \$700 for the mailing house work and postage. I don't have the exact amounts, since the bills go directly to the treasurer.

Suggestions about how to improve the newsletter are always welcome. We welcome electronic photos, but always send with as high resolution as possible. While hurrying to get a newsletter to the printer, I rarely have time to go back and request a higher resolution photo at the last minute, which is why some photos I receive can't be used in the newsletter.

I usually lay out the pages and choose the stories to be used. Brenda then copy reads my work and makes last minute modifications to improve the looks of the newsletter.

Bob Cummings

Brenda Cummings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "C".

**Maine Chapter AMC Outing Committee Annual Report**

**September 30, 2007**

Another year of successful hikes. Thanks to all the many chapter trip leaders, co-leaders and others who have offered AMC members hikes, bike trips, workshops and other events. Without you our chapter would not be what it is today.

Special recognition goes to my co-chair Spencer Meyer. Over the past year Spencer has led trips, maintained communication with leaders and co-leaders, and kept track of the of trip statistics. Spencer also effectively implemented the AMC's integrated trip listing system, as well as many other contributions to the AMC.

During the past year Outings has sponsored several workshops covering winter hiking, beginner hiking, backpacking and a weekend Wilderness First Aid workshop. There were hikes offered for beginner hikers, backpackers and winter hikers. The chapter remains committed to providing learning opportunities to its members and the public at little or no cost. The Wilderness First Aid course is a good example of that commitment. That workshop would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts of Jane Danielson and Joleen Rice.

Two people were successful in reaching leader status this past year: Gregory P. Hansel, and Wanda Rice. Gregory is our Family Outings Co-Chair, along with Wyman Briggs, and has successfully developed family outings to Little Lyford and other destinations. Wanda is a 2007 graduate of Mountain Leadership School, and she has also been a big contributor to our family outings.

This year the Outings Committee decided to shift the "fiscal year" from the calendar year to 9/1 through 8/31. We've done this to more accurately recognize active leaders and to include new leaders who have led several trips leading up to an Annual Meeting. Since Annual Meetings occur in late September, there is plenty of time for leaders to get their Trip Reports submitted to the Chairs in time. So, for this annual report, trips are considered that occurred between January 1, 2006 and August 31, 2007, so as not to miss any trips. Next year trips between 9/1/2007 and 8/31/2008 should be considered.

So, during this "year" 41 of our leaders and co-leaders led 90 hikes, workshops, bike rides, cross country ski trips and other activities which Outings was responsible for. Only trips for which Trip Reports (i.e. waiver forms) were submitted to the Outings Chairs are counted. LEADERS - Please turn in your trip reports/trailhead waivers! Active Maine Chapter leaders are listed at the end of this report with the number of trips each person led this year.

It has been a pleasure and a challenge to serve as Outings Co-chair for the past year. Spencer and I would like to give a big thanks to Joleen Rice for her guidance and continue support of the Outing Committee. Peter Broderick and Spencer Meyer will continue to serve as Co-chairs for the coming year.

I encourage all Chapter members to become involved and volunteer. It is a great way to get outside, give back, contribute and meet new and wonderful people. Looking forward, the Outings Committee plans to encourage an increase of active leadership by 10%, and to facilitate this goal we are planning a leadership workshop in the spring of 2008, as well as two scholarships to Mountain Leadership School.

Submitted by,  
Peter Broderick  
Maine Chapter AMC Outings Co-Chair

Trips led between 1/1/06 and  
8/31/07

<b>Leader</b>		<b># of Trips</b>
George	Brown	14
Bryan	Courtois	10
Peter	Roderick	10
Keith	Chapman	9
Wayne	Newton	9
Joleen	Rice	8
Debby	Kantor	7
Jennie	Warner	7
Dave	Langley	7
Tom	Pettingill	6
Jane	Gibbons	5
Laura	Flight	5
Alix	Pratt	5
Peg	Nation	4
Spencer	Meyer	4
Peter	Broderick	4
Gregory	Hansel	3
Jo Anne	Diller	3
Jane	Danielson	3
Bob	Pratt	3
Lewis	Dow	2
Mike	D'Orio	2
Lorraine	Hussey	2
Gerry	Barnicle	2
Maureen	McCool	2
Don	Parker	2
Wanda	Rice	2
Andy	Timbie	2
Darcy	Hobgood	1
Susan	Sharkey	1
Cyndy	Sheckley	1
Soilikki	Taru	1
Jeanne	Christie	1
Dale	Temm	1
Jim	Tierney	1
Wyman	Briggs	1
Gail	Lawley	1

## Public Relations Committee

### Annual Report 2007

During 2007 the Maine Chapter of AMC had a booth set up and staffed at the annual Common Ground Fair in Unity during the fall. Volunteers from AMC

spoke about the club, hiking, and opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities in Maine at the events. The PR committee coordinated with the Sierra Club in Greenville to provide a digital camera hike as part of Earth Day activities.

In other activities the Public relations committee assisted with developing press releases and promoting Chapter activities in support of education, instructional classes and the annual meeting.

#### Proposed Budget 2008

Common Ground Fair (registrations, reimbursement for volunteers)	\$200
Printing Additional photographs and signage for display	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$275</b>

Annual Report  
Trails Committee  
AMC, Maine Chapter  
September 13, 2007

The Trails Committee has a few work trips remaining for the year and a successful year it has been. Despite fluctuations in the numbers of participants attending work trips over the entire schedule, trips have been more frequently well attended – we thank all trail volunteers for their support

We worked with many volunteers and groups including the Mahoosuc Land Trust, Loon Echo Land Trust, Kennebunk Land Trust, Saco Bay Land Trust and Androscoggin Land Trust.

We had great volunteer support especially from Matt Colello, Lars Jansson and Laura Flight. Thanks to all our great volunteer trail workers. You are key to our success.

We led trips to Pleasant Mountain, The Maine Conservation School, Burnt Meadow Mountain, Rumford Whitecap, Little Lyford Pond Camps (2 trips), Bald Mountain, Speckled Mountain, the Kennebec Highlands, Bald Mountain near Weld, Sheep Island near Stonington and the Appalachian Trail near Stratton.

The trips to Little Lyford Pond Camps continue to be one of our most popular events with many volunteers returning for additional trips once they have been there with us. We are planning three volunteer weekends there for next year as well as a possible volunteer mid-week trip.

Our plans for the off-season include a continuation of efforts to recruit a corps of volunteers through contact with college and high school organizations

starting with outing clubs and other outdoor-based groups including more cooperative events with land trusts. Our goal is to have a stand-by group of workers who we can rely on to supplement the present volunteer group so that we can take on additional trail work and also improve our effectiveness as we maintain those trails already in our inventory.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Roderick  
Co-chair Trails Committee  
AMC, Maine Chapter

Keith Chapman  
Co-chair Trails Committee  
AMC, Maine Chapter