



The AMC IN CONNECTICUT

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3

AUTUMN 2011



A View From The Chair

I was in New Hampshire earlier this summer for 4 days of rock climbing. Unfortunately, it rained for a good portion of the time we were there. While we were disappointed that our climbing opportunities were limited, it had been dry for several weeks and the precipitation was needed: the Silver Cascade near Highland Center, normally an attractive waterfall, was little more than a trickle; and I'd never seen the Saco River so low. During the couple of half-days of sunshine that were available to us we managed to "bag" a few of the climbs on our list including an "interesting" route on Mount Willard named Hugo's Horror. At the time of the first ascent in 1963, the climbers found virtually no protection on the route - features on the cliff where they could place a piton or other gear to secure their rope - and were of necessity required to belay at locations that offered only minimal safety. One can understand why Hugo and his climbing partner might have considered the route a "horror". Fixed anchors and intermediate bolts were added sometime in the past few years; today one can enjoy the spectacular views of Crawford Notch from belays that are safe and secure. The experience reminded me that climbers, like hikers, are able to enjoy many routes / trails because of the preparatory work that was done by those came before us. Thanks to those of you who put in long hours of maintenance to ensure that hiking trails, ski trails, rock climbing routes, etc. continue to be available, many hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals have recreation opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Thank you!

The big AMC news of the summer, of course, is the announcement of AMC President Andy Falender's retirement. The club's Annual Meeting in January will be as much a retirement party for Andy as the club's annual business meeting. If you've never attended an Annual Meeting of the club, 2012 might be the year to do so as it's shaping up to be quite a bash.

The agenda for the May Chapters Meeting included an update on the search for Andy's successor; this was an interesting departure from our usual business. To provide some background, the Chapters Meetings are thrice yearly occasions when the chairs and vice-chairs of the 12 chapters, together with the 5 regional directors and various staff members, gather to work on club business. While the opportunity to meet and "talk shop" with the other chairs has been very interesting and informative, it is the case that these affairs are never "life changing" experiences. Hours spent discussing the latest upgrade to the club's trip listing computer system or completing a phrase-by-phrase textual review of a draft New Member letter don't evoke the same sense of exhilaration as running a class-3 rapid, completing a winter ice climb in Huntington Ravine, or ascending Hugo's Horror.

The meeting this past May, however, was a bit different. By plan, the Chapters Meeting was coordinated with a meeting of the club's Board of Directors and we were provided with a unique opportunity to meet with the Board for an entire evening. Typically the chapter chairs meet with the club's Board of Directors once a . . . *Continued on page 6 . . .*

CT-AMC Annual Gathering 2011 Celebrating CT-AMC's 90th Birthday

with guest speaker adventurer Andrew Skurka

"The Alaska - Yukon Expedition"

Saturday, November 12th, 2011 • 1 pm - 9 pm

Courtyard by Marriott Cromwell, 4 Sebeth Drive, Cromwell, CT
Silent auction, workshops, social hour, dinner, meeting & presentation

AMC Members: \$40 • Non-Members: \$45

Please register by Friday, November 4th, 2011




Andrew Skurka is an accomplished adventure athlete, speaker, guide, and writer. He is well known for his solo long-distance trips, the



most recent being his 4,700-mile 6-month Alaska-Yukon Expedition. In total, he has backpacked, skied, and packrafted 30,000 plus miles through many of the world's most prized backcountry and wilderness areas - the equivalent of traveling 1.2 times around Earth's equator.

Skurka was named an "Adventurer of the Year" by Outside in 2010, the "Adventurer of the Year" by the National Geographic Society in 2007, and the "Person of the Year" by Backpacker in 2005. He was included in the Men's Journal "Adventure Hall of Fame," has been described by National Geographic as "a superman among trekkers," and has been featured by The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Fox News Channel, National Public Radio, and dozens of local media outlets.

The Annual Gathering includes a full afternoon of workshops, a formal dinner with wait staff, cash bar, committee exhibits, silent auction, and a social hour before the dinner. There will be a brief after-dinner business meeting followed by Andrew Skurka's "Alaska - Yukon Expedition." Skurka will also be running an afternoon workshop entitled "Backpacking Gear & Skills."

For more on Andrew, visit www.andrewskurka.com. 

**Registration form and information on page 7 of this newsletter
and on www.ct-amc.org/program/AnnualGathering**



The AMC

IN CONNECTICUT

The Newsletter of the Connecticut Chapter - Appalachian Mountain Club

Volume 32, Number 3, Autumn 2011

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Please send future newsletter submissions and advertising to:

Editor: The AMC In CT, 71 Noble Street, Stamford, CT 06902
or ctamceditor@ct-amc.org

Read online: www.ct-amc.org/News/pages/archives

Please send all address and e-mail corrections to:

AMC, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108 or information@outdoors.org



UNCLE AMC WANTS YOU!

HIKE LEADERS - Like to be a Hike Leader? Contact David Roberts at: excursions@ct-amc.org.

GET INVOLVED! - Conservation Committee: www.ct-amc.org/Conservation

GET TRAINED! - www.ct-amc.org/Education

GET OUT, GET GOING - www.ct-amc.org/www.trips.outdoors.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION - About outings, meetings, education, training, events and this year's entertainment, review listings in *AMC Outdoors* magazine and on the web at: www.ct-amc.org.

CT-AMC IS LOOKING FOR YOU! - We are actively recruiting candidates for a number of Chapter leadership positions, including those of Chapter Vice Chair and Chapter Secretary. If you would like to assist the Chapter in setting goals and formulating policy, please contact our Nominating Committee: nominating@ct-amc.org.

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY - Opt in to receive future CT-AMC Chapter newsletters electronically. To sign up online, visit www.ct-amc.org or www.outdoors.org/MemberCenter for detailed instructions to update your newsletter delivery preference. 🍂

CT-AMC Leadership Training School

Learn many aspects of being a CT-AMC hike leader, such as group dynamics, leadership styles, and accident scene management, combined with experiential education (role playing). Limited enrollment. Cost of \$50 for AMC members, \$60 non-members, includes instruction, handouts, lodging and meals. Held at White Memorial Conservation Center on the shores of Bantam Lake in Litchfield, CT. See web site for registration form and more information.

When: November 18th - 20th, 2011 (Friday - Sunday)

Where: White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield, CT

Registration is required for this trip. The form is available online: www.ct-amc.org/Education/index.

Please contact John Crist, education@ct-amc.org with questions. 🍂

Family Hikes: Leaders Wanted

by Janet Ainsworth, Co-chair, Family Activities Committee

If you've been on the Family Activities page recently, you may have noticed something different – a plea for existing leaders to lead and/or identify family-friendly activities. The request, in a box on the right side of the committee's home page, also asks participants to consider becoming activity leaders so that they can lead family-friendly hikes or other activities. The box even contains a referral to the Education page for information about upcoming leader training.

This notice is just one of several suggestions developed during an all-day gathering of chapter relations staff and leaders from the Boston, Connecticut, and Worcester AMC chapters. The event was held in early June at the Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA, a terrific volunteer managed facility. It is eminently suitable for family-friendly events.

What participants learned during the day-long gathering is that identifying where the families are and bringing them a satisfying program of activities is everybody's goal. Some suggestions developed that day include a survey of chapter members, brochures, a single easy link for family-oriented events, a web page, use of the renewal process to identify families, and custom content on new member letters. CT-AMC is ahead of the curve on some of these items. Another meeting of chapter leaders may be held in conjunction with the Fall Gathering, October 14th-16th, 2011.

The CT-AMC will be holding AT Day on Saturday, October 15th, and there will be at least one family-friendly event celebrating AT Day. The committee co-chairs will lead a hike on Cobble Mountain in Macedonia Brook State Park. The hike will be followed by a Grand BBQ in the pavilion there.

The Family Activities committee is committed to improving the landscape of family-friendly events. This is especially important now when an epidemic of youth obesity has been caused, at least in part, by an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, thanks to our digital age. Another problem: kids are so overscheduled with team sports, it is tough to find time for a walk in the woods. The committee could use some help from other leaders or just plain folks who would like to be leaders in order to bring more programming to families. The next Leadership Training will be held in Litchfield at White Memorial on November 18th-20th, 2011. If you are interested in family activities, and you are not already a trained AMC leader, please consider attending. In February 2010, *Outdoors* magazine did a piece on the scope of the problem and how the chapters are dealing with it. You can read more at: www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/web/getting-kids-outside-in-the-digital-age.

Hope to see you on the trails – with kids in tow! 🍂

AT Day 2011 - Saturday October 15th

Last year, well over 200 people participated in AT Day 2010, making it the best attended CT-AMC Chapter event for a very long time. If the weather cooperates, an even larger crowd is expected this year on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

Following the successful formula of previous years, there will be a full program of eleven hikes this year covering the length of the Connecticut section of the AT or at Macedonia Brook State Park. Also included will be a family hike, a young members' hike, and a conservation hike. Hikes will vary in length and pace, with hopefully something for everyone. In addition, there will be a bike ride, a trail work party, a flat-water paddle, and a chance to try rock climbing.

Afterwards there will be a Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park, officially starting at 3 pm but according to organizer David Roberts, "the star BBQ team will start grilling as soon as people start to turn up." The cost for the BBQ is only \$6 with no reservations necessary and members and non-members are all welcome.

This is a great opportunity to get together with old friends and to meet new ones so please check out the full list of "AT Day 2011" events at www.ct-amc.org 🍂

Northwest Camp & Cabin Reach New Milestone - 60 years old! by Rod Parlee, Co-chair, Northwest Camp Committee

On Saturday, August 13th, the Northwest Camp committee hosted a sixty-year celebration as a tribute to the long-standing Northwest Camp cabin. Built in 1951, by hand out of American chestnut on leased land, the cabin still serves as an outstanding destination on the Taconic plateau of the Berkshires in the very northwest corner of Connecticut.

As people arrived to a cordoned off parking area, they were escorted and greeted by long-time member John Hicks who has managed trails on the property in the area for over thirty years. John is also a past Riga chair and current NW Camp Trails subcommittee chair. The Northwest Camp committee was formerly titled the Riga committee and the Mount Riga Corporation owns property around the AMC NW Camp property on the south and west side of the highest mountain in CT, Bear Mountain.

The night before the celebration, participants were treated to a rare viewing of the Perseids meteor shower and a one-minute glimpse of the International Space Station from the top of bald Mount Riga. Even with the full Sturgeon moon, twenty meteors were counted between 9:41 and 10:41 am. The skies were clear, the temps were warm and everyone enjoyed the celestial show.

The NW Camp committee and members Carol Langley and Paul Thoma worked hard for over a year organizing the 60 year anniversary party. As part of the celebration the Committee offered a fruity top-shelf

champagne to toast the 60 year old cabin with, a tasty chocolate cream, raspberry cake along with a picturesque, almost identical miniature cabin made from pretzels and graham crackers.



Poppin the Champagne.

After the toast, everyone was treated to a blessing of the water by a Native American medicine woman and an old-growth tree hike by nationally known arborist, Matt "Twig" Largess of Jamestown, RI.

Of the thirty or so participants, some of the original crew were

present such as Don Pratt who helped assemble and pick the location of the cabin during the summer of 1951 by ax without any power equipment. Joan Ensor-Katan and her husband Charlie Katan were also both very active with Chapter committees, especially Whitewater. According to John Hicks, Joan's stepmother Margaret Lorenz Ensor was the daughter of the Lorenz on the Paradise Lane memorial plaque and she also was responsible for the purchase and then the donation to AMC of the



Pretzel Cabin made by Brenda Cataldo.

entire Massachusetts portion of Sages Ravine adjacent to NW Camp property. Her father John Ensor, was the person who led the CT Chapter committee in finding and negotiating the initial lease of NW Camp property that allowed the cabin to be built. Norm Sills was also former Chair of the Riga committee for five years, hiked the entire AT and has been managing trails for many years.

The NW Camp committee expresses sincere gratitude to these dedicated long-time AMC members whose actions yesterday help fulfill our enjoyment today.



Carol Langley, Rod Parlee and Paul Thoma.



From left to right; John Hicks, Don Pratt, Joan Ensor Katan, Charlie Katan and Norm Sills.



For a Fun Foliage Weekend **JOIN THE AMC'S FALL GATHERING 2011**

OCTOBER 14th - 16th

In southern NH, near Mt. Monadnock at
Nature's Classroom Sargent Center in Peterborough, NH.



- Hiking, cycling, paddling, rock climbing and more.
- Kid and family-oriented activities will be offered.
- Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow AMC members in the evening starting with a social hour followed by dinner, square dancing and a bonfire!
- Gear swap - bring gear to swap, sell or give away.
- Everyone is welcome! Not an AMC member? Come and discover how much fun you can have by joining us.
- Cabins, yurts, tents and meals included.

For information and to register, visit www.outdoors.org/fallgathering, call 617-391-6603 and/or e-mail AMCFallGathering@outdoors.org



Who in the World Is Forrest Purinton?

by Dale Geslien

While teaching a Leave No Trace Trainer course in June 2006 at Northwest Camp (celebrating it's 60th anniversary this year!) I noticed a plaque inlaid in the ground, in an obscure place

by the side of the trail near the camp woodpile that was dedicated to one Forrest Purinton. I wondered who Forest Purinton was, having never heard his name before. Being an enthusiast of CT-AMC history, I naturally went to the Northwest Camp Committee to learn about this person. Much to my surprise, no one knew of Forrest or his connection to the AMC. My curiosity was piqued and never one to miss the opportunity for a good challenge, I set off on a mission to rediscover who Forrest Purinton was.


I began by contacting several old time members and Chapter leaders including Norm Sills and John Hicks, long time Trails Committee members; Gardner Moulton, past CT Chapter Chair ('63-'64) and AMC President; J.B. Gardner, past CT Chapter Chair ('65-'66); and Ledge Clayton, past CT Chapter Chair ('75-'76). I gathered a lot of information from them, although mostly anecdotal. Ledge was Chair a couple of years after the plaque was placed in 1973 and recalled that the plaque was placed on land purchased by the Chapter to protect NW Camp.

Since then, someone mysteriously gave Eric Stones, past CT Chapter Chair (00-02) all the historical records of the chapter at an Annual Meeting (now Gathering) one year and Dave Bellemare, Program Chair, recently found them in the CFPA closet. Dave single-handedly undertook the daunting task of scanning in and preserving the Chapter records. This is an amazing accomplishment and one for which the Chapter should be extremely grateful. Dave has also shared these archives with the Club's Library and Archives. Because of Dave's efforts, the mystery of Forrest Purinton has been solved!

The "History of Connecticut Chapter" Appalachian Mountain Club 1921-1981 states that, "In 1973 a plaque honoring the memory of Forrest Purinton, former Chapter Chairman, was installed at Northwest Road near the trail leading to the camp." Chapter records show that Forrest G. Purinton was the 7th CT Chapter Chair in 1935-1936. An excerpt from the 9/21/70 minutes: "Newell (Newell W. Mitchell was

Chapter Chair in 1969-1970) reported: Newell visited son and widow of Forrest Purinton. They will give \$1,000 to CT Chapter (have already given \$1,000 to Boston). Money will be used to buy land at Riga. Chapter also promises to put up an appropriate plaque on this land." Dave's research found that Forrest worked as a Research Executive for the Patent Botton Company and died at age 80 on July 15, 1969. Forrest also served as a Captain in WWI. John Hicks found Forrest's wife's obituary in his records which showed she died on 8/13/89 at the age of 97.

Rod Parlee, Northwest Camp Committee Co-chair, found from reading the minutes during Forrest's tenure, that it was clearly evident that the Chapter was strong and active. Leading walks was a big deal back then as well. While Purinton was Chairman in 1935, the Chapter hosted 8 camping weekends with an average of 28 attending! Saturday and Sunday afternoon walks were large as well. Twenty Saturday afternoon walks were held with an average attendance of 37! Two of the walks included a beach party of 100 and a chowder party of 95. Many post-walk events were popular such as dancing, games, movies and lectures. 53 outings with an attendance totaling around 1,750 took place under Purinton's watch which compared favorably with previous years. In addition, there were 21 rock-climbing trips. Parlee said, "What amazes me the most about Forrest's tenure as Chapter Chair in 1935 and 1936 was the very detailed questionnaire his committee circulated to hikers and the fact that the first ever CT Walk Book was published thanks to his efforts."


How fitting that the mystery of Forrest Purinton be solved during the CT Chapter's 90th Anniversary year. I'm sure the memorial plaque signifies not only Forrest's love of the AMC, but that of many other members as well. For those of you interested in more CT-AMC history, visit Dave Bellemare's web site at: outdoors.webshots.com/album/579617163ZtJnup. 

It's Time to Enter the 2011 AMC Photo Contest!



"Gearing Up Before the Final Push," by Tracie A. Henry, NH Chapter. Winner of the "AMC in Action" category in the 2010 AMC Photo Contest.

AMC's 17th annual photo contest is now open to all members, with more prizes than ever up for grabs. This year's Grand Prize winner will receive a spot in an upcoming photography workshop and an accompanying stay at an AMC destination. Winners of the "Kids, Families, and Adults Outdoors," "Scenics and Nature," "AMC in Action," and "People's Choice" categories will receive prizes from Black Diamond, Deuter, Merrell, and Outdoor Research.

For full rules and entry instructions, visit www.outdoors.org/photo contest. Entries will be accepted until November 15th, with the winners appearing in a spring 2012 issue of AMC *Outdoors*. 

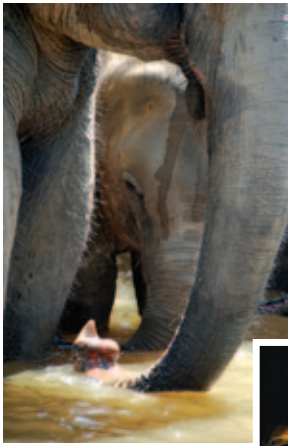
The Harry Duren and Gregory Simons Memorial Fund

Donations to the Harry Duren Memorial Fund provide scholarships to send one or two Connecticut teenagers to AMC's Summer Wilderness Adventures in the White Mountains. Over the last few years the Simons family has made significant contributions to this fund in memory of Gregory Simons, a young man whose life was tragically lost several years ago. In recognition of their generosity, and in remembrance of Greg, the CT-AMC Executive Committee has approved a name change of this fund to: The Harry Duren and Gregory Simons Memorial Fund.

The fund is a wonderful tribute to a lost friend or family member who loved the outdoors. Each of the teenagers who attend say that their Summer Wilderness Adventure was a life-changing experience and is one which helps to produce a future generation of stewards of the outdoors.

I hope you will consider supporting this fund; after all what better gift can we leave?

Contributions can be sent to: Harry Duren / Greg Simons Fund, c/o Eric Stones, 72 Sunset Hill Road, Bethel CT 06801.



Afternoon Presentation on Sri Lanka at Annual Gathering

David Roberts will present "Sri Lanka - Island of Serendipity" at 1:15 pm as one of the afternoon's opening workshops at this year's CT-AMC Annual Gathering on Saturday, November 12th.

Sri Lanka was known as Ceylon but was also once known as Serendip and David's presentation will show why. Sri Lanka is a fascinating island with a mixture of European and Asian cultures, spectacular mountains and beaches, ancient ruins, and amazing wildlife. It was settled by



the Portuguese, then the Dutch, and finally the British, who all left their traces. Tamils from India and many settlers from Asia also added their cultures to the local mix over the centuries.

This presentation will take us to coastal forts and villages; ancient Buddhist temples; tea plantations; colorful local hill towns, including the ancient capital of Kandy; national parks with hundreds of elephants, giant fruit bats and birds; and on a nighttime hike to the top of Adam's Peak, Sri Lanka's sacred mountain.

Virginia Journeys 2011 - ATC's 38TH Biennial Meeting

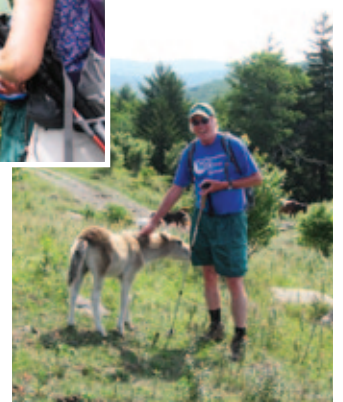
~ by Dave Boone, Trails Chair

AT maintaining clubs and AT enthusiasts of all descriptions converged on the small town of Emory, Virginia, to celebrate the AT, and in particular, the Blue Ridge area of southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee. The ATC biennial meeting, which was hosted by seven of the region's maintaining clubs, was held on the campus of Emory and Henry College. As at all the biennial conferences, hundreds of hikes and workshops were offered for the benefit of attendees, as well as the conduct of ATC business. The CT-AMC Trails Committee display was present in the exhibit hall. (I had hoped we would have the distinction as the "display that traveled the farthest," but we lost that to our friends from the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.)

Much of the business and membership meetings celebrated another significant event - paying tribute to the career of Dave Startzell, who has been the Executive Director of ATC for the past twenty-five years. Dave has been a visionary and articulate spokesman for the AT, and is in many ways responsible for the AT as it is today. He is also a great personality, and a friend to all of us in the maintaining clubs. At the Opening Session, National Park Service AT Park Manager Pamela Underhill presented prestigious Volunteer Service Awards. The Silver



The Ponie King



Award is given to those who have contributed twenty five years of volunteer commitment to the AT. CT-AMC members Hugh Cobrain, Harlan Jessup and Richard Rouse received this recognition.

Hugh presently serves as the Trails Committee work party coordinator, Harlan as Maintainer Coordinator, and Rich as Sages Ravine maintainer.

On the AT not far from Emory is Mount Rogers National Recreation Area of the Jefferson National Forest, and Grayson Highlands State Park. Located here is the highest point in Virginia (Mount Rogers, 5,729'), and also, several herds of free-roaming ponies. To encounter these ponies is a special treat, and one that is a highlight AT experience. (Some CT-AMC members at the meeting did learn that the ponies asked Dave Boone to live with them and be their king!) Also to be remembered at VA Journeys '11 is the nightly entertainment. It was noted by this Yankee that the locals are not afraid to get up and dance to a good tune!

The ATC Biennial meeting is always worthwhile. The next biennial will be held July 2013 on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Cullowhee-HAAAA!!!! - hope to see you there!

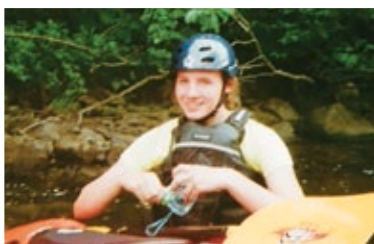
Dear Mr. Stones and the Appalachian Mountain Club,



I just wanted to thank you and the entire AMC for giving me the amazing opportunity to be able to participate in The Teen Wilderness Adventures. Not only did I learn helpful outdoor skills, but also how

to white water kayak. I learned how to cook at a campsite, with no household appliances, including making a grilled cheese on a fire and making my own bread. I also became a professional at performing wet exits, because I had a tendency to flip over a lot. I helped put up a tent, which is something that I have never done before, and slept in a sleeping bag, which was all definitely new to me. I learned about the wilderness and a few tips on how to be more environmentally safe, such as not burning wood larger than your wrist. I would

have never known that if it wasn't for my camp instructors. Once again, thank you so much for providing me with this once in a life time opportunity. I hope to come back and do it again.



Thank You,
Skylar

FCG 2011/2012 Program is Building Nicely



Jay Vivian on his trip to New Zealand.

~ by David Roberts, Co-chair, FCG

Fairfield County Group's program for its 2011/2012 season is looking good.

The season will start with the Annual Hike and BBQ Picnic by the lake at Putnam Park in Redding on Saturday, September 10th.

The speaker dinner program will then open in Westport on Wednesday, September 14th with Jay Vivian giving a presentation on New Zealand. Jay joined an AMC adventure there and will be sharing his photographs and experiences of that exciting trip.

The Bethel series will start on Tuesday, October 11th with long distance hiker Anne O'Regan describing her 5 month thru-hike of the 2,600 mile long Pacific Crest Trail.

The speaker for November in Westport has yet to be confirmed but the Holiday Bash in Bethel will be held on Tuesday, December 13th, with the usual seasonal food, beverages and fun. On Wednesday, January 11th, 2012 photographer Sam Mehta is planning to present on Bhutan in Westport, and on Wednesday, March 14th in Westport, Daryl Hawk will be making a presentation based on his recent trip to Nicaragua.

FCG Co-chair David Roberts is spending almost three weeks in the Galapagos Islands this October, plans to take lots of photographs, and will share them in Bethel in February or April 2012.

The Bethel meetings will continue to be at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 95 Greenwood Avenue in Bethel. The Westport meetings will be at Saugatuck Congregational Church, 245 Post Road East in Westport, as they were for the 2010/2011 season. ❁

Continued from page 1 . . . year, for an hour, over lunch on the day of the club's Annual Meeting; between introductions and dining, there isn't all that much time to interact. In contrast, the overlap of our meetings in May provided an opportunity for a social hour, dinner, and an evening-long interaction that was a much more relaxed, informal, and substantive affair than has taken place in the past.

There was a lot to talk about. We (AMC) are a substantial organization; there are 80,000 of us; our operating budget for 2010 was \$17 million; there is an endowment of \$50 million; there are a number of discrete constituencies within the club, the Chapters being but one of these (see the club's 2010 annual report for a more complete description of all that we do: http://www.outdoors.org/pdf/upload/AnnualReport_2010.pdf). AMC's long-term plan, titled Vision 2020, establishes priorities that deal with the various competing, and sometimes conflicting, claims on the club's monetary, physical, and staff resources. Like all long-range plans, it's a work in progress. The opportunity to engage directly with the Board on the Vision, particularly within the context of choosing Andy's successor, was a very interesting experience. Some of the conversations were quite frank. It was reassuring to the chapters that the Board was willing to have an extended meeting with us to solicit and discuss our (chapter) input on the important matters of Andy's successor and the objectives of the club.

My term as Chair of the Connecticut Chapter will conclude at the November Annual Gathering. I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to the chapter Executive Committee for their help and hard work over the past three years. In particular, Vice-chairs Gene Grayson and Wayne Tursi, and Secretaries Carol Hassett and Darlene Dunbar were exceptional at helping to keep the chapter organized and on course; thank you all!!

See you out there! ~ Tim ❁

Fun With Kayaks!

~ by Barry Gorfain, Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair

The Flatwater committee got off to a slow start this year, due to the retirement of Jean Trapani as chairperson. Barry Gorfain has taken over her position and has learned that hers are large shoes to fill. Many thanks to her for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

Although there were no pool sessions for Flatwater during the winter, we ran two Fun With Kayaks! skills sessions during the summer, which were well attended. We offered instruction in all the basics: proper PFD adjustment, getting in and out of the boat, basic stroke techniques, as well as the ever popular wet exit and different types of re-entry. Many people who take up kayaking are afraid of becoming trapped in their boat if they wear a sprayskirt and capsize. Through handouts and hands-on coaching, new paddlers are encouraged to push their limits and take the plunge (pun intended) to find their fears were unfounded. Every person who has participated has come away happy, proud of their accomplishments and grateful that AMC provides these sessions.

By learning to perform a wet exit here, people are then qualified to participate in our lower level sea kayak trips. After each session we did a short paddle around Lake Wintergreen so the participants could practice and enjoy their newfound skills.

We also stress the importance of proper technique to enhance enjoyment and prevent injury. It's a great feeling to be able to pilot your boat where you want it to go and work in different water conditions safely. And we know of too many paddlers with shoulder problems due to poor technique. There are amazingly simple exercises to do that help build up the muscles that support the shoulder joint.

Legal issues were also discussed, such as when PFDs are required to be worn, the use of lights for night paddling, and the requirement of carrying a "sound producing device." Whistles were given to those not having them, compliments of AMC. Also given away were "If Found" stickers, to be applied to the inside of boats so that in the event that your boat is found, you can be contacted before a search by the authorities is initiated (courtesy of DEEP).

There are so many beautiful places to paddle in Connecticut, either flatwater or by sea kayak. There just isn't enough time to visit them all. But we hope to broaden the range of paddle trips to satisfy all—keeping the old favorites and exploring new ones. ❁

Future Leaders Learn and Have Fun

The CT-AMC's Leadership Training sessions are usually a lot of fun as well as being highly educational and the most recent one was no exception. Thirteen future leaders and three instructors spent Sunday, June 26th at Sleeping Giant State Park with a morning of lectures and an afternoon of role plays.

In the morning, Education Committee instructors Dale Geslien, Keith Spaar and David Roberts gave presentations on a wide range of topics, including accident scene management, group dynamics, leadership styles, risk and liability, and Leave No Trace.

In the afternoon, each participant was given the opportunity to "lead" a hike and cope with all sorts of incidents, ranging from missing hikers and illness to arguments over routes and pace. Those not leading each hike played different roles (often with performances worthy of Academy Awards!) and everyone learned a lot from the experience.

All thirteen candidates successfully completed the course, and we hope to see many of them leading hikes or other activities in the near future.

Excursions Chair David Roberts said, "These sessions have been refined over the years and really give our future leaders a lot of useful information as well as the chance to practice actually leading an event." ❁

The AMC IN CONNECTICUT



Appalachian Mountain Club
Connecticut Chapter
71 Noble Street
Stamford, CT 06902

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Coming Events:

- September 14th** - FCG Speaker Dinner, Westport
- October 11th** - FCG Speaker Dinner, Bethel
- October 15th** - AT Day 2011
- November 9th** - FCG Speaker Dinner, Westport
- November 12th** - Annual Gathering
- November 18th-20th** - Leadership Training School
- December 13th** - FCG Holiday Bash, Bethel

AMC Adventure Travel Program

November 18th-20th, 2011. The AMC Adventure Travel Program is preparing for the 2011 Leadership Training on November 18th-20th. This workshop provides important training to people who have AMC activity leadership experience (no beginners) to transition from leading weekend chapter activities to more complex and longer trips, both domestically and overseas. Previous outdoor leadership training is highly desirable. Emphasis is on planning, cost estimating, trip management, people skills, and risk management. The program includes procedures and guidelines for researching, proposing, and leading Adventure Travel trips. Exchange ideas, problems, and solutions with some of the AMC's most skilled leaders. For more information, e-mail Colleen Yout at cyou@outdoors.org.

