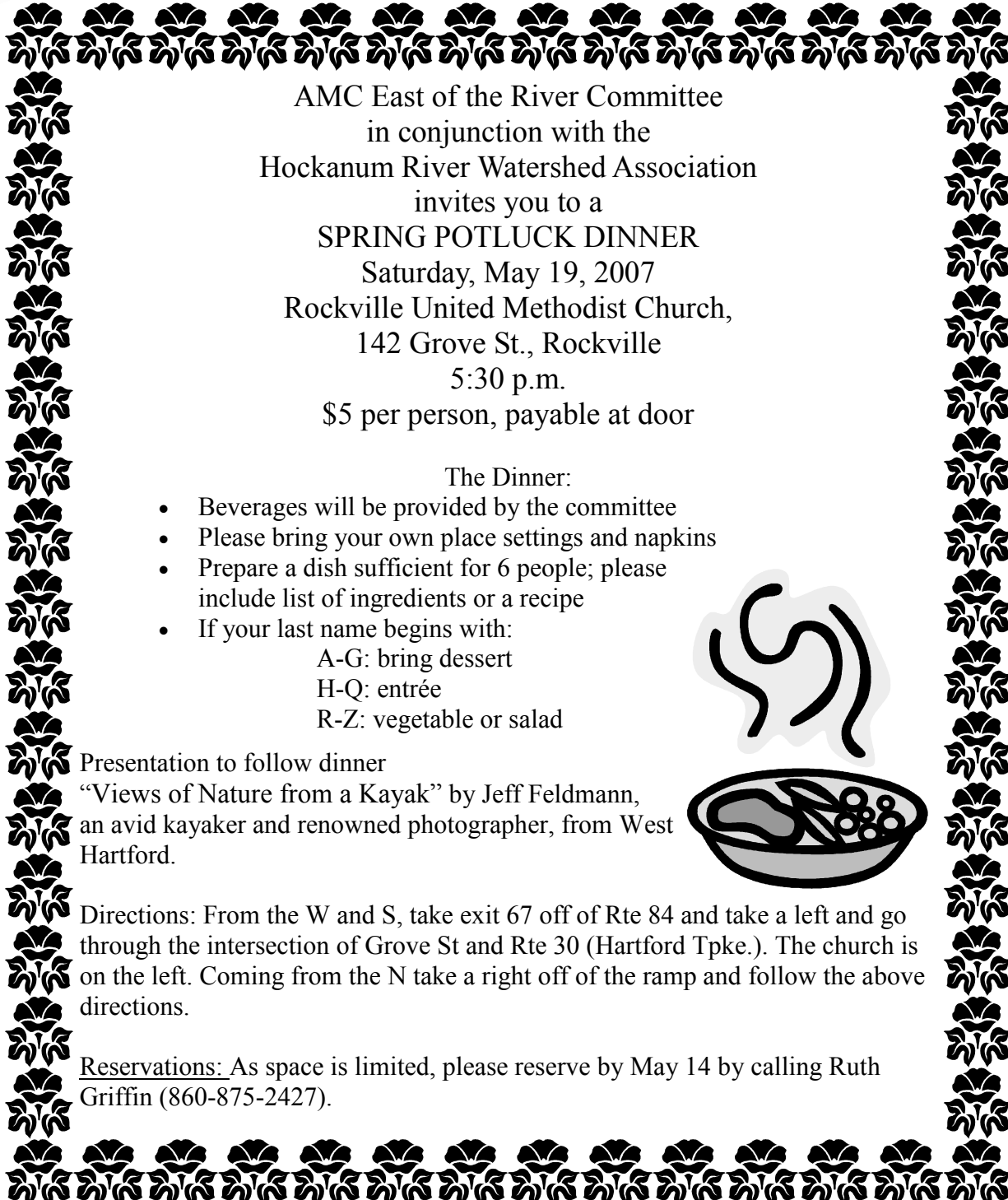


APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB  
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

East of the River Newsletter

Betty Robinson, Editor

No. 48, April 2007



AMC East of the River Committee  
in conjunction with the  
Hockanum River Watershed Association  
invites you to a  
SPRING POTLUCK DINNER  
Saturday, May 19, 2007  
Rockville United Methodist Church,  
142 Grove St., Rockville  
5:30 p.m.  
\$5 per person, payable at door

The Dinner:

- Beverages will be provided by the committee
- Please bring your own place settings and napkins
- Prepare a dish sufficient for 6 people; please include list of ingredients or a recipe
- If your last name begins with:
  - A-G: bring dessert
  - H-Q: entrée
  - R-Z: vegetable or salad

Presentation to follow dinner

“Views of Nature from a Kayak” by Jeff Feldmann,  
an avid kayaker and renowned photographer, from West  
Hartford.

Directions: From the W and S, take exit 67 off of Rte 84 and take a left and go  
through the intersection of Grove St and Rte 30 (Hartford Tpke.). The church is  
on the left. Coming from the N take a right off of the ramp and follow the above  
directions.

Reservations: As space is limited, please reserve by May 14 by calling Ruth  
Griffin (860-875-2427).



*EOR Directory*

Doug Atwell, Co-Chair  
Mdatwell@cox.net, 646-8629

Steve Braciak, Co-Chair  
sbcthiker@yahoo.com, 267-4371

Betty Robinson, Editor  
pbrobinson@snet.net, 429-3206,

Mary Ann Kouyoumjian, Secretary  
koufolks@sbcglobal.net, 429-1163,

*AMC/CT CONTACTS*

Beth Critton, AMC-CT Chapter Chair  
Bethcritton@comcast.net, 860-523-5555

Joanne Shortell, AMC-CT Membership Chair  
joshortell@yahoo.com, 860-698-6489

Chapter Web: ct-amc.org

AMC membership information  
1-617-523-0655, ext. 303  
dprentice@outdoors.org

*Directory  
Other Environmental Groups*

Connecticut Forest and Parks Assn., 346-2372  
Info@ctwoodlands.org  
www.Ctwoodlands.org

QSHCorridor ,963-7226  
quinebaug.shetucket@snet.net

Eric Thomas, WRA, wralliance@yahoo.com

Joshua Trust joshuaslandtrust.org

Northern CT land Trust  
northernctlandtrust.org

Friends of Mansfield Hollow State Park  
Betty Robinson, President

FROM THE EOR CHAIRS

During this strange winter we have had great well attended hikes including: Mansfield Hollow in Mansfield, Wolf Den in Pomfret, Barn Island in Groton, local trails starting in Stafford and ending in Munson MA, Wadsworth Falls in Middlefield, Tunxis, Trail in Burlington, and McLean Game Refuge in Granby.

Dick Don is leading the effort to do the Spring Potluck Dinner in May.

Please welcome Steve Braciak as our new EOR Co-chair. Steve is a long time AMC member and hike leader who recently retired. He'll be a great addition to the committee as co-chair.

The EOR committee met on April 3 to review our directions for the following year. One of our new directions is the decision to "adopt a trail" under the club's Chapters' Trail Challenge

*Doug Atwell*

Go to Page 4 to see Steve's own account of his life in the AMC. He's been a busy hiker, and held many posts prior to our lucky day!

*Betty Robinson*

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**Become a hike leader!**

Learn what it takes to become a hike leader in the AMC-CT Chapter. Cover such topics such as Leadership Styles, Group Dynamics and Trip Planning. Class size limited to 16 participants.

July 8, 2007, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Sleeping Giant SP in Hamden. Cost is \$10 for AMC members and \$15 for non-members.

To register or for more information contact Dale Geslien at (203) 778-3651 or education@ct-amc.org.

LET'S HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS

The EOR (East of River Group) was established for many reasons. One of them was to provide more activities in this part of our beautiful state. The newsletter was created in order to keep membership aware of offerings, to share news of members, and to encourage interest in trail maintenance and conservation matters specific to our area.

We certainly have been successful in filling a niche—that of mid-week hiking for those of us fortunate enough to be free at that time! Four hikes each week are keeping us moving, and discovering new parts of the state. Two pot-luck suppers a year now seems to be the norm; we are fortunate to have a location off I-84 which welcomes us; it attracts the great percentage of members who live in the Manchester/Vernon/Mansfield area.

Is there interest in holding a social activity in other parts of the EOR? It could be an evening program, a pub meeting, any suggestions?

At the last committee meeting the group decided to approve the adoption of a short trail along the Willimantic River in Mansfield. This is a 2 1/2 mile established trail, created by volunteers, which needs regular monitoring, blaze re-painting, brush clearing and TLC. It is part of the Willimantic River Greenway, which is being established a section at a time by the Willimantic River Alliance. Once the agreement is in place, there will be a call for a Trail Work Day. Stay tuned.

Watch for volunteer interest sheets at your dinner places at the May 19th dinner.

Let Us Know:

- Of any special trails in your area that haven't been discovered by the chapter
- Any place that would be a good meeting spot
- Of any interest in trail work—best days for you
- Of any ideas for weekend activities

*All the committee*

AMC MEMBERSHIP

Seniors take note: members over the age of 70 may join or renew at the cost of \$25.00/year

Did you know that there is such a thing as LIFE MEMBERSHIP? It can be obtained with a sizeable donation, OR is available to any member who has attained the age of 70 and has been a member for 25 years. If any of you meet those criteria, get in touch with David Prentice (dprentice@outdoors.org, 617-523-0655, ext. 303) at the Boston office.

David is also the one to contact if you move, change your phone or e-mail. Just know that any such changes don't get sent to me automatically! For EOR changes, contact your editor here at pbrobinson@snet.net.

Here in the CT Chapter we are still selling those "Memberships in a Bottle"; they can be obtained on the web or from any member of the chapter's membership committee.

The CT membership chair is Joanne Shortell (see directory), who is doing great things to get our members served.  
*Betty Robinson, here representing AMC-CT Membership Committee*

Harry Duren Scholarship Fund

This fund was created in memory of our long time bike leader and advocate for youth. For several years now the fund has enabled many young men and women the opportunity to participate in the AMC's TEEN ADVENTURE WEEKS. The recipients have been young people who enjoy life in the outdoors, but whose families are unable to manage the cost. Funding has come from many sources, including collections at our EOR suppers. A year ago it received a large donation as memorial gifts to one of our AMC members. Donations from this source are still being made!

Now we are asking for nominations from you members; the requirements are as follows:

Young person must be between 12 and 18, able to get to the program base, and be in financial need (does not need to be destitute!)

These programs vary in length from five to twelve days, and may offer hiking, paddling, backpacking, rock climbing or a mix of all! If any of you know of a local youth who would like to get away in the north country please send along the information.

*Dick Don, arb02@aol.com*



Greetings from your new  
Co-Chair, Steve Braciak

I officially replaced Gene Grayson as EOR co-chair on February 12 of this year by voice vote of the CT Chapter Executive Committee at their monthly meeting. Both Dick Don and Barry Resnick had spoken to me about this vacant position after Gene left and urged me to consider volunteering - thanks to both of them for twisting my arm. I am happy to serve as your EOR co-chair for the next 3 years. Betty Robinson asked me to put together a short autobiography for this newsletter, so here it is

Born and raised in Gary, Indiana. Moved to Connecticut in 1970 to work at Pratt & Whitney. Joined the AMC in June 1982, now a 25 year member. Became a hike leader in 1986. Served numerous times on the CT Chapter Nominating Committee for selection of members on the Executive Committee. Fall Hiking Week (FHW is a CT Chapter sponsored trip to the White Mountains every September) Hiking Chair from 1994 to 1997, FHW Chair from 1998 to 2003, and FHW hike leader for many years. Lead many "Rap Hikes" - hikes specifically designed to train new leaders, but open to all. Many years ago served as "Blue Trail Series" coordinator - a series of hikes held every other Saturday from Spring to Fall over a period of approximately 3 years to cover all blue blazed trails in Connecticut. Retired September 1, 2006 and began actively participating in EOR weekday hikes 4 days later.

*Steve*

## Member News

### This Month: The Midweek Hike Coordinators

**Carolyn Olsen** is a long-time AMC member; she joined in 1981, so is now a 25 year member. She too has been active hiking, leading hikes, co-leading trips to the white Mountains, serving on the membership and EOR committees. She helped start the EOR committee. A couple years ago she, with Dot Davis, she organized the Club's highly successful Fall Gathering at Camp Woodstock.

**Zellene Sandler**, Thursday alternate hike coordinator, joined the AMC in 1984. She had been an active weekend hiker and hike leader. Once she retired she started to join us and it wasn't long before she was given more work. She now lives in Bloomfield and encourages us to migrate somewhat west of the river

**Phyllis Freeman** joined the AMC in 1987; at the time she was living in Windsor, retired from her regular job, and spending many of her days house and pet-sitting. She was one of the first mid-week hikers, and has been active ever since. Recently she has taken over keeping a scrap-book (two now!) of the EOR and has it at our meetings. She, together with Carolyn Olsen, schedule the alternate Tuesday hikes She now lives in Simsbury, and usually brings along a fellow resident of the condos to our hikes.

**Barry Resnick** needs little introduction! He, along with his dog Buddy, is a hike leader and is the coordinator for the regular Thursday hikes. He joined the AMC in 2000 upon selling his automobile service station. If you come to one of our suppers you will probably hear him telling one of his stories/jokes. Bashful Barry started hiking with us and joined the AMC as a result. One way to grab new members.

**Bob Nickels**, coordinator for the regular Tuesday hikes, is our most recent member; he joined the AMC in 2002, started hiking regularly, and in the best of our tradition got put right to work. He lives in Hebron.

Thanks to all of them we are able to hold four hikes weekly. Next time you see them, give them a big thanks in person.

*From the Committee*

## MORE OUTDOORS

The East of River Trail Badge is still available. For more information contact Betty at pbrobinson@snet.net. It lists a wide variety of trails in our half of the state, along with info on where to find maps.

Families, have you heard of the Great Park Pursuit? For more info go to the CT DEP website and click on Recreation, then "No Child Left Inside" or the GPP. It is a series of scavenger type hunts for parks across the state; last year more applied than could be served. Try it—they are fun!

The Eastern and Western versions of CFPA's *Connecticut Walk Book* are now available. They have great maps!

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AMC Beyond EOR

AMC New Member Weekends

These are weekends in new Hampshire, based at Pinkham's Joe Dodge Lodge, the Highland Center at Crawford Notch, and Cardigan Lodge in the lakes region. All include two nights lodging, with meals, outdoor activities with themes to fit the region and season, at a cost of \$98 pp. The next one is at the Highland Center on the weekend of May 18-20. The flyer says "Space is limited, so call today."

Cardigan Lodge, a place dear to the hearts of many of us, is the location the weekends of July 6-8, and August 10-12. For more information or to register call 603-466-2727

North Country Volunteers

Mary Friel will attend her first Naturalist Volunteer training session at another of the AMC's lodges, Coldriver Camp, in May. She is a veteran Info volunteer at the lodges and huts, and she wants to learn more about this other type of stint.

Betty Robinson will attend the Information volunteer weekend at Pinkham the weekend of April 27-29. She returns as a veteran of stints at Crawford, Pinkham, and at Cardigan. At Cardigan she is a mix of both—works with the naturalist, leads hikes, and acts as a friendly host to those attending. Her next stint is to be over memorial Day weekend.

"EOR Midweek Hikers Head for Cardigan"

May 21,22,23, 2007

The committee of Sandy Dunn, Carolyn Olsen, and Betty Robinson are busy getting the details ready for the trip. Twenty five members are signed up and ready to go! More in the next issue.

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*Appalachian Mountain Club*  
Connecticut Chapter  
92 Highland Avenue  
Redding, CT 06896

*Editor:*  
Betty Robinson

Please send changes of  
address, e-mail or phone  
To:  
5 C Sycamore Drive  
Storrs, CT 06268  
Or:  
Pbrobinson@snet.net

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