



Appalachian Mountain Club

Delaware Valley Chapter

Annual Report for 2009

Greetings to all AMC-Delaware Valley Chapter members and friends!

This Annual Report is a great opportunity to tell the story of what the DV Chapter has been up to all year. It's also the perfect venue to express deep gratitude and thanks to our members and our very enthusiastic and capable volunteers for again choosing to be part of our large and diverse family.

I encourage you to find a few quiet moments out of your busy schedule to carefully read through the Chapter Chairs' reports that follow. They illustrate the incredible dedication, creativity and sheer energy of our volunteer leaders as they strive to provide us with so many wonderfully diverse, safe and interesting outdoor recreation, conservation and educational activities.

To those volunteers and activity leaders who are relatively new, we say "Welcome!" To those who have been involved with the Chapter for a longer time, we say "How fortunate we are to share in your wisdom and skills!" And to each and every one of our members, we say "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" for being part of our offerings, for sharing your thoughts and advice, for believing that the AMC is worthy of your dues and contributions, and for recognizing that your membership in the AMC has important and positive ramifications far beyond the geographic scope of the Delaware Valley Chapter.

— Chris Rapacki, Southern Regional Director

Bicycling

The 2009 bike season was a successful one with trips to

Martha's Vineyard, the Finger Lakes, and the Columbia and Lehigh Gorge Rails Trails. In addition a few road trips drew an interested contingent to that venue.

In all, 19 trips occurred with over a hundred participants over the season. A big thank you goes to our leaders for making these trips available, especially Terry Berntsen, Rhoda Eisman, Brian Bonmueller, Stephanie

Wall and new leader Jeff Lippincott.

— Bill Stienmetz, Bicycling Chair

Hiking

Our chapter was able to offer a very diverse hike schedule because of the dedication and hard work of volunteer trip leaders. Monday and Tuesday Wissahickon evening hikes, Wednesday canal path hikes, the popular Thursday evening Valley Forge hikes supplemented by select Friday evening hikes and Center City Philadelphia walks highlighted our weekday schedule.

The weekend schedule ranged from leisurely, ocean-side beach strolls to highly challenging rock scrambles and off-trail



Proposed 2010 Executive Committee

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Chair: | Craig Smith |
| Vice-Chair: | (open) |
| Secretary: | Kathy Ciliberti |
| Treasurer: | Allen Male |
| Membership: | Joan Aichele |
| Backpacking: | Jim Catozzi |
| Bicycling: | Bill Steinmetz |
| Paddling: | Eric Pavlak |
| Conservation: | Al Schwartz |
| Hiking: | Jeff Lippincott |
| Leadership: | Lennie Steinmetz |
| Social: | Stephanie Wall |
| Trails: | Phil Mulligan |
| Young Members: | (open) |

bushwhacks, and everything in between. Favorite non-metropolitan hiking destinations include The Delaware Water Gap and hikes along the AT and connecting trails in Pennsylvania.



The winter hike schedule featured an Adirondack Mountain cross-country ski/snowshoe trip, popular multi-day upstate New York cross-country ski trips and the popular Catskills weekends.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Hiking Chair. I look forward to joining you on more of the wonderful and diverse hikes our leaders provide and doing what I can to encourage and support you all.

— Jeff Lippincott, Hiking Chair

Leadership

The goals of the Leadership Committee are to conduct ongoing leadership and safety training, encourage the recruitment and mentoring of new leaders, manage the safety and liability aspects of AMC activities, and administer chapter leadership policies.

This past year the Leadership Committee conducted one Outdoor Leadership Training course at Nockamixon State Park in April 2009. There were a total of 16 graduates.

Individuals who have been certified as new AMC leaders since October 2008 are Pat McGill, Midori Wakabayashi, Ivan Winegar, Barb Blythe, Trey Burg, Barb McEvoy, Shawn Slason, Quint Reiff, Michele Valerio, Kathy Scranton, Bob Krisak, Rick Hudson, Maura Haslam and Jennifer Percival. New backpacking leaders are Terry Berntsen and Barb Blythe. New cycling leaders are Rick Hudson and Jeff Lippincott.

I'd like to thank all of the members of the Leadership Committee for your wisdom and input. I especially want to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of all of our AMC leaders. They are the life blood of our organization.

— Dwayne Henne, *Leadership Chair*

Membership

We led 12 new member hikes at various locations throughout the Delaware Valley Chapter region.

To promote trail maintenance, Mike Manes organized, coordinated and helped lead a more difficult New Members hike on a section of the AT on a day when some of our trail maintainers were hard at work.



Our annual New Members Social was held in March at Plymouth Meeting and was well attended.

Working with REI in Conshohocken we offered a New Members "Day Hiking Gear Clinic" in March. Turnout was low but those attending were able to receive personalized attention.

I helped Lennie Steinmetz co-host two very successful New Members weekends at Mohican Outdoor Center.

I would like to recognize and thank Jane Shepard for her many years of dedicated service to our chapter. She faithfully mailed out our New Member Welcome packets each and every month. After many years of service she has decided to step down from the Membership committee. Thank you Jane for all your help throughout the years!

— Joan Aichele, *Membership Chair*

Paddling

A dry spring curtailed our early whitewater activity, while a wet summer and resulting high water forced the cancelation of several flatwater trips. Despite this, we have run more than 40

trips in 2009, including two extended week-long whitewater trips extending into West Virginia and Tennessee and flatwater trips in the Pine Barrens, Brandywine and Schuylkill Rivers plus some tidal paddling on Maryland's east shore. Twenty paddlers participated in our annual Mullica River canoe-camping weekend.



Nine students took our two-part basic canoeing course. We had a 1 to 1 student-instructor ratio for this course. Four students participated in our solo open canoe training. The scheduled second day was canceled due to high water. Our swiftwater safety course was rescheduled from June 21 to August 9 due to high water, and relocated three times before we held it. Our fall trips have been mostly run as scheduled.

— Eric Pavlak, *Canoeing Chair*

Shelter

The volunteers in the shelter caretaking program, which was in use since the 1970's, keep the Leroy Smith Shelter on the AT near Wind Gap, PA in excellent condition. Summer Watch extends from mid-April through October and a volunteer visits the shelter each week. Winter Watch follows with a volunteer visiting the shelter every two weeks from November to mid-April with a Sunday-only volunteer during firearms deer hunting season two weeks in December.

The 2008-09 report continues to describe our activities regarding the Pennsylvania Game Commission's regulation requiring that all users (hunters, hikers, etc.) comply with the requirement that every person wears fluorescent orange-colored materials. The Game Lands Parking Lot and the Katellen trail (used by most Shelter Watchers) are on State Game Lands. Our Winter Watchers are provided with orange caps at the Chapter's expense.

We recruited a new shelter maintenance person to replace retiring Joe Bell as of 10/27/09: Charles Ogle who worked with Joe on several maintenance projects.

Two new shelter watchers joined us this year. A few long termers will retire in 2008-09. Shelter Watch Hours: An average of 5 hours x 46 volunteer trips = 230 + Chair (40 hours) = 270 hours, Maintenance Hours = 124.5

— Patricia Ann Sacks, *Shelter Chair*

Social

There are three prominent Chapter social events held throughout the year: the Activities Social, the Chapter Picnic and the Annual Meeting.

Last year's **Annual Dinner and Meeting** was held Saturday November 15, 2008 at the Best Western Inn, Kulpsville, PA. Joan Aichele, Membership Chair, hiking and biking leader, was named Appie of Year. Joe Bell was presented with the 2008 Golden Appie award for his more than 35 years of involvement

with the Appalachian Trail and the Delaware Valley Chapter's Leroy Smith Shelter. He was one of the Chapter members who helped construct the shelter, which is located on the AT near Wind Gap, PA, in 1972.

Our chapter also recognized State Representative Robert Freeman, lawyer Charles Elliot, and former Temple Law student James Miles with Conservation Awards for their outstanding efforts in protecting the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. These are the first Conservation Awards to be given by the Chapter.

This year's **Activities Social** was held on March 21 at the Perkasie Fire House in Perkasie, PA. A variety of activities were scheduled prior to the social, including a hike on a local trail attended by approximately 40 members, a GPS-Geocaching workshop which drew a lot of attention, and an Introduction to Chapter Leadership, for those interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer leader.

The addition of outdoor activities is new to this event, and resulted in very positive feedback from many attendees. Based on that response, we expect to offer these options again at the 2010 Activities Social.

We continued the tradition of showing an entertaining slide-show of the year's activities while awards and recognition were given for miles hiked during the year. The presentation was a team effort, coordinated by Rich Wells and Jeff Lippincott. Congratulations to all the hikers, and thanks to everyone for sharing their best stories among the attendees.

The 2009 Social also relieved guests from having to bring entrees or deserts to the event, and instead charged a nominal fee to fully cater the event.

Hungry hikers and workshop attendees were treated to pre-dinner snacks and beverages, followed by a great selection of hot food for dinner. No one went home

hungry, and surprisingly, there was an abundance of leftovers, a rare occurrence! Fellow member Linda Watsula was gracious enough to coordinate the donation of the leftovers to a local food bank. Kudos to Linda for her suggestion, making for a wonderful conclusion to a terrific day!

This year's **Annual Picnic** was held at Peace Valley Park, just outside of Doylestown, PA, on June 13. This park is a great venue, offering a regionally central location, a covered pavilion and picnic area with several grills, lake access and hiking trails on site. The chapter provided hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs and drinks, and guests were asked to bring a side dish to share with fellow members.

Prior to firing up the barbecue grill, a very well attended hike around the picturesque lake was led by Joan Aichele, while other members set up horseshoe pits, badminton and volleyball nets.

Although the weather started out with an abundance of sunshine, intermittent rain soon arrived, but that did not dampen enthusiasm. In fact, member participation was excellent and actually grew as the rain rolled in. Traditional volleyball and badminton evolved into "mud volleyball" and "mud badminton." The picnic was a hit, and we have the pictures to prove it (see them on our website, www.amcdv.org).

— *Stephanie Wall, Social Chair*

Trails

During 2009 the Delaware Valley Chapter trail crew at Valley Forge continued our work on the Mt. Misery trails, bringing them into a current state of good repair. Chapter crews contributed 203.17 hours of work for Valley Forge National Park. We also supplied workers and leadership for several annual events, including a Sierra Club National Service Outing in October, the 5-mile Revolutionary Run in April, National Trails Day in June and National Public Lands Day in September.



In 2009, maintenance continued on our section of the Appalachian Trail. Dan Schwartz lead most of the conventional maintenance, Pat Sacks handled the Shelter watch, and Mike Manes lead the corridor monitoring activities.

There were three special activities that occurred during 2009. The first was a clean-up of an illegal construction site, nicknamed Ewok Village, lead by Bill Steinmetz. The second was a five-day event led by Dan Schwartz over the Labor Day weekend, which was to install water bars and other water drainage aids on the Katellen Trail, a spur leading to the AT. The last special activity was held October 17, and was attended by Pamela Underhill, the director of the Appalachian Trail National Park. While this started as a meeting to inform Underhill of the activity known as corridor monitoring, it also became a meeting of a number of corridor workers with Underhill. This activity was hosted by Chapter, lead by Mike Manes, and located at Smith Gap within the Chapter section of the AT.

— *Phil Mulligan, Trails Chair*

Anniversary Recognitions

The Delaware Valley Chapter is proud to recognize the following members for their many years of membership with AMC. We thank each of them for their commitment and continued support of AMC. If you have reached either the 25 or 50 year milestone and are not on this list, we do apologize. Please contact the Membership Chair so you can be included in the

presentation of awards at next year's Annual Dinner.

Twenty-five years: The following members joined AMC in 1984 and have continued their membership for the past 25 years:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Christopher Auth | Anne Kamrin |
| Omar Bailey | Michael Kennedy |
| Michael Burns | Margaret Lord |
| Dr. Peter Craig | Kieutien Manes |
| Nancy Fischer | Elise Murray |
| Karl Glocker | Janette Neal |
| Margot Hillman | John Rowen |
| Dr. Henry Huffnagle | James Zug |
| Laurie Johnson | |

Fifty years: The following members joined AMC in 1959 and have faithfully continued their membership for the past 50 years:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Samuel Burgess | Charles Robinson |
| Wayne Kirklin | Helen Villa. |

Treasurer's Report

Overall Financial Assessment: The Delaware Valley Chapter remains in a good financial position with significant reserve funds. However, a declining trend in income due to declining AMC memberships continues to challenge the Chapter. In 2009, the Executive Committee undertook several initiatives which halted the operating deficits of recent years and produced a small surplus for the period of this report. The implementation of changes to the Chapter's communication processes and a general belt tightening across the Chapter led this turnaround. The continuation of these initiatives in 2010 should continue this favorable trend.

Although there has been a decline in Chapter invested reserves, paralleling the domestic and international economic declines, the Chapter has been able to manage its financial activities without liquidating assets in a depressed market and should participate in the investment market recovery.

Financial Details: The Delaware Valley Chapter operates as a local branch of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) of Boston, a non-profit corporation. Chapter financial activities are subject to rules established by the AMC, including the AMC fiscal year from January 1 through December 31. In accordance with AMC requirements, the Chapter's books are maintained in a computerized accounting system on a cash basis and the Chapter provides an annual financial report to AMC shortly after the completion of the fiscal year.

Because the Chapter's Annual Meeting occurs before the end of the official Fiscal Year, this report to the Delaware Chapter follows the pattern from last year and covers a 12-month accounting period from October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009. Comparisons are provided with the preceding period.

Chapter income is primarily in the form of an allocation of a portion of the AMC dues paid by members who reside in the Delaware Valley area. In the twelve months covered by this report, this dues allocation provided 87 percent of the chapter income.

Approximately 60 percent of the Chapter expenses are associated with communicating to the Chapter members and the general public through the Chapter newsletter (Appalachian Footnotes) and the Chapter's website at www.amcdv.org/.

— *Allen Male, Treasurer*

Financial statement follows on the next page.

Electronic copies of this report are available at:
<http://www.amcdv.org>
and at
<http://paddlenow.com>

Financial Data

Operational income and expenses for the period are shown below.

Operational Income vs. Expense for the 12-Month Period From 10/1/2008 thru 9/30/2009 Compared to Prior Period (10/1/2007 thru 9/30/2008)

| Income | Current Period | Prior Period | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Allocation from AMC Dues | \$17645.50 | \$18439.50 | |
| Membership Sales | 1210.00 | 1765.00 | See Note 1 |
| Misc. Income | 1000.00 | 10.00 | See Note 2 |
| Net Income from Fee-Based Activities | 283.66 | 382.90 | See Note 3 |
| Merchandise Sales | 57.00 | 45.00 | |
| Interest from Bank | 13.97 | 474.67 | |
| Total Income | \$20210.13 | \$21117.07 | |
| Expense | | | |
| Communication | \$11657.66 | \$13852.72 | See Note 4 |
| Attendance at Club-wide AMC Meetings | 2356.81 | 2882.06 | |
| Trails & Shelter Maintenance | 1756.18 | 2253.64 | |
| Recognition | 823.32 | 926.74 | See Note 5 |
| Chapter Social Events | 756.61 | 2744.76 | See Note 6 |
| Committee Expenses | 676.77 | 1277.79 | |
| Membership Activities | 595.99 | 1162.43 | See Note 7 |
| AMC Program Support | 500.00 | 0.00 | See Note 8 |
| Canoeing Program | 315.00 | 604.03 | |
| Leadership & Outdoor Skills | 223.84 | 581.99 | |
| Liability Insurance | 217.00 | 170.00 | |
| Bank Fees | 0.00 | 20.00 | |
| Total Expenses | \$19879.18 | \$26476.16 | |
| Surplus (Deficit) – Income-Expenses | 330.95 | (\$5359.09) | |

Note 1 – The Chapter receives a “rebate” from AMC for each **new** member who applies for membership through the Chapter website.

Note 2 – Miscellaneous income for 2008 was a special award of \$1,000.00 from the AMC when more than 40% of first-year members in our Chapter renewed their membership for a second year.

Note 3 – Fee-Based activities are activities, such as training programs, for which a fee is charged to offset expenses. These include training programs open to both non-members and members (at a reduced fee).

Note 4 – Communication includes newsletter printing, newsletter postage, and Chapter website expenses.

Note 5 – Recognition includes hiker awards, leader awards, special Annual Dinner recognition to 25-year and 50-year AMC members, and the Appie and Golden Appie awards.

Note 6 – Social Events include the Activity Social, Chapter Picnic, Chapter Annual Dinner and Meeting, and meetings of the Mid Jersey and Lehigh Valley Groups.

Note 7 – Membership Activities include open houses, informational communication to new members, and promotional activities.

Note 8 – AMC Program support is a donation into a special fund for support of smaller Chapters.

The Chapter has cash assets to meet near term needs.

Cash Assets on 9/30/2009 Compared to 9/30/2008

| | <u>9/30/2009</u> | <u>9/30/2008</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Checking Account | 461.38 | 450.78 | 10.60 |
| Money Market Account (Savings) | 14685.48 | 14350.13 | 335.35 |
| Undeposited Funds | 0.00 | 15.00 | -15.00 |
| AMC Investment Account | <u>17345.67</u> | <u>21918.14</u> | <u>-4572.47</u> |
| Total Cash Assets | 32492.53 | 36734.05 | -4241.52 |

Checking and money market funds are in FDIC insured accounts.

The AMC Investment Account is managed by AMC and is established to provide long-term growth opportunities for funds not needed for current expenses.

Cash assets are divided among the three categories as shown below.

Category of Funds on 9/30/2009 Compared to 9/30/2008

| | <u>9/30/2009</u> | <u>9/30/2008</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Operating Account | 14344.14 | 14013.19 | 330.95 |
| Reserve Account | 17345.67 | 21918.14 | -4572.47 |
| Henry Wu Scholarship Account | <u>802.72</u> | <u>802.72</u> | <u>0.0</u> |
| | 32492.53 | 36734.05 | -4242.52 |

The Operating Account contains the funds and reserves for day-to-day operation of the Chapter.

Reserve Account funds are set aside for long-term growth.

The Henry Wu Scholarship Account funds are available for educational financial support to students in fields appropriate to the AMC's mission of conservation, education, and recreation.

Questions or comments on this report are welcome and can be addressed to the Treasurer at the Annual Dinner or by e-mail to treasurer@amcdv.org.