



Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter Annual Report for 2010

Overview

In any organization it's the people that make the difference. This is true for the AMC's Delaware Valley Chapter. Without the many dedicated volunteers there wouldn't be much to write about. I'd like to take this moment to thank all those volunteers who make a difference and keep the chapter community alive and kicking.

Recreation: Thanks to our loyal leaders the chapter continues to offer a wide variety of outdoor activities during all four seasons. Leaders put many volunteer hours into planning, leading and recording trips. Many leaders also add education and conservation components to their trips, further enhancing the participant's experience. For this I remind all participants to remember to thank their leaders for their time and efforts.

I also encourage others to help mentor new leaders. If you're out on the activity and see someone with leadership potential, by all means encourage them to contact the leadership chair so we can get them leading trips.

We are looking for more individuals to help lead all activities but especially family activities, younger adult activities (young members) and backpacking. Speaking of leaders, a big kudos for our leadership chair and the Leadership Committee for all the work and time they put into making the outdoor leadership training an annual success!

Conservation: The chapter continues to be involved with many conservation issues of member interest at local and regional levels. From the environmental impacts of Marcellus shale, mountain top removal, and power line projects (just to name a few), the DV Chapter, with the lead of our conservation chair Al Schwartz, continues to make you aware of what is going on and its impact on your environment. If you have a conservation issue you would like to pursue, please contact our conservation chair.

Trails: Trails do not maintain themselves, and the DV Chapter is grateful to have a group of dedicated volunteers to help maintain the Appalachian Trail from Lehigh Gap to Wind Gap, as well as trails in Nockamixon State Park and Valley Forge National Historic Park. We are always looking for help doing trail work. If you can use simple garden tools you can help with trail work. If there's a trail you like to consider the chapter getting involved with, by all means please let our trails chair know.

Social Events: Our chapter members enjoy social events. We all like to be active, socialize and more importantly eat at these events! However the activities social, chapter picnic and annual

Proposed 2011 Executive Committee

Chair:	Craig Smith
Vice-Chair:	Allen Male
Secretary:	Kathy Ciliberti
Treasurer:	Rhoda Eisman
Membership:	Joan Aichele
Backpacking:	Peter Fox
Bicycling:	Bill Steinmetz
Paddling:	Eric Pavlak
Conservation:	Al Schwartz
Hiking:	Rick Hudson
Leadership:	Lennie Steinmetz
Social:	Stephanie Wall
Trails:	Phil Mulligan
Young Members:	Philip Yu

dinner, staples of the AMC-DV Chapter, wouldn't succeed without the work of our social chair, Social Committee and event helpers. For this, big thanks is in order for all their volunteer time!

Finally, the Executive Committee: I'm personally thankful to work with such a great team of Executive Committee members. Like you, we are AMC members, leaders, outdoor enthusiasts and participants. We are volunteers who have limited resources, but together we have a common goal to make the chapter the best it can be

— *Craig Smith, Chapter Chair*

Bicycling

The 2010 bike season was a successful one, with trips to Pine Creek, to the Columbia, Lehigh Gorge, Perkiomen and Delaware Canal rails-trails. In addition, a few road trips drew an interested contingent, notably the covered bridge ride. All in all, 24 trips with more than a hundred participants took place during the season. This is an increase from last year.

A note of thanks is extended to our leaders for making these trips available, especially Joan Aichele, Rhoda Eisman, Terry Berntsen, Ron Phelps, Chris Rapacki, Eric Pavlak, Jeff Lippincott, and George Gorman. There were more bike



leaders this year. The chapter offered two bike trips to the AMC Presidents Society when they visited our area this past spring.

— *Bill Stienmetz, Bicycling Chair*

Conservation

These were the major accomplishments:

1. Led several hikes with a conservation theme for our local chapter.
2. Posted events with topics of relevance to members. Topics include issues regarding the Marcellus shale natural gas drilling, mountain top removal coal mining activities and the proposed power line additions.
3. Established a conservation blog with the purpose of getting members thinking about important local and regional issues of conservation: <http://conservationandhiking.blogspot.com/>
4. Volunteered at various events in the community related to sustainability and conservation.

— *Al Schwartz, Conservation 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 highlighted our weekday schedule.

The weekend schedule ranged from leisurely, ocean-side beach strolls to highly challenging rock scrambles and off-trail bushwhacks, and everything in between. Favorite non-metropolitan hiking destinations include central New Jersey and the Lehigh Valley.

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.

— *Jeff Lippincott, Hiking Chair*

Leadership

The DV Chapter's Outdoor Leader Training course for 2010 took place on the weekend of April 16-18 at Weisel Hostel near Quakertown, PA. Eighteen students attended this year's course, which included two days of class time, role plays, and sociability. Evaluations from the course participants were extremely positive, including comments such as "very thorough and complete, extremely well organized" and "great opportunity to glean insight from experienced leaders. It surpassed my expectations!"

This year's event included a dinner on Saturday night prepared by chef Jim Catozzi which gave participants a chance to relax and get acquainted.

There were a total of 18 students in this year's course: Leonard Camp, Dave Trindle, George Gorman, Joe Geib, Jeff Waltrich, Steve Bailey, Cassandra Hogue, Lorraine Abate, Paul Potochniak, Irina Kulikovskaya, Tim Rooney, Jonathan Pincus, Paul Schott, Sue Caskey, Ian Kindle, Bonnie Tobin, David Block, and

Tammy Brandon.

The DV leaders who served as trainers and organizers for the 2010 course were Jeff Alpert, Jim Catozzi, Pete Jarrett, Mark Kern, Jeff Lippincott, Donna Morgan, Phil Mulligan, Ron Phelps, Craig Smith, Bill Steinmetz, Lennie Steinmetz, and Rich Wells.

A leader appreciation social was held on Saturday, May 15, at Weisel Hostel that was attended by 30 DV Chapter leaders. The discussion that followed the happy hour and dinner included:

- 1) A listing of current chapter activities and concerns by Chapter Chair Craig Smith
- 2) A discussion on possible ways to improve the chapter by the leaders in attendance
- 3) A discussion summary and excellent closing remarks by Leadership Committee Vice-Chair Pete Jarrett

A summary of the discussion was sent out on the leader hotline following the event. A number of leaders have suggested that this event should be held on a regular basis.

We continued our reciprocal arrangement with the Connecticut Chapter so that DV members may attend their leader training course in the fall. This year's course will take place on November 19-21 in Litchfield, in western Connecticut. The Leadership Committee is currently working on plans for the outdoor leader training 2011 course, which is scheduled to take place in early spring.

— *Lennie Steinmetz, Leadership Chair*



Lehigh Valley Group

The Lehigh Valley Group has now completed its eighteenth year. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month except December, July, and August in Bethlehem. Programs this year have included a wide range of topics such as "Hiking to Machu Pichu on the Inca Trail," "Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia," "Thru-Hiking the AT – a Mother-Daughter Tale" and "National Parks in the Northwestern US." The meetings include a short discussion on upcoming outdoor activities, a speaker, and a social time with refreshments. Attendance ranges from 30 to 50 people, including longtime AMC members as well as potential members.

The group continues to draw members from as far away as Scranton, East Greenville, Quakertown and western New Jersey. The after meeting social time often lasts for as long as the program, as people seem to enjoy the opportunity to meet new attendees, renew old acquaintances, and plan for upcoming outdoor adventures. We look forward to continuing our successful gatherings in 2011, with Phill Hunsberger remaining in his role as Lehigh Valley Group Chair.

— *Lennie Steinmetz*

Membership

The goals of the Membership Committee are recruitment of new members and retention of current members. In an effort

to meet these goals we offered monthly new member hikes throughout the year, hikes open to all members. We held our annual New Members' Social in March, which was well attended by both new and seasoned AMC members who came out to help interact and answer many of the new member's questions. Thank you, seasoned members; I could not have done it without you. Lennie Steinmetz and I continued to provide a fun time at the New Member Weekend Getaways at nearby Mohican Outdoor Center. Thank you for helping, Lennie.

We represented AMC at various functions such as National Trails Days, National Public Lands Days and the very successful EMS Kayak Demo Days. Our new mini brochures designed by Eric Pavlak were a very useful tool. We used these to direct potential members to our chapter website.

Throughout the year I fielded many questions about the conversion to an electronic newsletter, and helped many members with logging into the AMC Member Center to "opt in" for electronic delivery. I thank all of the members who have signed up to receive our electronic newsletter.

Despite economic tough times our membership numbers have remained strong. It shows the commitment of our members to AMC and its mission. To all of you I say, "thank you!"

— Joan Aichele, Membership Chair

Paddling

Our chapter ran more than 70 paddling-days of trips in 2010, including whitewater trips on the Tohickon, Brodhead, Shohola, Lehigh, Stonyriver Canyon and Stonyriver Gorge, Shade Creek and Youghiegheny rivers in Pennsylvania; the Cheat River, both Canyon and Narrows, in West Virginia; Obed, Emory, Daddy's Creek and Pigeon in Tennessee; and the Nolichucky and Chatooga IV in North Carolina.

We had flatwater trips on the Delaware, Schuylkill and Brandywine and Neshaminy in Pennsylvania; the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor River, Wading Creek and Spruce Run in New Jersey, plus a broadwater trip on the Chesapeake in Maryland.

Two trips were extended week-long whitewater trips extending into West Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. Two were week-long wilderness whitewater trips on the de Lievre River and the Ashuapmushuan River, Quebec, Canada, and one was a week-long flatwater trip on the West Branch Penobscot River in Maine. We also had 28 paddlers participate in our annual Mullica River canoe-camping weekend.

We ran our annual two-part basic canoeing course in May and June. Solo open canoe training was canceled due to high water. Our swiftwater safety course had 11 participants. We added two flatwater leaders and one whitewater leader. Participation on entry level (class 2-3) whitewater trips was the best in a decade.

— 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.

In compliance with Pennsylvania Game Commission's regulation requiring that all users (hunters, hikers, etc.) wears fluorescent orange-colored materials, our winter watchers are provided with orange caps at the chapter's expense. The game lands parking lot and the Katellen trail (used by most shelter watchers) are on state game lands.

We recruited Charles Ogle as our new shelter maintenance person to replace Joe Bell, who retired as of October 27, 2009. Charles worked with Joe on several maintenance projects. Joe Bell checks in occasionally.

Three new shelter watchers joined us in 2010. Shelter plans include expanding the DVAMC web site shelter page to include a photo, a bit of history and an invitation to new shelter watchers.

The shelter volunteers check trails and composting privy conditions, and the adjacent campsite, and report their findings on a post-paid printed postcard to the shelter chair. Trash (cans, bottles, foodstuffs, soiled undergarments, torn shoes) has tripled as carry-out items in Summer 2010.

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

Over the course of each year there are three prominent chapter social events organized for member participation:

Annual Activities Social: This was held on March 27 at the Perkasio Fire House in Perkasio, PA. For the second year in a row, a variety of activities were scheduled prior to the social: a hike led by Joan Aichele and Phil Mulligan on a local trail was attended by approximately 40 members and friends, and the ever popular GPS/Geocaching workshop was held by

DV member Mike Rosko.

Feedback from members about the more robust event has been very positive. Based on that, the Social Committee expects to offer these options, and perhaps others, at future Activities Socials.

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!

As the hungry hikers and workshop attendees returned from their activities, they were treated to pre-dinner snacks and beverages, followed by a great selection of hot food for dinner. In lieu of the covered dish approach, this year we continued to charge a nominal fee for snacks and dinner. No one went home hungry and all leftovers were transported to a local soup kitchen coordinated by DV member Linda Watsula, a great opportunity to help communities in need, and a great end to great day!

Annual Picnic: This year's event was held June 16 at a new location, Central Perkiomen Valley Park in Montgomery County, PA. This park is a great venue, offering a regionally central location, a covered pavilion and picnic area with several grills. The park is adjacent to the Perkiomen Trail, which offers great hiking and bicycling. The chapter provided hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs and drinks, and guests were asked to bring a covered dish, salad or dessert to share with fellow members. A very well-attended hike was led by Joan Aichele, and a bicycle ride was by Jeff Lippincott and George Gorman. The weather was clear and hot, bringing in warm and hungry hikers and bikers for the BBQ. The volleyball games were spared the mud of last year.

Annual Dinner: The annual dinner combines a social event, a business meeting and a special guest speaker. It is a great opportunity to network with new and existing chapter members, enjoy a nice dinner together, to learn a little bit about some of the business aspects of operating the chapter and wrap up with a great story about fun and adventure in the outdoors. This is an excellent event for new members, since the networking tends to open up discussion around experiences of the past year, with great stories and suggestions for participation in the year ahead.

— *Stephanie Wall, Social Chair*

Trails

During 2010 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 2010, maintenance continued on our section of the Appalachian Trail. Dan Schwartz led most of the conventional maintenance, Pat Sacks handled the Shelter watch, and Mike Manes led the corridor monitoring activities.

There were three special activities that occurred during 2010. The first was a clean-up of an illegal construction site, nicknamed Ewok Village, led 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 the chapter, led by Mike Manes, and held at Smith Gap within the chapter's section of the AT.

— *Phil Mulligan, Trails Chair*

Treasurer's Report

Overall Financial Assessment

The Delaware Valley Chapter has improved its financial position over the past year despite a gradual, but continuing, decline in Membership, adding about \$2,500 to our financial reserves. This trend should continue into the coming year, making additional funds available for activities and program initiatives. In addition, chapter reserve funds deposited in the AMC Investment Account, have gained about 20 percent over the past year, recovering the losses from the recent economic decline.

Financial Details

The Delaware Valley Chapter operates as a branch of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), a non-profit corporation with headquarters in Boston, MA. Chapter financial activities comply to rules established by the AMC, including the AMC fiscal year from January 1 through December 31. The chapter's books are maintained on a cash basis in a computerized accounting system and the chapter provides an annual financial report for AMC audit and review within a month after completing the fiscal year.

Chapter income comes primarily as 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 90 percent of the chapter income, similar to previous years.

Chapter communication costs decreased from about 60 percent of total expenses to about 40%, freeing additional funds for use program areas such as activity Leader development, chapter social events, Membership contact, and canoeing equipment upgrade.

Because this report occurs before the end of the official Fiscal Year, it follows the format from recent years and covers a 12-month accounting period from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010. Comparisons are provided with the preceding 12-month period. The financial statement follows on the next page. — *Allen Male, Treasurer*

Electronic copies of this report are available at:

<http://www.amcdv.org>

and

<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 10/1/2009 thru 9/30/2010 Compared to Prior 12-month Period

Income	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Prior Period</u>
Allocation from AMC Dues	\$17391.00	\$17645.50
Membership Sales	1050.00	1210.00
Misc. Income	0.00	1000.00
Net Income from Activity Fees	978.00	283.66
Merchandise Sales	0.00	57.00
Interest from Bank Accounts	<u>7.08</u>	<u>13.97</u>
Total Income	\$19426.08	\$20210.13
Expense		
Communication	\$6522.93	\$11657.66
Attendance at Club-wide AMC Meetings	2264.11	2356.81
Trails & Shelter Maintenance	987.46	1756.18
Recognition	773.44	823.32
Chapter Social Events	1434.18	756.61
Committee Expenses	939.74	676.77
Membership Activities	785.24	595.99
AMC Program Support	0.00	500.00
Canoeing Program	1474.85	315.00
Leadership & Outdoor Skills	1331.00	223.84
Liability Insurance	464.00	217.00
Bank Fees	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$16976.95	\$19879.18
Surplus (Deficit) – Income-Expenses	2,449.13	330.95

The Chapter has cash assets to meet near term needs.

Cash Assets on 9/30/2010 Compared to 9/30/2009

	<u>9/30/2010</u>	<u>9/30/2009</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Checking Account	557.83	461.38	96.45
Money Market Account (Savings)	16972.16	14685.48	2286.68
Undeposited Funds	<u>99.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>99.00</u>
Operating Cash Assets	17628.99	15146.86	2482.13
AMC Investment Account	20870.31	17345.67	3524.64

Checking and money market funds are in FDIC-insured bank accounts.

The AMC Investment Account is managed by AMC and is available to Chapters to provide long-term growth opportunities for funds not needed for current operations. Deposits and withdrawals of these funds are restricted to specified periods of each calendar quarter.

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

Category of Funds on 9/30/2010 Compared to 9/30/2009

	<u>9/30/2010</u>	<u>9/30/2009</u>
Operating Funds	16826.27	14344.14
Reserve Funds	20870.31	17345.67
Henry Wu Scholarship Funds	<u>802.72</u>	<u>802.72</u>
	38499.30	32492.53

Operating Funds are the funds and reserves for day-to-day operation of the Chapter.

Reserve Funds are set aside for long-term growth.

The Henry Wu Scholarship Funds are allocated for financial support to youth and student programs 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.

Recognition of Past Service and Awards

Appie of the Year is awarded to a newer Chapter Member who has provided extraordinary service to the chapter. Past winners:

2009 Anne Murphy	2000 Paul Davis
2008 Joan Aichele	1999 Bill McCaughey
2007 Rich Wells	1998 Kevin Burkman
2006 Craig Smith	1997 Kevin Kramer
2005 Jim Catozzi	1996 Rajat Tandon
2004 Jennifer Decker	1995 Rich Kajander
2003 Kevin Perry	1994 Marty Seibert
2002 Chris Cayer	1993 Kathy Kelly-Borowski
2001 Andrea Deaton	

Golden Appie of the Year is awarded to a Chapter Member who has provided extraordinary service to the chapter over many years. Past winners:

2009 Peter Jarrett	2003 Gary Leander
2008 Joseph Bell	2001 Bill Steinmetz
2007 Eric Pavlak	2000 Helmut Gude
2006 Lennie Steinmetz	1999 Malcolm White
2005 Walt Underhill	1998 Jane Shepard
2004 Dan Schwartz, Lois Nichols	
(None for 2002)	

Chapter Committee Recognitions. The Appalachian Mountain Club and the Delaware Valley Chapter gratefully acknowledge the volunteer hours and many contributions of all outgoing and continuing Chapter Executive Committee as well as the 2010 Nominating Committee members.

Past Chapter Chairs

Jim Catozzi, 2009	George Heckler, 1985-86
Paul Davis, 2007-08	Kay Cox, 1982-84
Andrea Deaton, 2005-06	Jane Shepard, 1980-81
Chris Rapacki, 2003-04	Malcolm White, 1978-79
Peter Jason, 2001-02	Win Howe, 1976-77
Priscilla Estes, 2000	Fred Cox, 1973-75
Lennie Steinmetz, 1997-99	Gardner Dean, 1971-72
Bill Steinmetz 1994-96	Ruby Horwood, 1969-70
Tom Stress, 1993	Martin Davenport, 1967-68
Alan Kahn, 1990-91	Ted Talbot, 1965-66
Kent Johnson, 1987-89	Dr. Robert Tyson 1962-64

Outgoing Executive Committee Members

Jim Catozzi – Backpacking Chair
 Jeff Lippincott- Hiking Chair

Many thanks to the Members of the 2010 Nominating Committee: Joan Aichele (Chair), Pete Jarrett, George Gorman

Chapter Standing Committees. Many people provide service to the chapter in many capacities. The chapter would like to provide special thanks to the following people who have volunteered to provide service fulfilling roles on the Chapter Standing Committees in 2010 and 2011. These positions are appointed by the Chapter's Executive Committee.

	2010	2011
Canoe Committee		
Equipment Manager	Walt Underhill	Walt Underhill
Training Leader	John Chalikian	John Chalikian
Web Manager	Eric Pavlak	Eric Pavlak
Communications Committee		
Database Admin.	Rich Wells	Rich Wells
Newsletter Editor	Eric Pavlak	Eric Pavlak
Publicity	Vacant	Midori Wakabayashi
Web Administrator	Rich Wells	Rich Wells
Trip Approver Admin.	Rich Wells	Rich Wells
Hiking Committee		
Family Activities	Vacant	Susan Caskey
Winter Activities	Lennie Steinmetz	Lennie Steinmetz
CYP Coordinator	Vacant	Open
Social Committee		
Lehigh Valley Group	Phill Hunsberger	Phill Hunsberger
Mid-Jersey Group	Jeff Alpert	Jeff Alpert
Trails Committee		
Leroy Smith Shelter	Patricia Ann Sacks	Patricia Ann Sacks
ATC Representatives	Dan Schwartz	Dan Schwartz
	Bill Steinmetz	Bill Steinmetz
KTA Representative	Jim Catozzi	Jim Catozzi
NY-NJ TC Rep.	Mike Manes	Mike Manes
PA Highland Trails Rep.	Vacant	Susan Charke
Ombudsman	Jane Shepard	Jane Shepard

Social Committee

Trails Committee

Ombudsman

Member Anniversary Recognitions

The Delaware Valley Chapter is proud to recognize the following 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, please contact the membership chair so you can be included at next year's annual dinner.

Fifty years: Mrs. Arthur B. Melbourne joined AMC in 1960 and has faithfully continued her membership for the past 50 years.

Twenty-five years: The following members joined AMC in 1985 and have continued their membership for the past 25 years: Marion Berger, Lucille Cantwell, Dr. N. David Charke, Barbara Frazer, Dr. John Galson, Nancy Greene, William Hall, Ejvind Hansen, Joseph Lesnieski, Dr. Rob Roy MacGregor, Thomas Maguire, Marian McCredie, Lach Peeke, Paul Schott, Donna Shinkawa, Robert Smith and William Welker.