



# Appalachian Mountain Club

## Delaware Valley Chapter

### Annual Report for 2016

#### Overview

Hard to believe but here we are already looking back at another year in the life of the Delaware Valley Chapter. Our membership continues to grow as well as the number of activities offered by our volunteer leaders. Our chapter is very fortunate that we have many very dedicated volunteers willing to lead a multitude of activities not only hiking, but backpacking, paddling, cycling and cross country skiing. All different levels of each activity from beginner to expert provide the opportunity for many to get out and enjoy the outdoors. We experienced a significant increase not only in the number of hikes led but also a big increase in backpacking trips due to more backpacking leaders. Cycling trips have become very popular with our members especially enjoying the multi day trips. Paddling trips were numerous but seem to be leaning more towards flat water trips then white water. These trips were weather dependent as was our cross country skiing trips. Many times the cross country skiers had to drive north to find sufficient snow.

Once again we had a large class participate in our Outdoor Leadership Training in April with many of the graduates now leading trips for us. With this new blood comes a new opportunity for new and different trips. We had some Young Members (20s & 30s) in the class and they will be focusing on getting their peers involved with AMC through our Young Members Meetup group.

It was a good year for our trail maintenance and conservations programs. A dedicated crew of volunteers worked diligently to make sure our 15 miles of the AT was in good shape for all hikers. Our new Highlands Stewardship Crew was busy working in the Ringing Rocks County Park blazing and maintaining trails in the park. The trail crew at Valley Forge National Park worked one Saturday a month maintaining trails on both Mt. Misery and Mt. Joy. No easy job due to the amount of foot traffic on these trails. And we now have a crew of around twenty volunteers willing to help us with the AT Corridor Monitoring program ensuring the boundaries along our section of the AT are blazed and there are no illegal encroachments.

The Leroy Smith Shelter which is on our section of the AT and maintained by chapter volunteers received a much needed new roof this year. Many volunteers showed up for the roof raising and the task was completed in record time due to all their efforts. Our shelter watch volunteers continued to do a good job visiting the shelter many weekends throughout the year to check on its condition and to remove trash which unfortunately was left behind by visitors to the shelter.

On the Conservation front our chapter has been actively working with our AMC Bethlehem staff to get the word out about the proposed Penn East Pipeline encouraging our members to voice their comments to the appropriate agencies. We have purchased the rights to show the movie "Chasing Ice" and will be showing

#### 2017 Executive Committee Nominees

Chair	Lois Rothenberger
Vice Chair	Susan Weida
Secretary	Kathy Kindness
Treasurer	Joe Nanfara
Membership	Denis McCartan
Backpacking	Cindy Crosser
Bicycling	Robert Liston
Communications	Rich Wells
Conservation	Adrian Noble
Family Activities	Annette Sheldon
Hiking	Malcolm Preece
Leadership	Lennie Steinmetz
Paddling	Eric Pavlak
Social	Mary Jane Martin
Trails	Phil Mulligan
Young Members	Kate Prisby

it in various locations throughout our chapter area this winter. Times and locations will be listed on our chapter website.

All three of our social events were well attended and a great success due to the fine efforts of our Social Committee. The desserts they provided were especially good and quickly devoured.

This year's DV Chapter weekend was held at the new AMC Harriman Outdoor Center in late September. Twenty four members enjoyed several scenic hikes in Harriman State Park, paddling on Breakneck Pond and delicious meals prepared by the HOC staff. No one wanted the weekend to end so we plan to go back next year to pick up where we left off.

Our Lehigh Valley Group continues to be very active in their new meeting location, the Bethlehem Office of AMC at Illick's Mill, Bethlehem, PA. They hosted fascinating presentations, many by our members who were willing to share their photos and experiences from exciting travels throughout the world.

You can read more detailed information of the progress our committees have made this past year in the reports compiled

#### Appie Awards for 2016

- Greg Bernet, Appie of the Year
- Pat and Ken Sacks, Golden Appies of the Year

in this Annual Report. You as members can do your part by helping us to spread the word about the wonderful things the DV Chapter and AMC are doing as far as conservation, land stewardship and outdoor recreation. In this hectic world we live in nothing renews the spirit more than spending time enjoying the great outdoors with friends.

My term as Chapter Chair has come to an end and I will never

be able to fully express my appreciation to all of the dedicated volunteers I have worked with these past three years, especially all the members of the Executive Committees and our wonderful volunteer leaders and trail maintainers who work so hard to make the DV Chapter one of the best. I am extremely proud of everyone's efforts. You made my job easy. I am passing the baton on to Lois Rothenberger who will lead our chapter to even greater accomplishments in the future. As for me, I am not going away. You will find me on the trails doing what I love to do best, having fun leading trips for AMC and spending time with like minded folks. See you on the trails!

— Joan Aichele, Chapter Chair



## Backpacking

This was a very strong year for backpacking. We had 20 week-end backpacking trips on the schedule that were run from March through October of 2016. This exceeds last year's number. There will be additional backpack trips posted for November of this year, but these are still in the planning stage. Our trips were all filled to capacity, with most wait listed. Thus, there is a need for new leaders to backpack. It is clear that weekend backpacks are the most popular.

There were four week-long backpacking trips along the AT, which also exceeds last year's two.

We had a beginner backpacking workshop that was full with 12 participants and followed by a beginner backpack trip. The feedback was very positive and it is clear that each year that Ron Phelps and I do this, we just seem to improve upon the previous year.

This was an outstanding year for new leaders as several completed their co-leads. We had several new leaders, several that I have personally mentored. Completed: Lisa Chao, Anthony Palandro, Christina Pisel, Lizzie Grobble and Steve Campanelli. In process: Adrian Noble, Amelia Wisniewski-Barker and Robin Jackson.

This was an outstanding year and the momentum is growing with each passing year. It is my plan moving forward to add new leaders, but also to encourage those who have completed the requirements to move forward and lead trips.

I thank everyone for their cooperation in making this section so strong, safe and a most enjoyable experience for those of us on the trail. — Cindy Crosser, Backpacking Chair

## Bicycling

We saw a slight decrease in the number of bicycle rides this year, down nine percent, which perhaps may be attributable to



excess heat during the summer months in our region this year. Many rides have been held on rail trails and paved multi-use paths, and several road rides were led this season. From March through September, 43 rides were listed, and three multi-day bicycling trips were run. Rides are listed in October and November, and bicycling could continue through the end of the year, depending on the weather and the level of interest of the participants.

We welcomed two new bicycling leaders this season; Bob Liston and Brian Horowitz. Gary Schwab has completed his first bicycling co-lead. Much appreciation and thanks goes to all of the leaders who organized and led bicycle rides for the chapter this season; Joan Aichele, Terry Berntsen, Barb Blythe, Tammy Brandon, Rich Einstein, Brian Horowitz, Ian Kindle, Steve Leibrock, Jeff Lippincott, Bob Liston, Ann Ross, Gary Schwab, and Noelle Schwartz.

Special recognition goes out to leaders who planned and led multi-day bicycling trips this season: Terry Berntsen to Monongahela National Park, WV; Jeff Lippincott to Lake Ontario and 1000 Islands, NY and Canada; and Terry Berntsen to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, MA. In October, Jeff Lippincott is leading a multi-day bike and hike trip in the Hudson Valley, NY.

There continues to be interest within the chapter for more multi-day trips. We encourage both seasoned and new bicycling leaders to consider adding a few more rides and multi-day trips to the schedule next season.

Bob Liston has been nominated to the position of Bicycling Chair for 2017, term to begin in November 2016. Bob has become a very active bicycling leader for the chapter this year, and will serve the chapter well in this expanded role.

— Tammy Brandon, Bicycling Chair

## Communications

The Communications Committee manages the chapter website, three e-mail lists, the newsletter and Meetup. The committee also serves as the chapter interface with AMC staff in supporting the ActivityDB system.

It takes the knowledge, skill and dedication of many chapter volunteers to make sure everything works smoothly. We acknowledge the contributions from: Joan Aichele, e-mail List Membership manager; Jim Catozzi and Bill Steinmetz, ActivityDB management and Eric Pavlak, Footnotes editor and publisher who also serves as web keeper. Support from Rich Pace in keeping Meetup up and running continues to be most valuable

and much appreciated. Also John Rowen's support maintaining the chapter activity calendar remains vital to the chapter.

Meetup continues to grow. Membership is now 6,170, an increase of 1,570 members since last year's report. A second Meetup site focused on young members was established this year. The site currently has 408 members, a little less than double last year's total. A taskforce has been formed to evaluate our use of both Meetup groups.

The chapter Facebook presence continues. About five new posts appear weekly. Facebook is an excellent way to get information out without flooding member's email inboxes with mail. Facebook allows photo posting and two-way conversation, a feature that we have yet to utilize fully. We salute our contributors to our Facebook site and urge anyone who wants to be involved to contact us. We would like to grow our selection of post-activity photos and descriptions, as this is a great and cost-effective way to promote the chapter.

The ActivityDB system underwent minor changes this year, mostly in support of the redesigned AMC website which displays trips differently than what it previously did. The trip entry form changed and with the objective of making it a bit easier for leaders to use. On the downside, adding new leaders became more complex. The one negative impact was we lost the ability to provide a map that allowed users to extract driving directions. It's a feature still under review. We still entertain the hope that the full map functionality will be restored before too much more time passes.

The chapter continued to expand the use of Paypal as a payment option. Paypal accepts credit cards as well as direct Paypal payment. The system has proven secure and allows the chapter to avoid having to store or even pass sensitive personal financial information. This year use of the Paypal system was expanded to include more complex events where multiple options and prices apply. We also introduced invoicing this year, a feature we used for the chapter weekend. That feature appears to be a viable option for use with the more complex activities featuring several options which influence final pricing. The only downside is that it separates reservations from payment. This has the potential to add to a leader's workload by forcing the leader to contact people who have registered but not paid. It does afford better control of "inventory," though.

AMC rolled out its redesigned website to somewhat mixed reviews, though it is now more compatible with mobile devices which are gradually replacing the more traditional laptop and desktop computers as the preferred method for accessing the internet.



The chapter continues to publish a weekly message. Keeping the message out of SPAM folders proved to be a challenge this year. As there has been some turmoil at Yahoo. We investigated the use of a commercial mailer program (MailChimp) and found it to be an alternative to Yahoo in certain applications. In other applications involving bulletin board type use, such as the leaders' hotline it would not work. One positive, going to a commercial mailer would reduce the volunteer effort needed to publish the message and maintain the subscription database. Because of Yahoo policy changes maintaining the database has become a major and labor intensive problem.

— Rich Wells,  
Communications Chair

## Conservation

Our Conservation web page was revised and updated.

Details of current local and nationally important conservation issues were added together, where possible, with links to encourage and easily allow members to comment to the

appropriate authority.

This was done for: the Land and Water Conservation Fund renewal, the 2015 Draft PA Forestry Management Plan, the Preserve New Jersey Act, and the PennEast Pipeline Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

A total of six conservation specific events were held:

Caring for American Chestnut trees at Trexler Nature Preserve. Delaware Canal cleanup.

Nockamixon State Park, Earth Day Clean Up.

Garlic Mustard removal at Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary.

American Chestnut tree planting at Paunacussing Preserve.

The Conservation Chair attended all Clubwide Conservation Committee meetings, the AMC Summit, and the ATC Volunteer Leadership Conference.

— Adrian Noble, Conservation Chair

## Family Activities

A number of family-oriented events were successful during the year, notably both summer and winter hikes at popular venues including Giving Pond, Upper Black Eddy, PA and Washington Crossing Park, Titusville, NJ; midweek and weekend family getaways at Mohican Outdoor Center.

There was some family participation also in paddling, bird censusing, and sports-stadium service events (Red Goes Green at Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia). Other events (ice skating, natural history treasure hunt, local nature walks, summer family group camping and hiking) did not attract our members interest. Events of outdoors-educational interest sponsored by



other local organizations, when cross-listed on the AMC website, drew considerable attendance from the sponsor membership, but no additional AMC members.

In general, family events need to be advertised outside the AMC website in order to attract a desirable level of response. Examples of such outside audiences include private outdoors recreational groups (e.g., Meetup groups), specific parks activities email lists, state recreation websites, and selected other social associations (e.g., a German-English social club).

Families with young children are reluctant to travel far in order to access AMC-sponsored family-friendly activities, when similar organized activities are commonly offered through local park nature centers. This is inherently not the case with adult-oriented activities (e.g., longer hikes); the longer duration of such events, and the comfort and safety of group hiking, justify the longer travel required.

Ideally, our considerable numbers of inactive hike leaders might offer plentiful, short, local, family-friendly hikes and other activities; we strive to motivate them to do so.

— Annette Sheldon, *Family Activities Chair*

## Hiking

For the period January 1 to September 30, 2016 DV Chapter completed and reported 551 activities of which 427 were hikes (78 percent). The detailed breakdown of hikes is:

Hikes Completed	427
Unique leaders	101
Unique hikers	1244
Total miles hiked	36,732

Our hike leaders are to be congratulated for their fine efforts in getting so many participants outdoors.

A special thanks to the leaders who repeat hikes each week thereby allowing members to plan well ahead. The repeat hikes occur on Monday and Tuesday-David Stein and Pat Naismith. Wednesday-Elizabeth Fox, also Wednesday a rotation of several leaders who lead in and around the Delaware River Valley from the Water Gap to Lower Bucks County, Mercer County and Hunterdon County. Thursday-Denis McCartan and Phil Mulligan.

During the reporting period our hike leaders arranged and led 21 multi-day hikes. Our gratitude and admiration for such dedication go to: Barbara Beatrice, Jeff Fritzing, Lennie and Bill Steinmetz, Phill Hunsberger, Mark Kern, Terry Bernsten, Jennifer and Guy Percival, Annette Sheldon, Stanton De Reil, Lorraine Abate, Cindy Good, Sue Bickford-Martin, Robin Aronow,

Ron Phelps, Ira Rubinstein, Joe Nanfara, Lisa Lombardo, Barb Blythe, John Garner, Michelle Valario, Eleanor Conwell, Ed Loch, Denis McCartan, John Rowen, Joan Aichele, Geri Chmiel, Sandy Unger. Congratulations to you all for a great job done.

There are currently 101 members who have accumulated 100 plus activity miles. There are eight members who have achieved 500 plus activity miles and one member has racked up 1,591 activity miles, goodness knows how far Len will go when he gets his legs to work.

The on-line reporting system for trip reports and releases has improving utilization. Of the 551 activities completed 415 or 79 percent were recorded using this system. The on-line system eliminates the need for the printed trip report sheet, the DV Chapter therefore avoided the use of 68 ounces of paper so far this year. A modest amount, but think what it would mean if every AMC chapter adopted this system. As of September 30 all hike leaders had submitted all of their documents, i.e. nothing outstanding. Well done everyone.

— Malcolm Preece, *Hiking Chair*

## Leadership

The AMC-DV's annual **Outdoor Leadership Training** course took place on the weekend of April 15-17 at the Environmental Education Center at Nockamixon State Park. The Class of 2016 had a total of 29 graduates with a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. Participants included: Imma Barrera, Gil Clark, Lorraine Cosumano, Andrea Deimel, Daryl Ezzo, Cindy



Good, Chun (Connie) Guan, Greg Honachefsky, Ras Howard, Bob Insinger, Mary Insinger, Robin Jackson, Mike Kennedy, Claudine Kos, Magan Kustera, Bob Liston, Jean MacFarlane, Katie Martens, Julia Menzo, Dave Mitchell, Elayna Moffitt, Anthony Myers, Elan Ovall, Rand Salani, Joanie Schultz, Gary Schwab, Jay Sitkin, Deanna Stull, and Amelia Wisniewski-Barker. Trainers for this year's course included: Joan Aichele, Terry Berntsen, Tammy Brandon, Cindy Crosser, Kristi Edmonston, June Gondi, Pete Jarrett, Mark Kern, Phil Mulligan, Eric Pavlak, Ron Phelps, Malcolm Preece. John Rogers, Bill Steinmetz, Lennie Steinmetz, and Rich Wells.

As part of the leadership training weekend, a **Leaders Dinner** was held at the Pennridge Community Center on Saturday night which all DV Chapter leaders were invited to attend. More than 75 current and future leaders took part in the evening's activities, which included pre-dinner tutoring sessions on the use of



## Lehigh Valley Group

The Lehigh Valley Group has now completed its twenty-fourth year of existence. Meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month (except December, July, and August). Starting in 2016, these have moved to a different location at Illick's Mill in Bethlehem, the new home of the AMC's Mid-Atlantic Region office.

Programs this year have included presentations on a wide range of topics including: "Hiking in Iceland" by John Rogers, "Annapurna Loop and Thapa Peak" by Phill Hunsberger, "Norway and Sweden" by Margaret McDonald,

"Mount Rainier Climb" by Jeff Fritzinger & Barbara Beatrice, "Pocono Heritage Land Trust and Old Growth Forests" by Bill Sweeney, "Pacific Crest Trail" by Tom Strauss, "A Journey Through India" by David Stein, and "Sierra Nevada Adventure" by Carl Ganong & John Rogers. AMC Bethlehem staff

members Cathy Reuscher and Mark Zakutansky frequently share information on conservation efforts and concerns, and Chapter Chair Joan Aichele provides information on upcoming AMC-DV events.

The LVG monthly meetings also include a short discussion on upcoming outdoor activities and a social time with refreshments. Meeting attendance ranges from 30 to 50 people, including longtime AMC members as well as potential members who have read about the meeting in local newspapers or on Meetup. The group looks forward to continuing these monthly get-togethers for years to come.

— *Phill Hunsberger, Lehigh Valley Group Chair*

## Membership

The role of the Membership Committee is to administrate member data as members notify of changes, and to engage existing members and promote club awareness amongst prospective new members.

We did not experience high demand from members notifying us of changes that needed to be made over the course of the year. Perhaps maybe a dozen or so instances of address/email changes along with one or two chapter affiliation changes because members had moved into/out of the area.

Member engagement included a gear swap and sale prior to the Activity Social was successful at attracting a lot of participants, many of whom attended the social, as well as more casual visitors and browsers. This is something we would seek to repeat on an annual basis preferably in connection with the activity social but potentially independent of other events depending on availability of facilities.

The Membership Committee hosted two new member weekends in 2016. The first was hosted at the AMC Mohican Outdoor Center in late July. The second was organized in conjunction with the New York-NoJersey Chapter and was held at the newly opened Harriman Outdoor Center. Activities for both events included two days of organized hiking, social hours, paddling, free time and a movie night (Harriman). The Membership Committee will seek to add similar events for the following year

the AMC Activities Database and an excellent dinner provided by Lindinger's Catering and the AMC-DV Social Committee.

The evening presentation included an opportunity for DV leaders to find out a little about each of the new trainees, and gave the trainees a chance to hear from experienced leaders about why they enjoy their roles as DV leaders. AMC staff members Kristi Edmonston (Leadership Development), Susannah Hatch (Volunteer Relations) and Cathy Reuscher (AMC Bethlehem office) as well as DV Chapter Chair Joan Aichele were on hand to share information about various AMC programs. The group then broke into roundtable discussion groups to "caucus" on the types of activities that they would like to see added to the DV schedule in the coming months.

Several DV Chapter members attended the Young Members Leadership Training course that took place at Harriman Outdoor Center on the weekend of September 16-18. Kate Prisby, a DV Chapter leader, served as one of the facilitators for the event, and three DV Chapter members (Sarah Richardsen, Rob Reese, and Sarah White) attended.

In addition, several DV members will be attending the Leadership Training course offered by the Connecticut Chapter on the weekend of November 18-20 in Litchfield, CT. We have had an arrangement with the Connecticut Chapter for a number of years so that our members may attend training there in the fall if they want to get started as chapter leaders without waiting for the DV's annual course in the spring.

The DV Chapter has offered a pilot program for the past two years to reimburse chapter activity leaders who take the Wilderness First Aid course. In the past, leaders have been reimbursed for 50 percent of the cost fees, but the new program has allowed leaders to be reimbursed as much as 100 percent, based on the number of trips they lead per year. A number of people have taken advantage of this opportunity, and we are pleased to have so many leaders trained in these important skills.

Finally, the Leadership Committee has been involved in the development of COLL, the AMC's new Center for Outdoor Learning and Leadership. We were asked to contribute a variety of materials from our leadership training program to the building of the outdoor leadership track in this new online portal currently being developed. This portal is expected to be launched in 2017.

— *Lennie Steinmetz, Leadership Chair*

contingent on recruitment of leaders willing to organize them

In August the membership chair organized a car camping weekend at Ricketts Glen State Park. The weekend was well attended by new members, particularly families. The weekend involved two days of organized hiking at World's End State Park as well as Rickett's Glen. This event will likely be repeated and a similar additional event is currently being planned for Ohio-pyle State Park for 2018.

The membership chair organized an interpretive hike over two days at Gettysburg National Military Park. The hike was well attended by new members, particularly families. Time permitting, this event may be repeated although probably not the Fourth of July weekend as it was in 2016.

The membership chair hosted three separate day hikes specifically designed for new members during the Spring of 2016 at Tohickon Valley, Wissahickon and French Creek. For our fall schedule we are hosting similar events at Evansburg, Tohickon and Nolde.

— Denis McCartan, Membership Chair

## Paddling

There was little spring white water available due to dry conditions, and even our season-opening flat water trip had to be moved from the Neshaminy Creek to the Delaware River due to low water. Additional trips were canceled due to low water and bad weather

Flat water trips remain popular, and are often filled to capacity. For seven years, we have been running numerous flat water trips using Meetup to successfully fill trips to capacity, and used it to boost training course registration. We ran a total of 23 trips this year.

This year's training program included a two-day basic canoeing course. The first session was postponed due to bad weather, and combined into a single weekend, June 18-19. The two-day solo open canoe course which also introduces paddlers to white



water, was canceled due to the injury of one instructor and the absence of the other due to a family health problem.

The one-day swiftwater safety course was held on July 16 on the Delaware River at the Lambertville wing dam with 10 participants.

Very low water conditions limited fall trips, and the fall white water release on the Tohickon Creek was canceled.

— Eric Pavlak, Paddling Chair

## Shelter: Leroy Smith shelter on the AT

The Volunteer Shelter Watch caretaking program has been in

place every year since the Leroy Smith Shelter's dedication in 1974. Summer Watch extends from mid-April through October with a volunteer visiting the Shelter once a week. Winter Watch follows with a volunteer visiting the shelter every two weeks.

The watchers check the shelter, composting privy, the adjacent camp site and three lower springs, remove debris from the Katellen Trail and post their findings to the shelter chair. The hikes up to the shelter and return to the Pennsylvania State Game lands parking lot average 3-4 hours with additional auto miles to the parking lot and the return home.

The event of the decade was the installation of the shelter's new roof, the improvement of the big rock circle around the fire



pit and a new sign at the tent site in December 2015.

Leroy's Log: Shelter visitors may write about their experiences at the Shelter or on the trail. The Shelter Chair compiles an occasional column with selected entries for DV Footnotes.

New Watchers: We need to add volunteers to the watch team and replace retiring watchers, some of whom have watched for 20 years!

The chair will submit a column recruiting new volunteers for DV Footnotes. If you know of one or two or more, please contact Pat Sacks. A watcher must be 18 years old and drive or have a licensed driver to and from the Katellen trail. Junior watchers able to hike the trail may accompany a watcher and be acknowledged on the watcher's list.

Shelter Watch Hours: An average of 5 hours x 40 volunteer trips = 200 hours + 35 hours Chair = 235 hours

Shelter Watchers, November 2015 to October 2016: Nick Franco, Ben Giralico, Nancy and Jackson Greene, Bob Huey, Philip and Marty Hunsberger, Ed Johns, Russell and Sabrina Keim, Steve and Margo Kraft, Dave McGrath, Charles Ogle, George Omick, Ken and Pat Sacks, Dan and Dimitri Schwartz, Mike Sinclair, Donald Stewart, Ruth, Aaron and Benjamin Yeiser

— Patricia Sacks, Shelter Chair

## Social

The Spring Activity Social was held March 19 at the Perkiomen Township Firehall, Collegetown, PA. Several members attended the pre-social hike or bike ride on the nearby Perkiomen Trail. Denis McCartan planned a very successful gear swap and sale in the adjacent pavilion. Folks came to buy, sell and

barter for new and used outdoor gear a few hours prior to the social. It was a well attended, very successful venture. Lindinger's catered a delicious buffet for 84 attendees. Numerous members were recognized for their activity mileage and leadership activities, and received gifts for their accomplishments. The evening was capped with more socializing and delicious desserts. The chapter donated the leftover food to the Victory House Veteran's Shelter in Bethlehem, PA. Linda Watsula delivered the food.

Peace Valley Park was the venue for the DV Chapter Picnic, Saturday June 11. Several people came early and enjoyed a great hike around the lake. The DV Chapter covered the cost for the hot dogs and burgers. The 82 participants (members and guests), brought side dishes and desserts. No rain. Again the Vets enjoyed the extra food from this event.

The Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held November 5 at the Pennridge Community Center, Silverdale, PA. The annual business meeting will include the election of the 2017 executive committee, and the presentation of the Appie and Golden Appie awards, and the Volunteer of the Month prize for 2016.

We are delighted to have two of our members, Marcia Comstock and Ira Rubinstein, speak on the highlights of their six-week trip to China. — Geri Chmiel, Social Chair

## Trails

During 2016, trails activity continued regular work on the Appalachian Trail and the Valley Forge trails. Dan Schwartz and his crew continue maintenance on our section of the AT. Greg Bernet has been working in the AT as well as beginning work on the Highlands Trail Network, including the Bucks County Ringing Rocks Park.

At Valley Forge, we have been working on the Mt. Joy trail network including leading work parties from REI, Student Conservation Association and a Service Outing of the Sierra Club.

The chapter's trails and conservation chairs attended the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's leadership workshop in August. — Phil Mulligan, Trails Chair

## Young Members

One of our Young Members participated in a club wide meeting of YMs at the AMC Highland Center in May to acquire ideas for leading Young Member activities as well as networking with other AMC chapters YMs. In September three of our newer Young Members attended a club wide Outdoor Leadership Training at Harriman Outdoor Center in their first step to becoming DV Chapter leaders. One of our current YM leaders assisted with this training.

The DV Chapter is committed to attracting Young Members in order to add diversity to the club, to promote the value of the outdoors and to assure the continuation of the conservation and recreation aspects of AMC.



Our strategies are to continue efforts to recruit Young Member Leaders who can commit to hosting at least one or two events a year. Continue collaboration with other chapters in hosting Young Member events. Offer a variety of activities on a regular basis. Offer a number of events that are easily accessible by public transportation. Recruit a Vice Chair and an active committee.

— June Gondi,  
Young Member Chair

## Treasurer's Report

**Overall Financial Assessment** The activities of the Delaware Valley Chapter resulted in a small deficit. A year over year comparison shows hike leaders received \$3,683 in tuition reimbursement for wilderness first aid training during this year compared to \$983 for the same period of the prior year.

The accounting for activity trips changed this year to reflect the total revenues in Activities-Trips and the total expenses in Membership Activities. In the prior year these numbers were netted against each other and therefore did not appear in the report. The Executive Committee thought the membership would be interested to see the level of trips and changed the accounting methodology.

**Financial Details** The Delaware Valley Chapter operates as a branch of the Appalachian Mountain Club, a non-profit corporation with headquarters in Boston, MA. Chapter financial activities comply with 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 12 months covered by this report, the dues allocation provided most of the chapter's income similar to previous years. 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, 2015 through September 30, 2016. Comparisons are provided with the preceding 12 month period.

— Joe Nanfara, Treasurer

**Financial statement follows on the next page.**

**Operational Income vs. Expense for the 12 month period from 10/1/2015 thru 9/30/2016 compared to prior 12 month period**

	<b>Current Period</b>	<b>Prior Period</b>	
Allocation from AMC Dues	16,720.25	16,640.75	
Membership sales	1,100.00	1,630.00	
Reimbursement from ATC	8,138.66	5,989.66	
Other Income	5,103.16	3,578.49	
Interest from Bank Accounts	6.17	7.50	
Activities-Trips	6,372.43	0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>37,440.67</b>	<b>27,846.40</b>	
Communication	1,458.17	841.65	Accounting method change. See Treasurer's Report above.
Attendance at Club Wide Mtgs	2,457.15	3,855.37	
Trails & Shelter Maintenance	8,958.59	6,966.85	
Recognition	2,393.00	4,182.22	
Chapter Social Events	6,401.80	4,614.84	
Committee Expenses	2,475.28	756.18	
Membership Activities	6,166.99	119.63	
Leadership and Outdoor Skills	5,337.42	3,459.63	
Other Expenses	1,285.00	4,004.56	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>36,933.40</b>	<b>28,800.93</b>	
<b>Surplus/Loss - income less expenses</b>	<b>(2,176.37)</b>	<b>(954.53)</b>	

**Cash Assets on 9/30/2016 compared to 9/30/2015**

	<b>9/30/16</b>	<b>9/30/15</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>
Checking Account	2,605.47	2,167.73	437.74
Money Market Account (savings)	29,115.73	29,046.20	69.53
<b>Operating Cash Assets</b>	<b>31,721.20</b>	<b>31,213.93</b>	<b>507.27</b>
AMC Investment Account*	57,352.00	58,318.64	(966.64)

\* 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 specific periods of each calendar quarter.

Checking and money market funds are in FDIC insured bank accounts

Cash assets are divided among the three categories as:

	<b>Current Period</b>	<b>Prior Period</b>
Operating Funds	30,918.48	30,411.21
Reserve Funds	57,352.00	58,318.64
Henry Wu Scholarship Fund	802.72	802.72
	<b>89,073.20</b>	<b>89,532.57</b>

Operating Funds are the funds and reserves for day-to-day operations 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 - Joe Nanfara, Treasurer

## 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:

2015 Denis McCartan	2003 Kevin Perry
2014 Sue Bickford-Martin	2002 Chris Cayer
2013 Terry Berntsen	2001 Andrea Deaton
2012 Rich Pace	2000 Paul Davis
2011 Midori Wakabayashi	1999 Bill McCaughey
2010 Rhoda Eisman	1998 Kevin Burkman
2009 Anne Murphy	1997 Kevin Kramer
2008 Joan Aichele	1996 Rajat Tandon
2007 Rich Wells	1995 Rich Kajander
2006 Craig Smith	1994 Marty Seibert
2005 Jim Catozzi	1993 Kathy Kelly-Borowski
2004 Jennifer Decker	

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

2015 Rich Wells	2006 Lennie Steinmetz
2014 Esther Underhill	2005 Walt Underhill
2013 Nancy & Cliff Hence	2004 Dan Schwartz, Lois Nichols
2012 John Rowen	2003 Gary Leander
2011 Mark Kern	(None for 2002)
2010 Allen Male	2001 Bill Steinmetz
2009 Peter Jarrett	2000 Helmut Gude
2008 Joseph Bell	1999 Malcolm White
2007 Eric Pavlak	1998 Jane Shepard

**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 members as well as the Nominating Committee members.

### Past Chapter Chairs

Allen Male, 2012-13	Kent Johnson, 1987-89
Craig Smith, 2010-11	George Heckler, 1985-86
Jim Catozzi, 2009	Kay Cox, 1982-84
Paul Davis, 2007-08	Jane Shepard, 1980-81
Andrea Deaton, 2005-06	Malcolm White, 1978-79
Chris Rapacki, 2003-04	Win Howe, 1976-77
Peter Jason, 2001-02	Fred Cox, 1973-75
Priscilla Estes, 2000	Gardner Dean, 1971-72
Lennie Steinmetz, 1997-99	Ruby Horwood, 1969-70
Bill Steinmetz 1994-96	Martin Davenport, 1967-68
Tom Stress, 1993	Ted Talbot, 1965-66
Alan Kahn, 1990-91	Dr. Robert Tyson 1962-64

### Outgoing Executive Committee Members

Tammy Brandon, Bicycling  
Geri Chmiel, Social  
June Gondi, Young Members

Many thanks to the members of the 2016 Nominating Committee: Kathy Kindness (Chair), Rich Pace, John Garner, Joanie Schultz and Terry Berntsen completing this often difficult task.

## 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:** These members joined AMC in 1966 and have faithfully continued their membership for the past 50 years:

Craig Nesbitt  
Faelton Perkins  
Judy Smith  
Cyrille White

**Twenty-five years:** These members joined AMC in 1991 and have continued their membership for the past 25 years:

Corinne Austein  
Howard Blum  
Angela Coghlan  
Michael Borovicka  
Charles Gabriel  
Cathy Gentile  
Leona Gill  
Alison Gordon  
Marshall Hamilton  
John Harrington  
Frank Hochmuth  
Roger and Carole Homeyer  
Bernard Kalemba  
Ellen Baxter and Robert Kavash  
Mary Knesis  
Jerry Kollman  
Paul Kutish  
Peni MacMeekin  
William Matthai  
Vincent Napoli  
Richard and Deborah Newbert  
Elizabeth Oakes  
David O'Neil  
Thomas and Pamela Parkinson  
Joan Pfeifer  
Raymond and Gloria Post  
Jane Romalewski  
Adam Sawoski  
Mary Schearer  
Marilyn Riley and Robert Seidenstein  
Edwin and Bonnie Tenney  
Edith and Thomas Williams  
James Weddell

Electronic copies of this report are available at:

<http://amcdv.org>

and

<http://paddlenow.com>