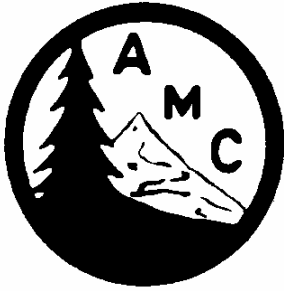
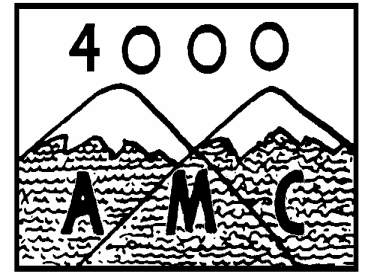


APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

FOUR THOUSAND FOOTER COMMITTEE



PO Box 444, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833-0444
savage@amc4000footer.org
www.amc4000footer.org



Eric L. Savage, *Chair & Corresponding Secretary*
Steven D. Smith, *Vice Chair*
Deane H. Morrison III, *Treasurer*

Lyn Beattie	Mohamed Ellozy
Mike Dickerman	Sue Eilers
Anne Gwynne	William Bowden

Dear Hiker,

We appreciate your interest in the Four Thousand Footer Club, which was formed in 1957 to bring together hikers who had traveled to some of the less frequently visited sections of the White Mountains, and to encourage hikers who were addicted to the Presidentials and Franconias to strike out into less familiar areas. At that time, such peaks as Hancock, Owl's Head and West Bond were trailless and practically never climbed. Many other peaks on the list that had trails were seldom climbed, and overuse was almost unheard of except in the Presidentials and Franconias. Today the Four Thousand Footer Club is composed of active, enthusiastic hikers whose travels in the mountains have made us familiar with many different sections of the White Mountain backcountry, and with the problems which threaten to degrade the mountain experience that we have been privileged to enjoy. We hope that this broadened exposure to the varied beauty of our beloved peaks and forests will encourage our members to work for the preservation and wise use of our wild country so that it may be enjoyed and passed on to future generations undiminished.

Please note: Applicants should understand that the Four Thousand Footer Club is strictly a volunteer organization, conducted as a friendly group of fellow hikers, with no paid staff. This permits us to operate very frugally, with low administrative expenses, and therefore we are able to donate a large percentage of the money we receive to trail maintenance and other projects — a matter explained at length later in this letter. However, this also means that application processing can go quite slowly, particularly in the late summer and fall when most of the year's applications are submitted (and when the fine weather often lures the Secretary away from his stack of paperwork and into the mountains). Please expect application processing to take at least a month, and perhaps longer from August to November. (Please note that, due to technical issues, we usually do not start processing applications that arrive after the annual meeting in April until at least July 1 – during this time, when few applications are submitted, we are usually trying to catch up with matters that have to be put aside during the busy period that starts in the late summer and continues up to the annual meeting in April.) If you fail to include your application fee with your application, or submit an application that does not conform to the standard form (explained later), or submit materials with more than one applicant on a single application form, expect an additional delay, as such applications require extra attention and usually involve another round of communication with the applicant. The Secretary hopes applicants will realize that this is something he does in his spare time. (Yes, I love doing it, but please help keep unnecessary extra paperwork to a minimum by following the procedures described in this letter as closely as possible.)

Very few items sent to us have been lost in the mail (though the black holes that surround my cluttered desk can be voracious); in any case, if you wish an acknowledgement when I receive your application material, please enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard or envelope. Please write "Acknowledgement Requested" on the lower left corner of your (outer) envelope, as I may not notice the acknowledgement envelope until I begin to process the application, at which point it no longer serves the intended purpose.

AWARDS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Four Thousand Footer Club recognizes three lists of peaks — the White Mountain Four Thousand Footers, the New England Four Thousand Footers, and the New England Hundred Highest Peaks — and we award scrolls and shoulder patches to those who have climbed each peak on the appropriate list. (You must be a member of the White Mountain Four Thousand Footer Club in order to be eligible for the New England Four Thousand Footer Club, and be a member of the New England Four Thousand Footer Club in order to be eligible for the New England Hundred Highest Club. However, if eligible, you may join two or more clubs at the same time.) In addition, Winter Awards are given to those who climb all peaks of a list during calendar winter (trips must begin after the hour and minute of the beginning of winter and end before the hour and minute of the end of winter, to satisfy the criteria established by Miriam Underhill, the inventor of the Winter Four-Thousand-Footer game). As of April 22, 2006, these clubs had the following numbers of officially registered members: White Mountain Four Thousand Footers 8277 (winter 353), New England Four Thousand Footers 2139 (winter 117), New England Hundred Highest 632 (winter 77).

To qualify for membership in any of these clubs, a hiker must climb on foot to and from each summit on the list (the committee positively scowls at the thought of hikers riding snowmobiles, mountain bikes, ski lifts, cog railways, or in cars [on summit auto roads] for all or part of either ascent or descent, but regarding fine points of peakbagging ethics each hiker is left to the exactions of her or his conscience). Then he or she must complete an application for membership. Ascents may have been made at any time during a hiker's lifetime, and any combination of two or more peaks may be climbed in one continuous trip. Applicants need not be AMC members, although the Committee strongly urges all hikers who make considerable use of the trails to contribute to their maintenance in some manner; membership in the AMC is one of the more effective means of assisting these efforts, as well as helping with the work of protecting the mountains through education, research, and conservation programs. Information about and applications for membership in the AMC are available from the AMC office at 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108. Dogs who are companions of human members are accepted as canine members of the White Mountain Four Thousand Footer Club (using the normal application process), but not for the two New England clubs, since they cannot legally climb the peaks in Baxter Park, nor for any of the winter lists.

The enclosed lists have been updated in accordance with all currently issued USGS maps. All hikers must have climbed all peaks on the new list for each club. Hikers who registered for the New England Four Thousand Footer Club without having climbed Redington and/or Spaulding must have climbed these peaks in order to qualify for the New England Hundred Highest Club.

APPLICATIONS: An application form is enclosed with this letter for each list you have mentioned. To complete an official application, fill out the form and return it, along with an account of the ascent of your final peak (or another peak if you prefer). The primary purpose of this last requirement is not to verify your eligibility, but to afford us the benefit of hearing some of your reactions to your Four Thousand Footer experience. Therefore, we will be even more pleased if you write on some aspect of this experience of your own choice that appeals to you more. The Committee does not require that you supply precise dates for each ascent, as we operate on the honor system, but we appreciate as complete an application as you can provide, and would prefer to have a precise date for your final peak (please indicate this peak on the form). Your own computerized version of the form will be acceptable if it follows the format of the official application form: it must be on one side of a single 8½" by 11" sheet with your name and address in the same location as on the standard form (at the bottom, from left to center). (We have to maintain files of over 8000 individuals with over 400 new items each year, and it is impossible to flip through a stack of files quickly and easily unless the names and addresses are in the same location on all forms.) If you have indicated interest in the New England Four Thousand Footers or Hundred Highest, we also include a list of peaks that provides information such as location, elevation, and topographic maps. This list is for your own use, and should not be sent back to us.

APPLICATION FEE: We charge a one-time fee to cover the expense of the scroll, one shoulder patch, and postage. We ask that applicants voluntarily set this fee at \$8, but we do not want to deter anyone from membership because of cost. Therefore the minimum fee required, which covers our basic expenses, is \$5. If you apply for more than one club, either for yourself or for members of your family at the same address, in one mailing, the basic fee for applications after the first one will be \$3, since we save considerable postage. Additional patches may be purchased at \$3 each. Your fee should be sent with your application; checks should be made out to the AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee. Please do not use the memo section of your check to order patches, etc., as I may not read this information. Patches will be mailed to you after your application has been processed; the scroll will be mailed after the Annual Reunion in April if you do not appear in person. As noted below, any surplus we accumulate will be designated for work on trails or similar projects of service to the hiking public, and we gladly accept donations for such purposes. Due to the generosity of our members we have been able to donate \$45,180 to AMC Trails in the last 15 years, \$2000 to the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund and \$1000 toward the purchase of Mt. Abraham in Maine.

ANNUAL REUNION: This meeting will be held next on Sat., April 14, 2007 at the Cooperative Middle School in Stratham, NH (close to Exeter). It is open to all who are interested in the Four Thousand Footer Club, including family, friends, and anyone who is working on the lists. This year we will be celebrating our fiftieth anniversary and although they are always welcome to join us, we will be making an extra effort to invite past finishers to this year's event. Typically there is a social hour (no alcohol permitted on school grounds) with refreshments, followed by dinner. The awarding of scrolls will begin at 7 PM and there will be a further opportunity to meet and talk with other hikers after the awards. All are welcome to the dinner and the meeting, or just for the award ceremony. Detailed information and directions will be sent to all new members with their acceptance letters; other interested persons can get the information from our website or can send a self-addressed stamped envelope for this material.

Correspondence concerning the Northeast 111 Club should be directed to Mike Dickerman, P.O. Box 385, Littleton, NH 03561 or bondclif@ncia.net.

Hikers requiring specific information about routes to trailless peaks, matters of club policy or similar questions, should visit our website or may write directly to the Committee. Once revisions have been completed, a photocopied pamphlet describing routes to the trailless peaks on the New England Hundred Highest list will be available from the Committee for \$3. A set of black-and-white USGS maps covering these peaks (printed out from Maptech CDs) will be an additional \$2. (Please note that at this time we do not have a clear idea of when this will be completed and available.) With the exception of Mt. Redington, we do not provide information and maps for the peaks over 4000 feet, as these are adequately covered by existing guidebooks: the AMC guides to the White Mountains and to Maine, and the Long Trail Guide for Vermont.

We would like to mention in passing that the Editors of the White Mountain Guide are also members of the Committee. The Editors receive few comments about the book from its readers (we assume that some of those who spend their good money on it do read it), and have mixed feelings about this situation: they hope that it means that the book is without error, but fear that it merely means that many people do not think that their comments and criticisms will be used and useful – or even read. Since Four Thousand Footer Club members have been using the trails frequently, they as a group should be more aware of the strong points and defects of the book in general and of many of its particular trail descriptions. We get many useful comments from new members (most of whom were probably unaware that the Editor might be reading them and so were perhaps more frank – and thus more helpful – than they would otherwise have permitted themselves to be), and we would like to hear whatever comments you have to make. (Flattery is always appreciated but – alas – not very useful.) And, after all, we are a captive audience – we have to read your application materials. Incidentally, the Editors only control the actual content of the book, not the format, so comments concerning the physical size of the book should be directed to AMC Books at Joy St. – we have very little say in that matter. Also, we should mention that (mostly for marketing reasons) it is not economically practical to publish the book in sections or in a loose-leaf format, as many hikers have suggested.

Sermon: Although use of the trails in our backcountry areas has greatly increased over the past three decades, funds available for their maintenance have declined. In one recent year the White Mountain National Forest's funding for trail maintenance was virtually eliminated and, at the moment, the future of trail maintenance appropriations for the Forest Service looks extremely bleak. In fact, the new parking permit system (which, PLEASE NOTE, was mandated by CONGRESS, not by the WMNF) was initiated in part to replace Federal funding for trail maintenance. Neither the WMNF nor the AMC has ever had the funds to adequately maintain the existing trail network with paid professional crews, and in future years – given the irresistible trend of budget-cutting for Federal agencies – there will probably be even less money available. There are three possible outcomes to this situation: (1) a substantial user fee will be imposed on hikers, along the lines of the new WMNF parking permit program and the \$7 daily parking fee that was collected for several years at the Wilderness Trail parking lot in winter, (2) many of those trails which are not used by crowds of people will be closed, and other trails will deteriorate, or (3) the hiking public will become active in the support of the trails. Since alternative #1 is obviously cumbersome and its effective enforcement could be repugnant (do we want a ranger stationed on the Franconia Ridge to check for permits?), #3 seems to be the best alternative, but at present #2 seems most likely. Many hikers do not seem to realize that there is no one out there whose duty it is to provide them with trails. The AMC and WMNF do the best they can but their budgets are limited. The variety of trails we enjoy today is mainly the result of hard work by a relative handful of dedicated volunteers and professionals over more than a century, and much of it can be lost in the next decade if you and I procrastinate. Most hikers would be shocked to learn the number and variety of trails that the WMNF has proposed for abandonment — and then backed off when the proposals met with strenuous objections. Their budget problems may force them to become more insistent in such matters in the future. (In fact, there are a number of trails that are officially open but have had no significant maintenance for several years – presumably the WMNF plans to abandon them when they have become completely overgrown, as it has done with several such trails in the past.) On the other hand, there has been an encouraging increase in the amount of volunteer effort in trail maintenance – as people become aware of the situation, they have responded. This response has, among other things, required the expansion of Camp Dodge in Pinkham Notch, the AMC's support facility for volunteer trail workers, a project to which the Four Thousand Footer Club has made several significant donations.

What can we do? We need people to do all sorts of trail maintenance, from cutting brush and painting blazes to constructing rock steps. Many groups do this work, and can easily train you to do some useful service on the trails. Besides, we'll let you in on one of the best-kept secrets in the mountains: trail work is fun. And a trail that you have worked on belongs to you in a way that those who have only taken from the trails and have never given to them can never know. The AMC has an Adopt-a-Trail program, and most of its chapters have volunteer crews. You do not have to be a member to participate. Write or call the AMC at Joy Street or Pinkham Notch Camp concerning the AMC Trails program, or write or email the Four Thousand Footer Committee and we'll try to find something suitable for you. Another group that should be mentioned as particularly skilled in introducing inexperienced people to trail work is Trailwrights, which can be contacted through Hal Graham at 1204 New Hampton Rd., Sanbornton, NH 03269 (603-286-3506). At the very least, carry a small saw and remove small blowdowns from trails. In the long run, we will probably have precisely the quality and variety of trails that we deserve, so let's try to deserve the best. One possible role for the Four Thousand Footer Club is to work on a few trails where a one-day effort by a small but determined group could make a substantial impact. Write or email us for details, or watch for notices on the website and in the AMC Bulletin (mostly in New Hampshire Chapter notices).

We understand that there are people who are very short on free time, but who can contribute money. Although we would rather have your work and your companionship than your money, the latter is also useful for purchasing tools and supplies, and for hiring people for the professional trail crew to do jobs that can be done most efficiently by people with more intensive training and experience. You can donate money directly to AMC Trails or through the Four Thousand Footer Committee. Earlier in this letter we told you that we were trying to raise money in order to make a contribution to trail maintenance and mountain stewardship in the Northeast. We consider any sum in excess of the basic \$5 application fee and \$3 extra patch cost as such a contribution.

Some hikers have donated a fixed amount for each of the peaks on the list that they have climbed, which seems like an interesting and attractive concept for providing support to the trails that have given them so much enjoyment. When we began this fund-raising effort, we were hopeful that we would be able to make an annual donation of \$1000 toward some trail project, which seemed at the time to be an optimistic but attainable goal. The generosity of our members has exceeded our expectations.

Each year, we consult with AMC Trails concerning projects on which this year's donation could be used. We typically designate roughly half of our donation for some specific trail project related to Four Thousand Footer use patterns that is planned for the AMC trail crew's summer schedule, usually rock work and/or bog bridging, which must be constructed and maintained in order to keep hiker traffic (us) from trampling the numerous moist areas on trails into steadily widening gullies and mudholes. Our contribution will help keep these sections of trail narrow footways with limited impact on the soils and vegetation around them. We will also make a significant contribution to the AMC Trails general fund for Volunteer Trail Programs. Sixteen years ago we made our first donation of \$1500 toward improvements that were made at Camp Dodge. One of the most surprising and satisfying trends of the past few years has been the virtual explosion of volunteer involvement in trail maintenance (of which our contribution fund is certainly one excellent example). Camp Dodge, built to provide support facilities including inexpensive and convenient lodging for volunteer trail workers, was bursting at the seams. To take advantage of the growth in numbers of volunteers available for trail work, the AMC needed to be able to expand these facilities so that people who are willing to donate their time and energy can have a convenient and comfortable place to stay without being forced into substantial out-of-pocket expenses for lodging. Each year there is a need for money to buy tools to be used by volunteer maintainers and to maintain and enhance the major work that was done in past years, so we have made a new tradition of designating part of our donation for this work. We feel that our dollars will be multiplied several times over through the work that will be done by volunteers making use of these facilities.

For many years we were the adopters of the four-mile portion of the Davis Path between Mt. Davis and the Glen Boulder Trail under the AMC's extremely successful Adopt-a-Trail program. The Davis Path is one of the most historic trails in the Whites, having been built in the 1840s as the third bridle path to the summit of Mount Washington. It is a rough, wild path that traverses the northern part of the Montalban Ridge in the Presidential Range - Dry River Wilderness, giving access to several outstanding natural features, including the wild and scenic Giant Stairs, the remote and seldom-visited summit of Mt. Davis (considered by some to have one of the finest views in the Whites), and our old friend, Mt. Isolation, upon whose summit more people have completed their pursuit of the Four Thousand Footers than on any of the other 47 peaks (though in recent years, Mt. Carrigain has been a strong challenger). Subsequently we have adopted the lower half of the Bondcliff Trail and then the Kinsman Pond Trail. We are hopeful that the Four Thousand Footer Club has enough energetic, ambitious members that we will always be able to keep our trail in top condition. The work itself, cleaning out waterbars, clearing small to medium blowdowns and clipping brush, is fairly easy. Write or call Steve Smith, Box 445, Lincoln, NH 03251 (email: sds5@earthlink.net; phone: 800-745-2707 or 603-745-8498) for details. Or drop in and visit Steve at his Mountain Wanderer bookstore on the main drag in Lincoln.

The committee extends its best wishes for your continued enjoyment of the mountains.

APPLICATION FOR THE FOUR THOUSAND FOOTER CLUB OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

MOUNTAIN	ELEVATION	DATE	COMPANIONS, COMMENTS
ADAMS	5774	_____	_____
BOND	4698	_____	_____
BONDCLIFF	4265	_____	_____
BOND, WEST PEAK	4540*	_____	_____
CABOT	4170*	_____	_____
CANNON [PROFILE]	4100*	_____	_____
CARRIGAIN	4700*	_____	_____
CARTER DOME	4832	_____	_____
CARTER, MIDDLE	4610*	_____	_____
CARTER, SOUTH	4430*	_____	_____
EISENHOWER [PLEASANT]	4780*	_____	_____
FIELD	4340*	_____	_____
FLUME	4328	_____	_____
GALEHEAD	4024	_____	_____
GARFIELD	4500*	_____	_____
HALE	4054	_____	_____
HANCOCK	4420*	_____	_____
HANCOCK, SOUTH PEAK	4319	_____	_____
ISOLATION	4004	_____	_____
JACKSON	4052	_____	_____
JEFFERSON	5712	_____	_____
KINSMAN, NORTH PEAK	4293	_____	_____
KINSMAN, SOUTH PEAK	4358	_____	_____
LAFAYETTE	5260*	_____	_____
LIBERTY	4459	_____	_____
LINCOLN	5089	_____	_____
MADISON	5367	_____	_____
MONROE	5384*	_____	_____
MOOSILAUKE	4802	_____	_____
MORIAH	4049	_____	_____
OSCEOLA	4340*	_____	_____
OSCEOLA, EAST PEAK	4156	_____	_____
OWLS HEAD	4025	_____	_____
PASSACONAWAY	4043	_____	_____
PIERCE [CLINTON]	4310	_____	_____
TECUMSEH	4003	_____	_____
TOM	4051	_____	_____
TRIPYRAMID, MIDDLE PEAK	4140*	_____	_____
TRIPYRAMID, NORTH PEAK	4180*	_____	_____
TWIN, NORTH	4761	_____	_____
TWIN, SOUTH	4902	_____	_____
WASHINGTON	6288	_____	_____
WAUMBEC	4006	_____	_____
WHITEFACE	4020*	_____	_____
WILDCAT	4422	_____	_____
WILDCAT, "D" PEAK	4070*	_____	_____
WILLEY	4285	_____	_____
ZEALAND	4260*	_____	_____

* Elevation obtained by interpolation

NAME _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS _____

AMC MEMBER? YES []

NO []

Please return this form when complete with current application fee (see current info letter) to AMC Four Thousand Footer Committee, P.O. Box 444, Exeter, NH 03833-0444. The Four Thousand Footer Club is open to all hikers who have ascended and descended on foot the summits of all the peaks on this official list. Good luck and good hiking!