

2024 New Hampshire Chapter Report

The Chapter started the year with 31 paid members. The National figures show 32 but one person who did not renew in 2023 was not dropped until 2024. Of the 31 members, 17 were Plus and 14 Regular. During 2024 3 new members joined, 2 Plus and one regular so the year ended with 18 Plus and 16 Regular for a total of 34 paid members and 2 complimentary for a grand total of 36.

There were no FFLA activities or events during the year however for the first time since 2019, Craney Hill fire tower located in the only Henniker on earth opened for three days in October. One of our members, Dale Clement, is part of a group who watch over the tower for the Town. They opened the tower to the public on the very windy Saturday of Columbus Day weekend and for two days the following weekend. Almost 300 people signed their guest register. Dale obtained addresses of 25 visitors who were interested in the FFLA. I mailed each of them a copy of the Autumn Lookout Network along with a membership brochure and cover letter. Thus far there has been no response. The cost of this mailing was over \$150 due to the \$3.25 per copy cost of the magazine and mailing costs. Next year if the new website has a sample copy of the magazine we'll give out a cover letter with the website address and a membership brochure, otherwise we'll collect email addresses so I can email them an electronic copy of the magazine and cover letter.

During 2024 New Hampshire had 123 human caused fires which burned 125 acres and four lightning caused fires which burned about 1 acre. Roughly half of the fires occurred in April and May with much of the balance occurring in an unusual late fire season in late October into November due to ongoing drought and dry, windy weather. The White Mountain National Forest had 3 human caused fires which burned an acre or less in 2024. Meanwhile work on Federal Hill and Pitcher Mountain tower should be about done and they hopefully will be in operation this next season.

A recent newsletter from The Cohos Trail Association indicates that they plan to rehabilitate the Deer Mountain tower in Pittsburg where only the steelwork remains. This work will not start for several years but the NH Chapter will again reach out to the CTA to offer help with this project.

Happy Trails,

chris haartz