



Distinguished Service Award Citation
Lawrence (Stroker) Rogovin
September 2026

The Appalachian Mountain Club proudly presents its Distinguished Service Award, the Club's most prestigious honor, to Lawrence (Stroker) Rogovin. Over his lifetime, Stroker has devoted extraordinary service to AMC as a staff member, lead volunteer, mentor, advisor, historian, storyteller, visionary, and connector of communities and generations.

Stroker truly exemplifies the qualities of this Award, which is bestowed on individuals whose service to AMC's mission spans a sustained period at the highest levels, and is reflective not only of an exceptional commitment to individual AMC programs and communities, but also a profound understanding of the mission, values, and promise of the entire organization.

Stroker's service to AMC spans decades and traverses multiple gigs, starting in 1975 with four summers on the Three Mile Island Croo, then joining the staff at Pinkham Notch in 1978. He spent formative years on Construction Crew, worked the front desk at Joy Street and at shorter stints at AMC huts and shelters in the White Mountains. Whatever role he took on, he brought curiosity, ingenuity, discipline, and a willingness to take responsibility for whatever needed to be done. During these early years, he contributed to the restoration of the Crawford Depot and the Tip-Top House, beginning a pattern of hands-on service that would continue across decades.

Nowhere is that legacy more visible than at Three Mile Island Camp, which he first attended as a child in the 1960s. Over the last 50 years, Stroker has created and built almost everything new on TMI, including the amazingly organized Paint Shed—a model for campers' home sheds and workshops, the TMI raft (for which songs have been written), and the beautiful (and sturdy) cabinetry in major buildings across the campus.

Even more enduring than the physical structures are the people he taught and mentored. His practice of "teaching while building" created far more than a well-maintained camp. It equipped hundreds of young people with skills, confidence, a sense of ownership, and an understanding of what it means to care for a community. He has taught generations of Croo members about tool safety, organization, maintenance, craftsmanship, and responsibility for the camp, and has developed systems that ensure the island will be well cared for far into the future.

Stroker brought the same commitment to the Old Hutcroo Association. As chair of the OHA for more than two decades starting in 2003, he honored the organization's history while working to ensure its future. He served as a bridge from old guard to new, welcomed younger members, encouraged intergenerational mentorship, and helped create a

community that was more inclusive, adaptive, and prepared to thrive. His leadership demonstrated that tradition is strongest when it invites new people to participate in carrying it forward.

Across AMC, Stroker has been a tireless champion of “One AMC.” Through his sixteen-year tenure on the Board of Advisors, he has helped organizational leaders understand how strategic decisions would be experienced by volunteer-led communities and advocated for their seat at the table. As just one tangible example, the Community Director role on the Board of Directors that was established in the 2026 update to AMC’s Bylaws would not have come to pass without Stroker’s long and patient leadership and advocacy.

His service to AMC extends to stints on the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee, OH Fund Committee, and VCC Strategic Alignment Working Group, where he has connected staff and volunteers and local communities with AMC’s broader mission. He has consistently brought the perspectives of volunteer units into important organizational conversations and helped those communities see how their work contributed to AMC’s strategic goals.

Stroker has also been a dedicated steward of AMC’s history and culture. Through his research, support of the Archives, writing, music, storytelling, and annual reflections, he has preserved institutional memory while strengthening the relationships that make AMC a community. He has offered his time, knowledge, candor, humor, and wise counsel generously, always with greater interest in the work and the people than in personal recognition.

Stroker’s service is measured in structures built and restored, programs strengthened, funds raised, history preserved, and strategic decisions informed. Most importantly, it is measured in the generations of people he has taught, welcomed, connected, and inspired. His example embodies the sustained commitment, outstanding attitude, and ability to share AMC’s ideals that define the Distinguished Service Award.

For his remarkable lifetime of mentorship, leadership, stewardship, and service, and for helping generations of volunteers understand that they are all part of One AMC, the Appalachian Mountain Club is honored to present the Distinguished Service Award to Stroker Rogovin.