



Summer 2004

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AMC BERKSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

FROM *the* CHAIR

Chapter Opportunities

The Berkshire Chapter's Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Held on the first Saturday in November, it is when Committee Chairs will be elected. Several volunteer opportunities are available. The energy and spirit of the Berkshire Chapter comes from its many volunteers. Everyone can contribute something, whether it's a few hours a year or a few hours a week. Come meet great people, enjoy good times, find a volunteer role that fits, and make a lasting contribution to the life and vitality of our Chapter.

At the Chapter's Executive Meeting this past May, the present Committee was canvassed to see who will be stepping down. Since that meeting, I have decided not to run for Chapter Chair for the next term as there are other opportunities within the Chapter I wish to pursue. Instead, I will be assuming the Chair position of the Noble View Committee. Noble View is where my talents are best utilized at this time and where my interest lies. At this time, nobody has come forward to be nominated as a possible Chair for the 2005 term.

The Chapter requires an individual who is seeking an opportunity to give back something for the open spaces, conservation, and recreation opportunities we all take for granted. This opportunity is open to all Chapter members. I will be available to support you in the Chair's position. If you are interested in this position please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee; their contact information can be found in AMC Outdoors or at www.amcberkshire.org. I also invite you to come and visit an Executive meeting.

Opportunities at the Executive level are many. As an Executive Committee member you will be serving the Chapter's needs as well as setting goals and priorities that are meaningful to you. Will you join in giving to the future? Volunteer today; become a leader — only we can set the course for the future.

Speaking of opportunities, the Berkshire Chapter has limited funding available for a SOLO Wilderness First Aid course that will be offered this coming November 20-21 at no cost to Chapter members. This course is first come, first served with leaders and volunteers receiving priority. This past spring, eleven Chapter members took advantage of the course and five other members joined a no-cost Leadership Training course. Another volunteer has come forward and has received a scholarship for Mountain Leadership School. I welcome Kenneth Pincince in his desire to lead future AMC Major Excursions.

In keeping with the past year's goal for volunteer recognition and appreciation, the Chapter will serve a no-cost luncheon on Saturday, September 18 for all present and future volunteers, including leaders. Details are available on page 7. Please be sure to join us.

In appreciation of its volunteers and leaders, the Chapter is

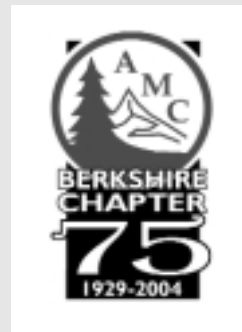
looking into the possibility of purchasing fleece vests embroidered with the words "Berkshire Chapter" and member's name.

The upcoming Berkshire Chapter Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, November 6, in Northampton. A schedule of speakers is listed in this newsletter. Be sure to note the date on your calendar so as not to miss this 75th Annual Meeting. A grand celebration has been planned. Hope to see all of you there!

Respectfully,

Gary Forish
Berkshire Chapter Chair

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Mount Moosilauke hike scheduled for September 12

Berkshire hikers encouraged to try a high mountain ascent

by Jon Hanauer

While leading or participating in Chapter hikes in western Massachusetts during the past year, I've gathered from talking to other Berkshire Chapter members that there are a lot of folks who have never climbed a 4,000-footer. While many of these people do enough hiking to be in adequate physical condition for such an activity, it seems one major obstacle that keeps them off the larger peaks up north is the travel time. Additionally, a poor weather forecast understandably makes such a trip altogether unappealing.

At 4,802 feet Mt. Moosilauke's summit rises above treeline by only about two or three hundred feet. So although its alpine zone is not as dramatic as that of the Presidentials or the Franconia Ridge, it's still a spectacular, alpine-arctic summit. Hikers can enjoy breathtaking views of the Whites, the Green Mountains, and even the Adirondacks on a clear day. It is New England's highest mountain west of the Franconia Ridge. It is also the New Hampshire 4,000-footer closest to western Massachusetts, being fairly near I-91 in Vermont. Mt. Moosilauke is a little more than two hours from Greenfield, MA.

So for those of you who hike regularly or otherwise stay physically fit, I invite you to find out why the extra traveling is worth the experience. And, of course, veteran high peak hikers are welcome too. Look for the following activity listing in the September *AMC Outdoors*.

Sun., Sept. 12. Mt. Moosilauke (B3B). Nice intro to a 4000-footer. Alpine summit. Great views of Whites as well as Green Mtns. We'll do a 7.5 mile loop up the east shoulder; 2400 ft. of elevation gain. Call in advance for info on campsites available for those who would like to drive up and stay Sat. eve. Reg. by 9/10. L Jon Hanauer (568-0990, newsletter@amcberkshire.org). Let's hope for good weather this time!



Looking northeast from Mount Moosilauke summit. *Photo by Jon Hanauer*

Congratulations to
Cosmo Catalano
who has been selected as the
2004 American Hiking Society
"Volunteer of the Year"
for Massachusetts.

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

• 2004 •

Chapter Officers

Chairman: Gary Forish

Vice Chair: *vacant*

Treasurer: Kevin Costa

Secretary: Mary Norton

Committee Chairs

Appalachian Trail Committee:

Cosmo Catalano

Berkshire County Representative:

Vicky Singer

Canoe & Kayak Committee:

Charlie Camp

Conservation Committee:

Cinda H. Jones

Leadership Training: Cathy Wickens

Membership Committee:

Lisa Bozzuto

Mountaineering Committee:

Jim VanNatta

Noble View Committee: Elvery Veal

Nominating Committee: Chris Ryan

Outings Committee: Sabine Dietrich

Programs: June Hoerle

Special Events: *vacant*

Trails Committee: Pat Fletcher

Webmaster: Ian Beatty

Young Members Committee:

Melissa Zeitz

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– June 2004 –

newsletter@amcberkshire.org

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Carolyn Olsen, Elvery Veal

Title photo:

October Mountain State Forest



Photo by
Amy Gallagher

Contact information on all
Executive Committee members can
be found in *AMC Outdoors* and
www.amcberkshire.org.

Berkshire Chapter History

• 75-YEAR CELEBRATION: 2004 •

This is the second part of a continuing series on the Chapter history that was recorded and presented by Edith Libby at the 1985 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meetings have always been well attended and, since their earliest days, have been held at various hotels, churches, and other venues, just as they are now. They began with dinner, which was followed by the business meeting and a speaker. Early meetings must have included formal dress because, starting in 1942 and then from 1946 through 1949, the notices specified “dress informal,” after which the subject was not mentioned. Cost was very little—the dinner at the Van Deusen Hotel in Westfield in 1934 was only \$1.00; and for \$1.25 in 1933 members enjoyed dinner and dancing until midnight with a live orchestra at the Hotel Nonotuck in Holyoke. Costs gradually rose, reaching \$2.25 by the 1950s, and as we know, have gotten higher and higher in recent years, when, it must be said, we have needed more in the line of accommodations. Programs were invariably illustrated, first by lantern slides, later by color slides and movies that took members to the near and far corners of the earth on expeditions of all sorts.

In 1967, the Chapter began to have its business meetings before the annual dinner—there was by then so much business that it cut into the program time and made the evening too late. The number of standing committees has steadily grown: there are now eleven in addition to other committees. So even though the reports are printed, there is a lot to discuss.

Some years ago, the Order of Old Club Heads was established. The retiring Chapter Chairman is regularly received into this exclusive organization and given a suitable memento of this honor—to be kept for a while and then passed on to the next new Old Club Head.

As with all organizations, the accomplishments of the committees vary from year to year, depending on a committee’s membership and leadership. But over the years they have all done an incredible amount of work. The Chapter has been fortunate in its leaders all along, and they have accomplished much in trail building and maintenance, conservation, instruction of rock climbers and white water canoeists, tender loving care of Noble View, and the planning and leading of social affairs and outings of all kinds. This list should also include the work of the education, membership, and nominating committees, not quite so visible perhaps, but equally important. The relatively new Ad Hoc AT Committee has accepted the responsibility for overseeing the AT in Massachusetts.

For some years now, committees have worked together to plan special events, e.g. Entertainment and Membership for a New Members’ get-together; Outings and Conservation for an ecology walk; and several committees for an “outdoors fair” with equipment exhibits and explanations, or for sponsoring a public lecture. There is so much going on it is difficult to keep up with it all.

There is an astonishing amount of correspondence from the early days. I don’t know where they found the time or energy to write so much! Many of the letters written about Chapter business have personal matters in them as well. One reason for some of the voluminous correspondence was distance. Most of the officers lived in the Springfield area, but one Treasurer lived in Dalton; he and the Chapter Chairman wrote very frequently. In January, 1934, the Treasurer wrote to report that “the only change in the bank balance this month is a charge of 6 cents covering the Federal check tax.” There were so few members then that they all knew each other very well, and they frequently went on long outings together.

There were long, chatty letters to Abbott Todd, recuperating from an illness, describing the 1933 and 1934 Annual Meetings; and an indignant series caused by the AMC Council’s action in saying August Camp must be operated without losses or be discontinued.

There are fascinating bits of information every now and then in

the minutes and reports. In 1930 the Executive Committee laid on the table a motion that membership be limited to equal numbers of each sex. Imagine if that had passed—and had been enforced! The 1939 Annual Meeting did not hear from one of the committees. “Its report would be most interesting, but it was a secret and unofficial committee and its work was really not far enough along. I’m afraid we’ll have to omit it this year.” I refer to the newly organized Morals Committee, shrouded in mystery. All I dare say about it is that the slogan was “Look out, we’ll get you yet!” That was the only mention of the Morals Committee.

At the 1941 Annual Meeting, it was reported that the Outings Committee had changed the old slogan of “Drive as far as you can and then walk” to “Drive all the way and then eat.”

In 1944, minutes for one Executive Committee Meeting concluded with the remark that “Dorothy Sturtevant again served pie and coffee—this in the minds of the Committee constitutes a potent argument in favor of more frequent meetings.”

From the earliest days of the Chapter, Noble View has been its center of attention, affection, and activity, and the Noble View Committee one of its most important committees. When I was first a member of the Executive Committee in the early 1950s, the Noble View Committee members were chosen at the first Executive Committee meeting after the Annual Meeting, though I believe that is not the case now. But it remains an important committee, with a large responsibility—the care and protection of the Noble View property. A fine article by Warner Sturtevant in the June, 1945 *Appalachia* gives a good account of the history of the Noble View land and of the Berkshire Chapter’s first year there. It was leased in 1930 for \$1 a year, and then purchased on January 23, 1931. According to Warner, “In its acquisition two names stand out: Joe Partenheimer and Ed Gantt, without whom the Chapter never would have gotten off to such a flying start. Ed agitated the idea and Joe, with his tireless energy and faith, gathered up the necessary funds.” It must have taken considerable courage as well as faith for that small group—80 members in 1930 and 119 in 1931—to put \$1080 down and take out a mortgage for \$2800 to pay for Noble View. Of course that membership grew and helped; there was a second big fund drive, and in 1946 the mortgage was finally paid off, amidst great rejoicing and a very happy mortgage-burning ceremony during Laurel Weekend that year.

The Connecticut Chapter

welcomes you to the

AMC Fall Gathering

“Magic of the Quiet Corner”

October 22–24, 2004 at YMCA’s Camp Woodstock

This event is open to AMC members of all ages.

In addition to the all-important committee meetings, workshops are planned on many topics including Woodstock’s rich history. Outdoor activities will include hiking, bicycling, paddling, rock wall climbing, and orienteering. Several hikes end at Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Camp and conclude with a guided tour of the camp’s western-themed facilities for seriously ill children.

Camp Woodstock is located in historic Woodstock Valley in Connecticut’s scenic quiet corner. The facility boasts a new lodge and dining hall, original cabins, boathouse, and recreation hall. It is situated on 125 acres of land on Black Pond.

Multiple lodging packages are available. For further information contact Ellen McGuire at 203-469-5424 or ejmguire@juno.com, or check our website: www.ct-amc.org.

THE DOUBLE BLAZE

Chapter 7: *Appalachian Trail History, Part 1*

by Cosmo Catalano, AT Committee Chair

Okay, here is the greatly anticipated section on AT History. Apologies for missing last issue's deadline, but unfortunately my day job sometimes gets in the way. Because of the length of this chapter, we have decided to present it in two parts.

Probably the best history of New England's trails was written by Guy and Laura Waterman in *Forest and Crag* (AMC Books). This is a must-read for anyone with an interest in hiking that goes beyond just walking around outdoors. Much of what I write here summarizes their chapter, "Trail Builders." Another fine source of information specific to the AT is published by the ATC (Appalachian Trail Conference). Its web page on trail history, <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about/history/index.html>, has a comprehensive series of articles and is another source of information for this article. Finally, our local Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Plan provided much of the local information. This year, the plan is undergoing its first update since 1992. Once it is complete, it will be available online at the Chapter's web page.

As you may be aware, the concept of the AT goes back to Benton MacKaye (rhymes with "sky") of Shirley, Massachusetts. In an article in the 1929 *Journal of the American Institute of Architects* he proposed a trail in the mountains that would connect a series of farms and work camps where East Coast city dwellers could get out into the country to the healthy "oxygen of the mountain air along the Appalachian skyline." He believed this rural refuge would restore the health of the sick and redistribute the eastern population from "unhealthy" urban centers to the countryside. He envisioned an extensive cooperative structure where visiting urbanites would come to play and work together, creating a thriving rural society.

The Trail itself, in MacKaye's view, was going to be but one part of a greater plan. He envisioned a footpath modeled on Vermont's Long Trail, but connecting a series of existing trails from Mt. Washington to Mt. Mitchell—the highest peaks in the north and the south. He suggested that this trail be divided into sections (by state) and that "each section should be in the immediate charge of a local group of people." Trails through connecting private agricultural lands could be supported by each state acquiring rights of way. He also anticipated that some sort of "general federated control" would be needed to pull it all together.

The second part of MacKaye's dream was the "Shelter Camp":

They should be located at convenient distances so as to allow a comfortable day's walk between each. They should be equipped always for sleeping and certain of them for serving meals—after the function of the Swiss chalets.

And

As far as possible the blazing and constructing of the trail and building of camps should be done by volunteer workers. For volunteer "work" is really "play."

Thirdly, there should be "Community Camps"—places along the Trail where private dwellings for small populations would be laid out. (Planning was a big part of MacKaye's world view.) Citizens of these camps would provide workers for efforts in recreation, recuperation, and education.

The fourth and final part of this idea was the "Food and Farm Camps," which would be established in valley lands near the Community Camps.

Their development could provide tangible opportuni-

ty for working out by actual experiment a fundamental matter in the problem of living. It would provide one definite avenue of experimenting in getting "back to the land."

Clearly the practical problems in MacKaye's plan would doom it to failure, except in very controlled circumstances. The Appalachian Trail is the only surviving remnant of his proposal, and it would take other, more practical visionaries to actually make a continuous trail a reality. However, MacKaye, writing shortly after World War I, ends his article with a thought that still resonates today: "Militarism has been made colorful in a world of drab. But the care of the countryside, which the scouting life instills, is vital in any real protection of 'home and country.'"

So, how do we get from a rather romantic vision of country life to smelly hikers walking 2000 miles from Georgia to Maine? The next step was to build the trail, and in 1923, under the auspices of the New York New Jersey Trail Conference, the first official section of the AT was opened in Bear Mountain Park. Not much else was done on the ground until the end of the decade when a retired judge, Arthur Perkins, took over the fledgling Appalachian Trail Conference and the AT project from MacKaye. Perkins' associate, Myron Avery, became interested in the project and changed the world.

Between 1929 and 1934 an aggressive and sometimes abrasive Avery courted existing hiking clubs, formed new ones, and organized volunteers to connect and complete 1,937 miles of footpath, much of which Avery laid out himself.

In 1935, a significant event occurred when the federal government decided to build the Skyline Drive on top of the footpath in Shenandoah National Park. MacKaye was appalled at such urban intrusion into wild lands. The pragmatic Avery—perhaps sensing the need for federal support for a multi-state trail—urged cooperation. With support primarily from New York and New England, Avery's view carried the day, and the ATC supported moving the trail. MacKaye and his allies left the Conference to form The Wilderness Society.

By 1937 the trail was continuous from Maine to Georgia, though not perhaps as we would recognize it today. It passed through many rural communities, often traversed back roads between areas of protected land, and relied heavily on the good will of private landowners who provided a right of way for the trail, often on nothing more than a handshake. The ATC began to be active in calling for preservation and public acquisition of land to protect the footpath.

However, as they say, trouble was brewing. The hurricane of '38 destroyed many miles of trail in New England, another parkway—the Blue Ridge—would force another 120 miles of Trail to be relocated, and war looming on the horizon brought volunteer activity and resources nearly to a halt.

During the war and the country's subsequent recovery, the trail languished as other priorities took over. Myron Avery renewed his efforts to build a corps of local volunteers and restore the footpath. A catalyst to that effort was a returning war veteran, Earl Schaffer. In 1948, he reported to ATC that he had hiked the entire trail in one season. The response from trail managers was mixed. Several thought it was impossible, and it took some time to convince the Conference that the feat had been accomplished. Until Schaffer's effort, no one had seriously considered hiking the Trail from end to end in a single season. His achievement remained a rarity until the backpacking boom of the late '60s and '70s made it a popular counterculture rite of passage.

By 1951, the Trail's discontinuous segments had been reconnect-

ed and Avery again declared the Trail whole. However, as the East Coast population boomed, the portions of Trail crossing private lands became increasingly difficult to preserve. Towns and cities were expanding, land was desired for development, and original landowners were selling or changing the use of their properties. The Trail was increasingly being moved off farmlands and onto roads. And those roads were becoming increasingly busy.

What was going on in Massachusetts during all this time? In *Forest and Crag*, the Watermans report that in the early '20s Walter Eaton of Sheffield was intrigued enough by MacKaye's proposal that he set out to plan a path that would lead from existing trails on Mt. Everett north-easterly to October Mountain State Forest, similar to the route the AT takes now. At October Mountain, Eaton originally proposed to swing the Trail westward, then climb and traverse the crest of the Taconics northward to Mt. Greylock. Descending Mt. Greylock was to be accomplished along the Bellows Pipe Trail rather than the present route over Fitch, Williams and the north end of Prospect.

After some consideration, he reconsidered and proposed a more easterly route to bring it nearer to towns where more volunteers could be found, and also to provide easier access for day hikes by locals and visitors. This route also took it through more State Forest lands where protection was assured. From this choice one can see how different the goals for the Trail were in its original conception than they are today. I submit if land ownership were not an issue, the AT—if it were constructed in the 1990s--would likely have followed the Taconic Crest in a search for a more backcountry or "wilderness" setting.

Eaton's efforts were mostly theoretical. He did not have Avery's ability to find and energize local volunteers, so his plan languished until 1928 when a county-wide organization--The Berkshire Hills Conference--was founded. In June of 1928, a three-man trail committee was formed: Eaton, representing the southern portion of the county, Archie Sloper of Lanesborough, and Franklin Couch of Dalton. Sloper, being at the time the secretary of the Mount Greylock Commission, would head up the northern area, and Couch would undertake the connection between Greylock and points south.

Couch was a popular figure locally and had a talent for motivating and organizing community volunteer efforts. He was also extremely active in the Boy Scouts among towns in the Dalton area. His Scouts performed much of the early Trail building in the central part of the county in the late '20s and early '30s. Over these years, a nearly complete Massachusetts segment of the AT was constructed. Since the leaders were local, it was relatively easy to obtain permission from landowners for much of the route.

The route is quite similar to the current AT; it stays east--in the Berkshires--rather than west along the Taconics. The Williams College Outing Club and local Williamstown school principal John Clarke did much of the work in the north. Sloper led Boy Scouts in the area south of Greylock, and Couch's Boy Scouts worked in the Dalton area. S. Waldo Bailey of Pittsfield was another active volunteer.

In 1931, as Avery worked up and down the Trail, the Berkshire Chapter of the AMC began to devote more time to trail work. As is still

true today, our Chapter had little to do with the Berkshires, being mostly centered in the Pioneer Valley. The Chapter chairs of the early '30s--Partenheimer, Dickson, and Newton--were from Springfield, Northampton, and Holyoke respectively.

Communications between the AMC and Couch's locals were never established, but that didn't stop the "Appies" from getting to work. While Couch laid out a route over Becket Mountain, the Berkshire Chapter blazed a route bypassing Becket directly to Finerty Pond. The Watermans report that Couch's crews unexpectedly found some AMC signs and took them down, believing they had been placed in error.

This ignorance of local activity, combined with Avery's strong-willed single-mindedness, set the scene for ongoing conflict and misunderstanding that lingers to this day. The locals did take a somewhat relaxed attitude to trail work (they knew where it went after all), and did not insist on the high standards of clearing and blazing that Avery and the ATC required.

On one of his two trips through the Berkshires in the '30s, Avery pronounced the locals' efforts "an absolute failure," and worked to move Couch to the sidelines while supporting the Berkshire Chapter's efforts. When Couch wrote to Avery asserting the authority of the Berkshire Hills Conference, Avery wrote a long reply denouncing the efforts of Couch, praising the Chapter and making it clear that ATC would not recognize the efforts of the Berkshire Hills volunteers.

In the face of this opposition and the increasing activity of the Berkshire Chapter, Couch and the other locals seem to have ceased working on the Trail after 1932.

Volunteers under the Chapter's Dickson and Newton completed the clearing of the entire length of the Massachusetts portion of the AT between 1932 and 1935. However, once the "glory work" of clearing the Trail was done, little interest remained among Chapter volunteers in traveling west to maintain what they had done. Although ultimately for the betterment of the Trail, the events of the early '30s leave a lingering local distrust of the AMC's motives to this day.

After the spasm of work by the Chapter in clearing the Trail, by 1936, with no ongoing interest from local volunteers, maintenance virtually ceased and the woods began to take back what had been completed. The ATC reported that no maintenance was done in Massachusetts in 1937 and 1938. In 1937, the *Berkshire Eagle* commented: "In the first place, the Springfield 'Appies' never should have had cause to feel it incumbent upon them to keep up the trail in Berkshire. Local people should have done it."

At this juncture, we'll leave the rest of this story for the Fall newsletter, covering the period when the AT comes of age, revived by local groups and eventually supported by an act of Congress. In the meantime, there are plenty of opportunities to continue this history of volunteer support. Your AT Committee has work parties nearly every Tuesday and Saturday throughout the summer. Check www.amcberkshire.org/at or contact me for a schedule at ccatalan@williams.edu, or call 413-548-5349.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Chapter has limited funding available for educational opportunities and workshops. Scholarships are available to those who have financial or educational needs in the following areas:

- Teen Wilderness Adventure Program at Pinkham Notch
- SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training
- Canoe & Kayak Safety/Leadership Training
- Mountain Leadership School at Pinkham Notch
- Leadership Training
- Mountaineering Safety/Leadership Training

For further information or an application contact Cathy Wickens at learning@amcberkshire.org or 413-268-7340.

BERKSHIRE CHAPTER LEADER QUALIFICATION Guidelines

Draft 5-23-04: *This is only a draft for the new Leadership Guidelines. If you have any recommendations or other feedback on these guidelines before they're finalized please contact Chapter Chair Gary Forish before the second week of September, at 413-562-6792 or forgary@comcast.net.*

- All current leaders will be "grandfathered".
- All grandfathered leaders are encouraged to meet the new guidelines.
- Leaders will be qualified within the specific skill area that they are leading.

All Leaders

At a minimum, leaders must satisfy one of these five requirements:

1. Successfully complete an AMC Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training course specific to the skill area that they are leading (i.e. hiking, backpacking, whitewater canoe/kayaking, flat-water canoe/kayaking, and mountaineering/climbing).
2. Be recommended by at least two Chapter leaders based on equivalent previous experience.
3. Successfully co-lead three (minimum) scheduled Chapter trips with at least two different leaders. The leaders must certify that the individual is a capable leader.
4. Be recommended by a Berkshire Chapter leader based on equivalent previous experience, such as having led trips for another AMC Chapter, the Sierra Club, or similar organization. Candidates with such previous experience may apply for approval by contacting the Berkshire Chapter Leadership Chair or the Chair of the committee in the specific skill area.
5. Successfully complete another chapter's Leadership Requirements in the desired skill area.

Remote Alpine and Wilderness Leaders

Leaders desiring to lead in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, or other remote wilderness areas, require specific additional training related to the perils involved with extreme climate and temperature variations from altitude changes.

- SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training
- and one of the following trainings:
- Mountain Leadership School Training
 - 16-hour Leadership Training Course

Interchapter Excursions

Member who lists the event will be identified either as an *escort* (one who arranges the trip and accompanies the participants, who pursue their own activities), or as *leader* (one who formally leads day events on the trip). Trips with leaders will require specific training:

- SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training
- and one of the following trainings:
- 16-hour Leadership Training Course
 - Mountain Leadership School Training for trips into Remote Alpine Wilderness Areas

Chapter Annual Meeting

November 6, 2004

75th Anniversary Celebration!

This year the chapter is planning a special celebration for the 75th Anniversary. Mark your calendars; you will not want to miss this event. The event will start off in the late afternoon with two well-known speakers showing breathtaking slides.

The evening will continue with a social hour with refreshments and hor d'oeuvres, followed by dinner. During the evening, raffle tickets may be purchased for a giveaway of 25-plus items. Join us for the speakers at no charge, and stay for dinner and the final speaker. There is a cost for the dinner reservations.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Bruce Genereaux

Author of *Beyond the Comfort Zone: Confessions of an Extreme Sports Junkie* (paperback, Class Five Press, 2002). From his archives of 2,000 slides, maps and adventures the author will explore the often murky divide between personal risk and personal responsibility.

Beyond the Comfort Zone delivers a thrilling glimpse into the motivations, successes, and failures of extreme sportsmen as they tackle Class 5 kayaking, rock climbing, extreme skiing, and adventure racing. Settings include New England's Tuckerman Ravine, Chile's Patagonia, California's Sierra Nevada, Arizona's Salt River Canyon, New Zealand's South Island, and Colorado's Rocky Mountains.

AFTERNOON SPEAKERS

Craig Della Penna

The New England Field Representative for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) will present a slide narrative on rail trails and their beckoning call of yesteryear. He has a background in railroad history and has written three well-received books on rail trails that highlight the railroad origins of these unique corridors. In November 2000, he became RTC's New England Field Representative.

He is one of the country's most highly sought-after motivational speakers on the subject of bicycle advocacy and rail trails. *The Ride Magazine* named him the most effective advocate for bicycling and rail trail issues in the eastern U.S.

Craig and his wife Kathleen live in the Northampton, Massachusetts in their recently restored 1865 farmhouse that they converted to a bed-and-breakfast called Sugar Maple Trailside Inn (www.sugar-maple-inn.com). Their inn sits adjacent to the first municipally operated rail trail in southern New England—the Northampton Bikeway.

John Foster:

By the Side of the Trail—

Bog, Mountain and Forest: A look at our New England animals and habitats.

John Foster of the New England Naturalist Training Center (www.nentc.com) will present a talk and slide show featuring common and not-so-common plants and animals of our New England wilds. He will also talk about the unique ecology of Noble View. This vivid, engaging visual tour of our natural resources is not to be missed.

John Foster is a naturalist of the first order, as well as a wildlife researcher and photographer. He has taught nature programs throughout New England, speaking at the Boston Museum of Science, Trustees of Reservations, Audubon and others. He is an expert naturalist known for his wit, ease of teaching style and deep understanding of nature. Question and answer period to follow.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS *at Noble View*

SOLO – Wilderness First Responder

October 1–3; Oct 22–24; November 5–8: Friday evening classes will be held from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Created to provide outdoor leaders, guides, and rangers with the knowledge needed to deal with crises in remote settings, this 80-hour certification course meets DOT National Standards for First Responder with additional protocols for extended-care situations. Like all SOLO programs, the emphasis of the WFR is on prevention and decision making. The intensive 80-hour curriculum will take place over three weekends. A typical day consists of a mixture of hands-on practical skill work and instructive sessions, complemented with a variety of mock scenarios and simulations. The program is fast-paced and both intellectually and physically demanding. Fee \$550. For further information, call Cathy Wickens at 413-268-7340 or e-mail cathywick3@yahoo.com.

SOLO – Wilderness First Aid

November 20–21: Standard first aid practices are generally based on the assumption that help will arrive shortly and that the patient will be out of your hands and at the hospital in under an hour. Wilderness First Aid training intends to prepare you for the medical situation that arises where there is no ambulance, roof or walls to provide shelter from the elements, your supplies are few, the wait for help is unknown, and moving the patient a short distance might take hours. The SOLO Wilderness First Aid course is an intense yet fun journey through the world of wilderness emergency care and is recommended for all outdoors people. It covers the full range of situations, from scrapes and blisters to life-threatening emergencies. In addition to wilderness medical care, it teaches accident scene management and effective communication with an outside world that may be days away. While much of the material appears to be standard emergency care information, the backcountry emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications make this course unique. Fee \$140. For further information, call Cathy Wickens at 413-268-7340 or e-mail cathywick3@yahoo.com.

Noble View: A New Tomorrow *by Elvery Veal and Gary Forish*

Noble View is in its second season of construction, with many changes already in place. The Double Cottage exterior is almost finished and plans are to have it completed by the first of July. The roof is shingled, new windows are being installed, and the siding is being applied. Reopening of the Double Cottage is anticipated for the summer of 2005.

Forestry operations are also in progress. Decades of accumulated dense undergrowth and brush, past drought conditions, insect infestation, and invasion by exotic species have made our forests vulnerable to a destructive fire. After the Noble View fire of July 2002, plans were approved by the AMC for the work in progress. Fire buffer creation, view shed improvements, cross-country ski trail improvements, and road widening will be taking place. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Forest Fire Control, has endorsed the fire buffer and road improvements as necessary. The farm's old stone wall is back in sight, as are the Gantt Fireplace and picnic area. Another picnic area that has come out from hiding is the outlook area. When you visit, you will notice a vastly improved, panoramic view of the Connecticut River Valley.

The largest challenge still facing Noble View is obtaining funding for Phases 2 and 3. The construction budget three years ago was

\$350,000, and today with material price escalations and code requirements is over \$650,000. To date, Noble View has applied for \$436,000 in grants. The first grant award has been received from the Trustees of Reservations. Noble View has just completed an application for a grant from the AMC Facilities Committee for \$84,500 which will be voted on in the coming weeks. To date, community and commercial interests have donated \$161,765 in materials and labor. AMC volunteer labor is expected to be valued at \$155,000. The balance needed to fund the purchase of materials and specialized craft labor is \$343,668.

Noble View welcomes the interest and involvement of all AMC chapters and members, as well as the many other organizations that will be using Noble View as an education facility, low-cost lodging destination, and outdoor recreation center. Noble View will always remain open to the public as the facility strives to meet the mission of the club, the local AMC membership, and the community.

Volunteers are an indispensable part of Noble View's future, and are needed for construction, maintenance, and other roles as this local AMC facility faces the challenges of tomorrow. Please become involved: volunteer to help, come for a visit, take part in an educational program, and sit on the porch while gazing at the horizon some 40-plus miles in the distance. A unique adventure awaits you.

Chapter Volunteer and Leader Appreciation Luncheon

September 18, 2004 at 1:00 pm • Elks Lodge in Florence

All present and future volunteers and leaders are invited to a no-cost luncheon. This event is for socializing only, with no business. The Berkshire Chapter wishes to show our appreciation for your volunteer spirit and good will. Volunteers are invited to attend, mingle, and learn from their peers how they can become involved. The future of the Chapter relies on your volunteer spirit, and what better time for us to show appreciation for your efforts than during our 75th anniversary year? Bring a guest if you'd like.

Please register with Kris Walter, kris.walter@comcast.net or 413-549-2705. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, September 15.

MENU OPTIONS (Includes fruit cup, bread & rolls, dessert)

- Crispy Chicken Salad
- Traditional Chef's Salad
- Marinated Steak Cobb Salad
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Blackened Tenderloin Wrap
- Honey Mustard Ham Wrap
- Classic Turkey & Bacon Wrap

Volunteer Opportunities!

Many areas of expertise are required to fulfill current Chapter needs. Join us for a one-time short event and/or a limited event, or make the commitment to lead a committee or the Chapter. Contact Gary Forish, Berkshire Chapter Chair, at 413-562-6792 or forgary@comcast.net.

General Opportunities

- Appalachian Trail work crews
- Noble View Education Workshop Coordinator, Program Director, and leaders
- Trails Committee Co-Chair
- Chapter trail maintainers
- Noble View volunteers
- Noble View trail maintainers
- Noble View work party leaders/co-leaders
- Skilled & unskilled construction craftsmen for Noble View
- Special Events volunteers
- Monthly Hike Coordinators

Committees

- Berkshire Chapter Chair
- Berkshire Chapter Vice Chair
- Berkshire Chapter Treasurer
- Outings Committee Chair
- Special Events Committee Chair
- Conservation Committee Assistant Chair
- Conservation Committee members
- Canoe & Kayak Committee Chair

Membership in a Bottle

For the cost of your new membership, you will receive:

- A water bottle embossed with the AMC logo;
- A \$10.00 gift certificate good for AMC books, lodging, and workshops;
- An AMC window decal;
- A 12 month individual membership includes a subscription to AMC OUTDOORS; and
- A temporary ID card.

You'll receive a new member packet with your permanent club ID, a copy of current Chapter activities, and our Chapter's quarterly newsletter, The BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE. (The same is true for gift memberships.)

AMC-Berkshire Membership Form

I wish to purchase:

- _____ Individual "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$50 each)
- _____ Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$75 each)

I have enclosed a check for the total amount of \$ _____ made payable to "Berkshire Chapter AMC". Please mail the kits to:

Name:

Street:

City, State, Zip:

Phone: Email:

Is this a gift membership? Yes No

(Bottles will be sent to the address above, and recorded in that name, unless you indicate otherwise.)

Note: This offer is for new members only, not for renewals, please. Thanks.

Complete this form, and mail with check to:

Chris Ryan
PO Box 9369
North Amherst, MA 01059

Questions? Contact Chris Ryan (413-549-4124; bottles@amcberkshire.org)!

Summer 2004

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



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