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Winter/Spring 2010

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

FROM *the* CHAIR

Looking for a Challenge? Berkshire Chapter Seeking Next Chapter Chair

This year marked the 80th anniversary of the Berkshire Chapter, and what a year it was! The Fall Gathering, held in October, was a huge success and the largest event of its kind ever held in the AMC. It would not have been possible without the help of the many Berkshire Chapter volunteers who stepped forward to create a very special weekend. To everyone who pitched in, thank you! It is this spirit of volunteerism and adventure that keeps our Chapter vital and growing.

As I write this, I am reflecting on the fact that my term will come to an end in November of this year. During my service as Chapter Chair, I have gained an even greater appreciation of the Appalachian Mountain Club through increased participation at a club-wide level. The friendships, learning, and growth opportunities have been incredible, and I look forward to more wonderful experiences in the remaining 10 months of my term and beyond.

I mention these points because our Chapter is in need of a Vice Chair to assume the role of Chapter Chair at the Annual Meeting in November 2010. Several Berkshire Chapter members have considered taking on the role but for various reasons were not able to do so. I encourage every-

continued on page 7

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER & PRESENTATION

Saturday, March 27

see page 3

NOBLE VIEW OUTDOOR CENTER

Breaking Through on the Bathhouse

Even though the weather has clearly not been ideal for outside work, Marlene Martell, Mark Bidus, and Gary Forish rocketed through the bathhouse framing, with significant volunteer labor contributed by Carpenters Union Local 108, Springfield, MA. Participants in Local 108's Western Massachusetts Carpenters Apprenticeship Program were central to our efforts to get the building framed and closed up in time to qualify for a significant rebate for our solar electric (photovoltaic) project. We're extremely grateful to them and to all our volunteers!

The plywood roof deck and the ice and water membrane were installed. The photovoltaic contractor installed the panel supports on the roof, after which we installed the roof shingles. Then the photovoltaic contractor returned to install the panels and associated equipment. Now with the photovoltaic system up and running, we'll be using solar energy—and receive a nice fat rebate check! What's not to like about that? *See the photo on page 8!*

We've installed windows and doors. Next we'll get the heat up and running, and work on interior framing. We'll also do the rough electrical and plumbing, drywall, and finish electrical and plumbing. At least this part of the work will be warm!

It feels as though the work is progressing very, very rapidly now, but I think it's important to remember that this project has been under way for at least three years. We've experienced some disappointments and delays. There's absolutely no way we'd be where we are on this project were it not for Gary Forish's commitment and steadfast perseverance. Gary is skilled at working and supervising construction jobs, but it's his dogged determination that's brought us to this point. The AMC's Roger Scholl has been the other part of the equation that will bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Imagine—washing dishes at a real dishwashing station with actual running water. No more three-bin dishwashing system! And taking a hot shower at the end of a sweaty day—what joy! And, even better, flush toilets! No more outhouses. Now this is living large, indeed!

North Cottage Update

The renovation of this building is on hold at present because all our energy is going to the bathhouse. But a tremendous amount of work has been done here. We've repaired and extended the porch and its roof and installed a handicap-accessible walkway. We've poured a new foundation for the north wing and framed the exterior walls. We've re-roofed the building, and we're installing new cedar shake siding. Once the bathhouse is completed, it'll be full speed ahead on the North Cottage!

Volunteer Job Openings

We can always use more help on the various construction projects. In addition, we're looking for a new Noble View Chair and a Treasurer. So why not give it a try? You'll put your skills to work, and you'll get back far more than you give in friendship and satisfaction! If you're interested in helping out with the construction, or taking on the position of Chair, Treasurer, or Webmaster, please contact me by phone or email.

Best wishes,
Rob Robertson
Noble View Chair
413-549-4963
cerobertson@comcast.net

Notes From the Field

Let us know of an interesting outdoor experience or a favorite place. Send your notes from the field (hiking, biking, paddling, or climbing) to Rebecca Budaj at berkshirefieldnotes@gmail.com.

Granville State Forest by Rebecca Budaj

On a cloudy Thanksgiving Day, my family and I explored a little-known gem in the Granville State Forest. Located in an area of the forest recently closed by budget cuts, this easy hike follows Hubbard Brook as it tumbles and crashes over exposed bedrock. Remnants of the former campground remain: campfire rings, campsite signs, restrooms nailed shut, all slowly being reclaimed by nature.

Even though it was a pleasantly warm day, the forest was quiet, cool and damp. The road was carpeted with thick moss; ferns and tiny hemlocks sprouted from the edges. Knowing the Thanksgiving dinner was coming out of the oven soon, we turned around at a waterfall at the end of the road. Next time, we'll take the footbridge over the stream and explore the woods beyond.

Total distance: approximately 1.2 miles round trip. Easy grades and footing.

To get there from Rte. 57 in Granville, take West Hartland Road heading south. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn left into the parking lot. Note that the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation operates a campground further south on West Hartland Road.



Waterfall in Granville State Forest. photo by Rebecca Budaj

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– February 2010 –

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Title Image: photo by Pat Stevenson
Khumbu Glacier at Mt. Everest Base Camp, Nepal.



Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2010 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: Deborah Levine
(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)

Vice Chair: vacant

Treasurer: Kelly Dawson
(treasurer@amcberkshire.org; 413-592-5724)

Secretary: Catherine Benoit
(cathiker@yahoo.com; 413-530-9734)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail Committee:

Jim Pelletier
(wanderer0131@yahoo.com; 413-454-4773)

Berkshire County Representative: vacant

Berkshire Exchange Committee:

Jon Hanauer
(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Canoe and Kayak Committee:

Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson
(paddling@amcberkshire.org)

Conservation Committee:

Bill Scaife
(conservation@amcberkshire.org)

Family Programs:

Membership Committee: Diane Furtek
(membership@amcberkshire.org; 413-589-5530)

Mountaineering Committee:

Bill Fogel
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org; 413-427-1693)
Jim Van Natta (mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)

Noble View Committee:

Rob Robertson
(cerobertson@comcast.net; 413-549-4963)

Nominating Committee:

Rob Robertson
(cerobertson@comcast.net; 413-549-4963)

Outings Committee:

Bob Napolitano
(nappyofma@comcast.net; 413-534-8955)

Past Chair:

Jon Hanauer
(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Public Relations Committee:

Sabine Prather
(publicity@amcberkshire.org; 413-949-3914)

Trails Committee:

Patrick Fletcher
(hiker6@comcast.net; 413-562-9863)

Training and Education Committee:

Christine Fogarty
(learning@amcberkshire.org; 978-857-7078)

Website Committee:

Chair/Webmaster – Bob Bergstrom
(webmaster@amcberkshire.org)

Content Editor – vacant

Young Members Committee:

Wendy Barbour and Paxton Berardy
(ymchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-569-9998)

Other Helpful Contacts

Chapter Trips Approver: Jon Hanauer
(approver@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Membership in a Bottle: Chris Ryan
(geolopes@comcast.net; 413-549-4124)

Regional Director: Dale Geslien
(dalegeslien@sbcglobal.net; 203-778-3651)

Regional Trails Coordinator: Matt Moore
AMC Southern New England Trails Office, South Egremont
(mjmoore@outdoors.org; 413-528-8003)

Tuesday Hiking: Sonja Goodwin
(SGoodwin@alum.rpi.edu)

Need a phone number?

If the person you want to contact by phone has no number listed, please call Jon Hanauer at 413-568-0990.

Save the Date! All Are Welcome!

AMC Berkshire Chapter Annual Potluck Dinner

Saturday, March 27, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 162 Russell St. (Rte. 9), Hadley, MA

Help us welcome new, returning, and prospective members! Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner and an exciting program. Meet new and old friends, network with Committee Chairs, and learn how you can join in and get involved. Bring along any friends who might like to know more about the AMC.

Our guest speakers, Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper, present *It's Not About the Hike*.

Please bring a dish to share with 6–8 people. Last name A–C, salad; D–M, dessert; N–S, casserole; T–Z, appetizer.

**It's a great event for all!
Plenty of free parking!**

For more info, please contact
Diane Furtek at 413-589-5530 or
membership@amcberkshire.org.

It's Not About the Hike

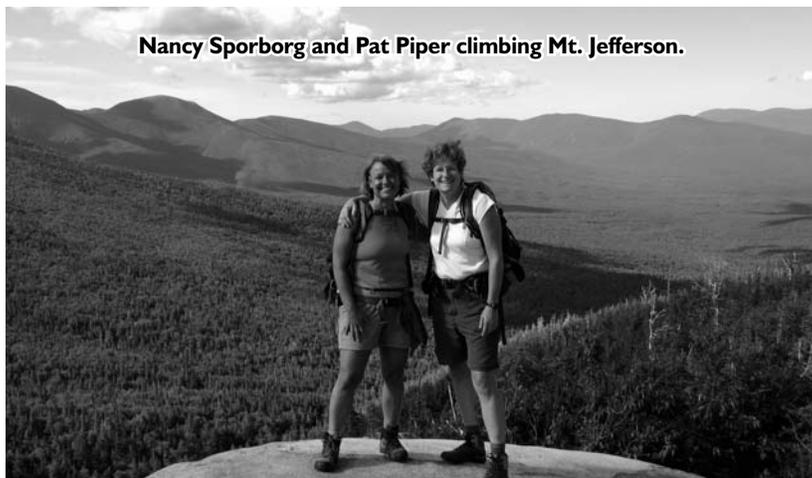
Well, if it's not about the hike...what is it about? This presentation reveals the views that can be seen when looking out from the summits and into our own hearts. Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper are two 50-plus non-hikers who one day decided to climb the 67 New England mountains over 4,000 feet. Their inspiring presentation recounts what they found inside themselves as they hiked more than 880 miles to the summits of over 150 mountains through all four seasons. There is something for everyone in their story. Anybody trying to make a life change will be reminded that they can do anything one step at a time. For those who may be struggling to get outside and exercise, this presentation is not a story of "look at us...we did this," it is a story of "look inside you...you can do this too." Outdoor enthusiasts who are already at home in the mountains will feel the anecdotes and photos pull them back to the trails and the summits that have enriched their lives.

"It's Not About the Hike" is Nancy Sporborg's and Pat Piper's dream of sharing their own incredible hiking journey in hopes of inspiring others to live their lives more fully. It is not about the hike; it's about living life. Come get inspired!

For more information go to
www.its-not-about-the-hike.com.

Nancy Sporborg
Pat Piper
It's Not About the Hike
PO Box 270
Keene, NH 03431

Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper climbing Mt. Jefferson.



– VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES –

VOLUNTEER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

If you're interested in one of these exciting positions, or would like to know more, please contact Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065 or chapterchair@amcberkshire.org.

Chapter Chair, 2011–2012

For details, please see "From the Chair" on page 1.

Family Programs Chair

Do you enjoy getting outside with your family? Would you like to share your love of the outdoors and the excitement of introducing children to new adventures in the natural world? Then consider becoming involved with Family Programs. We are looking for someone with energy and enthusiasm to take on this role and develop family-friendly outings and activities.

Nominating Committee Chair

We are looking for someone to assist our Chapter's committees in identifying and developing qualified individuals for leadership roles in the Berkshire Chapter. This role is vital to the continuity of Chapter leadership. We are looking for someone who has, or is willing to develop, a broad knowledge of our Chapter and its members, and who would enjoy helping to identify talented members and leaders and encouraging them to become more involved.

Berkshire County Representative

If you live in or near Berkshire County and you can spare a few hours per month, this position could be perfect for you. You'll solicit approved Chapter leaders to run hikes and other outdoor activities, as well as other events, in the Berkshires. If you'd like, be an approved Chapter leader yourself and lead a few of your own events.

Website Content Editor

Are you web savvy? Would you like to use your skills to keep Chapter members up-to-date on happenings? We are looking for a website content editor to work with the Website Committee Chair and keep the information on our website current and interesting. We are currently redesigning our website and this would be an exciting time for someone with some time, energy, and skills to come on board.

VOLUNTEER AT NOBLE VIEW!

Noble View Committee...

For more information on any of these 3 positions at Noble View Outdoor Center, please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

Noble View Committee Chair

Noble View Treasurer

Noble View Webmaster

Other Volunteer Opportunities...

Earth Day Global Days of Service

Sat.–Sun., April 17–18. Celebrate Earth Day with trail work at Noble View Outdoor Center (nobleviewoutdoorcenter.org). Come for the day or the weekend. Start time is 9:30 AM sharp. Camp or bunk at no charge as our thanks for your help*. Bring lunch, snacks, work gloves, sturdy (waterproof) boots, clothing appropriate for the weather. You will be getting dirty, so bring a change of clothes! Register with Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 (before 8pm) or forgary@comcast.net.

Spring Cleaning Days

Sat.–Sun., May 1–2. All are welcome! Help us clean the buildings and tidy up the grounds. Come for the day or the weekend. Start time is 9:30 AM sharp. Camp or bunk at no charge as our thanks for your help*. Inside and outside work available, rain or shine. Bring work gloves and clothing appropriate for the weather. Tools, water, and lunch will be provided. Register with Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 (before 8pm) or forgary@comcast.net.

*If you are planning to stay over, please note: Indoor lodging will be in the Farmhouse, which is heated with wood and has propane lights. Prepare your meals on the provided hot plate, or dine out—restaurants are available within 5 miles. Bring silverware and plates, and water for cooking; pots and pans are provided. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, towel, etc.; mattresses are provided.

REGISTRAR NEEDED FOR TRAINING & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Training and Education Committee needs a Registrar in order to continue its programs!

We are looking for someone who lives in the Berkshire Chapter territory to:

- Respond to inquiries and register participants for Leader Training and other programs.
- Prepare registration rosters and provide current headcounts to the T&E Committee.
- Collect and accurately account for all training fees.
- Send materials (agendas, equipment lists, directions, etc.) via email to participants well in advance of the programs.
- Scope and recommend venues for trainings and other programs.
- Communicate and coordinate with other chapters' registrars when we participate in joint ventures.

Our new Registrar should be friendly, enthusiastic, and welcoming. She/he must have a positive attitude, be timely in responding to phone and email inquiries, and be wicked detail-oriented. Proficiency in email, Word and Excel preferred.

If you'd like to help, please call Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 (before 9 PM). And thanks for helping us continue our excellent Leader Trainings in 2010 and beyond!

Don't forget to check in at home!

amberkshire.org

**LATE-BREAKING NEWS & IMPORTANT
CHAPTER INFORMATION.**

Get the very latest event listings!

amberkshire.org/schedule

outdoors.org/membercenter

Have Chapter activity listings emailed.

Set your *Berkshire Exchange*
delivery preferences.

Take a look at

Noble View Outdoor Center's website!

NobleViewOutdoorCenter.org



MEMBERSHIP IN A BOTTLE

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

A Nalgene® water bottle • A \$10 gift certificate good for AMC books, lodging, and workshops • An AMC window decal • A subscription to *AMC Outdoors* • Our Chapter newsletter, the *Berkshire Exchange* • A new member packet with a welcome letter, information brochure, and member ID card.

– AMC Berkshire Membership Form –

I wish to purchase:

- Individual "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$40 each – 20% new member discount!).
- Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$60 each – 20% new member discount!).
- Senior "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, age 69 and over). Age: _____.
- Young Member "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, up to age 30). Age: _____.

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:

E-mail:

Is this a gift membership? Yes No

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

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

Please mail completed form with check to:

Chris Ryan, PO Box 9369, North Amherst, MA 01059

Questions? Contact Chris Ryan at 413-549-4124 or geolopes@comcast.net

This Could Be Your Last Paper Edition of the BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE!

Berkshire Exchange Online!!

If you are reading this publication, you have the unique opportunity to contribute to conservation, and our budget, by signing up to receive the *Berkshire Exchange* electronically! Just go to **www.outdoors.org/membercenter**, sign in and update your Chapter Newsletter Preferences. It's that easy. You can also choose to receive e-newsletters from other chapters!

What are you waiting for? Do it now!

• In Memoriam •

WALTER W. GOODWIN – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1977, recently passed away. Walter's wife, Sonja Goodwin, is the email postmaster for our Chapter's Tuesday Hiking group. The Berkshire Chapter expresses sincere sympathy to Sonja and her family.

FREDERIC R. HOEKSTRA – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 2000, has passed away. Fred was an active volunteer at Noble View. His contributions and warm character will always be remembered.

New Tools Available Online for Getting Kids Outdoors

The AMC has created two presentations with tools and information to help families plan for and enjoy getting outside. These include "Staying Safe and Found," a parent/child workshop about how to pack, how to stay together, and what to do if a child gets lost in the woods, and "Hiking as a Family," which walks through the most common concerns parents have about their kids spending time outdoors. Chapters can also use these tools as part of local outreach. Both presentations are available at www.outdoors.org/recreation/family.

Highlights of Upcoming Chapter Events

PARTIAL LISTING. For complete and updated listings of all Berkshire Chapter events, please visit amcberkshire.org/schedule.
L=Leader; CL=Co-Leader; R=Registrar. For details about hike difficulty ratings (e.g. "C3C"), contact the leader.

OUTINGS

Tuesday Hiking

Every Tuesday. For details, check amcberkshire.org/schedule a few days prior.

Sun., Mar. 7. Bear Hole Watershed (C4C)

Morning hike/snowshoe on trails in West Springfield. Call to register. L Sheila Croteau (413-732-7254, sheilacroteau@aol.com).

Sun., Mar. 7. Mount Tom Range (C3C)

Light duty maint. and some hiking. Call/email by 8 PM Thursday eve. for details. L Elbert & Bernice Bowler (413-532-4464, treble13@comcast.net).

Sat., Mar. 20. Mount Monadnock (B3C), Jaffrey, NH

Hiking route to summit will be determined by trail and weather conditions. L Michael Zlogar (413-253-7522, mzlogar@comcast.net).

Sun., Mar. 21. Fitzgerald Lake

Conservation Area, Northampton

Early spring six-mile hike around the Lake. Visit wildlife blind. Start at 10 AM. Heavy rain cancels. Limited to 10. L David Hershops (413-584-0180, dhershops@verizon.net).

Sat., Mar. 27. Mount Tom

From Rte. 141 to Conn. River on beautiful section of M-M Trail. About 4 mi. Register by 3/25. L Helga Ragle (413-253-0341, hragle@crocker.com).

Sun., Mar. 28. Mount Toby

From Bull Hill Rd. to Reservation Rd. About 5 mi. Register by 3/26. L Helga Ragle (413-253-3041, hragle@crocker.com).

Sun., Apr. 4. Mount Tom Range (C3C)

Light duty maint. and some hiking. Call/email by 8 PM Thursday eve. for details. L Elbert & Bernice Bowler (413-532-4464, treble13@comcast.net).

Sun., Apr. 4. Annual Easter Sunday Monument Mountain Hike (C3B), Great Barrington

Afternoon hike. Nice views of Berkshires and Catskills. Stabilicers may be req'd. Optional social after (Barrington Brewery). Call to reg. L Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990).

Sat., Apr. 10. Hike Mount Sugarloaf (B2B), South Deerfield

Enjoy spring views from the summit. Up steepest trail. Late morning start. Ltd. to 8 participants. Bad weather cancels. L Rebecca Budaj (413-289-0114 before 7:30 PM, rbudaj@comcast.net).

Sun., Apr. 11. Unkamits Path Hike and Trail Work (C4C)

Hike with some trail work on a section of Unkamits Path in Blandford/Chester. Beginners are very welcome. Meet 9:30 AM, Russell Inn, Rte. 20, Russell. L Sheila Croteau (413-732-7254, sheilacroteau@aol.com); L John Murphy.

Sat., Apr. 17. Leader's Choice

Day hiking or backpacking trip in western MA or southern NH. Contact L for meeting info and possible carpooling. L Michael Zlogar (413-253-7522, mzlogar@comcast.net).

Sat., May. 1. Mount Everett

In the southern Berkshires, from Race Brook trail head to Jug End Rd., about 8 mi. L Helga Ragle (413-253-3041, hragle@crocker.com).

Sun., May. 2. Mount Tom Range (C3C)

Light duty maint. and some hiking. Call/email by 8 PM Thursday eve. for details. L Elbert & Bernice Bowler (413-532-4464, treble13@comcast.net).

Sun., May. 2. Mittineague Park (C4C)

Hike trails in West Springfield. Meet 9 AM at park entrance on Fife Lane off Rte. 20. L Sheila Croteau (413-732-7254, sheilacroteau@aol.com).

MOUNTAINEERING

Sat., Mar. 6. Indoor Gym Climbing

Climbing at Central Rock Gym in Worcester, or MetroRock Gym in Boston. Outdoors if nice weather. L Al Rubin (413-549-5872).

Fri., Mar. 26. Cross-Country Skiing

Moonlight X-C skiing, Notchview. Must register w/leader 1 week in advance. \$10 fee for non-TTOR members. L Ed Daniels (413-527-4384).

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 10-11. Multi-Pitch Rock Climbing

Multi-pitch rock climbing at the "Gunks" in New Paltz, NY. Must be a qualified, experienced, multi-pitch second or leader. L Jim Van Natta (413-834-5329).

Sat., Apr. 17. Top Rope Rock Climbing

Top rope rock climbing at a local western Mass. crag. L's choice based on participants' experience. L Grant Kendrick (413-584-2119, NKLayman@Verizon.net).

Sat., Apr. 24. Trail Work Party, Ashfield

Work party at Chapel Ledges. Improve trails around one of the popular climbing crags. Top rope climbing afterward. L Ed Daniels (413-527-4384).

Sat.-Sun., May 1-2. Introduction to Top Rope Rock Climbing

Basic instruction in climbing, belaying and general safety. Fee required. Prior exp. not necessary. Gear available. Call 2 weeks in adv. L Ed Daniels (413-527-4384).



Pheriche, Nepal. photo by Pat Stevenson

- OUTDOOR EDUCATION -

Berkshire & Worcester Chapters' Leadership Training Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21

Whether you'd like to become a Chapter leader, or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend this joint Berkshire-Worcester two-day training at Camp Harrington, Boylston, MA. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning and management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. Fee of \$25 covers 2-day training and all materials. Attendance both days is required. Overnight lodging available for \$18. Advance payment requested. Current Berkshire Chapter leaders looking to recertify attend at no charge. Please contact Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 or learning@amcberkshire.org.

SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21

Improve your skills and increase your confidence. Learn accident scene management and patient care at beautiful Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA (nobleviewoutdoorcenter.org). Standard first aid practices are generally based on the assumption that help will arrive soon, and that the patient will be out of your hands and at the hospital in under an hour. Accidents can and do happen, and all too often members of a group are not capable of dealing with the emergency. Not only does this lead to improper care of the patient, but it also endangers the entire group. WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise where there is no ambulance, no shelter from the elements, your supplies are few, and the length of your wait for help is unknown. Lectures and discussions are supplemented by hands-on scenarios. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry makes this course unique. Fee of \$140 with optional lodging available. A subsidy is available for active Berkshire Chapter leaders. All are welcome: AMC members as well as members of the general public. Register with Gary Forish (413-519-3251; forgary@comcast.net).

Introduction to Backpacking Workshop Saturday, April 24

Berkshire and Worcester Chapter Introduction to Backpacking workshop on backpacking basics. A 1-day seminar held at YMCA Camp Harrington, Boylston, MA. Free for AMC members and \$5 for non-members. Register with Christine Fogarty (978-857-7078; learning@amcberkshire.org) or Gary Fitzgerald (617-504-2436; gfitzz@comcast.net).

SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training Saturday-Sunday, May 22-23

See above description for SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training, March 20-21. Register with Gary Forish (413-519-3251; forgary@comcast.net).

From the Chair, *continued from page 1*

one who has a belief in the AMC and its mission, time and energy to give to the club, and an interest in taking on a leadership position, to seriously consider this challenge. The Executive Committee is strongly supportive of the Chapter Chair. You will have time to 'learn the ropes,' and will also receive ongoing support and mentoring from the past chairs who still serve on the Executive Committee. This position is open to everyone. If you are interested, please contact me or past chairs Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990) or Rob Robertson (413-549-4963) for more information.

Other vacancies also exist on the Executive Committee and are listed on page 4. Consider making 2010 the year you take action and get more involved. The rewards are enormous.

Another way to get involved and learn more about your Chapter is to attend the Annual Members' Potluck where we welcome new and prospective members and gather with the many friends made through participation in Chapter events and volunteer opportunities. This year's speakers

are highly inspiring and sure to help you get back into the outdoor adventure spirit. See page 3 for details.

Whatever your activity or expertise, whether beginning or advanced level, make this the year you join Chapter trips, take advantage of the many outdoor recreation opportunities, or lend your hand to a conservation project. Get involved, make new friends, and experience all that the Berkshire Chapter has to offer.

Very best wishes,
Deborah Levine
Berkshire Chapter Chair
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org
413-584-6065



At Noble View Outdoor Center, the bathhouse's solar panels are already producing electricity. *photo by Gary Forish*

Berkshire Exchange
Winter/Spring 2010



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