

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER - Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2018

Present: Roger Beer, Margo Chapski, Brant Cheikes, Robert Cherdack, Nicole Dewberry, Bess Dillman, Frank Evans, Bill Fogel, Tricia Hanrahan, Kathryn Martin, Charles Murray, Jan Alicia Nettler, Janine Papesh, Jim Pelletier, Jim VanNatta, Heather Wyman

Absent: Marvin Davenport, Dana Gronbeck, Martin Mahoney, Nate Szymanski, Evan Yeadon

Chair: Martin was called away on business. Past Chair, Jan Nettler, presided at the meeting.

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Mission Statement: omitted

Acceptance of Minutes: A motion was offered to approve the minutes with the budget appended. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The discussion about the Treasurer's Report concerned the way to present the family programs and training and education. Both of these activities have expenses as well as income.

Action: Martin, Tricia, Jan, and Jane Glushik need to sort this out.

See reports for December and January below.

Reimbursement Policy:

Bill Fogel his findings in regard to a revised policy for training reimbursements. He investigated the Boston and Worcester chapters' experience and discussed what the Berkshire chapter might experience with a revised policy.

There was some discussion about the need for more clarity so that members that take training understand what to expect for reimbursement. Some committees reimburse from their own account.

Action: Committee members are requested to give feedback to Bill by February 26.

Bike Repair Workshop:

Janine and Brant developed pricing model for the workshop that they have planned for May. The model projects that the workshop will run a small deficit which can be covered by the bicycling budget.

Action: Janine and Brant are seeking feedback regarding the model and expected financial outcome.

Social Committee:

The next potluck will be March 10 (see report below). Another potluck will be in May or June.

There will be an outdoor festival this year, September 15. Bess solicited input about whether to have presentation as was done before or do a set of workshops. She is looking for feedback regarding the program and is looking for volunteers to help put it together.

AT License Plate:

Jim Pelletier reported that there is a survey to determine whether this enough support to go forward with an AT license plate for Massachusetts. So far there have been about 100 responses. He feels that a larger response is needed to proceed.

Communication:

Margo inquired about ways to reach a target audience such as people that have in interest in family programs. She feels that this would help boost participation in the activities.

Noble View:

Frank reminded everyone that the Presidents' and Generals Day celebration is this month, February 17. Visit the Noble View Website for more information.

2018 Meetings:

The meetings and food plan for 2018 are as follows:

January – no meeting

February – Rockridge, Jan brings food

March - Rockridge, Margo brings food

April – no meeting

May – Berkshires at restaurant

June - Rockridge, Kathy and Tricia bring food

July – no meeting

August - Rockridge, Roger brings food
September, second Monday, Rockridge, Janine and Brant bring food
October - Berkshires at restaurant
November - no meeting (Berkshire Bash)
December - retreat at Noble View (date to be determined)

Committee reports and Web Updates

Report of the Chair: Martin Mahoney - no report

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier
Submitted by e-mail:

Happy, healthy New Year to all! Our AT Committee is preparing for our 16th Annual Volunteer Gathering at St Agnes Academy in Dalton hosted by the Dalton AT Community this coming Saturday. We have ~90 RSVPs indicating intentions to participate and are looking forward to a productive Gathering. We continue to make progress on the update to our Local Management Plan, the possibility of a Mass AT Special License Plate (thanks to Martin and Brant for giving this visibility at the Berkshire Chapter level). On this later subject we met over lunch at the AMC Summit this last weekend with Jennifer Norris and Karl Fries from AMC, and Hawk Methany from ATC reaching agreement on next steps forward. Next up will be project planning and budget for the upcoming season.

Berkshire Exchange: Nate Szymanski - no report

Bicycling: Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh
Submitted by e-mail:

November 2017 - January 2018

* We attended the November 4th Berkshire Bash- connected with 6 -8 folks interested in participating in AMC bicycling activities. Collected emails and started an email list to use to communicate upcoming rides/acquire participants.

* We attended the December 9th Berkshire Chapter Annual Retreat at Noble View.

* We held a meeting on January 20th in our home for those interested in the Bicycling Committee and possibly becoming AMC Bicycle trip leaders. The attendees were: Marvin Davenport, Charles Murray, Sylvia Scott and Sean Condon (of Speed and Sprocket Cycle Works). We discussed our objectives for the 2018 season, a minimum of one ride a month from May through June, reviewed the Bicycle Leader Training Guidelines document and worked on a draft of a 2018 ride calendar.

*We signed an agreement and put a deposit on a facility to hold a Bicycle Repair Workshop on Saturday, May 5th from 10:30 am till 3 pm at the Elks Lodge in Florence Mass. So far, we have secured Liz and Sean of Speed and Sprocket to present at the workshop. We will be recruiting other volunteers to help with the event.

Communications: - Open

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack

"We" are still in the formative stages, but we have done a few things.

I attended a lobbying session spearheaded by the Environmental League of Massachusetts but strongly supported by the AMC. The major focus of the lobbying day was getting increased funding in the 2019 budget for DCR and other environmental programs which have been the victims of cuts over the past several years. Most legislators were not available but two other attendees and I met with Adam Hinds' assistant and spent a productive half hour with him.

As a followup, I attended a meet the legislators meeting in Shelburne Falls, where Adam Hinds discussed how important outdoors activities and an attractive environment are to Western Massachusetts and its economy.

I also attended a meeting held by the state DOT on reducing emissions from transportation which are now the largest single source of CO₂ in the state. I urged the DOT to consider the effects of any transportation project on creating more sprawl and dependence on cars for commuting to work, reaching schools, shopping, and other errands. I also suggested that shoulders and bike lanes be made safer, by enforcing lane regulations, and installing narrow rumble strips to alert drivers when they drift into bike lanes. I also recommended bike paths with specific destinations in mind, such as schools major office concentrations, etc.

I am starting to work with Kathryn and Nicole on hikes and talking points for leaders in support of the Club's LWCF promotion efforts

I am still looking for ways to reach and recruit our membership. I am working with Brant and hope to make more use of Kristen Sykes on this. At more than 3,000 strong, we should be able to get several people to write letters to the editor and call on legislators and officials to press our points of view. Again, I believe our legislators will vote the right way, but we need to make them willing to spend some of their energy and political capital on conservation issues.

I also need to assemble names of environment reporters for the media in this region.

Family Programs: – Margo Chapski
Submitted by e-mail:

Family Programs started the year off with its annual Indoor Rock Climbing event at the Central Rock Gym in Hadley. Many thanks to the Mountaineering Committee who assisted with belaying and demonstrating climbing techniques at the end. Pizza was provided along with the discounted fee for the event. Although there were less in attendance this year, it was a great afternoon of fun. Thanks to Heather for being the Leader.

Summit 2018 was attended by me and Heather, each attending for our respective Chair Committees and other committees we are respectfully engaged in. (Family Programs, NET, and Training & Education). Multiple impromptu 'meetings' were had discussing Family trips and the multi-chapter collaboration, the multi-committee engagement and broadening the breath of communications to NY/North Jersey & Delaware chapters. Discussions are in progress for next years' Summit and submitting a proposal for a presentation/workshop.

Discussions also occurred about the YOP Program, learning more about that program and how that program could effectively be broadened in the Berkshire Chapter to get more kids & families outdoors.

Dates and commitments have been made for the multi-chapter Barton Cove Camping & Paddling weekend in July. This was a huge success last year and most Leaders who participated last year have committed to the

2018 outing. In Print with Outdoors Magazine (hopefully!) & Posted (Act DB) cross chapter: BK, WOR, BOS.

Attended a Hiking Committee meeting in December with 2 other Family Leaders in attendance. Lively discussions ensued along with awesome food! Thanks, Kathy Martin (Hiking Chair) for including Family Programs into your meeting. Family oriented day hikes were discussed amongst the Family Leaders with a theme attached/ series hikes to swimming locations, fire towers, etc.

Up-Coming 3-Day Get Away to Noble View (Multi-Chapter event) scheduled and filling for school break: Feb. 22- 25, 2018. Animal Tracking with Jim Pelletier from the AT Committee, snow shoeing (if we still have snow!) crafts and winter hiking will abound!

Mountaineering: Jim Van Natta, Marvin Davenport
Submitted by e-mail:

During the month of January we continued our ongoing winter Wednesday evening gym climbs. Regular members and new folks attended.

We had a well attended full moon cross country ski at Notchview.

We offered a trip to climb for a Saturday at a gym in Watertown MA.

January 10 we had our quarterly planning meeting. First on the agenda was how to increase diversity of our group. We will continue to offer a “women’s day on rock”, we are partnering with the Central Rock Gym and Western Mass Climbers Coalition on a Gym to Rock training in the spring. Several of our members attended the Diversity Training at the recent Summit.

At the planning meeting we scheduled trainings and trips out into the summer.

Outings: Kathy Martin
Submitted by e-mail:

Outings Committee Report for February 5, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting

The Outings Chair and several hike leaders met, along with several other Activity Chairs, for a potluck in December. A wonderful time was had by all. The group decided that the hike leaders would work closely with other activity chairs such as Family and Young Members to provide the most opportunities for outings. A discussion was held on how to improve communication between the various groups and reach out to new members. Constant Contact was mentioned as an avenue to explore. Requirements for hike leaders were also discussed.

Several hike leaders announced hike series they were planning for the coming year. Bess Dillman will be coordinating the AT Series, Grace Ferrante will be doing a series on "Summits", Paul Glazebrook will be doing a series as yet to be determined and Kathy Martin will be doing an NET hiking series. Jan Nettler and Co-leaders Roxanne Suprina and Joe Gelinas did a beginner hiker series last summer and will be asked to consider doing it again.

I have been continuing my leader teaching training by attending a practicum training at this year's Summit.

Paddling: Charlie Murray – no report

Social Chair: Bess Dillman
Submitted by e-mail:

The next potluck will be on Saturday, March 10th, at the Unitarian Society in Northampton. The [Eventbrite page](#) is up, it's also on Facebook and soon to come on our website, so please sign up and attend! The speakers will be my friends and AMC Berkshire hike leaders, Joe Gelinas and Roxanne Suprina. They will show photos and tell about their trip to the Galapagos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The next potluck will be in May or June in Lee, MA.

Martin sent me a lead on a possible speaker for the annual meeting on Saturday, Nov 3rd. He is Dan Szczesny from Manchester, NH, who gives presentations at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center. He has written several books about hiking and the outdoors and has a new one coming out this spring on the cultural history of Mt. Washington. He is available and I think would make a good speaker. He says he has specific photos and stories from his hikes on the AT in the Berkshires.

I'm thinking ahead to the Outdoor Festival on Saturday, Sept 15th at Noble View Outdoor Center. Save the date! Frank has reserved the climbing wall for us. I have liked having an afternoon outdoor speaker for

the last 2 years. However, I'd like to float the idea of having more short workshops (ie "Leave No Trace," How to Orient Yourself to a Map, Apps for Hikers, Dealing with Hazards on the Trail, Setting up a Campsite, etc.) throughout the afternoon. The fire, knots demonstrations that Paul Glazebrook did last year were successful. I'm not sure it would get the draw that the presentations have but would like your input.

I'm looking for helper volunteers in all of this and have put out a call on Facebook.

NET: Heather Wyman & Dana Gronbeck – no report
Submitted by e-mail:

Training and Education: Bill Fogel
Submitted by e-mail:

The Training and Education Committee met on 1/7/18. Jim Van Natta submitted his resignation the committee. We thank him for his contributions! Adam Jasionkowski was approved and joined the committee which now stands at 6 (Margo Chapski, Marvin Davenport, Bill Fogel, Adam Jasionkowski, Kathy Martin, Rob Robertson). We approved the date and venue for the joint Outdoor Leadership Training with Worcester Chapter on April 28 - 29 at The Retreat at Norwich Lake in Huntington. The activity has been posted. Committee members are honing presentation skills. Four T/E members attended the AMC Summit. Marvin, Kathy and Margo presented at lessons at the Practicum on Outdoor Lesson Facilitation. Bill co-facilitated this workshop. The committee is focusing efforts on the Outdoor Leadership Training workshop.

Webmaster: Evan Yeadon – no report

Young Members (20s/30s): Nicole Dewberry
Submitted by e-mail:

I scheduled a couple of hikes and I'm trying something new: x-cntry skiing with the help of Adam Jasionkowski (Adam is experienced and I'm still learning, so I'm just organizing the activity). I'm curious if there will be any interest since this differs from the usual hikes. We're going to

Notchview because rentals are available there. Here's the listing on outdoors.org if any of you are interested or would like to pass the word along: <https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/102718>

Also, I've been reaching out to some of the colleges and universities in the area. Some didn't reply to my email (I'll keep working on those), but others did. I'm hoping to stop by to meet with them to promote YM and other opportunities within the chapter and at AMC. I'll keep you updated about my progress in my upcoming reports. In particular, I'm interested in all of your thoughts about things I may use to promote the AMC. Hampshire College said that, in the past, AMC donated free memberships to their film festival raffle inside water bottles (do we still have promo materials in storage?). I sent an email to Bridget Likely and so she may have some information for me, but I'm curious to know if you have any ideas too about ways to promote the chapter during my visits. (Martin, if there's a few extra minutes during the meeting, maybe we can talk about this then, or I could just talk to individuals afterward).

Action Items:

Martin Mahoney – create a financial policy

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, March 5 at the Rockridge in Northampton at 6:30 pm.

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AMC Berkshire Chapter Treasurer Report December 2017						
Bank Balance as of December 31:						\$ 45,313.99
Income/December:						
						\$ -
Expenses/December:						
			Martin Mahoney/Exec.Retreat			\$ 241.73
			Kathryn Martin/Outings/LeaderDinner			38.06
			Kathryn Martin/Training/WFA Class			165.00
			William Fogel/Bash Hats			317.65
			Total Expenses: December			\$ 762.44
Outstanding Checks for Expenses/October & December:						
			N. Szymanski/Reimb.Berkshire Exchange/Postage			41.80
			Noble View/EX Retreat			150
						\$ 191.80

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AMC Berkshire Chapter Treasurer Report February 2018			
Bank Balance as of January 31:			\$46,116.28
Income/January:	AMC payment		\$3389.00
	Total Income: January		\$ 3,389.00
Expenses/January			
:	Heather Wyman	Annual Summit	\$45.00
	Kathy Martin	Leadership training	\$50.00
	Kathy Martin	Train the Trainer	\$93.77
	James Pelletier	AT Management income	\$1200.00
	Margo Chapski	Nobleview 3-day Getaway	\$958.00
	Heather Wyman	Meetup subscription	\$89.94
	Noble View	EX Retreat	\$150.00
	Nicole Dewberry	Wilderness First Aid	\$185.00
	Margo Chapski	Train the Trainer	\$93.77
	Bill Fogel	Train the Trainer	\$45.00
	Bill Fogel	1st payment- NorwichRetreat/Training	\$401.50
	Bill Fogel	Security Deposit-Norwich Retreat/Training	\$500.00
	Nicole Dewberry	Snacks	\$5.98
	Total Expenses: January		\$ 3,817.96
Outstanding Checks for Expenses/October & December:			
	N. Szymanski/Reimb.Berkshire Exchange/Postage		41.80