

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

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Present: Roger Beer, Margo Chapski, Brant Cheikes, Robert Cherdack, Nicole Dewberry, Bess Dillman, Bill Fogel, Dana Gronbeck, Tricia Hanrahan, Martin Mahoney, Janine Papesh, Jim VanNatta

Absent: Marvin Davenport, Frank Evans, Kathryn Martin, Charles Murray, Jan Alicia Nettler, Jim Pelletier, Nate Szymanski, Heather Wyman, Evan Yeadon

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Mission Statement: omitted

Acceptance of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes for February 5, 2018 was offered by Bill Fogel. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

See report below.

A motion was offered to roll surplus funds from last year for the Education Committee and Family Programs forward into this year's budget, increasing the budget for each activity. The motion passed.

NET:

Dana announced some activities relating to the NET that are coming soon:

1. AMC is launching its "New England Trail Hike 50 Challenge" to promote the NET. Heather forwarded a message (March 5) from Bridget Likely with more details to the Executive Committee.
2. March 14 there will be "*A Night of Music and Design*" at 6:00 pm in Northampton.
3. March 22 there will be "*Music and the New England Trail*" at 7:00 pm in Amherst.
4. The next meeting of the NET Committee will be Saturday, April 7.

WMNF Outfitter Guide Permitting:

It was announced that a permit from the White Mountain National Forest is now required for groups doing activities in the White Mountains. The leader must obtain this permit.

OLDC:

Bill Fogel discussed the Leadership Requirements and Guidelines that Martin circulated (March 5). This is the current version and it is due to be updated. The period for comments lasts until May. Please send any comments to Bill and he will represent the chapter in the review process.

Martin also circulated the Memorandum of Understanding from the North American Mountain Clubs. AMC is considering participating in this partnership which addresses the qualifications for certification of leaders in a range of backcountry activities, including mountaineering. Bill recommends that the chapter should contribute any thoughts about this to AMC as this goes forward. Your input should be directed to Bill.

Reimbursement Policy for Leadership Training:

Bill Fogel solicited input as to whether leadership training should be free to all or reimbursed upon completion of all the leadership requirements (current practice). After some discussion it was decided to retain the current practice and reimburse after the person has become a qualified leader.

Another consideration on this issue is the fact that some committees (AT, NET, and Family Programs). Reimburse their leaders. This needs to be recognized in the new policy.

Young Members:

Nicole recently circulated a proposed poster that will be used to attract more people to chapter activities. During the discussion suggestions about producing the poster and circulating it were offered. With Spring just days away Nicole is eager to get the poster out to the public as soon as possible.

Social/Membership:

Bess reminded the committee that the Potluck is coming soon, March 10. She needs help with the set up and clean up. Brant volunteered to pick up the key as Jan Nettler will not be able to attend.

A speaker for the Bash on November 3 has been arranged.

The Outdoor Festival at Nobel View is scheduled for September 15.

Conservation:

Bob Cherdack mentioned that funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund is under review in Congress. AMC and conservation organizations are pushing for permanent funding. Bob hopes that members will contact our congressional delegation to urge their support.

Bob also announced that the Metacomet District of the Boy Scouts is holding a camporee in Greenfield, May 18 – 20. The committees are invited to exhibit activities and materials. Contact Bob if you are interested.

E-mail Blast:

March 16 is the deadline for the next e-mail blast.

Code of Conduct for leaders:

Bill Fogel mentioned that a Code of Conduct for leaders is being developed.

Open Positions on the Executive Committee:

The following positions need to be filled. Candidates should be directed to Martin:

Chapter Vice Chair  
Newsletter editor  
Webmaster

2018 Meetings:

The meetings and food plan for 2018 are as follows:

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:

Our 16th annual AT Volunteer Gathering went off smoothly with the anticipated ~90 or so participants. Lots of good conversation, discussion of issues (particularly in the breakout sessions) and input on plans for our 2018 season. Thanks to all who participated and in particular to:

the Dalton AT Community folks who hosted the Gathering at St Agnes Academy in Dalton; to Martin for participating and speaking to our volunteers; and lastly to Andrea Minoff who was our photographer extraordinaire and wrote up a presser on the Gathering. We will be meeting this coming Monday afternoon to finalize our Project List for the season (currently over 70 Project Days on the draft schedule). At our AT Committee meeting Monday evening I expect we will approve the schedule.

We have also been busy making progress on the update to our Local Management Plan. We held our first conference call review session of AT Committee members yesterday afternoon covering the first 3 chapters of the draft revised Plan. ATC staff in Harper's Ferry is updating the maps that are included in the plan. Our schedule is to have a revised draft available for review and input from our partners by May. To accomplish this we will have a busy schedule of conference call reviews for the remaining chapters of the plan as well as the Appendices for the next 2 months.

There are two projects I'd like to make the Executive Committee aware of. First we will be significantly upgrading the formality of our Hazard Tree assessments for our overnight sites, parking areas, viewpoints, etc. There are approximately 35 such sites at various AT locations in Mass. Most of these sites have been inspected and many potentially hazardous trees have been removed. However only about 6 sites have been formally evaluated and the results documented. We have scheduled 3 project days in March to formally evaluate sites not already so evaluated. I expect we will schedule additional project days to continue these evaluations and to deal with any potentially hazardous trees identified. The second project is in our Historic and Cultural Heritage area of activity and deals with the lime kilns in Sheffield, just off the AT on NPS lands. The site is fairly large being about 200 feet long and containing 5 kilns and associated facilities. At our January meeting the AT Committee authorized Steve Smith, our Cultural Heritage Coordinator to pursue a collaborative project with our partners and interested community organizations to stabilize the ruins, protect them from further degradation and provide interpretive information for visitors to the site.

Berkshire Exchange: Nate Szymanski – no report

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

Attached below

Communications: - Open

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack  
Submitted by e-mail:

Continued working with Nicole on hike at Warner Hill focused on LWCF. Will work with Kathryn on other events and Family Outings for more "urban" locations where LWCF played a role.

Sent messages to Sen Hinds and Rep Kulik about improving funding for state government environmental agencies, DCR and DEP. Received positive response from Kulik's staff.

Subscribed to Berkshire Eagle and will contact environmental reporters, hoping to create relationship ensuring chapter and club issues will be reported. Need to do the same with Hampshire gazette and IBerkshire.

With Brant's help, got LWCF message in eblast.

Hope to start to track large scale energy, commercial, and residential developments in Western Mass. that might affect trails, viewsheds, etc.

At the next Excom I would like to identify an event where I may make a pitch to get members for the Conservation Committee.

Took part in AMC's LWCF webinar and circulated some material to excom.

Attended lecture by Dr. Moomaw at Smith on forests' role in reducing global warming. Need to track biomass projects.

Sent email messages on LWCF to Senators Warren and Markey and Rep Neal and circulated message to Excomm.

Promised myself I would proof messages before sending them.

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

February felt more like Spring-time vs. Winter this year during the 3-Day Get Away at Noble View! The weekend started with 1-2 “of snow on Thursday night, which was challenging for arriving & unpacking, but was perfect for animal tracking on Friday with Jim Pelletier (AT Committee). The group was able to learn about animal tracks, direction of travel, gut contents and eating habits, along with other facts about the local wildlife. Many thanks to Jim for a great experience! By Saturday, the snow was gone and we hiked to Pitcher Brook Falls, talked about the restoration project going on there, and enjoyed our lunch on trail. Made it back to the cottage as the rain began. Continued to enjoy various crafts, games and good food while relaxing & socializing. Sunday had us packing up the cars in the sleet & freezing rain.

Although the weekend registration was not full, and Family Programs suffered a financial loss, the gain of friendships, experience and exposure to the outdoors was wonderful for all who participated.

Moving ahead, conversations with Martin, Jan and Tricia are continuing with the Family Programs Budget and how –to do the book keeping for Family Programs. Hopefully, we’ll have a decision soon.

Up-coming trips & outings are getting underway:

1. Tully Lake is reserved for Memorial Day weekend with 3 nights of camping, paddling & day hiking. Co-sponsor with Boston Family Outings.
2. Barton Cove is coming up in July. 2 nights of camping & paddling on the CT River. Multi-chapter/multi-committee sponsors.

Day hikes and a potential ‘Wet & Wild’ series of short hikes to watering holes are being planned for Spring & Summer.

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

This month’s report is pretty straight forward.

We have been climbing in the gym on Wednesday evenings. A scheduled evening cross country ski event was cancelled due to non-compliant weather.

We are discussing ideas and opportunities for diversity, equity and inclusion. Three of our members attended the Diversity workshop at the AMC Summit.

Outings: Kathy Martin – no report

Paddling: Charlie Murray – no report

Social Chair: Bess Dillman  
Submitted by e-mail:

I'm looking forward to the potluck on Saturday. If you haven't registered yet please do so at : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cabin-fever-potluck-and-presentation-tickets-42565681098>.

I'm looking for helpers to help set up, keep the buffet table stocked, and cleanup.

Can someone pick up the projector from the storage unit?

For the Outdoor Festival on Sept 15, I have engaged Martin's friend Erin O'Connell again to do a bird presentation She says, "I will bring a Barred Owl, a Red-tailed hawk (different individual from last time), a Red-phase and a Grey Phase Eastern Screech Owl along with a variety of props." She was a big hit two years ago and I'm glad I was able to book her again.

For the Berkshire Bash, our Annual Meeting, I have booked Dan Szczesny from Manchester, NH, hiker and author that I told you about last month. I think he will put on a good show.

I am coordinating 12 hikes on the AT in Berkshire County starting the end of April and continuing every other weekend. The first one is listed on the website and I'm looking for leaders. Anyone?

Attached is the welcome letter that goes out to new members. We can apparently make some minor changes. It's a little lame in a couple of places which I will work on. Let me know if you have suggestions.  
(Secretary note: see message from Bess dated March 4.)

NET: Heather Wyman & Dana Gronbeck  
Submitted by e-mail:

Last month, Dana, Mike Zlogar, Martin and I attended the Annual kickoff for the AT Committee. It was well attended with a remarkable slideshow of accomplishments and goals. They had interesting breakout sessions to choose from which were very practical to trail stewardship and other volunteer opportunities.

Please share the links and flyers for our artist-in-residence Ben Cosgrove on your social media or at the local coffee shop!

Additionally, we are going to be doing our NET kickoff meeting of the year on April 7th. Our first annual kickoff as the NET Committee gets stronger with great leadership and defined direction.

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

This month we have been focused on organizing the joint training with Worcester. We have 11 instructors from 4 different chapters (Berkshire, Worcester, Mohawk and Delaware Valley) participating in the training! All of our instructors are Faculty from the Center of Outdoor Leadership and Learning, having participated in the T3: Train the Trainer workshop in October. This is exciting as Instructors from multiple chapters are collaborating on lessons planning and training from from the T3 workshops, leading to a higher degree of alignment among the chapters in regard to leadership training! We have our schedule set and lesson topics distributed among trainers. We will begin to coordinate lesson practice and role plays in the coming months. The training is posted on AMC activities and the Chapter's Web page:

Berkshire/Worcester Chapter Leadership Training  
April 28-29  
The Retreat at Norwich Lake

<https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/102754&act=12>

Webmaster: Evan Yeadon – no report

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

-I co-lead a hike at Mt. Sugarloaf with Alison, the YM co-chair in CT.

-I visited the UMass Outing Club (UMOC) and mentioned several ways students might be interested in getting involved with AMC. They seemed most interested in AMC's summer job opportunities, since it's that time of year. I added a few new names to my email list and passed one student's contact information along to mountaineering. Bridget Likely came too and promoted her projects.

-I spoke with Susannah about ways to find more volunteers, and thought I would pass the idea along to all of you. She suggested that we could post available committee, executive committee, etc. opportunities on outdoors.org à "Adventures" tab à Volunteer Opportunities.

Action Items:

Martin Mahoney – create a financial policy

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, May 7 in the Berkshires at 6:30 pm. The location will be announced later.



## **Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter Bicycling Committee**

\* February 5<sup>th</sup> – we attended the AMC Berkshire Chapter Exec Committee meeting

\* February 20<sup>th</sup> - Janine and Brant met with Jennifer Norris, new Chief Development Officer of AMC. We inquired information on the organization's policy regarding Chapters soliciting their own sponsorships, both in-kind and cash. Attached is **AMC official policy from the Volunteer Finance and Administration Manual**. **Summary:** 1) If seeking cash or in-kind support from a business for an event or activity, we should let the AMC know prior to the solicitation, particularly if the value is \$1,000 or more; 2) If we do accept donations, we need to make sure we acknowledge the donor per AMC official policy; 3) We should not give AMC membership data to anyone outside of the organization—other businesses for their use; 4) Any agreements that we engage in or sign need to be reviewed by the AMC; 5) For Chapter events held at private facilities (like the upcoming Bike Repair Workshop), AMC wants to acquire liability insurance in advance for the event, and they have asked me to have the facility (the Elks Club) list AMC on their insurance policy for the date of the event; 6) As a nonprofit, we do not have to pay Massachusetts Sales Tax when we purchase supplies, e.g., food, beverages, etc., for Club business. Usually you need to provide proof to a business that the AMC is tax exempt. After a vendor sets you up in their system the first time, your subsequent purchases will be smoother. **See attached documents.**

\* February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Janine spoke with Kristen Sykes from the AMC about the upcoming **North to East** event sponsored by the Friends of the Northampton Trails and Greenways (FNTG) and All Out Adventures on April 28<sup>th</sup> 12- 4pm – a 3-mile procession/parade from Veteran's Field in Northampton to Millside Park in Easthampton. There will be a rain date of Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Kristen thinks it would be great if the Berkshire Chapter could have a presence at the event. If we plan to have a table at this event or any event, she has AMC materials pertinent to our chapter if we need them, such as information on Noble View etc. **See flyer attached.**

\* February 27<sup>th</sup> – Janine spoke with Kris Badertscher from FNTG about the April 28<sup>th</sup> **North to East**. She would like to have the AMC Berkshire Chapter represented at this event. All modes of transportation are welcome on this procession on the bike path; walkers, strollers, bikes, roller bladers, runners, wheel chairs skateboarders! From my conversation with Kris, it is not a very structured event. It is the first time she is organizing it. If you are interested in participating email Kris at [kris@fntg.net](mailto:kris@fntg.net).

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There is parking at the starting point but no bathrooms. The idea is that the various Berkshire Chapter Committees could participate in the procession – family programs, outings, bicycling, etc. At the end, there would be a stage area with rotating demonstrations/activities with designated time slots for groups to sign up for. If you wanted to participate, you have to provide everything for your demonstration—nothing provided! There are bathrooms at the end and maybe food.

\*We have listed on AMC activities website 3 Bicycling activities: May 5<sup>th</sup> Repair Workshop, May 12<sup>th</sup> Spring Warm Up ride and June 9<sup>th</sup> Spring Warm Up ride.

\*We have three people who are interested in becoming bicycling trip leaders enrolled in the AMC Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training in April.

\*We continue to plan for the upcoming Bicycle Repair Workshop on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am till 3 pm at the Elks Lodge in Florence. So far, we have secured Liz and Sean of Speed and Sprocket to present at the workshop, along with a pair of leaders from the Boston Chapter Bicycling Committee who have been instructors for the Boston Chapter's annual Repair Workshop for years. We will be recruiting other volunteers to help with registration and flat tire repair. We plan to have online registration up and running by March 8<sup>th</sup> on EventBrite. We plan to have printed advertisement flyers available to post in the community available by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Signed,

Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh  
Bicycling Committee Co-chairs