

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER - Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 7, 2018

Present: Sarah Armour, Roger Beer, Brant Cheikes, Robert Cherdack, Nicole Dewberry, Bess Dillman, Frank Evans, Bill Fogel, Martin Mahoney, Kathryn Martin, Charles Murray, Jan Alicia Nettler, Janine Papesh, Heather Wyman

Absent: Margo Chapski, Marvin Davenport, Dana Gronbeck, Tricia Hanrahan, Jim Pelletier, Jim VanNatta

Call to Order: 6:45 pm

Mission Statement: omitted

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

Treasurer's Report:

See report below.

Jan raised a question about how to understand the budget line item for Family Programs (617). The question remains to be answered.

The Treasurer distributed her reports by e-mail May 4.

Social Committee Matters:

A complication regarding the location for the Berkshire Bash in November has arisen. Possible alternative sites and dates were discussed. Bess will investigate the options.

The Outdoor Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 15.

Training and Education:

Bill reported a successful joint chapter training with Worcester on April 28-29. He participated in joint national initiative with the American Alpine Club aimed at creating certification for outdoor volunteer leaders in the areas of hiking and rock climbing.

The club is revising the Leadership Requirement and Guidelines circulated at the March meeting. Bill will circulate a poll regarding how committees post their trips.

AMC is revising its code of conduct for leaders.

AMC is reviewing how Mountain Leadership School does/does not align with Chapter-specific leader training.

Heather mentioned that training for adventure travel is coming up. This would apply to trips outside the area.

A new handbook will be released and Bill will distribute it to the Executive Committee members. The release for has been changed to remove the distinction between members and non-members.

Chair's Report on 2018 Chapter Retreat:

The club has revised the policy on participation by minors on activities. They must be accompanied by an adult.

A new club-wide financial reserves policy has been established. This supersedes the chapter policy.

The membership count for Berkshire Chapter is in the range 2000-2200. This represents about 3% growth for the chapter.

A social media policy has been proposed. If adopted chapter Facebook pages would be integrated/merged into the club Facebook.

The club continues to work on the 2020 Strategic Plan. It is uncertain how to measure results however. There is a feeling that we are strong in our activities but need to put more focus on conservation. Attracting a more diverse audience continues to be a challenge.

The rollout of the shared website platform is continuing. They are using the tool WordPress. Berkshire Chapter is scheduled to be the sixth chapter to convert.

In the short term Brant will serve as webmaster.

There have been reports of difficulty posting activities. If anyone encounters problems themselves they should be reported to Faith via e-mail.

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation has announced that they are willing to support shovel-ready projects. Any committee should feed prospects to Martin as soon as possible. Some potential areas are AT Committee, NET Committee, Connecticut River Blueway, and Noble View.

A motion was offered by Charlie to appoint Sarah Armour as Communications Coordinator. The motion passed.

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, Roger brings food

July - no meeting

August - Rockridge, Kathy and Tricia bring 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

Our budget for the year and Project List have been approved by the Committee and the 2018 Project List is available on our web pages. Projects have started with Hazard Tree Assessments, Removal of Old UGP Dock and Corridor Boundary Clearing projects already done. Next up are projects in the Natural Heritage area, a Privy move

and blowdown removals. We will open the UGP Cabin on May 12th and the Caretaker schedule for the season has been published.

Over a series of phone conference calls, we completed the Committee review of our updated Local Management Plan. I expect we will approve sending the update along to our partners for their input at our May 7th meeting. We have been organizing a stakeholders meeting of our partners and local emergency response personnel in the south-west corner of Mass where we've experienced a recurrence of land use problems (ATV's, unauthorized clearing, hunting in No Hunting areas, etc.). The meeting will involve some 20 people and will be held on May 10th at the YMCA Camp Hi-Rock in Mt Washington, MA. We continue to pursue the possibility of an AT special license plate with slow progress.

Berkshire Exchange: no report

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

Attached below

Communications: - no report

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack
Submitted by e-mail:

Attached below

Family Programs: - no report

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

The month of April saw our return to outdoor outings. Despite the unseasonable cold and rain we were luck enough to get outside on several occasions.

We held our annual technical skills review mid month. It is a chance to refresh safety procedures and catch up on best practices. It was well attended this year as usual.

We have partnered with the Trustees of Reservations for an annual crag/trail maintenance work day for 25 years. We worked on a waterfall access trail this year at Chapel Falls in Ashfield. It involved resurfacing approximately 250' of trail with processed gravel for a durable walk surface. The 14 to 16 people working carried and spread a total of approximately 16 tons of gravel. The math is pretty easy and the average pounds moved by each person is staggering. We climbed in the afternoon that day.

Our Wednesday evening outdoor climbing events started up this past, first Wednesday of May. They run through until Labor Day.

Outings: Kathy Martin
Submitted by e-mail:

Spring, (perhaps summer?), is finally here and hiking participation has really increased! The dedicated Tuesday Hike Leaders have provided some wonderful hikes with the latest three or so having over 20 participants each. A special thanks for all the Leaders do!

Paul Glazebrook has been leading a Tier 2 hiking series on Wednesdays. The hikes are aimed at the more serious hikers and will go throughout the summer and fall. A series of hikes on the NET will take place July, August and September as part of the Hike 50 Challenge. Several other leaders are considering some shorter hikes over the summer. Thanks to Bess Dillman for heading up the AT hiking series again this summer.

The Berkshire/Worcester Chapter had Leader training on April 28-29. Since I have become a leader trainer, I participated in the training. We had 40 students and trainers! Of those students five from Berkshire completed the course. Two plan to lead bike trips, one plans to be a climbing leader and one plans to lead hiking trips. One student is going to lead biking, hiking and family trips. In addition we have one other leader candidate in training.

Paddling: Charlie Murray
Submitted by e-mail:

At the Paddling Committee's meeting we

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1. Scheduled several whitewater trips (and will have run 4 by this weekend). At least half of the participants so far have been from other AMC Chapters
2. We will be offering trips this summer that aren't whitewater or flat water (class I-II) for those who don't have the gear or interest in whitewater but want some challenge. These trips have been our most popular.
3. Discussed a memorial for Connie Peterson, our leader for 33 years.
4. Updated our leader list
5. Discussed having a flat water chair

Social Chair: Bess Dillman – no report
Submitted by e-mail:

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

Attached below

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

Attached below

Webmaster: – no report

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

Attached below

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, June 4 at Rockridge in Northampton at 6:30 pm.

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Treasurer here

Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter Bicycling Committee

Monthly report to the executive committee

March - May 2018

- March 5th – Brant and Janine attended the AMC Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee meeting
- The Month of March - Janine engaged in marketing activities for the AMC Berkshire Chapter Bicycle Repair Workshop scheduled for May 5th. Printed flyers and distributed to 35 places in Amherst, Easthampton, Florence, Hadley, Northampton, S. Deerfield and Sunderland. Also, added event to the following online website community events listings pages (11): Amherst Chamber, Berkshire Edge, Bike New England Franklin County Chamber, Gazette newspaper, Holyoke Chamber, Mass LIVE, NEPR, Northampton Chamber, Recorder newspaper and Valley Advocate. Event printed in the Hampshire Gazette's Life Magazine section under Sports and Outdoors on Friday, April 27th.
- April 28th – Participated in the Friends of the Northampton Rail Trail event – North to East. Had an information table at Millpark in Easthampton from 12:30 pm till 3 pm when the event ended. Estimate 50-100 people participated in procession/parade. Chatted with 5 or 6 people who indicated interest in one or more of the AMC's activities. Three people have successfully completed the AMC's leadership training who would like to become bicycle trip leaders: Liz Budd, Sean Condon and Sylvia Scott. We are working to set up their co leads.
- May 1st – Made a decision to cancel the bicycle repair workshop due to low numbers. Eight people signed up. Our minimum was ten.
- May 5th – Brant went to the workshop site in the am just in case there were walk ins to let them know it was cancelled. As of this date, we have 3 people signed up for our May 11th ride and 2 people signed up for our June 9th ride.
- May 7th - Brant and Janine attending the AMC Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

Signed,

Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh
Bicycling Committee Co-chairs

Conservation Report for March and April 2018

Wrote to state legislators in support of budget increases for DCR

Wrote to Senators Warren and Markey and Representative Neal urging them to make reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund a high priority. Received very positive replies. However, reauthorization did not make it into the "must pass" budget authorization.

Made brief presentation on LWCF at potluck in March and handed out many brief flyers. Same at joint leadership training event in April

Contacted Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Kestrel Land Trust and others inquiring about sites that might be acquired using LWCF; not much success with this, but looking for other ways to cooperate with land conservation organizations.

Had 200 LWCF index cards printed (see below) and have distributed to Bess Dillman, Nicole Dewberry, and Janine Papesh.

Content of index cards:

Save the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF is the main source of federal funding for land preservation. It is used to purchase land at national, state, and local levels and has preserved hundreds of thousands of acres. The Fund is set to expire this September. Please urge your Senators and Representative to demand that the LWCF be reauthorized permanently and fully funded. Click on these links for more information.

<https://www.lwcfcoalition.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LandandWaterConservationFund/>

<https://www.outdoors.org/act>

<https://www.outdoors.org/conservation-action-network/land-and-water-conservation-fund>

Robert Cherdack

NET Report:

Hello everyone! The NET had a successful kickoff on April 14th at the Notch Visitor's Center reviewing past and present projects with an outdoor trails training course led by the mighty Mike Zlogar. The following are a few of the highlights:

1) The Hike50Challenge is well on its way with over 825 participants. Go to <https://newenglandtrail.org/get-on-the-trail/net-hike-50-challenge> to sign up! To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System, we have a great web site set up with suggested activities to "earn your 50" to get a great limited edition patch or other swag. We launched the program in March and already have quite a few completions turned in.

2) One of the ways to earn "double points" is to volunteer on one of our upcoming trail work days. We just had a successful 'Blowdown Blitz' with members of the Umass Outing Club on April 21st on Section 5 (North side of Rte 202 in Holyoke). The next two events are:

Sunday, May 6th – ‘AMC Young Members NET Hike & Social, Performance by Ben Cosgrove’ If you haven't had a chance to hear Ben's music live yet here's a great opportunity! AMC's young members will be leading three different hikes on the NET you can choose from, and then at 5 pm, Ben will give a performance at Abandoned Building Brewery in Easthampton. It's free, everyone is welcome and you can take part in both activities or just one! For more info or check out the event on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/events/2103925469868891/>

Wednesday, May 9th – ‘Trail Work Party – Section 18 Royalston’ Part one of a multi-step project to reroute the trail leading to the Royalston Falls' shelter. Will be a combination of clearing trail, blazing, and closing old trail. The more the merrier!

You can also contact Bridget at Blikely@outdoors.org if you cannot participate in these days, and she can help you find another adopter to help out this Spring!

3) We are able to update some of our old signage in the Mt. Tom/Holyoke area due to a grant from the Kestral Land Trust. We hope to have a sign blitz event on June 2nd, National Trails Day.

4) This year we will be having a paid Teen Crew who will be hired from the Holyoke area led by AMC staff. Instead of staying at Noble View like prior crews, they will travel from Holyoke to trailhead (and back) every day.

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5) I went to the NH Chapter Spring School this past weekend and participated with the Trail Crew in installing a magnificent rock water bar at Cardigan Lodge. Great time, excellent opportunity!

Heather Wyman, NET Co-Chair

Training and Education report 5/7/2018

T/E efforts were concentrated on the Chapter leadership training. Held jointly with Worcester Chapter at The Retreat at Norwich Lake on April 28-29, the training was attended by 27 students, 10 from the Berkshire Chapter. Marvin Davenport and Kathy Martin shared in facilitating with Worcester Chapter, as I was not present (See Below). Adam Jasionkowski and Chris Neil presented as first time instructors. Using the new T3 curriculum from the "Train the Trainer" workshops, 12 instructors from 4 different chapters presented. A significant step in aligning leadership training among the chapters! Kudos to the instructors for doing such an excellent job. Over 75% of the participants indicated that they will definitely pursue chapter leadership.

In my role as an OLDC representative I was asked to attend a summit meeting in Golden, CO on April 28-29 that focused on the creation of national Mountain Qualification Labels (MQL's). These MQL's are based on the international training standards for volunteer leaders and instructors from the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA). Hosted by the American Alpine Club, members from The Mountaineers, The Colorado Mountain Club, The Mazamas, The Boy Scouts of America and The Alpine Club of Canada also participated. Summer and Winter trekking (Hiking) standards previously designed were reviewed. Significant progress was made in creating a MQL for single pitch climbing. This initiative will have significant impact for the AMC, as volunteer leader standards have/will be designed for:

- Mountain Trekking (summer & winter)
- Single Pitch Climbing
- Multi-Pitch Climbing
- Alpine Climbing
- Glacier Travel
- Ice Climbing
- Ski Mountaineering
- Canyoneering

Young Members (20s/30s)

- Visited leaders-in-training for the Outdoor Adventure Program, an orientation program for first year students at Smith. I spoke during the beginning of their meeting about available opportunities in our chapter. I also sent a follow up email with links to the things that I discussed.
- Visited the outdoor club at Westfield State, and again I spoke about opportunities in our chapter and sent a follow up email with links.
- Bob Tremblay of Greenfield Community College's Outdoor Leadership Program posted opportunities at AMC on his job opportunities page and his Facebook page as a favor to us (<https://www.facebook.com/outdoorleadershipprogram/>). In return, I said I would share what he has to offer with all of you. Some of your committee members may be interested in the special outdoor trainings that are coming up during the next academic year: Wilderness First Responder, American Canoe Association River Canoeing Instructor, American Canoe Association Coastal Kayak Instructor, Professional Rock Climbing Association Rock Climbing Instructor, and others. They just took this past year off to update their programs.
- I attended AMC's Annual Young Members Leaders Retreat Weekend at the Highland Center:
 - : Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Training. AMC has a long history and our roots date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s when the outdoor recreation and conservation movement began in this country with Muir, Thoreau, etc. AMC is encouraging a closer awareness of DEI. To use just one example, some participants may not own a car but they could attend an activity if we create the option for a carpool (groupcarpool.com). If you're interested in seeing the introductory videos that helped us prepare for the training, you may find them here...
 - a. Definitions (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Tolerance, etc.)
<https://youtu.be/1shMzZucRZw>
 - b. Why is DEI important to AMC
<https://youtu.be/uS4m8zzCWOA>
 - : Young Members are going to try to begin a new tradition of offering one very large Inter-Chapter event per year. This year it will be offered by the NY-NJ Chapter.
 - : We did a lot of brainstorming in small and large groups on a variety of topics. Here are just a few topics that may interest you and/or relate to our chapter:
 - a. Post our available committee, sub-committee, etc. positions on outdoors.org à "Adventures" tab à

- Volunteer Opportunities.” Note: if you select the timeline as “ongoing,” your listing will disappear after only one month.
- b. Recognize leaders by writing articles about them. This is also good advertising to attract new leaders.
 - c. Partner with local businesses or other local hiking groups (maybe Pioneer Valley Hiking Group or others?) to host special activities.
 - d. AMC has an account on GoToMeeting.com. All of the chapters are allowed to reserve a time to use it if we wish. This is a quick way for everyone in the committee, subcommittees, etc. to “meet” even if everyone can’t gather in person.
 - e. “Vision 2020” is going to end soon and so we came up with a lot of ideas for the distant future. The categories that were voted to the top are conservation and climate change, advancing young members, and integrating technology.
- Thanks to Bess and Jeanine for helping with final revisions of the chapter’s poster. And thanks to Martin for printing.
 - Zenya Molnar of the Worcester Chapter and I lead a hike on the border of our two chapters at Wells State Forest, with a social afterward at Rapsallion Brewery. Everyone seemed to enjoy it, and they stayed an extra long time during the social afterward.
 - Thanks to Adam Jasionkowski for instructing everyone during a Young Members x-country ski activity at Noble View. This was one of the last days that a good coating of snow was on the ground, and participants were disappointed that they have to wait until next winter to do it again ;)
 - Coming up on Sunday, May 6th: 3 hikes + a concert with Ben Cosgrove. Thanks to Bridget Likely for arranging the concert. And thanks to Alison Terjek and Corey Mott (of the CT Chapter), and Zenya Molnar and Alex Molnar (of the Worcester Chapter) for leading hikes in addition to my own. I’m happy to hear that they’re filling fast. Each of us are going to use some of our budgets to pitch in and buy pizza. You all are welcome to join us:
<https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/105257>

Nicole Dewberry

Young Members (20s/30s) Chair