

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER - Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2018

Present: Sarah Armour, Roger Beer, Brant Cheikes, Robert Cherdack, Frank Evans, Bill Fogel, Tricia Hanrahan, Susannah Hatch, Martin Mahoney, Charles Murray, Jan Alicia Nettler, Janine Papesh, Jim Pelletier, Jim VanNatta

Absent: Margo Chapski, Marvin Davenport, Nicole Dewberry, Bess Dillman, Dana Gronbeck, Kathryn Martin, Heather Wyman

Call to Order: 6:35 pm

Mission Statement: omitted

Acceptance of Minutes: It was noted that Communications Chair should be changed to Communications Coordinator. A motion to approve the minutes for May 7, 2018, as amended, was offered by Brant. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's reports are appended below.

AT Committee, License Plate Update:

Jim reported that the Massachusetts AT license plate program is moving forward. Surveys responses indicated that 56% were likely to purchase the new plate. The ATC will be the sponsor and will administer the funds. The funds will be used for three purposes and approval of projects will require the agreement of ATC and the Berkshire Chapter AT Committee.

Volunteer Relations Manager:

Susannah Hatch conducted a open discussion based on questions from the committee. There were questions about the reserve policy, diversity equity, and website migration.

Noble View:

Frank announced that Noble View is now selling items such as water bottles and T-shirts.

Looking for Volunteers:

Jan urged everyone to look at the NET report and consider volunteering.

Old Business:

Martin is consolidating some prospective projects that could apply for funds from the Grinspoon Foundation.

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

Martin reported that he has received interest from four people recently.

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 project season is in full swing with 2 or more projects each week. Most recently we've completed hazard tree removals at several sites (with more on our schedule), completed trail blowdown removals, moved the Sherman Brook privy and one of the tent platforms, met with emergency response personnel in the Sages Ravine area and from

Hinsdale regarding fire road access and had a contractor clean the marble stone monument at the Shay's Rebellion site.

Hiker volumes are picking up and a steady flow of north bound thru hikers are passing through. The DCR Ridge Runners are in the field and the AMC Ridge Runners will be out shortly. Our Overnight Site Caretakers have already spent 9 nights in the field. The UGP Cabin is open with a Caretaker on duty. Initial hiker numbers appear to be up somewhat from prior years, but it's early.

The AT Committee approved sending our DRAFT updated Local Management Plan to our partners and communities and the document has been shared with them with comments due by the end of July. The ATC staff has provided us with updated maps for the Plan.

Early this spring we started developing a database for our volunteer records. After some research on what others are doing we settled on Airtable which is an free online database. The effort involved a pretty steep learning curve but I think we've finally figured out how to make good use of the software and have released access to the database to submit volunteer work hours to a selected group of volunteers who have started to use it. The results have been good and we are getting much better reporting of volunteer hours. Despite only a few people currently using the database our reported volunteer hours for the year are already over 1000 hours!

Lastly, our Committee and the ATC have decided to move forward on a Mass Special AT license plate. My thanks to all who participated in the doodle poll giving us a sense of the level of interest. I can provide more details on this at our meeting if there is interest.

Berkshire Exchange: no report

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

Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter Bicycling Committee

May-June 2018

- May 12th Spring Warm-Up Ride was cancelled due to rain

- May 13th Janine and Brant led the CycloFemme Pioneer Valley ride with Speed and Sprocket Mobile Bike Shop. Successful ride. 12 participants on a 36-mile ride (led by Brant & Janine) and another 12 participants on a 16-mile ride (led by Liz Budd from Speed and Sprocket). This was a great opportunity to advertise the AMC Bicycling Committee to potential participants in future rides.
- June 9th - Spring Warm-Up Ride planned. Brant will lead, and Silvia Scott (leader in training) will co-lead.
- July and August -Janine and Brant are keeping open several weekend dates for new AMC bike trip leaders who want to get their co-leads done. Silvia Scott is scheduled to do her second co-lead on July 29 (with Marvin Davenport as co-leader in training, with supervision by Brant).
- July 14th - Berkshire ride scheduled with Janine and Brant leading.
- July 28th - Janine and Brant will participate in the annual River Valley Ice Cream Ride to benefit several non-profits (non-AMC related). Future collaborations possible.
- August 4th - West River Valley Ride planned, with Janine and Brant leading.

Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh
Bicycling Committee Co-chairs

Communications:

Submitted by e-mail:

During May, due to some reports that messages sent to 'excom@lists.amcberkshire.org' were not being properly distributed to all members, I asked for some help from our internet service provider (DreamHost), and they suggested I change a configuration setting in the list server. I made that change, then sent a test message and asked for acknowledgments. I received a copy of the message I sent, and subsequently received ack's from Heather, Jim P, Roger, Margo, Jan, Marvin, Martin, Bess, Jim V.N., Charles, Nicole, Sarah, Frank, Bill, Robert, and Kathy. So far so good – the configuration setting apparently did no harm, and my message seems to have been received by most. Not everyone acknowledged (e.g., Tricia). Because people vary in their email handling, it is hard to know whether a failure to acknowledge means the message wasn't received, or was received but not read or responded to.

Jim P. and Jan each sent test messages. Jim received a copy of his own message (this is correct, expected behavior), and a couple others indicated by email that they had received Jim's message (including Roger, Jan, Margo, and Jim V.N.). Jan also sent a test message, and receipt was confirmed by Margo and Jim V.N., but Jan apparently did

not receive a copy of her own message. Jan subsequently discovered some past excom emails in one of her spam folders, but not her test message.

All test messages (mine, Jim's, and Jan's) were archived by the list server indicating they had been received.

Unfortunately, it still isn't clear what's going on. Whenever you send an e-mail to the excom, you should receive a copy of the message you sent. Jan and Robert are the only ones I know of so far who report that this doesn't happen for them. Both are using Gmail. But other members are also using Gmail without this problem. There are scattered reports of excom messages ending up in spam/junk folders. Occasionally I notice that people erroneously address e-mails to 'excom-bounces', causing me to get an alert from the list server. (I've noticed this with Nicole and Martin.) I think this is due to using an email client auto-address feature. But generally, problems seem to be rare and isolated. I don't think it would be an improvement if we abandoned the list server and just e-mailed each other directly (that is, sent emails attempting to put everyone on the TO list).

Brant Cheikes

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack
Submitted by e-mail:

May was a quiet month for conservation. I am looking for responses from excomm members as to how effective they think the distribution of the LWCF cards was. Please let me have your thoughts on this. I can get as many printed as we need at a cost of 20 to 25 cents each.

I am hoping to confer with local land trusts both on the LWCF campaign and on bringing them together with our activity leaders so that AMC members can learn more about sites being considered for acquisition with the goal gaining support for the acquisitions from the AMC and our members. I was chastised for making contact with one group without letting the staff know first. So I requested guidance - have not received any to date.

I would like to make a pitch at the Outdoor Festival at Noble View for actions and committee members. I think it would be best either just before or after the guest speaker, but am open to suggestions.

Family Programs: - no report

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

May kicked outdoor climbing and training into high gear.

For the most part we were lucky with the weather. We held Wednesday evening climbing all through the month. We had a washout during the weekend when our Intro classes were scheduled. We are picking up and presenting the material as is possible during our Wednesday evening climbs.

Outings: Kathy Martin
Submitted by e-mail:

Outings Report for June 4, 2018

May has been a relatively quiet month although hikes have been advertised and lead as scheduled. A quiet month was good after my intense April which saw us doing our Leader Training in Huntington.

I will not be at the meeting tonight as I am on my way out of town. See you at our next meeting. Kathy

Just a few notes for tonight's meeting.

I believe I got everything you sent Brant via the listserv. I got the email and a message from Jan.

I think the car tag is an excellent idea and I look forward to getting one for myself.

I am looking for hike leaders for the NET series July, August and September. Please contact me if you can lead a hike.

I would like to get some of the posters. We have a T&E meeting next Tuesday, so if you could give some to Bill then I would pick them up from him.

Paddling: Charlie Murray – no report

Social Chair: Bess Dillman
Submitted by e-mail:

I have not been able to pull together a potluck in Lee. It just has not worked out.

On a brighter note, plans for the Outdoor Festival on September 15 at Noble View are taking shape. Erin O'Connell, who presented two years ago, will again bring her birds for a talk on hawks & owls. She has informed me that, unfortunately, the Barred Owl has a health problem and cannot travel. She will bring two screech owls and a red-tailed hawk. Frank has the climbing wall reserved for a great price and I hope to have a workshop on Nature Journaling, along with hikes going out all morning. If you have any workshop suggestions, please let me know.

The Annual Meeting (Berkshire Bash) is confirmed for Sunday, Nov 4, at Hadley Farms in Hadley. The speaker has agreed to the Sunday date. Save the date!

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

The NET teamed up with Jill Fusco of the Kestrel Land Trust for National Trails Day this past weekend. She led a sensory hike on the NET up to the Mount Holyoke Summit house, going up a section of stairs that the AMC Pro Crew recently installed (picture below). The original forecast of 80% chance of rain may have deterred more participants from signing up. As you see by the second picture, it turned out to be a beautiful day. My knee blew out 2 weeks ago, so I am on the DL for a bit.

On **Thursday, June 28th** we will have our next scheduled NET work party- location TBD. Please contact Bridget for details as they happen. Blikely@outdoors.org. In the meantime, many of our adopters are already out working on their own sections doing routine maintenance.

The following is a note from Bridget regarding a volunteer opportunity for anyone who may be interested: "**Volunteer Opportunity in the Holyoke Range** – As some of you may know, Kestrel Land Trust received a grant last year to install signage at trailheads and intersections along all the trails at Mount Tom State Reservation, Skinner State Park, and Holyoke Range State Park. Thanks largely in part to Bill Finn and his team of volunteers, they have identified all the prospective sign locations at Mount Tom and they will be installed this summer. Now they are

looking for volunteers who are familiar with the Mount Holyoke Range and might be able to identify prospective sign locations, to be installed Summer 2019. If interested in being a part of this project, please fill out an [application](#) with Kestrel by June 30th". This is an exciting step in getting our "brand" out there and disconnecting from the old "M+M" signage that still remains in many areas.

We also just reached a milestone of 1000 people signed up for the #Hike50Challenge celebrating the National Trails system. Sign up, or encourage others to at <https://newenglandtrail.org/get-on-the-trail/net-hike-50-challenge>. Both the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club (Sections 1 and 2 maintainers of the Mass NET) as well as our own Kathy Martin have been leading hikes on the NET. I will be working on an NET Bingo with Gabriel for a family event in the next month or so.

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

The training and education committee did not meet this past month. I did participate in a call discussing revisions to the leadership requirements and guidelines. We will be meeting in June to discuss plans and initiatives for the summer and fall.

Webmaster: – no report

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

The inter-chapter hikes and concert with Ben Cosgrove on the NET at the beginning of the month went really well! All three hikes were full.

I attended a portion of the YM Inter-Chapter skills share weekend, hosted by the Boston Chapter at Noble View. During the day that I attended, Doug (from the Amherst office) taught us about plants. I still have a lot to learn on the topic and Doug taught me some valuable info.

I will not be able to attend the meeting coming up on Monday. I hope that each of you could take a small stack of posters from Martin. You could hand some out to your sub-committees and activity participants and ask them not to keep the posters for themselves but to post one or two or three around their own towns. If many many people post a few posters each, we should do a good job of covering all of Western Mass

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in short order. I hope this will increase our level of local participants since many seem to come from outside our chapter. Also, please save a small stack for me too when I attend the meeting next month. I'll hand them out during my hikes over this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

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

AMC Berkshire Chapter Treasurer Report June 2018

Beginning Bank Balance as of May 1:		\$ 48,968.41
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Income/May:		0.00
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	Total Income: May	\$ -
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Expenses/May:	Bill Fogel/Final payment-Norwich Retreat/Training	1202.50
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	Total Expenses: May	\$ 1,202.50
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Bank Balance as of June 1:		\$ 47,765.91
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Outstanding Checks for Expenses:

June 1	Hadley Farms Mtg House Deposit for annual meeting	\$500.00
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Financial/Budget Update - June 2018						6/3/2018
Status of Accounts:						
	<u>Income:</u>	<u>Budgeted 2018</u>		<u>Received</u>	<u>Expected</u>	-
401	Member Dues Alloc	\$ 11,600.00		\$ 6,623.25	\$ 4,976.75	
403	Endowment Income	4,750.00		-	4,750.00	
404	Berkshire Bash Tickets	2,000.00		-	2,000.00	
406	Donations	250.00		-	250.00	
407	Appalachian Trail Committee	-		-	-	
*408	Training & Education	-		-	-	
*409	Family Programs	-		1,625.00	(1,625.00)	
410	Special Project Funding				-	
411	Budget shortage from bank account	3,055.00		3,055.00	-	
	Totals:	\$ 21,655.00		\$ 11,303.25	\$10,351.75	
	<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>Budgeted 2018</u>	<u>Reimb</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<i>adj</i> <i>balance</i>
601	Executive-Donations	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	
602	Executive-Annual Meeting/Summit	1,250.00	-	354.02	895.98	
603	Executive-XCMiniretreat	400.00	-	-	400.00	
604	Executive-Chapter Retreat	400.00	-	-	400.00	
605	Executive-Fall Gathering	600.00	-	-	600.00	
606	Executive-Volunteer Recognition	500.00	-	-	500.00	
607	Executive-Office Supplies	200.00	-	-	200.00	
609	Executive-Meeting Expense	950.00	-	106.34	843.66	
611	Appalachian Trail Committeee	1,200.00	-	1,200.00	-	
613	Executive-Berkshire Exchange	500.00			500.00	
614	Executive-Berkshire Bash	5,000.00		500.00		

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					4,500.00	
615	Executive-Berkshire Potlucks	600.00		133.79	466.21	
616	Conservation Committee	300.00		-	300.00	
*617	Family Programs (+1407 prior yr)	2,157.00		1,492.38	664.62	2,289.62
618	Executive-Insurance	700.00		-	700.00	
619	Membership Committee	200.00		-	200.00	
620	Executive-Internet	100.00		-	100.00	
621	Outings Committee	750.00		40.14	709.86	
622	Executive-Scholarship & Subsidies	1,200.00		235.00	965.00	
623	NET Committee	750.00		-	750.00	
*624	Training & Education	2,200.00	-	1,863.74	336.26	336.26
625	Executive-Public Relations	-		-	-	
627	Young Members Committee	300.00		5.98	294.02	
628	Executive-Storage Fees	825.00		-	825.00	
629	Executive-Meetup.com Fees	180.00		89.94	90.06	
630	Paddling Committee	-		-	-	
631	Executive-Outdoor Festival	1,500.00		-	1,500.00	
632	Bicycling Committee	300.00		125.00	175.00	
633	Mountaineering	-		-	-	
	Totals:	\$ 23,062.00	\$ -	\$6146.33	\$16,915.67	
				\$ 5,156.92		
3/18 Family Programs/added last year's surplus of \$1407						