

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER - Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, August 6, 2018

Present: Roger Beer, Brant Cheikes, Nicole Dewberry, Bess Dillman, Frank Evans, Bill Fogel, Dana Gronbeck, Martin Mahoney, Kathryn Martin, Jan Alicia Nettler, Janine Papesh, Jim Pelletier, Heather Wyman

Absent: Sarah Armour, Margo Chapski, Robert Cherdack, Marvin Davenport, Tricia Hanrahan, Charles Murray, Jim VanNatta

Call to Order: 6:40 pm

Mission Statement: omitted

Acceptance of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes for June 4, 2018, was offered by Jim and seconded by Kathy. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Brant inquired where to see the Outdoor Festival in the budget. It was located.

In her e-mail Tricia mentioned a possible shortfall in the budget. Since Tricia was not present to make any recommendation it was decided that it is premature to propose any action.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was offered by Bess. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's Reports are appended below.

September Outdoor Festival:

Bess reported on the status of the Outdoor Festival September 15. Registration is now open. The event has been publicized through various channels. Activities are all planned and Erin O'Connell will be doing her presentation about owls and raptors. There will be music. Bess needs plenty of helpers to make it a big success.

Grinspoon donation:

Martin announced that the Harold Grinspoon Foundation decided to make a combined donation of \$12,000 two support Noble View and the AT committee. The amount will be dispersed in two checks.

Excess Reserves:

Martin provided an update of the ongoing plan for managing excess reserves. He was briefed by people from AMC. The club is moving forward toward unifying chapter excess funds and providing ongoing management of the funds. This elicited several questions and discussion. The expectation is that a meeting will be arranged with club representatives to answer questions and address concerns. Martin will try to collect input from the Executive Committee.

Chapter Website:

Brant informed the committee that an e-mail blast is going out this week. Sarah Armour is becoming familiar with the website, reviewing and inventorying the pages. Brant requested that Executive Committee members adopt individual pages to review and suggest updates or recommend deletions of obsolete pages.

Training and Education:

Bill reported that diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) has been added to AMC training. Susannah has offered to do training for the Executive Committee.

There is a database of activity leaders but it needs to be current regarding leader status. Some leaders have not lead anything for a long time. Bill brought up in Leadership Requirement and Guidelines that an annual list of leaders is required to be submitted to the OLDC. In discussion with OLDC and Volunteer Relations an alternative was suggested for Chapters. Instead of submitting a list, keep trip leaders current on the Activity Database by doing an annual census of leaders. A proposal was made that Berkshire Chapter committees review and update their leaderlists on the activity database annual prior to the Annual Meeting in November. Martin made this motion and it was seconded and passed.

Next Meeting Minutes:

Roger informed the committee that he would not be able to attend the September meeting. A volunteer notetaker will be needed.

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

Submitted by e-mail:

Our project season has been quite full with at least twice weekly projects. Notable projects are: Hubbard Brook boardwalk repairs, Noepel and Tom Leonard Campsite improvements and additions, Great Barrington, Cheshire and North Adams AT Community events and projects; and lastly, rare plant monitoring. We anticipate a lighter project schedule in August as we have a number of open project dates and some of our key leaders will be away.

Hiker volumes continue to rise and are probably at about their peak. In addition to the observations and counts of our Ridge Runners and Overnight Site Caretakers, we are monitoring trail traffic using trailcams in 2 locations this year. The number of overnight stays at Upper Goose Pond cabin as of mid July stood at 889 compared to 925 the same time last year. We have had a number of significant problems with group users and are following up with the managers of the organizations

involved and are planning a follow up letter in the fall to all these organizations.

The end of July marked the end of the time allocated to our management partners and communities to provide input and comments to our DRAFT update to our Local Management Plan. We have met with 2 reviewers (the Dalton Select Board and the Trustees of Reservations) to get their input. Several others have provided comments. Next we will address / incorporate changes before presenting the DRAFT to the New England Regional Partnership meeting in October.

Our Airtable volunteer database has proven very helpful in tracking our work, volunteer info and schedules. As it stands we have recorded over 3,000 volunteer hours. This number does not include most of our individual volunteer hours nor AMC Teen Crew hours. Using this database we are able to sort and filter the info in various ways. For instance a quick filter shows we have had 17 new volunteers work with us thus far this year.

No progress to report on the Mass Special AT license plate, 😞.

Berkshire Exchange: no report

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

June-July 2018

- June 9th - Spring Warm-Up Ride occurred. Brant led and Silvia Scott co-led. Seven people participated (not including the two leaders). After the ride, several participants had lunch together at Maple Farms in Hadley.
- July 14th - Berkshire ride occurred. Janine and Brant led the ride with 4 participants for a total of 6!!
- July 29th – Williamsburg/Ashfield/Conway ride occurred. Brant led, Silvia Scott co-led her 2nd ride, and Marvin Davenport co-led his first ride. In addition to Brant, Silvia, and Marvin, there were 6 participants for a total of 9!!! After the ride, several participants had lunch together at the Brewmasters Tavern in Williamsburg. Silvia Scott is now able to post and lead her own bike rides! Item posted on website: <http://amcberkshire.org/bicycling-news>

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- August 4th - West River Valley Ride planned, with Janine and Brant leading. (Likely to be canceled due to rain.)
- October 20th – AMC President’s Society 20- and 40-mile rides. Brant and Janine leading per request of AMC development office. Open only to AMC President’s Society members.

Communications: Brant Cheikes and Sarah Armour
Submitted by e-mail:

June-July 2018

- June 6th – Brant & Sarah met via Skype to discuss communications committee objectives; settled on review/update of BK website
- June e-mail blast went out on June 22nd
- Content of June e-mail blast sent out to AMC BK MeetUp group members a few days earlier, on June 18th
- July 9th – Brant & Sarah met via Skype to review Sarah’s assessment of BK website organization and content
- July 19th – Brant met w/ Evan Yeadon (former webmaster) for some training on website management & maintenance
- During June and July, Sarah conducted a partial audit of the chapter website (attached)
- During July, Brant implemented a number of updates & cleanups to the chapter website & communications systems, including:
 - Review & cleanup of unused e-mail aliases and inboxes on amcberkshire.org
 - Updates to selected AT in response to feedback from AT Committee
 - Addition of a number of fresh news items to the Chapter’s front page
 - Added ‘Login to ActDB’ link under ‘For Trip Leaders’
 - Deactivated a questionable Conservation page which had links to unvetted sources
 - Streamlined ‘Member Quick Links’
- In the coming months we plan to reach out to individual committee members to review their posted information and make any needed changes before an eventual transition to a new website system.

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack
Submitted by e-mail:

Still working as a committee of one and will try to recruit members at the Outdoor Festival. Principal efforts were aimed at securing active (not passive) support from our federal legislators for the LWCF. To this end I communicated with Senators Warren and Markey and Representative Neal. Also distributed and distributed 200 index cards with issue info on the LWCF to excomm members to hand out at events. Also participated in a Housatonic River cleanup and addressed participants about LWCF. The LWCF will no longer exist after next month unless we get a big push, not just lip service, from those who care about it. It has bipartisan support and would almost certainly pass both houses if we can get it to floor votes.

Also communicated with state legislators about the appropriations for the Department of Conservation and Recreation and there will be a significant increase over last year and over the governor's budget for this fiscal year.

Also urged Senator Hinds to support passage of the public lands protection act which unfortunately did not pass. I don't think it reached the floor.

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

Springtime brought about the planning for the 2nd Barton Cove trip scheduled for July 22. Once again, this was a multi-chapter & multi committee endeavor. Dee Dice (BK Family Leader) and Ingrid Molar (Wor Leader) headed up the leadership part for Family Programs. Dave Elliot and Dave Cole (Wor Paddling) were actively engaged in acquiring paddling instructors for the weekend. Silvia Scott was an LIT for Family Programs for this event.

Unfortunately, the trip was cancelled due to low registration. Only 9 participants, other than paddling & FP leaders were registered. It was decided by the Leaders, with my input & approval, that the loss of the camping fee (\$120) could be absorbed/forgiven by our current budget without significant impact. Thankfully, the food and supplies had not been purchased, yet.

Although this trip was cancelled, there was discussion on how to market it better for next year. The trip had been posted 5-6 months earlier in the magazine, yet it didn't fill.

-BK Family Programs is trying out Constant Connect as a format for increasing FP participation. (Dee Dice is trained in this format).

Other Spring day hikes geared toward Family participation also had only minimal/low participation. Part of that was weather related, though.

As we move toward Fall & Winter, the participation should increase with continued planning and marketing.

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

We have been very busy in the last two months. In June we had a two-day introduction to rock climbing course and a two-day introduction to multi-pitch trad climbing course. We had 5 days of outdoor climbing trips. Each class had 4 students and the outdoor climbing trips averaged 10 climbers.

In July we gave a one-day Anchors 1 course and had 5 days of outdoor climbing trips with an additional two-day multi-pitch trip for our students in the intro to multi-pitch climbing. Again, the class had 4 students and the outdoor trips averaged 10 to 12 people.

Outings: Kathy Martin
Submitted by e-mail:

Hikes have been continuing throughout the summer. In recognition of the National Trails 50th Anniversary, the Tuesday hiking group has been hiking the NET in MA. Attendance has ranged from three to 20 on the hikes, with the usual attendance around 12. Bess Dillman has once again coordinated the AT series of the summer and response to the series continues to be high.

I have been working on getting new leaders to lead hikes and to get a couple of co-leads with Leaders in Training completed. To that end two new leaders have scheduled hikes in August and September and an LIT has her final hike scheduled for August 28.

I continue to work on Train the Trainer skills and on the Training and Education Committee.

Paddling: Charlie Murray – no report

Social Chair: Bess Dillman
Submitted by e-mail:

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Last week Janice Tassinari and I led Hike #7, Rte 20 to Pittsfield Road, in the series of hikes on the AT in Massachusetts. Hike #8 is coming up this weekend. There are a total of 12 hikes from CT border to VT. We have at least one participant who is planning to finish all the sections.

I am working on the Outdoor Festival, Saturday, Sept 15. Hope you all will all attend. We will have hikes in the morning, the climbing wall, activities for kids, BBQ lunch, music, a presentation by Erin O'Connell with her owls and a red-tailed hawk about 2pm and more.

I'm looking for volunteers:

Set-up (2-4)

Lunch prep & helpers (4-6)

Parking (2)

Clean up

Ambassadors--(meet & greet participants)

And others

Here's a reminder that the Annual Meeting/Berkshire Bash is scheduled for Sunday, Nov 4, at Hadley Farms in Hadley. The speaker will be Dan Szczesny, hiker, author & speaker from New Hampshire. Save the date!

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

Hello everyone, a quick few notes Fun what the new England a trail folks have been up to. First of all, they like 50 challenge has over 1230 participants with over 107 completions . Thanks to Kathy Martin and the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club for sponsoring section hikes.

The Holyoke Teen Crew has been doing some much needed repairs on Section 3 (after the Westfield River heading north). They have two weeks left.

The official headquarters for the Mass NET has moved from Amherst to Northampton and I will share more on the open house once it is planned. Most importantly, there is a nice conference room that our ExCom could eventually meet in.

Our next work party date will be August 18th at Royalston Falls. More details are available on NewEnglandTrail.com. All welcome!

Finally, the Massachusetts Walking (and Paddling) tour did a stretch of the Ct. River performing local community concerts. Since my friends from Cool Hand Uke were playing with them at Mt. Tom (where the NET passes through), I couldn't find a better way to celebrate two things I love than to toss in a hula hoop with Kristen Sykes, the AMC Paddling persona. Fun!

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

T/E committee report 8-4-18

The T/E committee met in June to review the leadership training. A final total of 22 students attended with 14 instructors. Final count for Berkshire was 6 students with 4 instructors. Overall it appeared the training was successful, comments were very positive. There were unexpected costs (mostly related to the training site) and as a result we had a loss of \$977. The committee reviewed expenses and will consider this in regards to next year's training. We have also instituted a procedure for the Berkshire folks who go through the training to track their leadership progress. We plan to finish writing up a Berkshire Chapter Leadership Manual, a project that Kathy Martin started. The committee also discussed tracking current leaders and the Leadership Requirements and Guidelines (LRG) directive of submitting leader lists annually to the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee (OLDC).

Outdoor Leadership Development Committee (OLDC) report

The OLDC has reviewed suggested edits to the Leadership Requirements and Guidelines (LRG) and is re-writing the document to submit for edits at the Fall gathering.

Webmaster: – no report

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

I postponed one hike due to rain and thunderstorms. Kari and I led a second hike, this one with a LWCF theme, at Warner Hill on the AT. Initially several participants registered but only two attended. It is unusual to have that many "no shows." All the same, we enjoyed it :)

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I advertised the upcoming Young Members leadership training on Meetup, and I asked Brant and Sarah to advertise it in an email blast and on the chapter's website (thanks to both of you!). I am currently the only YM leader in the chapter, and so with fingers crossed we may be able to find another leader or two. Please spread the word if you know of anyone who may be interested:

<https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/106062>

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, September 10 (second Monday) at Rockridge in Northampton at 6:30 pm.

AMC Berkshire Chapter Treasurer Report August 2018

Beginning Bank Balance as of July 1: \$ 51,439.75

Income/July:

Total Income: July \$ -

Expenses/July:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Bill Fogel | Summit hotel | \$160.09 |
| Martin Mahoney | Storage Unit | \$825.00 |
| Bill Fogel | Summit registration | \$35.00 |

Total Expenses: July \$ 1,020.09

Bank Balance as of August 1: \$ 50,419.66

Outstanding Expenses as of August 1:

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 627 | Nicole Dewberry | Inter-Chapter hike&pizza | \$57.83 |
| 629 | Heather Wyman | Meetup Subscription | 89.94 |

Account Balance as of August 1: \$ 50,271.89

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Financial/Budget Update - August 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 | 4,340.41 | 409.59 | | |
| 404 | Berkshire Bash Tickets | 2,000.00 | - | 2,000.00 | | |
| 406 | Donations | 250.00 | - | 250.00 | | |
| 407 | Appalachian Trail Committee | - | - | - | | |
| *408 | Training & Education | - | 823.00 | (823.00) | | |
| *409 | Family Programs | - | 1,625.00 | (1,625.00) | | |
| 410 | Special Project Funding | | | - | | |
| #411 | Budget shortage from bank account | 4,462.00 | 4,462.00 | - | | |
| | Totals: | \$23,062.00 | \$17,873.66 | \$ 5,188.34 | | |
| | <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>Budgeted 2018</u> | <u>Reimb</u> | <u>Expended</u> | <u>Balance</u> | <u>adj balance</u> |
| 601 | Executive-Donations | \$ - | | \$ - | \$ - | |
| 602 | Executive-Annual Meeting/Summit | 1,250.00 | - | 549.11 | 700.89 | |
| 603 | Executive-XCMiniretreat | 400.00 | - | - | 400.00 | |
| 604 | Executive-Chapter Retreat | 400.00 | - | 119.88 | 280.12 | |
| 605 | Executive-Fall Gathering | 600.00 | - | - | 600.00 | |
| 606 | Executive-Volunteer Recognition | 500.00 | | - | 500.00 | |
| 607 | Executive-Office Supplies | 200.00 | - | 24.69 | 175.31 | |
| 609 | Executive-Meeting Expense | 950.00 | - | 571.24 | 378.76 | |
| 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 | 4,500.00 | |
| 615 | Executive-Berkshire Potlucks | 600.00 | | 133.79 | 466.21 | |
| 616 | Conservation Committee | 300.00 | | - | 300.00 | |

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|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| *617 | Family Programs (+1407 prior yr) | 2,157.00 | | 1,492.38 | 664.62 | 2,289.62 |
| 618 | Executive-Insurance | 700.00 | | 380.00 | 320.00 | |
| 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 | 1,159.26 |
| 625 | Executive-Public Relations | - | | - | - | |
| 627 | Young Members Committee | 300.00 | | 63.81 | 236.19 | |
| 628 | Executive-Storage Fees | 825.00 | | 825.00 | - | |
| 629 | Executive-Meetup.com Fees | 180.00 | | 179.88 | 0.12 | |
| 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 | \$ - | \$8303.66 | \$14,758.34 | |
| Overall Budget Surplus/Deficit: | | | | \$ 9,570.00 | | |

#3/18 Family Programs/added last year's surplus of \$1407