

Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Report of the Chapter Chair

2018 was a year where the Berkshire Chapter made a concerted effort to expand its programmatic and training offerings to our members. By emphasizing and promoting access to training opportunities, outdoor activities, taking steps to enhance the annual outdoor festival held at Nobel View in September as well as moving our Berkshire Bash to a new location the chapter was able to engage longtime members, re-engage lapsed members and grow the reach of the club in the Berkshire and Pioneer Valley areas.

Member committees led the way in conservation, enjoyment and appreciation of the outdoors by leading outings, spearheading work parties and actively engaging in our communities. In the following reports you will see just how active this chapter has been over the last year. In many ways the Berkshire Chapter offers activities and opportunities that can compare to much larger chapters of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Moving forward in 2019 the chapter seeks to emphasize and highlight conservation in our activities and continue to promote and grow the chapter.

Martin W. Mahoney

Berkshire Chapter Chair, 2018

AT Committee

The AT Committee had another active and productive year with approximately 220 volunteers contributing approximately 10,000 volunteer hours in 2017. Volunteer hours for 2018 are currently being collected. Below is a summary of our major areas of activity.

Trail Maintenance: A near full roster of volunteers was maintained throughout the year. The usual assortment of bog bridge, step stone, stone stairs and the like projects were accomplished. AMC Teen and Pro crews started work on the last switchback on the north side of Mt Prospect. Greenagers completed a 500' reroute around a steep eroded section in the South Wilcox area.

Trail Lands Monitoring: Roughly 20% of the boundaries were maintained consistent with our 5 year maintenance program. Again the inventory of missing monuments created for the National Park Service's use and long range planning was actually reduced by diligent efforts to locate missing monuments. While some progress was made on encroachment follow ups, additional attention is needed in this area. We also need to recruit and train new Corridor Monitors.

Trail Facilities: A number of small shelter, campsite and privy repairs were made over the course of the season. The tenting area at the Noepel overnight site was reconfigured to optimize use of the site. Tent pads were constructed at the Leonard site to better define the tenting area. Good progress was made in identification and removal of hazard trees. Privy capacity is being challenged at several sites most notably at Noepel due to heavy use levels.

Natural Resources: Our efforts in this area remained robust with: natural heritage monitoring, open area management, and invasive plant management efforts all active. In addition, a pilot Cultural Resources program was initiated in concert with our NPS and ATC partners.

Upper Goose Pond: The cabin was opened in mid May and closed in late October with no interruptions in Caretaker coverage. Overnight stays declined about 12% from the last two year's number of ~2400. After jumping through quite a number of bureaucratic hoops, we were able to install the new dock on the pond.

Visitor Use Management: Use of our Group Use Notification system continued to expand this year with over 200 group overnight site stays managed by our Coordinator. We also encountered 20 overnight groups on the AT who had not used our notification system. A letter was sent to organizations sending groups out on the AT seeking their voluntary compliance with the regulations regarding such use. The DCR and AMC seasonal Ridge Runner programs and our third year of volunteer Overnight Site Caretakers enhanced the effectiveness of our outreach to hikers on the trail, preventing and resolving many problems. Our efforts to expand this program were largely unsuccessful. For the second year in a row we collected hiker use data continuously over the course of the season at a spot on the AT. Approximately 3,900 hikers used this section of the AT over the season. While this is an increase of 20% overall; the increase is due to a doubling of day hikers combined with a 17% decline in backpackers. Use monitoring of one of our overnight sites recorded over 900 visitors between mid-April and mid-October, with an average of 6.5 per night with 6 nights over 15 and a maximum of 26. Only 11 nights were recorded with no use in this 160 day survey.

Management: Our Committee continued to be robust although leadership is increasingly falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. Key members have died or are in the process of retiring. We have several leadership positions to be filled. Our partnerships with DCR and ATC remain strong. Our relationship with the AT Communities of Great Barrington, North Adams, Dalton (who hosted our annual Volunteer Gathering), and Cheshire remain sound. Good progress was made in the effort to update our Local Management Plan which we expect will be completed in the 2nd quarter of next year. We started using a database to manage our volunteer records this year and continue to develop its structure. Our efforts to pursue a Mass AT Special License Plate have stalled due to lack of partner resources allocation. The Committee will be seeking a new Chair in the coming

year and is seeking volunteers to fill the roles of: Group Outreach Coordinator, Southern Maintainer Coordinator, and Community Outreach Coordinator. We look forward to another exciting year in 2019 which we will kick off with our 17 Annual Trail Volunteer Gathering early next year.

Respectfully Submitted for the AT Committee:
Jim Pelletier, Chair

Bicycling Committee

- 2018 was the second cycling season for the Chapter's relatively new Bicycling Committee. At the start of the season, the two committee chairs were the only approved Bicycling trip leaders within the Chapter.
- An early-season effort to organize a regional Bike Maintenance & Repair Workshop (modeled after similar workshops run annually by the AMC Boston Chapter) was cancelled due to low pre-registrations.
- During the period June through September, the Bicycling Committee led five (5) chapter trips in Western Massachusetts. (Inclement weather in May forced the cancellation of that month's scheduled trip.) In October, the Committee ran one special trip for members of the AMC's Presidents Society. Of these six trips, five were in the Pioneer Valley, and one was in the Berkshires proper. Collectively, 31 people participated in these trips, nearly all of whom were members of the AMC.
- During the season, two additional Chapter members became fully qualified Bicycling trip leaders, doubling the number of available bicycling trip leaders within the Chapter.
- Overall, we are pleased with the accomplishments of the Bicycling Committee in 2018. In 2019, our goal is to run at least two trips per month during the active cycling season from May through September, and recruit at least two more trip leaders. To reach a broader audience, we plan to engage with the Northampton Cycling Club (NCC) which is broadly known but offers limited riding opportunities to cyclists interested in recreational rides rather than fitness/race-training rides.

Brant Cheikes & Janine Papesh
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs

Communications and Berkshire Exchange

Sarah Armour joined the Communications Committee as chair, attending her first Executive Committee meeting in May. One of the first communications tasks she performed was to undertake an audit of the Chapter's website where it was determined that there is a lot of outdated and broken material. The committee discussed the website's ultimate migration to Wordpress and decided to wait until there is more direction and feedback from the Club and other chapters. Since then, the committee has been working to clean up the current website while adding relevant, up-to-date content.

Sarah wrote her first eblast in October and has been sending out monthly eblasts since. In 2019, the committee plans to use the 2nd eblast transmittal date more frequently than the 1st, to allow for a prompt to ExCom members to share information for the eblast at the monthly ExCom meeting on the first Monday of the month.

In December Cody Andrews volunteered to lead creation of the quarterly Berkshire Exchange newsletter, which has not published in some time since we have been without an editor. The first newsletter under Cody will publish in Spring 2019.

In December Bess stepped down as the Chapter's Facebook administrator and Sarah assumed that role. Also in December, Heather expressed her desire to pass the administration of the Chapter's Meetup account to someone on the Communications Committee. We will address that issue in 2019.

The Committee has been actively recruiting for a new webmaster and will continue to do so in the new year.

Goals for 2019 (do we include these here?)

- Recruit more volunteers for communications, including a webmaster, regular newsletter contributors, and social media contributors
- Build a Berkshire Chapter photo library
- Grow eblast and newsletter subscribers and social media followers
- Examine adding Instagram as a chapter social media platform
- Continue the conversation about migrating the chapter website to Wordpress

Sarah Armour

Family Programs Committee

With more and more people becoming Berkshire Chapter Leaders, the opportunity for leaders to be qualified for Family Program Leaders also grows. The criteria is basically the same, with just a few differences when it comes to leading a hike, activity, event or outing involving youth under the age of 18 years old, along with their family.

Many of the Family Program Leaders are qualified leaders in other committees such as paddling and hiking. Plus, we have collaborated with other committee's (Mountaineering) to bring opportunities for families to participate in activities TOGETHER! So, the children get to experience what their parents enjoy doing in a safe & structured, engaging experience with qualified leaders. What a wonderful way to share our love & respect for the out-of-doors, and all that is available to do. From hiking to biking, conservation, climbing, paddling & camping... It is all possible through Family Programs.

If anyone is interested in learning more about becoming a Family Programs Leader, please send an email to [familyprograms@ amcberkshire.org](mailto:familyprograms@amcberkshire.org).

Respectfully submitted,
Margo Chapski, AMC Berkshire Family Program Chair

Mountaineering Committee

This was another eventful year having offered 50 climbing related trips. These include outdoor climbing at local area crags and away in the states of New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont. We held weekly indoor climbing at the gym in Hadley and weekend excursions to outlying gyms through the winter. We offered winter hiking, cross country and down hill skiing, and ice climbing events as well.

Our spring events began with our Skills Review for Mountaineering trip leaders. This was followed by our annual partnering with the Trustees of Reservations to improve trails and waterfall access at Chapel Falls Reservation in Ashfield, Mass. Through the spring we ran our training classes for Introduction to Top Rope Climbing and Intro. to Trad. Climbing.

Later in the spring and throughout the summer we ran weekly Wednesday evening climbing trips to Chapel Ledges in Ashfield, Sunbowl in Sunderland, and Farley Ledges in Erving. Throughout the spring, summer and fall we had weekend trips to the Gunks on the Mohonk Preserve in New York State and to local climbing

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areas in Western Massachusetts. We also offered a Women's Climbing Day which was geared to women but open to all.

In the fall we held two Anchor Building courses and continued climbing on Wednesday evenings at the Central Rock Climbing Gym in Hadley. Social events included a summer pot luck gathering and an annual holiday party.

We started a sub-committee to implement DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) practices and principals into our activities. There is strong participation and enthusiasm from our members.

We wish to thank Chris Neil for volunteering to be Co-Chair for a two year term along with Marvin Davenport. Thank you to Alex Crowley for taking on the Secretary's position. Thanks to Jim Van Natta (Co-Chair) and Deborah Cohen (Secretary) for their dedicated service through this past year. Silvia Scott has stepped into the newly created position to handle publicity. We wish to thank all the trip leaders, Committee Officers, and others who generously volunteered their time and effort in making this year such a great success.

Respectfully submitted by: Jim VanNatta and Marvin Davenport,
Mountaineering Co---Chairs

Outings Committee

It has been a very busy year as Outings Chair! We have had 98 chapter trips, of which 52 were Tuesday hikes. This year the chapter sponsored no backpacking trips through hiking. We have been co-leading many hikes with Connecticut and Worcester Leaders, and providing hikes through our Family and Young Members Programs making it difficult to know exactly how many hikes we have had! Currently we have 52 individuals listed as Hike Leaders through the Berkshire Chapter and a subset of 25 Leaders in the Tuesday Hiking Group.

Several Leaders lead hike series over the year: Bess Dillman lead the summer AT hike series, and the Tuesday Hikers lead a series of hikes on the New England Trail in observance of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. Jan Nettler lead an over-70's challenge hike on the Sister Sisters Section of the NET. Several Leaders participated by leading hikes at our Annual Family Outing at Noble View. Diane Jones will be acknowledged at our Annual Meeting as the MVP Hike Leader of 2018. Thanks to all.

Congratulations to our new hike leaders: Patricia Watson, Diane Jones, and Marvin Davenport. Currently we have the following individuals in our Hike Leader in Training Program: Deena Gilbert, Greg Wolf, and John O'Shea. John has completed his qualification in CT and needs only one more co-lead to be certified in Berkshire. I hope we will be honoring these individuals as new Leaders at our next annual meeting.

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The Tuesday Hikers leadership roles have continued throughout the last year with Mary Moriarty, David Whitney and Lewis Popper as Hike Posters and Leader Coordinators Deborah Shea, Jeannie Jones, Peggy McLennan and Kathy Martin. I would like to thank Dee Dice who hosted a leader gathering this winter.

In another capacity, I have assisted in several Leader Trainings: January 17, 2018 at the AMC Summit, at our own AMC Berkshire Chapter training in April 2018 at Norwich Lake, and this weekend at Prindle Pond. I will also be teaching November 16-18 for the CT chapter in Litchfield, CT. I have worked to update leader requirements for Berkshire leaders

I hope we can increase our hike offerings and develop new hiking series. I would also like to have more training offerings such as first aid and hiking skills.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Martin, AMC Berkshire Outings Chair

Social/Membership Committee

This year we had a well-attended potluck in Northampton in March with a presentation on the Galapagos by members Joe Gelinas and Roxanne Suprina.

On September 15 we had the Third Annual Outdoor Festival at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell attended by over 150 people and accomplished by the efforts of many, many, volunteers. Activities included hikes, kids events, poi dancing lessons, fix-a-flat station, ukulele lesson, and more. Erin O'Connell gave a presentation on raptors & owls with live birds. Berkshire Mountain Search and Rescue had a show and tell. Two bands entertained us.

On Nov. 4 the Berkshire Bash, our annual meeting, was held at Hadley Farms. Dan Szczensy, hiker and writer, was the speaker with a presentation about the many aspects of Mt. Washington.

I have enjoyed this position for three years and am stepping down this year. However, I will be available to the next Social/Membership Chair to answer any questions. I look forward to having more time to lead AMC hikes in the Berkshires!

Bess Dillman
Social Membership Chair
AMC Berkshire Chapter

Trails Committee

Sure. The New England Trail still has a majority of our budget to use. This is mostly because what we originally budgeted for has been turned around a little bit. We decided not to purchase the tools we originally wanted to obtain because the AMC put a paid trail crew up at Noble View, and they have been completing some of the work we would normally schedule our volunteer trail crew to do. In other words, our scheduled crew days have been fewer than usual and we didn't want to have tools sitting around. The second item we wanted to purchase was a new spare tire for a trailer, but the AMC has not renewed our registration/title issue so we can't even take the trailer out on the road right now. The third item we wanted to purchase was a conference table for our new office, but that was thwarted by a bunch of different issues, including the lack of chairs included in the invoice and \$100 fee to carry the table up the stairs and set it up...

The last thing we budgeted our money for was for adopter appreciation and support, and we are scheduling that right now so we will likely be purchasing appreciation gifts and reimbursement items for our adopters in the next few weeks, and we will also be purchasing a push mower to donate to Noble View. Mostly, because I have donated three of them to Noble View and they have all died. I do hand mowing up there as part of my trails stewardship, and our committee agreed that this would be the right thing to do.

Next year we plan on using our budget to get trail crew shirts for volunteers and continue support for our stewards. We would have done that this year if we knew it all of her other plans we're going to fall through.

Heather

Training and Education

Training and Education Report 2017-2018

This year the Training and Education committee was very active. In 2017 we sent 6 Berkshire chapter members to the T3 Train the Trainer Outdoor Leadership weekend. This year we also sent 6 members with one of our members serving as a facilitator. Four of our committee members attended the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training at Summit and are helping to educate committees at the chapter level. One of our members attended a Leave No Trace trainer and can now teach 1 day workshops.

In a joint Training with the Worcester Chapter committee and other T3 trainers a Chapter Leadership Training was held in Huntington in April. The training was well attended. We sent six of our own chapter members. Three who have become

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trip leaders. We have implemented procedures to provide support for those completing the training to match up with chapter committees. Overall this year we have had 7 new trip leaders joining our committees.

In addition the committee is serving to align our chapter policies with the new Leadership and Requirement Guidelines, specifically in the area of listing trip leaders on the database and posting activities. The committee has been working with Jon Hanauer to update and in form committees of the existing liter lists on the AMC database.

We have implemented a process honoring current leaders by recognizing new and MVP trip leaders from each of the committees at the Berkshire Bash. The enthusiasm and dedication of our committee members and trainers has led to a very successful first year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Fogel, Training and Education Chair

Young Members

Trainings/Meetings:

- AMC-wide Young Members Leaders Retreat
- Fall Gathering
- Berkshire Bash
- Executive Committee Meetings

Activities:

- Our chapter's largest Young Members event of the year was a series of three inter-chapter hikes lead by the Berkshire (me), Worcester (Alexandra Molnar and Zenya Molnar), and Connecticut (Alison Terjek and Corey Mott) Chapters, followed with pizza and a concert by Ben Cosgrove (the NET artist-in-residence).
- I led about one hike per month throughout this year, and I planned a few of these in cooperation with some of the previously mentioned leaders from the Worcester and Connecticut Chapters. Usually we follow a hike with a social at a nearby restaurant.
- I co-lead a Young Members introduction to cross-country skiing activity with help from Adam Jasionkowski of Mountaineering.

Advertising:

- I contributed an article and pictures to the Chapter's website (coming soon).
- I spoke about AMC with students who are affiliated with different outdoor programs at UMass Amherst, Smith, and Westfield State.

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- The Executive Committee distributed flyers around Western Mass to help recruit new local participants to Berkshire Chapter activities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Dewberry, Young Members (20s/30s) Chair

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Treasurer

Financial/Budget Update - Final 2018						12/31/2018
Status of Accounts:						
	<u>Income:</u>	<u>Budgeted 2018</u>		<u>Received</u>	<u>Expected</u>	-
401	Member Dues Alloc	\$11,600.00		\$13,160.75	(\$1,560.75)	
403	Endowment Income	\$4,750.00		\$4,340.31	\$409.69	
404	Berkshire Bash Tickets	\$2,000.00		\$1,546.77	\$453.23	
406	Donations	\$250.00		\$100.00	\$150.00	
407	Appalachian Trail Committee	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
*408	Training & Education	\$0.00		\$823.00	(\$823.00)	
*409	Family Programs	\$0.00		\$1,625.00	(\$1,625.00)	
410	Special Project Funding/Grants			\$11,993.84	(\$11,993.84)	
411	Budget shortage from bank account	\$4,462.00		\$4,462.00	\$0.00	
	Totals:	\$23,062.00		\$38,051.67	(\$14,989.67)	
	<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>Budgeted 2018</u>	<u>Reimb</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>adj balance</u>
601	Executive-Donations	\$0.00	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	
602	Executive-Annual Meeting/Summit	\$1,250.00	-	\$549.11	\$700.89	
603	Executive-XCMini retreat	\$400.00	-	\$216.96	\$183.04	
604	Executive-Chapter Retreat	\$400.00	-	\$519.88	(\$119.88)	
605	Executive-Fall Gathering	\$600.00	-	\$249.00	\$351.00	
606	Executive-Volunteer Recognition	\$500.00	-	\$123.00	\$377.00	
607	Executive-Office Supplies	\$200.00	-	\$91.55	\$108.45	
609	Executive-Meeting Expense	\$950.00	-	\$394.78	\$555.22	
611	Appalachian Trail Committee	\$1,200.00	-	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	
613	Executive-Berkshire Exchange	\$500.00			\$500.00	
614	Executive-Berkshire Bash	\$5,000.00		\$3,603.16	\$1,396.84	
615	Executive-Berkshire Potlucks	\$600.00		\$133.79	\$466.21	
616	Conservation Committee	\$300.00		\$0.00	\$300.00	

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*617	Family Programs (+1407 prior yr)	\$2,157.00		\$1,573.21	\$583.79	\$2,208.79
618	Executive-Insurance	\$700.00		\$380.00	\$320.00	
619	Membership Committee	\$200.00		\$0.00	\$200.00	
620	Executive-Internet	\$100.00		\$13.95	\$86.05	
621	Outings Committee	\$750.00		\$67.52	\$682.48	
622	Executive-Scholarship & Subsidies	\$1,200.00		\$710.00	\$490.00	
623	NET Committee	\$750.00		\$552.75	\$197.25	
*624	Training & Education	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$2,538.79	(\$338.79)	\$484.21
625	Executive-Public Relations	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
627	Young Members Committee	\$300.00		\$63.81	\$236.19	
628	Executive-Storage Fees	\$825.00		\$825.00	\$0.00	
629	Executive-Meetup.com Fees	\$180.00		\$179.88	\$0.12	
630	Paddling Committee	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
631	Executive-Outdoor Festival	\$1,500.00		\$1,078.19	\$421.81	
632	Bicycling Committee	\$300.00		\$375.00	(\$75.00)	
633	Mountaineering	\$0.00			\$0.00	
	Spec Proj/Grant(AT & Nobleview)			\$11,993.84	(\$11,993.84)	
	Totals:	\$23,062.00	\$0.00	\$27,433.17	(\$4,371.17)	
	Overall Budget Surplus/Deficit:			\$10,618.50		
3/18 Family Programs/added last year's surplus of \$1407						

Past Chairs of the Berkshire Chapter

1929–30 Edward K Allen	1969–70 Norman E Aubrey
1931 Joseph F Partenheimer	1971–72 Forrest E House
1932 Edwin W Gantt	1973–74 Margaret Rose
1933 Donald E Temple	1975–76 William T Cushwa
1934 Howard M Buffinton	1977–78 Walter L Haynes
1935 Malcolm B Ross	1979–80 John D Shuttleworth
1936 Donald McClench	1981–82 Kathryn E Burnett
1936–37 John Dickson	1983–84 S Alberta Stutsman
1938 Horace E Allen	1985 John Pritchard
1939 William K Buxton	1986 Florence Mertz
1940 Eugene E Durst	1986–87 Edward N Lewis
1941 Maynard O Saunders	1988–89 Paul Evans
1942–43 Parke W Farrar	1990–91 Sue Lewis
1944–45 Warner B Sturtevant	1992 Jean Armitage
1946–47 Carl O Chauncy	1993 William Kopel
1948–49 Harold T Daugherty	1994–95 Thomas J Leary
1950 Heinz J Sherbow	1996–97 Christopher J Ryan
1951–52 Ellis H Pritchard	1998–99 Kathryn B Leary
1953–54 Byron Chauncy	2000–01 Thomas Senuta
1955–56 George W Alderman	2002–04 Gary L Forish
1957–58 John A Saunders	2005–06 Rob Robertson
1959–60 Sidney F Law	2007–08 Jon M Hanauer
1961–62 Phyllis M Sears	2008-10 Deborah Levine
1963–64 Edith M Libby	2010-12 Dave Sauriol
1965–66 Garrison Householder	2012-14 Sabine Prather
1967–68 Charles L Kirkpatrick	

2014-15 shared by 4 members of the Executive Committee: Roger Beer,
Wayne Rodrigues, Grace Ferrante, Patrick Fletcher

2015-16 Jan Alicia Nettler

2016-17 Jan Alicia Nettler

2017– 18 Martin Mahoney