

MEETING MINUTES
Appalachian Mountain Club
Hiking/Backpacking Committee
Boston Chapter

February 12, 2008
At the home of Bob Kittredge

PRESENT:
Judy Dillman – Esteemed Chair
Stan Dunbar - Footnotes Editor
Chris Gaudette
Debbie Ireland
Florrie Johnson - Secretary
Bob Kittredge – Harvard Cabinmaster
Kevin McAllister
Gary Schwartz - Webmaster
Mike Swartz - Treasurer
Dan Wiktor – Co-Chair
Bogie D
John Lisker
Bob Moore
Phil Jones

- 1) MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 pm
- 2) LAST MEETINGS MINUTES were voted on and accepted
- 3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Feb. 4th

At the Annual Meeting it was decided to suspend the Spring Gathering for this year. The business mtg that usually occurs at the Gathering will be held via conference calls, and possibly video conferencing calls.

The AMC is looking at the Boston Chapter's transition from the MUD hardcopy to the electronic version to possibly use as a model for a club-wide shift to electronic news publications.

“Vision 20/10” was a group of organizational goals developed by the AMC for the AMC. The goals are currently under revision. A group of Chapter Chairs offered the following input to the Board of Directors:

- 1) More use of technology
- 2) Renewed focus on volunteerism
- 3) Emphasis on local level conservation and open spaces
- 4) Affordable lodging and education programs

The OLDC has received feedback regarding their recent revision of the “Bad Apple” policy and are creating another revision that will be distributed.

The Mountaineering Committee is sponsoring a SOLO program on March 15 & 16.

The Bike Committee was disappointed in the small turnout of our conjoint planning meeting last month, and will probably return to doing a Leader Appreciation Dinner/Planning meeting on their own next year.

The Leader Survey discussed last month was created and distributed to Committee Chairs, who provided feedback that it was too long and had a negative bias. A revision is in the works.

Declining interest in outdoor activities and in our trips specifically was discussed, referencing various national magazine articles documenting the same trend. YM is reaching out to universities.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM: DEALING WITH COMPETITION FROM ON-LINE MEET UP GROUPS.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE

Mike and Mark have added Mike's name to the checking account per approval from OUR NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MARK BATSON. [A list of duties will be drawn up by the current secretary]

It was agreed that the HB Chairperson's name should also be on the checking account

Winter Program proceeds have not been totaled, but Mike estimates it is in the tens of dollars, not hundreds.

ACTION ITEM: Mark "Past Treasurer and Assistant Secretary" Batson is handling the Treasurer's Audit

5)A TRIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT – SILVIA

Absent -

5)B HARVARD CABIN REPORT – BOB

June Harvard Cabin still needs leaders

Jan HC lost money, about \$58.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM: How much we want to subsidize HC trips

6) TRIP REPORTER'S REPORT – LEANDRA

absent

7) WEBMASTER'S REPORT – GARY

All functions of the old site have been transferred to the new site.

The old site will disappear at the end of March. Currently it links to our new site.

Registered users can supply content.

Regarding the Spring Program – each trip leader can write their own trip description for the site. Joan Wu is the "publisher"

Gary created a Gear Sales Forum

Community Builder Software allows various people to access the site, for example, SHP participants

On-line trip listings issue is under New Business

8) COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

Winter Hiking Program – Bob M & Phil

The feedback survey had a 50% response rate and feedback was positive. The program had 100 participants. There were 50 participants at Cardigan. Bob & Keith would like to put the program structure on a disk for future coordinators. Bob M pointed out there is a need to get consistency on our winter boot policy – what is acceptable for winter hiking and backpacking. Consistency is needed across leaders and between WHP lecturers and the WHP manual.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM: resolving the Winter Boot issue

ACTION ITEM: Bob has agreed to do the Winter Program next year.

Spring Hiking Program - Chris

The first organizational meeting has happened, and the schedule was created, including trips and presenters. Still a few talks that need presenters. Cardigan will be occurring at Pinkham because Cardigan was booked for May. 25 beds were reserved, and the number of leaders to take is a question as their beds must be paid for/subsidized by the program. AMC Group Sales (thanks to a tip from Kevin) gave Chris & SHP a good deal for Pinkham .

An alternate venue was discussed, Camp Cody, a summer camp on Lake Ossipee in Freedom NH which can be rented out year round. Cody.org

The need to reserve Cardigan 6 months in advance was discussed.

ACTION ITEM: RESERVE CARDIGAN FOR WHP SOON. RESERVE CARDIGAN FOR SHP NEXT FALL

Spring Leadership Program – Debbie

SHP has 9 registered participants so far, and the team has decided to go forward. Program starts in 1 month.

9) SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The revised Subsidy Program was voted on and accepted with one change – it is now possible for Leaders to request subsidy amounts higher than \$130 which would be discussed & decided by the committee. The new program will be put on the Website

10) LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS – DEBBIE

Bob Moore's application for Winter Leader will be discussed next month

11) OLD BUSINESS

Recognition for Larry F, Chuck & Claude:

Ellen has purchased gift cards for Larry & Chuck

Plan is to present them at the next planning meeting

ACTION ITEM – Dan will get an Amazon.com gift cert for Claude

ACTION ITEM- Mark is printing certificates of appreciation for Larry, Chuck & Claude

12) NEW BUSINESS

The Assistant Secretary position, an appointed position, was created due to bank account signature requirements.

Next Trip Planning Meeting – Tuesday April 15 at Yantzee River. It's the Tues after the leadership weekend and the week before the SHP starts.

ACTION ITEM: Judy will call Carol Phipps to see if she wants to do registration again.

Summer Planning meeting – how to get more participation was discussed. Phil offered the venue of Joe Jones (used to be Wilderness House) in Boston at no charge, said they will set up chairs and provide light refreshments for us, and there is a parking lot. Other options discussed were having a speaker, or having a hike in conjunction with meeting. No firm decision made.

The Committee Calendar Judy emailed out was discussed & added to, and format discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Judy will continue revising Committee calendar.

It was suggested that we be more vigorous in sharing our listings, trainings, and programs with other committees who could send them out to their leaders and participants.

On-line trip listings – YM, Intro, Ski, Local Walks & Bike all have on line trip listings. They are using YMs (Andrew Shearer's) software system, the process of which goes something like this:

1-leader enters his/her trip into the club-wide system using a form with pull-down menus & blanks.

2-the trip goes through an approval process

3-the trip becomes visible on the club-wide system

4-at this point YM's software "pulls" the trip onto YMs site if it meets the search criteria for YM trips. The trip goes on YMs website and is also emailed to YM participants automatically.

Trips can be entered and posted anytime by leaders, so a constant stream of new trips can be going on the website and into email inboxes.

A motion was passed for HB to begin using the same system used by the other committees for their on-line listings. Trip Coordinator (Silvia) will be in charge of on-line trip listing process; Gary will facilitate coordination with website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM: implementation & training of leaders to use the system

13) NEXT MEETINGS

- a) Tuesday, March 11th, 2008 6:45 pm at Florrie Johnson's
- b) Tuesday, April 8th, 2008 6:45 at Mohamed Ellozy's
- c) Wednesday, May 14th, 2008 6:45 at Debbie Ireland's
- d) Tuesday, June 10th, 2008 6:45 at Dan Wiktor's

Planning Mtg Tues April 15

14) ACTION ITEMS - summary

RESERVE CARDIGAN FOR WHP SOON. RESERVE CARDIGAN FOR SHP NEXT FALL

Mark "Past Treasurer and Assistant Secretary" Batson is handling the Treasurer's Audit

Dan will get an Amazon.com gift cert for Claude

Mark is printing certs of appreciation for Larry, Chuck & Claude

Judy will call Carol Phipps to see if she wants to do registration again.

Judy will continue revising Committee calendar.

Bob Moore has agreed to do next year's winter program

15) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Resolving the winter boot issue

Implementation of the on-line trip system

Competing with the Meet-up on line activity groups

Subsidizing Harvard Cabin Trips

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Florrie Johnson

HB Secretary