

MEETING MINUTES
Appalachian Mountain Club
Hiking/Backpacking Committee
Boston Chapter

Feb 10, 2009, Home of Dan Wiktor

PRESENT:

Judy Dillman – Esteemed Chair

Florrie Johnson - Secretary

Bob Kittredge – Harvard Cabinmaster

Julie Lepage

Gary Schwartz - Webmaster

Mike Swartz - Treasurer

Dan Wiktor – Co-Chair

Joyce Horrigan

Kevin Fredette – honored new member

1) INTRODUCTION WELCOME. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:20 pm

2) LAST MEETINGS MINUTES – accepted with the additional notation that the Committee made the decision to require two HB co-leads for Erika _____ to apply for HB leadership status.

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING –

Regarding plans for a chapter wide, all-committee on-line trip listing auto-feed to MUD: the chair of Local Walks already had one that had unusual rules/procedures. It receives listings only from the web; any trips not entered on the website would not be picked up by his software.

Discussion of rules/procedures for the on-line listings – how they would be sorted and what search criteria could be entered by participants looking for trips:

a) by activity code (as opposed to Committee) and a) start date within that category

b) leaders could enter alternate (or secondary) activity codes in their trip listings to increase probability of “hits” from participants searching.

c) Discussion of what activity codes HB needs – hiking and backpacking were decided on. Camping and day hikes were considered as categories but discarded as not being useful enough to warrant additional complexity and confusion.

d) MUD would publish full listing – whatever the leaders write in. Outdoors only takes 20 words per listing. Leaders choosing “print versions” indicate listing (20 words) will go into Outdoors.

There is still interest in having a Fall Leadership Program and John Lisker is talking to Ellen Cullen & Gina Adam about possibly coordinating it.

4) TREASURER’S REPORT – MIKE SWARTZ

In January we took in \$1500 more than we spent, in part due to WHP, Leadership and Leader Training Program subsidies from the Chapter.

“Leadership Program”= HB’s Spring Leadership Program coordinated by Robin Churchill

“Leader Training Courses”= workshops taken by our leaders to increase their skills, eg., SOLO, Map & Compass. Whatever subsidies we provide our leaders for this, the chapter reimburses us one third.

5) TRIP COORDINATOR’S REPORT – SILVIA

Not present

6) HARVARD CABIN REPORT – BOB

January HC netted \$171 profit

Regarding the Dec HC trip that was cancelled due to ice storm: Paul Dale talked to the HC Committee who were not responsive to our request to not be billed for that trip. Policy is no refunds after 30 days. Judy pointed out that when Mountaineering Committee had to cancel a weekend they also did not receive a refund.

Discussion regarding other commercial lodging, like Pinkham and Carter Hut, which have given refunds due to weather.

Decision to pay HC Committee for the Dec weekend. Dan is attending the March Exec Com Meeting and will bring up the subject of HB, Ski, and Mountaineering drafting a request to amend the HC policy to be more accommodating to these situations.

7) TRIP REPORTER’S REPORT – LEANDRA

Not present

8) WEBMASTER'S REPORT – GARY

Site running smoothly. There is room for more photos and more lists of helpful & informative things.

9) COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

SHP – George Marlette reports things are going swimmingly. The first organizational mtg has happened; key coordinators are in place. Chris Gaudette plans to reserve 30 beds in the Cardigan, unclear if this will include leaders or not. Cardigan is charging \$98.02 per person for weekend package, same as last year. Target date for Cardigan is Jun 5/6.

WFA - Phil Jones has booked SOLO for May 15-16 at Camp Nihan in Saugus. Major Excursions is holding Advanced WFA at Hale Reservation that same weekend.

SLP – Robin Churchill is coordinating, Julie LePage is registrar. They have 11 applicants so far, looking for at least 16. Joy St dates are April 1 & 8, Weekend 17/19. This year using new venue in CT which charges \$742 for the weekend.

10) SUBSIDY PROGRAM-Florrie

No requests this month

11) LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Brian Spencer voted in unanimously as a 3 season leader

12) OLD BUSINESS

Leader Appreciation Dinner – 32 people attended. There were 21 nominations for awards, 10 from Ls and CLs, 11 from participants. Of the 32 attending only 5 were CLs.

Discussion on increasing Co-leader participation:

a) Calling the event “Leader Appreciation” may make some CLs think they are not included, should we change the name to be more specifically inclusive?

b) Send out email directly to CLs to invite and inform them.

c) Ask Ls to each call a CL they know & personally invite.

d) Finding a venue on the T might increase overall attendance.

e) time of year raised as possible deterrent for some people attending. Not thinking about AMC at this time of year and possibility of winter storms making travel difficult

With the death of the Footnotes, snail mail addresses can no longer be confirmed. Discussion on how to make the HB Leaders phone/address list available to all Ls as it is for all HB Committee members

Motion passed to put the HB Contact list of Leaders and Co leaders in the Leader area of the HB Website in an Adobe format that can be read or printed, but not cut, pasted, or emailed to reduce chance of misuse.

Campton All Leader/Co Leader Car Camp Bash/Bonanza/Extravaganza is August 28-30. Chapter is providing generous funding, discussions of having event catered, what activities are wanted, etc.

13) NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Fredette was voted in as an HB Committee Member. Welcome Kevin!

Dan Wiktor was appointed Vice Chair. Thanks Dan!

April Trip Planning Meeting at Joy St. Thursday April 23. Judy will send out email to HB Leaders. This will be a joint multi-committee meeting. Dan will bring this up at Exec Com in March.

Gary raised the question of starting an on-line discussion forum for AMC participants that he would moderate. Decisions were tabled for further discussion, but the following points were raised:

- a) It would be opt-in only, publicized by HB Announce, Leaders on trips, website etc.
- b) Concern that it gives participants opportunity to arrange their own trips and undercut AMC process
- c) Needs to be introduced in a thoughtful and planned manner.
- d) Should we ask participants if they want this and would use it prior to doing it?

14) NEXT MEETINGS

March 10 at Silvia's house in Westford,
April 15 Back at the Ranch of Bob Kittredge

15) ACTION ITEMS

Judy will send out general email announcing April Trip Planning Meeting

At March Exec Com, Dan will bring up 1) changing Harvard Cabin policy 2) Joint April Trip Planning mtg

Time Adjourned 9:15

Florrie Johnson

HB Secretary