

MEETING MINUTES
Appalachian Mountain Club
Hiking/Backpacking Committee
Boston Chapter

Oct 13, 2009 at the home of Bob Kittredge

PRESENT:

Judy Dillman – Esteemed Chair
Florrie Johnson - Secretary
Bob Kittredge – Harvard Cabinmaster
Julie Lepage
Bob Asch
Kevin McAllister
Gary Schwartz - Webmaster
Dan Wiktor – Co-Chair
Silvia Zaharinova – Trip Coordinator
Kevin Fredette
Brian Glenn
Bob Knudsen – new committee member
Phil Jones – new committee member finally
Robert Freed - guest
Alex Nedzel - guest

1) INTRODUCTION WELCOME. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:15 pm

2) LAST MEETINGS MINUTES accepted

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MUD is gradually increasing web circulation, up to 2000 recipients now. Web delivery is default choice for new members unless they opt out.

AMC website is to be re-designed. One goal is to make it better for Chapters. Comment made that a Chapter template would be helpful. AMC interns have looked at all Committee websites to see how user friendly they are.

John Lisker is ending his Chairpersonship, and will be succeeded by Paul Dale who has been the Vice Chair. John will become the Ombudsman, a position he held some years ago. Paul is interested in making Leadership Training free or very reduced in cost. One option that came up is reimbursement after the graduate has colead. Also 2 Members At Large positions are becoming vacant, and Gary Schwartz is running for one of them.

Lynn Matt has stepped down from the Chair of Intro as she has moved to Michigan. Ed McMahon is considering taking the position again.

Good attendance is hoped for at the Annual Meeting, which has an excellent speaker, Julie Lepage.

ACTION ITEM Judy will send out a notice about this to the HB leaders List

Cabot Auditorium renovation – Joy St plans to pay for the projection screen, lighting, the ceiling. Exec Com will buy the sound system.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SWARTZ

not present

Spring Leadership Committee has not requested the usual reimbursement from the Chapter yet.

5) TRIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT – SILVIA

Two trips were generated from the Oct Planning Meeting, but Silvia notes that publication deadlines are far away, and most trip notices come in close to deadlines.

Trip numbers: Sept- 12, Oct- 19, Nov- 8, Dec- 3 (last year Dec had 2 trips)

6) HARVARD CABIN REPORT – BOB

Joe Comuzzi's Map & Compass weekend earned \$200. We are in the black by \$500, in comparison to losing over \$1,000 last year.

The Oct trip is full (20 participants) with a waiting list. General agreement that all trips are filling these days.

There will be a Harvard Cabin work weekend in November, Bob will send out dates and contact info when he gets them.

7) TRIP REPORTER'S REPORT – JOYCE

not present

8) WEBMASTER'S REPORT – GARY

Mountain talk is progressing

Julie is putting the Winter Program trips on-line

9) COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

WFA – Dec 12-13 at Joy St run by SOLO. We can cancel up to 2 weeks prior with no penalty. 8 people have already called about it.

WHP – Many willing volunteers and help from those that have been participating for years creates smooth sailing so far. Registrations are coming in. Cardigan date is Jan 29-31. David Breashears to talk on the 3rd night of the program at Joy St on mapping glaciers. Discussion of whether to give him an honorarium. How much? (\$100 may not be meaningful, 500 may be too much for us) Donate to a charity in his name? Provide extra service such as pick him up and bring him to Joy St? Membership in a bottle? To be discussed further next month.

Lecture Series - Nothing booked for next talk yet. Discussion on how frequent to have them given it may cost us a \$100 honorarium for the speaker each time. However, builds up audience to have them frequently. Judy endorsed frequent event, encouraged Julie to schedule as she sees fit. Call out for more help for this series – ACTION ITEM: Kevin will post listing on Views from the top, Julie will post on AMC & HB websites, HB Announce. May ask new coleaders if they're interested in helping out.

SHP – Judy is waiting to hear back from George Marlette. Cardigan is booked for May 28/29.

10) SUBSIDY PROGRAM-Florrie – none this month

11) LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS – Judy

Brian Glenn was made winter leader

Barry Shelton was made 3 season leader

ACTION ITEM: Ellen will put names of new leaders on the HB leaders list since Footnotes is no longer published.

ACTION ITEM: Julie will add lines for dates of trips to the Leadership Application form (which apparently doesn't ask for dates of co-leads)

12) OLD BUSINESS

Trip listing enhancements – the following improvements were discussed

1) Leaders should be able to access archives to re-use their old listings

2) HB announce needs to send out trip listings that are updated (trip full, new CL, etc)

3) Leaders should be able to edit their listings after they are posted (add leader, changes, etc)

Responses from discussion:

1) Gary can access archives, can provide that ability to leaders

2) This is something Gary can change

3) Silvia explained the AMC is in charge of listings once published – VERY DIFFICULT to impact this process. Judy pointed out should be a possibility – edited listing can go back through the approver

Trip Planning Software from Andrew Shearer – YM has it, but it runs off Andrew's server and we cannot access it. Andrew no longer available, this option is closed to us. However, Gina Adam and Joan Wu may be able to help in this area as they may work with the software.

Discussion of hiring someone to write a software package for us. Agreement to solicit help for this and see what we get. Skills include web based form design and My Sequil.

Discussion of how to get feedback/complaints/desires of leaders to those that can effect changes in the technology. Which is more powerful & effective, one person collects feedback and deliver it, or many emails from multiple individual leaders?

ACTION ITEMS – Gary will compile a list of web skills needed to help us with this area to then be put out on HB Announce and elsewhere.

Silvia & Gary will ask Kelly Powers at AMC about a vehicle for feedback from leaders regarding web related issues

Note: Trip listing software (notices of trips) is different than trip sign-up software (participants signing on to trips)

13) NEW BUSINESS

Bob Knudsen and Phil Jones were voted in as HB Committee Members – welcome!

Discussion of what to do about the rare personal discussions that occasionally arise when making decisions about leaders – information that should not be published on the website should not be written on the minutes, what to do with that information if anything? To be discussed at the next meeting.

Winter regulations at Baxter State Park are changing due to new person in charge. ACTION ITEM: Bob Knudsen will post information on the HB Leader's list.

A chapter wide gear-swap would be a good idea if anyone wanted to coordinate it.

Trip planning meeting vs social get together/awards dinner

Last year we had an awards dinner on Feb 3 (night of a blizzard) where trip planning was also allowed at Yangtze River. There was a separate all committee trip planning at Joy St the following April. Discussion on what to do this year. Decision:

Awards Dinner with trip planning possible on Jan 26, 2010. ACTION ITEM Phil Jones will investigate venues other than Yangtze River that are T accessible, have parking, and a separate function room. Silvia, Ellen & Julie are thinking up the 2010 awards, soliciting suggestions.

Nominations for HB Offices due next meeting. Elections held in December. After a productive and effective 4 years (is that right?) Judy is stepping down as Chair, sadly, but happily Silvia is nominated to succeed her. Florrie is stepping down as secretary, another tragic loss, nominations open. Silvia's current position of trip coordinator is open. Dan's position as vice chair is an appointed position. Michael suggests a position of back up treasurer, someone else to have check writing abilities.

14) NEXT MEETINGS

Wed Nov 11 at Silvia's in Westford

Wed Dec 9 at Mohammed's in Brookline

Tues Jan 12 at Bob Knudsen's in Woburn

Topics to be continued: David Breashears' honorarium, personal discussions not documented on minutes

15) ACTION ITEMS

Judy will send out notice to HB leaders list advertising the Annual Meeting

Julie will add spaces for dates of trips on the Leadership application

Julie will post the Lecture series on the AMC & HB websites, put on HB Announce

Kevin will post Lecture series listing that Julie sends him on Views from the Top

Phil will look into venues for awards dinner other than Yantzee that have parking, on T, private room

Gary will compile list of computer skills needed for help wanted ad for trip related software creation

Silvia & Gary will contact Kelly Powers about getting leader feedback about web related issues to the correct people

Bob Knudsen will post to HB Leader's List information on Baxter Park changes

Time Adjourned 9:20

Respectfully Submitted,

Florrie Johnson

HB Secretary