

Hiking/Backpacking Committee - Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

## Minutes: November 2009 Monthly H/B Meeting

**Date/Time:** Wednesday Nov. 11, 2009, 6:30pm

**Location:** Home of Silvia Dubinsky

**Attending:** Ellen Cullen, Judy Dillman, Silvia Dubinsky, Stan Dunbar, Brian Glenn, Joyce Horrigan, Phil Jones, Bob Kittredge, Bob Knudsen, Kevin McAllister, Alex Nedzel, Michael Swartz, Dan Wiktor

**Membership Changes:** The Committee voted to accept Alex Nedzel as a new H/B Committee member. Judy reported that Kevin Fredette has resigned from the Committee.

**Minutes from Last Meeting:** The group approved the minutes from the October 13, 2009 H/B Committee meeting.

**Boston Chapter Executive Committee:** From the November 2, 2009 Boston Chapter Executive Committee meeting, Judy reported that for the coming year under Paul Dale, the Executive Committee is considering the priorities such as: conservation/encourage carpooling; communications (e.g., only 2K out of 20K Mud subscribers have gone electronic); create a packet for new AMC members; improve the website; member appreciation; social activities such as the H/B lecture series. Judy reported that the Chapter is buying a new sound system for the Cabot Auditorium.

Other Boston committees: On November 18, a pre-season ski and snowboard tuning event happens; Ice climbing workshops begin in December.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michael reported that the H/B account balance stood at \$16,986.31 as of 10/31/2009, an \$805.79 improvement over 8/31/2009. Since then, we received a \$1733.00 check from the Chapter to cover the Leader appreciation dinner (\$500), the 2009 Spring Leadership Program (SLP) deficit (\$632), and reimbursement for 1/3 the cost of Leader training (\$543).

This coming week, we will be testing the integration of PayPal into our website. This should be good to go for use in conjunction with the 2010 SLP.

**Trip Coordinator's Report:** Silvia reported that we are light on December trips (only 3 in the system to date), but have better numbers for January. Alex added the mitigating note that four Winter Hiking Program (WHP) trips will also be running in December.

**Harvard Cabin:** Bob Kittredge reported that Harvard Cabin has cleared \$750 to date, and that the cabin will be getting a new (and hopefully easier to fire up) heater. Also, this coming weekend is the annual Harvard Cabin Work Weekend.

A 9% NH hotel/motel tax is probably imminent, which likely will result in a new weekend price of approximately \$480 (up from \$440).

**Webmaster:** Judy reported that Gary Schwartz received a response to his request for web programming-capable volunteers, and is in the process of following up on it.

**Wilderness First Aid (WFA):** Phil reported that 7 people are currently signed up for the December 12-13 WFA training weekend, with 3 more in process.

**Winter Hiking Program (WHP):** Brian reported that the first class took place last night (November 10), at Joy Street. 71 people are registered. Presentations by Brian, Jim Shelhamer, Julie LePage and Jonathan Niehof were energetically delivered and enthusiastically received. Interest at the gear-related breakout tables was so intense that people stayed for almost an hour past the scheduled 9pm wrap time. This was due largely to the large number (ed: 25+) of H/B Leaders and Co-leaders who showed up to support the evening, and many of whom brought enough gear with them to support seven doubled-up gear tables.

**Lecture Series:** Judy reported that Julie LePage did a great job with her slide show on Slovenia at the Chapter Annual Meeting on November 1.

**Spring Hiking Program (SHP):** Bob Knudsen reported that the 2010 SHP will take place on the evenings of April 20, 27 and May 4, 11 and 18. The Cardigan Lodge weekend is scheduled for 5/22-23. Bob is co-managing the program with George Marlette, with the idea in mind that he (Bob) will take the lead in 2011. There was some discussion about how to encourage increased participation in the Cardigan portion of the program, including possibly lowering the charge for the weekend and increasing the base program price.

**Leadership Applications:** Ellen presented the Committee with 3-Season Leader applications from Alex Nedzel and Rich Reardon. Both were approved.

**Winter H/B Social Event:** Phil reported that he had personally sampled a number of Brookline/Boston restaurant venues. After a discussion of some possibilities in that area and some consideration of other areas, the committee decided to go with Chef Chang's in Brookline, and approved a budget of \$22 per person (\$1 above the minimum package price that Phil reported). We will budget for 60 people. Ellen reported that she and Silvia will (hopefully) join with Julie LePage to do the Awards component (associated budget TBD).

**Action:** Phil will book Chef Chang's for Jan. 26th.

**Action:** Ellen and Silvia (and possibly Julie LePage) will start planning the awards for Jan. 26th.

**Committee Nominations:** Judy put forth a 2010 H/B officer slate of: **Silvia Dubinsky**, Chair; [vacant; discussions with two possible nominees in progress], Trip Coordinator; **Michael Swartz**, Treasurer; **Alex Nedzel**, Secretary. The Committee approved the slate. Joyce, who has an accounting background, volunteered to serve as Michael's assistant – especially important this year in light of Michael's planned Pacific Coast Trail trek.

**Glacier Travel Training:** Brian reported that Jim Schroeder, assisted by Brian, will run a Glacier Crossing and Above Treeline training program next winter (2011). This will bring back a very valuable and successful program from the past that had disappeared due to a lack of leadership continuity. In order to build a suitable cadre of qualified leaders to help teach this program going forward, Brian has negotiated an AIARE Level 1 avalanche training course for 7 highly capable AMC participants with an IME guide this coming spring, at a discounted cost of \$300 per participant.

Brian proposed that the Committee subsidize \$260 of each AIARE/1 participant's cost. This subsidy will be funded in three ways: (1) Judy requested and received approval for a \$100/person (one-third) reimbursement from the Chapter; (2) standard \$130/person H/B leader training subsidy; and (3) an extra \$30/person H/B subsidy in recognition of the food and accommodation costs that the group will incur beyond the cost of the IME guide. The Committee approved the extra \$30/person (\$210) expenditure.

**Action:** Brian will continue to arrange for the March AIARE/1 avalanche course and work with Jim Schroeder to put together the Glacier Crossing and Above Treeline program.

**Action Items:**

- **Phil** will book Chef Chang's for Jan. 26th.
- **Ellen** and **Silvia** (and possibly Julie LePage) will start planning the awards for Jan. 26th.
- **Brian** will continue to arrange for the March AIARE/1 avalanche course and work with Jim Schroeder to put together the Glacier Crossing and Above Treeline program.

**Future Meetings:**

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 – Mohamed Ellozy

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 – Bob Knudsen

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 – Ellen Cullen

Alex Nedzel  
11/30/2009