

Minutes: January 2010 Monthly H/B Meeting

As amended at the 2/9/2010 meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday January 12, 2010

Location: Home of Bob Knudsen

Attending: Ellen Cullen, Judy Dillman, Silvia Dubinsky, Stan Dunbar, Robert Freed, Brian Glenn, Florrie Johnson, Phil Jones, Bob Kittredge, Bob Knudsen, Julie LePage, Alex Nedzel, Gary Schwartz, Michael Swartz, Dan Wiktor

Come to order: 7:18pm

Minutes of prior meeting: The committee voted to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2009 H/B committee meeting, after amending a sentence in the Winter Hiking Program section: Changed "Stan reported that he had helped create such procedures in the 90s." to "Stan reported that when he served as Cardigan Weekend Organizer in the 1990s, he actually implemented such procedures."

Recent Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: Judy attended the January Executive Committee, and reported that:

- 11K copies of the Mud are still being printed and mailed, vs. 2.4K e-mail recipients. Soon, the Mud will also be available via Kindle and iPhone.
- The original volunteer backed out of the Boston website redesign project. A new task force is taking over, headed by Brenda Conaway. (Separately, Julie mentioned that she is on an AMC Club-level website task force.)
- Work on the Cabot Auditorium continues. Current focus is on the ceiling. May interfere with some of our programs, although the goal is to work around the bookings. Lights and sound system upgrades are coming.
- The April Mountains and Music event on the Cape is for P's, not just L's. It's in Brewster. Their question to the various committees: Do you (we) want to organize/lead some activities under that umbrella?
- There was a discussion about lowering the Spring Leadership Program fee down from \$80 to \$50 to increase participation - i.e., to increase the Chapter subsidy for the program.

Treasurer's Report: Michael reported that over the course of 2009, the Chapter's cash balance increased by approximately \$6700. For Michele Grzenda's slide show in December, we paid our first lecture honorarium. In a month of firsts, our first PayPal transactions came through, and were made by Winter Hiking Program Cardigan trip participants. Michael does not anticipate any problems in setting up to receive Spring Hiking Program revenues.

Trips: Robert reported that last year, there were a record 154 well-subscribed Boston Chapter-led trips. The bad economy is a possible causal factor. There was a discussion of the perils of a CL-led trip in the event of a Leader drop-out. Brian reported that the WHP trips were heavily subscribed as well. The group asked: how do we get leaders to lead more winter trips, so that there are enough opportunities for more P's to participate? A big piece of it may be in how we follow up with leadership program grads, as well as our current winter Leader core, to keep them engaged. The group deferred further discussion to a **future meeting**. **Action:** Gary will send Robert a list of CL graduates from the leadership programs.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Kittredge reported that over the December weekend, the trip sizes ranged from 7 to 19, with an average size of 13 people. We netted \$772 from 8 trips. We cancelled the cabin for March, due to a lack of leader

interest. A 9% NH Room Tax is imminent, which likely will result in the \$440 weekend cost becoming \$476. Bob recommends that we keep participant fees as they are, and see if we can still remain in the black.

Webmaster Report: Gary reported that the Web Committee has its third member, Dirk Koechner. A key goal of the committee is to replicate Andrew Shearer's trip registration system for all H/B trips. A logged-in mode would be good, as it would enable P's to enter their basic info once and automatically apply it to whatever trips they register for. Gary also proposed that H/B retain three separate list-based communications: Mountain Talk, Gear Swap and HB Announce. Julie agreed to be a moderator. The committee approved the proposed 3-list structure.

Wilderness First Aid: Phil reported that the December program was a success, and he is now organizing for spring. Judy mentioned that the program may be heavily subscribed, because the Executive Committee is encouraging all committees to embrace WFA. **Action:** Silvia will help to coordinate dates between this program and the SLP.

Lecture series: Julie reported that 35 people attended Michelle Grzenda's December 16 slideshow on New Zealand, and it went well. On February 16, Phil's friend Sean McKay will do a slide show on sailing and mountaineering in Greenland in mid-February. Chris Polari is slated for a March talk on India. For May, Julie has invited a person from Pennsylvania to come up and do a talk on Nepal. Julie will reciprocate by doing a talk for his chapter.

Winter Hiking Program: Brian reported that there were 86 p's, served by a whopping 40 L's. A hallmark of this year's program was its more streamlined 4-night session schedule, and it worked out well. Brian was also delighted that every person who was asked to teach a module in the program agreed to do so.

Spring Hiking Program: Bob Knudsen reported that Cabot Auditorium is booked for the February 2 organizational meeting. Cardigan is reserved for the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. Bob Asch will again coordinate the Monadnock trips.

Spring Leadership Program: Julie reported that Brian Hall and Claudine Kos are on board to run the program, and Julie has shared all the relevant logistical info from her past experiences. The start date is likely to be April 6. March 30 was also a possibility, but was ruled out because of Passover. The program has a one-week overlap with the SHP. The fee will be \$50. Policy: you don't need to be an AMC member to complete the program. You **do** need to be a member to post or lead a trip.

Leader Training Subsidies: Florrie processed 6 subsidies over the past month.

Leader Applications: Ellen reported that there were no Leader applications over the past month.

Winter Social: Julie and Ellen are hard at work planning a fun event. Roger Scholl offered to donate a "pretty cool" prize. Brian suggested that the top award should be a volunteer service award; the group agreed to discuss it at a *future meeting*, but not to introduce such an award at this year's imminent January 26 event. Phil reported that Chef Chang's is all set, and the reservation is for 60. There are plans for L/CL-coded nametags and intermingled seating. **Action:** Silvia will put out a reminder to L's and CL's, and will encourage CL's (especially FLP grads) to use this as an opportunity to begin networking for trips.

Spring Trip Planning Meeting: It was noted that the April trip planning social event should be on the agenda for February's meeting.

Protocol for Search and Rescue at Cardigan: Stan recounted that on January 5, 1991, someone fell and broke their leg during an AMC weekend at Cardigan. It took the evening and most of the next morning to get the person out,

due both to bad conditions and poor coordination. Stan shared a 25-page document associated with a rescue protocol that the H/B Committee implemented while he was an event coordinator at Cardigan in the 90s. Its nub is to ensure a clear single point of coordination in the event of such an emergency. Nowadays, the lodge has a paid caretaker, and we can coordinate with that person's emergency plans and procedures. **Action:** Phil and his SHP counterpart will look at Stan's Cardigan protocol materials and decide what is appropriate for now. He will report back at a future meeting.

After discussion of protocol issues, a spirited discussion took place around the specific topic of whether and how the Holt Trail should be used during the WHP's Cardigan Weekend. The basic points made were:

- It has been a longstanding H/B policy, respected through the years, **not** to take WHP groups on the Holt Trail.
- The trail really is hazardous, as evidenced by the injuries that have taken place there.
- Huntington and Tuckerman are dangerous too, but nobody's banning them.
- We have great leaders, and we should rely on their discretion as to whether or not a given day's trail conditions are suitable for a particular group, activity, and routing.

By a close vote (7-5 with 3 abstentions), the group voted to ban use of the Holt Trail at this year's upcoming WHP weekend (this coming weekend), and to continue the discussion at next month's meeting.

Policy on Disseminating Leader Contact Information: As incoming Secretary, Alex laid out several policy questions that he recommends the Committee give updated consideration to at the February meeting:

- To whom do we distribute H/B Leader/Co-Leader contact information and status?
- How do we distribute it (e.g., paper or electronic)?
- How often do we update it?
- How do we get updated information from people?
- What information do we include?

Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- April trip planning social (Silvia) - **February meeting**
- Policy for Leader contact information dissemination (Alex) - **February meeting**
- Policy on use of the Holt Trail for WHP hikes (Stan, Phil) - **February meeting**
- How should we follow up with our winter Leaders and Leader Candidates to keep them engaged? (Robert).
- Add a Volunteer Service Award arrow to our committee's quiver of recognition options? (Brian).
- Protocol for handling emergencies during Cardigan events (Phil)

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 - Ellen Cullen

Tuesday, March 9, 2010 - Bob Kittredge

Adjourn: 9:05 pm

Recap of Action Items:

- **Gary** will send Robert a list of CL graduates from the leadership programs.
- **Silvia** will help to coordinate dates between this program and the SLP.
- **Silvia** will put out a reminder to L's and CL's, and will encourage CL's (especially FLP grads) to use this as an opportunity to begin networking for trips.
- **Phil** and his SHP counterpart will look at Stan's Cardigan protocol materials and decide what is appropriate for now.

Alex Nedzel
2/4/2010