

Minutes: September 2010 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday September 14, 2010

Location: Home of Alex Nedzel

Attending: Bob Asch, Jeff Carlson (guest; chapter Executive Committee), Silvia Dubinsky, Stan Dunbar, Robert Freed, Joyce Horrigan, Bob Knudsen, Julie LePage, Kevin McAllister, Alex Nedzel, Matt Pearson, Gary Schwartz, Michael Swartz, Dan Wiktor.

Come to order: 7:03pm

Minutes of prior meeting: The minutes from the June 8, 2010 H/B Committee meeting were corrected and approved.

September Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting:

- The mid-October planning meeting will be sponsored by the Ski Committee.
- The Fall Leadership Program was cancelled due to not enough resources. Spring is expected to be big because of this; H/B is encouraged to bring in leaders from other committees as needed to help deliver the program.
- Paul Dale invited H/B to submit articles for *Outdoors* magazine, e.g., for the WHP.
- The Chapter website will launch in 1-2 months at the earliest.
- Kevin and Julie mentioned that they have had poor access to the Chapter's homepage notices. Kevin volunteered to manage the page if Gary doesn't have the time to do it. **Action:** Kevin, Julie and Gary should resolve roles and access around updating the Chapter homepage notices.
- The Boston Chapter annual meeting will be on November 7, and they're looking for a speaker. **Action:** People should e-mail Silvia with any suggestions.
- The Fall 2011 AMC Gathering will be sponsored by the Boston Chapter. Ingrid (Bike Committee) is the only coordinator currently working on this, and she's looking for a venue.
- The Ski Committee has been having problems reserving Cardigan Lodge for 30 people - sharing the common spaces with other groups is proving to be a challenge.

Treasurer: Michael reported that there was little activity over the summer. Current balance: 13,266.06.

Spring Hiking Program: Bob Knudsen

- The 2009 program cleared a surplus of \$1100. For 2010, it was \$1200-1300 (more Joy Street participants).
- Bob recommended that the price for the SHP's Cardigan weekend go up to \$95, to cover the cost of accommodations pending a larger base of participants.

- Bob has volunteered to lead the 2011.
- Bob is planning to make the trip list available in January, at registration time.
- Gary recommended that Bob consider publicizing the program as comprising *both* Joy St and Cardigan, even though people can opt to do just one of the two components.
- The group agreed that publicity is key.

Trip Coordinator: Robert reported that:

- The 4th annual Museum of Science Brad Washburn Mt. Washington Climb in July had lots of AMC support, including Gary with a radio repeater that allowed reliable peak-base communication.
- July was a big trip month, with 21 trips (Jun/13; Jul/21; Aug/13; Sep/11; Oct/13; Nov/2). There were also 3 instructional programs and 2 slideshows.
- There are continuing problems with trip submissions -- titles without the difficulty code appended, and un-checked "show phone/email" checkboxes.
- Trip leaders should be encouraged to hold some trip spots for *Outdoors* readers to compensate for the distribution lag time vs. the web.
- He reserved Galehead Hut for the first weekend in August to take advantage of the current AMC promotion.
- There are issues with trip registration links. In HB Announce they are sometimes missing, and in print they are clumsily long. **Action:** Robert will work with the appropriate people to improve the situation, perhaps with link-shrink websites playing a role.
- **Agenda item for next meeting:** Figure out policies and systems for checking trip leaders' WFA status before approving trips.

Trip Reports: Joyce

- Issue: Trips not actually taken do end up showing as historical trips, such that they make it to Joyce's downloads. Gary acknowledged glitches. **Action:** Silvia volunteered to act as a focus for problem reports.
- Joyce is seeing lots of new co-leaders on trips. They're often better at reporting their trips than the leaders.
- Issue: some leaders do not get their participants to sign waivers. They just list the trips for the publicity. It was suggested that we make this cause for moving a leader to 'inactive' status.

Webmaster: Gary reported that:

- Brian and Julie have been using the new trip registration system. He will announce an opening date at the next H/B meeting.
- Julie's website management role is not overwhelming -- she does not get many requests.
- Gary will add some WFA-related fields to the leader database, such as expiration date and course.

Wilderness First Aid: Matt reported that:

- There were 25 participants in the June WFA course.
- Cost was \$120, which allowed a surplus.
- Next program is slated for the first weekend in November. Matt will reserve Joy Street (funded by the Chapter).
- **Action:** Matt will apprise Silvia of the November program details, and will post the course.
- **Action:** Matt will recruit a CL to serve as his deputy to be present at the course and benefit from it for free.

Leader WFA Requirement - Follow-Up Discussion:

The Committee unanimously approved development by Gary and Aaron Gorban of a WFA refresher course to the following specifications:

- Course to be offered at least once per year.
- Eligibility: Anyone who has taken the full WFA course at least twice
- First offering: Saturday, November 13
- ½ day program with 3-4 full-speed scenarios
- Aaron plus another SOLO-grounded person will deliver the program, with support from Gary
- Book knowledge materials e-mailed around to participants ahead of the course
- Aaron is seeking a budget for an online portion (would be an enhancement to the sent-ahead piece)
- There will be a written test and a certification card issued
- Plan A: Site this at a Boston metro area outdoor venue; Plan B: Joy Street
- Can handle up to 30 participants with the two instructors
- Minimal cost – ideally zero (requires further H/B discussion and approval)
- **Action:** Gary will proceed with the above.

Winter Hiking Program:

- Brian Glenn reported via email:

The Winter Hiking Program committee met on September 2 and is off to a wonderful start. We have a full cadre of experienced leaders and instructors generously volunteering their time, and I am excited to report we have a number of new volunteers as well, who will hopefully come to play larger and larger rolls in future years. We have scheduled four classes on November 2, 9, 16, and 30 (please schedule the HB meeting for November accordingly!). As discussed in previous years, we are reaching out to new stores this year, notably REI and EMS for one of the classes. We have decided not to have a speaker this year and to use the time for more instruction. We are in the process of revising the WHP manual, which is a very big and very important task.

I have also made the decision that all WHP leaders be WFA current by the time of their trip. This

decision was not made lightly, and while we will lose a few leaders, I am pleased to see many others either having taken the course or planning to do so.

We made major curricular changes last year, and this year we are refining them, and I am very very pleased with the direction the program is heading and the level of support we are receiving from volunteers. It is going to be a wonderful program this year and I hope all the HB members will be able to attend and help out, if asked.

- Issue: May H/B Committee members perceived from the preceding report that Brian unilaterally declared more stringent leader requirements than those recently approved by the Committee. After spirited discussion, the committee voted 10-2 that all H/B programs shall conform to the official H/B requirements for the leaders of their trips.

Leader Subsidies: Kevin McAllister requested that the Subsidy Program PDF be updated to include CPR, as well as WFA from providers beyond SOLO as eligible for reimbursement. The committee unanimously approved the change.

Leader Applications: On behalf of Ellen Cullen, Michael presented a Three-Season Leader application from Paul Mancinelli, who stated that he is currently a Leader in New Hampshire, and that he took the NH leadership course in 2009. He is moving to Ipswich. The committee unanimously approved his application, subject to verifying his Leader status in NH. **Action:** Silvia will follow up with the NH chapter.

Leader Appreciation Summer Social - Julie agreed to defer this item until the October meeting.

Holt Trail Subcommittee Report - Bob and Michael agreed to defer this item until the October meeting.

Amend HB Rules to Incorporate the new WFA Policy - Silvia agreed to defer this item to the October meeting.

Assigning Mentors to New Leaders (see June minutes) - Kevin agreed to defer this item to the October meeting.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- Figure out policies and systems for checking trip leaders' WFA status before approving trips (Robert) - **October meeting**
- Report on the Leader Appreciation Social (Julie) - **October meeting**
- Report of Holt Trail Subcommittee (Bob Knudsen, Michael) - **October meeting**
- Discuss adding co-leaders to the Leader list automatically, and assigning them mentors (Kevin) - **October meeting**
- Amend H/B Rules to incorporate the new WFA policy (Silvia) - **October and November meetings**
- Update the H/B Rules to reflect policy changes since 2000 (Alex) - **Future meetings TBD**

Future Meetings:

- Wednesday, November 10, 2010 - Host TBD
- Tuesday, December 14, 2010 - Host TBD
- Tuesday, January 11, 2011 - Host TBD

Adjourn: 9:20 pm

Recap of Action Items:

- **Kevin, Julie and Gary** should resolve roles and access around updating the Chapter homepage notices.
- **All** - E-mail Silvia with ideas for a speaker at the Boston Chapter annual meeting.
- **Robert** will work with the appropriate people to improve the consistency and usability of trip links in HB Announce and printed listings.
- **Silvia** volunteered to act as a focus for reports of trip reporting problems.
- **Matt** will apprise Silvia of the November WFA program details, and will post the course.
- **Matt** will recruit a CL to serve as his deputy, to be present at the WFA course and benefit from it for free.
- **Gary** will proceed with development of the WFA refresher course as approved by the committee.
- **Silvia** will contact the NH Chapter to verify Paul Mancinelli's status as a three-season leader in good standing.

Alex Nedzel

Approved by the H/B Committee 11/10/2010