

Hiking/Backpacking Committee – Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: March 2012 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 14, 2012

Location: Belmont – home of Stephen Conlin

Attending: Michael Swartz (Chair), Bob Asch, Jeff Carlson, Stephen Conlin, Robert Freed, Carl Gustenhoven, Bob Kittredge, Julie LePage, Abby Driscoll, Stan Dunbar, Yorghos Tripodis and Joyce Horrigan.

Come to order: 7:00pm

Minutes of prior meeting: Minutes from the February 7, 2012 H/B meeting were approved.

Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: It was reported that:

- Substantial cuts are expected in the budget of the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.
- The AMC is helping to raise money for the Bay Circuit trail.
- There have been complaints from participants that leaders do not return calls and emails.
- The future direction of the MUD was discussed, and the priorities are to increase the number of members and member retention for the Boston Chapter.

The HB Committee discussed whether it should have as its role to increase the number of members, or if that role should be reserved to the Boston Chapter Executive Committee. Comments and suggestions should be directed to Jeff.

Treasurer: Joyce reported that the Committee has approximately \$22,000 in its account and another \$7,000 in PayPal. Expenses for the month include 3 WFA reimbursements, fees for Harvard Cabin for 2 months, expenses associated with the Leader Appreciation and Trip Planning Meeting, and miscellaneous expense reimbursements.

Trip Coordinator: Robert reported that:

- There were 14 trips plus one Harvard cabin in February.
- There are 11 trips, plus 1 instructional program plus 1 slideshow scheduled for March.

Robert also suggested 4 steps to follow with new coleaders:

- Trip Coordinator gives them an AMC (HB) Trip Posting System sign in. Sends them a brief welcoming email with explanation on using the Trip Posting System
- Leader's List - Gary and/or Alex put them on the Leaders List (Roster), including putting them on the leader's email list.
- Chair tells sends notice to all leaders of the addition of the new coleaders.
- Event Registration System (REGI) - Administrator adds them to the system (or, they add themselves to the REGI system, the administrator flags them as a leader/coleader). Then, sends them out a welcoming and informational message similar to the one the Trip Coordinator sends out.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Kittredge reported that there were 2 Harvard Cabin trips in February (one being the Above Treeline Workshop) with a total of 23 participants and a net loss for the month of \$111.

Trip Reporter: Yorghos reported that trip reports have been submitted for 11 out of 15 trips for the past month. The Committee discussed the possibility of sending an automatic reminder several days after each trip.

Webmaster Report: Julie reported that:

- SuryaKumari Upadhyayula will serve as Assistant Webmaster
- She is seeking content for the HB Facebook page
- Abby stepped down as administrator of REGI and Jack stepped down as a programmer for REGI, so it will not be possible to make further improvements to REGI in the near term.
- Many other activities committees in the Boston Chapter have asked whether they can use the REGI system.

The Committee discussed REGI and whether to ask the Boston Chapter or the AMC itself to implement a Chapter-wide or Club-wide system. Jeff will seek to have it added to the agenda for the next ExecCom meeting and Julie will attend to describe the REGI system and its potential.

Winter Hiking Program: Abby reported she set up a Facebook page for the WHP and that it is creating a nice post-program community for WHP participants.

Wilderness First Aid (WFA): Jeff reported that:

- 70% of WFA participants are AMC members.
- Most are HB leaders

The Committee discussed WFA exemptions and tabled further action.

Slide Show: Julie reported that:

- Larry Takiff presented in March about winter hiking.
- Cliff and Joan Chambers are presenting in April about Mont Blanc.

The Committee discussed whether to pay honoraria when an HB leader presents. Julie will consider the issue and report back to the Committee.

Spring Hiking Program: Abby reported that:

- 42 people have signed up.
- All trips are set up.

Spring Leadership Program: Stephen reported that:

- 26 people have signed up.
- He is still seeking additional leaders to help with the program.

Leader Applications: Bob Asch presented a 3-Season Leader application from Yorghos Tripodis, which the committee approved. Yorghos left the meeting during the discussion and vote and returned after the vote.

Trip Planning Meeting: The Committee discussed holding a trip planning meeting in late April or early May, to coincide with the graduation of new coleaders at the Spring Leadership Program. The Committee discussed possible locations and dates, and decided on Thursday, May 3rd at Joy Street. Stephen will reserve Cabot Auditorium and make other arrangements with Alex and Robert.

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, April 11, at the home of Carl Gustenhoven
- Wednesday, May 9, at the home of Robert Freed
- Tuesday, June 12, location TBD (possible at the home of Dan Wiktor).

Adjourn: approximately 8:45 pm