

Hiking/Backpacking Committee – Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: April 2013 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Location: Belmont – home of Stephen Conlin

Attending: Michael Swartz, Alex Nedzel, Bob Asch, Jeff Carlson, Stephen Conlin, Robert Freed, Carl Gustenhoven, Julie LePage, Paul Terenzi, Fred Smith, Yorghos Tripodis, Dan Wiktor and Philip Werner. Anne Jarek, Keith Watling and Stephanie St. Laurence joined as guests.

Come to order: 7:00 pm

Minutes of prior meeting: Minutes from the March 2013 H/B meeting were approved.

New Committee Member: Anne Jarek expressed interest in joining the Committee, and Anne left the meeting while the Committee discussed her possible membership. After discussion, the Committee voted to elect Anne to the Committee.

Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: Jeff reported that:

- Guide cards have been received and will be distributed.
- Exec Comm meetings have been restructured, so that two committees give in depth reports at each meeting.
- Exec Comm reviewed the training programs for each committee.

Trip Coordinator: Robert reported that:

- We are light on trips during Spring mud-season.
- The number of Summer trips is also low, but that should change after the next trip planning meeting.

Trip Reporter: Yorghos reported that:

- All trip reports for listed trips have been submitted, and he described statistics for recent trips.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Kittredge reported via email that:

- Two above-treeline workshops were held, with 15 participants in each, generating \$93 net income.

Webmaster and REGI Report: Julie reported that:

- A gear swap will be held later in April.
- She is looking for content for the H/B Facebook page.
- She would appreciate receiving comments and suggestions on REGI.

Leader Applications: Bob Asch presented the following leadership applications:

- Joanna Lai submitted an application for three-season leader, which was approved.
- David Vogel submitted an application for three-season leader, which was approved.
- Pam Wilmot submitted an application for four-season leader, which was approved.
- Alex Cowen submitted an application for four-season leader, which was approved.

Old Business:

- Stephen and Robert reported on plans for the Leader Appreciation Dinner
- Dan reported that he will distribute guide cards at the Leader Appreciation Dinner, and he explained the purpose of guide cards.
- The Committee discussed the WMNF rules for group size in wilderness areas, namely groups must be limited to 10 in wilderness areas, with a preference for groups of no more than 6 for on-trail travel and no more than 4 for off-trail travel. There is no official limit on group size outside of wilderness areas.

Treasurer: Joyce distributed financial statements and reported that:

- HB has a closing balance of \$23,968
- WPH had a net profit of \$4,239 this year, including Cardigan and paid programs.

Spring Leadership Program: Stephen reported that:

- SLP is underway.
- The size of the program was increased to 32 to accommodate demand, and there is still a modest wait list. Increasing the program beyond 32 would require more instructors and could adversely affect the learning experience even if more instructors were available.

Spring Hiking Program: Bob Knudsen reported via email that:

- 90 participants have signed up and 77 have paid.
- Program materials have been delivered.
- All sessions are covered other than the introduction to backpacking, which he is confident he can get covered.

Slide Show: Julie reported that:

- The last program of the year is coming up, which will be on Siberian Spring Camping.

Wilderness First Aid (WFA): Jeff reported that:

- There are an abundance of WFA programs being offered in the Boston area over the next few months so he is not planning on scheduling one for HB.
- AMC Adventure Travel is sponsoring an Advanced WFA on May 4-5.

Winter Hiking Program: Fred reported the results of a satisfaction survey completed by participants of the WHP. All comments were provided anonymously. The Committee discussed extensively the detailed comments provided by one participant.

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, May 15, 2013, in Newton at the home of Bob Kittredge
- Tuesday, June 11, 2013, in Wakefield at the home of Dan Wiktor
- Tuesday, September 10, 2013, in Lexington at the home of Alex Nedzel
- Tuesday, October 8, 2013, in North Andover at the home of Carl Gustenhoven

Adjourn: approximately 9:30 pm