

Hiking/Backpacking Committee - Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: February 17, 2015 - Monthly HB Meeting

APPROVED, March 10, 2015

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 6:30pm

Location: via conference call

In Attendance:

Alex Nedzel, Stephen Conlin, Carl Gustenhoven, Philip Werner, Casey Ajalat, Bob Asch, Jeff Carlson, Bob Knudsen, Fred Smith, Michael Swartz, Paul Terenzi, Yorghos Tripodis, Keith Watling, Faith Pulis

Come to order: 6:35pm

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME - Alex Nedzel

Casey Ajalat approved as newest committee member

January 2015 Minutes Approved

September 2014 Minutes Approved

October 2014 Minutes Approved

November 2014 Minutes Approved

REGULAR REPORTS

Boston Chapter Executive Committee - *Jeff Carlson*

- Deferred to March Meeting

Treasurer's Report - *Philip Werner*

- Current Account Balances, as of 2/13, PayPal: \$7,441.38, Bank of America: \$11,539.46
- Major expenditures:
 - SHP '14 WMG Books (misplaced invoice): \$2,231.67
 - WHP '14 Cardigan Lodge: \$6,717.06
 - Apa Sherpa Speaker's Fee: \$2,500.00
 - Solo WFA: \$1,394.50 (off-setting revenues not recorded)
- Philip is working with Program Leaders to create Budgets. Michael will join him in this.
- Reminder to H/B Program and Trip Managers, per H/B Rules
 - All program and trip listings require refund policies
 - Expense and participant fees reports for courses or events must be submitted to the treasurer within 1 month. Contact Philip if you have questions.
 - Leaders must retain copies of all receipts for 6 months

Trip Coordinator - *Carl/Robert*

- January 2015 = 18 Trips (14 Hikes, 3 Backpack, 1 Potluck)
- February 2015 = 20 Trips (15 Hikes, 3 Backpack, 1 Potluck)
- March 2014 = 8 Trips (6 Hikes, 0 Backpack, 1 Potluck)
- April 2015 = 4 Trips (3 Hikes, 0 Backpack, 1 Potluck)
- May 2015 = 1 Trip (3 Hikes, 0 Backpack, 1 Potluck)

- September 2015 = 1 Trip (1 Hike)

Harvard Cabin - *Bob Knudsen*

- Last HC trip this season is 27-29 February, to be led by Sonya Korabelnikova & team.
- 13-15 March HC date has been cancelled due to no leaders reserving it.
- Next available HC dates start in September 2015.

Trip Reporter's Report - *Yorghos Tripodis*

- 2014 Statistics - 121 trips, 85 leaders and co-leaders, 1453 total participants!
- January = 17 trips, (+ 1 canceled), still waiting for 6 trip reports

Webmaster – *Gary, Casey*

- AMC Logo & Boston Chapter logo have been updated
- Please poke around and let Casey know if there are changes that need to be made.
- E-mail forwarding addresses and aliases need to be reviewed

Leadership – *Stephen Conlin*

- Leader Appreciation Dinner 2/26/2015
 - RSVP's #'s are low - snow & parking may be a problem
 - HB is recommending event be postponed
- The Spring Leadership Program is scheduled for the weeknights of April 9 and 16 and the weekend of April 24-26.
- A Chapter-wide trip planning meeting will be held at Joy Street on Thursday, April 30, 2014 (the week after the close of the Spring Leadership Program).

Leadership Application – *Bob Asch*

- Pete Osler - Deferred to March
- Bill Donovan - Approved as 3 Season Leader

H/B PROGRAMS

Winter Hiking Program - *Fred Smith*

- Looking to fill Cardigan coordinator and Trips coordinator for next time around
 - Special thanks to Anne Jarek and Carl Gustenhoven for their numerous years of organizing & coordinating
- Initial survey results (thank you, Elizabeth) validate our vision and the changes we made to the curriculum this year
- People liked:
 - enthusiasm and knowledge of the leaders
 - tips on gear choices
 - the trips
 - the snacks.
- Feedback/Observations:
 - Want opportunities to use different gear (snowshoes and crampons)
 - General mix of participants wanting hikes closer to Boston, or hikes that would be slower or easier and those working on their 48 and therefore interested in peak bagging

Winter Hiking Program cont'd

- Recommendations:
 - In preparation for next year, leaders should be prepared for on-trail instruction during the early hikes in the Whites when participants are still getting accustomed to their gear.
 - If speed and fitness are a concern of the WHP sub-committee, it may be important in program to better communicate the fitness requirements of each trip.
 - more local hikes
 - better utilizing the EMS/5th-class night
 - Reconsider the EMS night (we do this every year), set expectations of participants and leaders.
 - more instruction when on the trips

Spring Hiking Program - Elizabeth Ryan

- Planning is well under way.
- Spring Hiking Program 2015 dates are Tuesdays, April 14th, 21st, 28th, May 5th and 12th, 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- First four sessions will be held at Joy Street Cabot Auditorium
- 5th class will be held at EMS on Commonwealth Ave, Boston (*unconfirmed at this point*)
- A Boot Night is being planned for April 23rd. The hope is to have the boot fittings at REI in Fenway, followed by a social event at a local establishment. The boot night will be set up as a trip, with a REGI page for RSVPs
- Program fee increased by \$5 this year for both members and non-members (\$60 and \$65 respectively)
- The rental fee for Cardigan has significantly increased. The participant fees for that trip increased by \$5 each. The weekend is heavily subsidized by the program as a whole. The proposed budget has the program in the black overall.
- Some "affiliated" hikes will be led by other committees: to date, YM and Local Walks.

NOTE: Jeff recommended we consider widening the gap between member and non-member program participant fees, especially since they've also paid AMC Member dues. Chapter may be willing to cover the loss to HB given the goal is to get AMC Members active and into programs.

Wilderness First Aid - Paul Terenzi

- Will restrict future classes to 25 to avoid the additional expense of 2nd Instructor

Lecture series - Julie LePage

January - Matt Hopkinson a 180 canoe trip, 35 attendees

February - Mike Henrik, PCT thru hike, est. 40 participants

March - Keith Watling, Lodge to Lodge Trek in Nepal with REI

April - Ron Janowitz, AMC NH Chapter leader, volunteering as a Utah National Park Volunteer Ranger

May - Gary Munroe, AMC Cold River Camp on the NH/ME border

October - backpacking/hiking in canyons in Utah.

OLD TOPICS

Apa Sherpa Event - Keith Watling

- Kudos to Keith for planning & organizing
- 303 attendees, preliminary ticket sales generated \$3,729.00, total expenses - \$4,393.48, incurring a deficit of \$664.48

Roles for 2015 - *Alex Nedzel*

- Alex shared the current H/B Committee roster showing roles and e-mail info.

Operating Style - meeting time; advance reporting; agenda - *Alex Nedzel*

- HB Reporting Notebook - feedback positive, all agreed to adopt as a means for entering pre-meeting reports and related information
 - Enthusiastic, congratulatory thanks to Faith for recommending, facilitating and supporting

NEW TOPICS

Cooperative arrangements with other activity committees - *Stephen, Elizabeth, Michael*

- Per above, some SHP affiliated hikes will be joint with other activity committees
- The Cohos Trail hike series was joint with YM
- Direct any concerns re: co-listing to Stephen

Financial processes for programs - *Philip and Michael*

- We're working toward a standard structure for supporting and reporting on the finances of our regular programs.
- Starting with SHP (Philip) and WFA (Michael), Philip and Michael will each be the interface for a subset of our programs.

H/B Leader Subsidy Program - Paul, Philip, Michael

- The committee approved a change to the program, wherein reimbursement applications may now be submitted within a full year of the course (versus the former 90 days)
- There was also interest in a change to ensure that a subsidy credit can be had for BOTH trips led 1 year preceding AS WELL AS trips led 1 year following the date of the course taken. Michael reported that this change had already been made in the past, and hence is already in force.

FUTURE TOPICS

- SHP, WFA, and WHP Annual Program Budgets - MARCH
- Leadership application template - Carl, Michael APRIL
- Completion of winter and posting-related rule updates - Carl
- Leadership reciprocity; 1-day leader training - Stephen
- Revisit the H/B hike rating system - Stephen, Robert
- Website structure and content - Gary, Casey
- Participant trip feedback mechanism (REGI? Trip Reporter?) - Stephen
- H/B privacy policy, including personally identifiable information, financial, and medical information - Philip
- Financial priorities for H/B Committee - Philip LATER
- We host the September 16th "Third Wednesday" AMC/Boston presentation

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 10 - Stephen Conlin, Belmont

Tuesday, April 7 - Bob Knudsen, Woburn (irregular date due to SHP)

Wednesday, May 6 – Keith, Southborough (irregular date due to SHP)

ADJOURN 8:02PM

Faith Pulis and Alex Nedzel