

Hiking/Backpacking Committee - Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: April 7, 2015 - Monthly HB Meeting

Approved May 6, 2015

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 7:07pm

Location: Woburn, MA, home of Bob Knudsen

In Attendance:

Alex Nedzel, Anne Jarek, Elisabeth Ryan, Paul Terenzi, Michael Swartz, Carl Gustenhoven, Stephen Conlin, Fred Smith, Bob Knudsen, Keith Watling, Gary Schwartz, Pam Wilmot, Jeff Carlson, Casey Ajalat, Faith Pulis

Come to Order, 7:07pm

Introduction/Welcome - *Alex Nedzel*

Thank you to Bob Knudsen for hosting

March 2015 Minutes Approved

REGULAR REPORTS

Boston Chapter Executive Committee - *Fred Smith*

- Qualified leaders will be getting their AMC Boston rain jackets and fleece vests at the recognition social coming up on 4/29 at American Legion in Newton
- H/B will be the featured committee for the September Membership Social. The Membership Committee suggests a location closer to Boston than Concord, perhaps in Newton. H/B needs a volunteer to present.
- Guide cards - Jeff Carlson needs to know how many we want by 4/15.
- Also looking for leaders interested in running Family Outings.

In relation to the second and third items reported above, Alex noted that Anne Jarek is our volunteer presenter at the September Membership Social, and that John Lisker, H/B's Guide Card Coordinator, obtained a thoughtful trip leadership analysis from Yorghos, H/B's Trip Reporter, and on March 1 communicated Boston Hiking/Backpacking's need for 85 guide cards to Jessica Wilson of the club's staff using the Excel form that she provided.

Treasurer - *Philip Werner (via written report)*

Cash Balances as of 4/7/15

Bank Of America: \$21,342

Paypal: \$5,126

Discussion

- Recommendation was made to copy & paste Quicken Report into monthly reports to show account activity
- NOTE: Would also like to see summary for each cost center (i.e. EFA, WHP, SHP, etc.)
 - Example: WFA - only showing expenditures, doesn't reflect revenue and surplus or deficit
- Michael volunteered to help Philip with this.

Trip Coordinator - *Carl Gustenhoven /Robert Freed*

70 activities on the schedule as of 4/7/15, including:

- 56 day hikes
- 4 backpacks
- 5 lectures
- 3 instructional programs

Harvard Cabin - *Bob Knudsen [no report]*

Trip Reporter's Report - *Yorghos Tripidos (via written report)*

JANUARY 2015: 17 activities, 318 participants

FEBRUARY 2015: 15 activities, 128 participants

MARCH 2015: 13 activities, 145 participants

Discussion

January Participants #'s appear to be askew. Do #'s reflect WHP enrollments? Cardigan Weekend?

Webmaster - *Gary Schwartz , Casey Ajalat*

- Chapter Website Updates
 - Updated the H/B Committee listing
 - Updated the Leadership Awards section and posted on main page
- REGI Website Updates
 - Established an account on the Boston Chapters server to manage HB REGI Web front end.
 - Established Database Admin privileges for the REGI application on the Chapter server
 - Fixed REGI email issues
 - Established a new SendGrid account and reointed REGI to new account for email service
- OPEN Items
 - Logo updates on REGI website
 - WFA policy update on website
 - Contact info to Lyons hosting
 - sudo access to server
 - domain management shared access
 - Update HB Meeting Minutes on website

Casey will do some exploration and report back to the committee on implementing a participant complaint function on the H/B website.

Leadership - *Alex Nedzel*

Will begin enlisting Keith's and others' help in following up with leaders and co-leaders in order to update our status info on them, this month

Leadership Application – *Michael Swartz*

Chris Gambino approved as 4 Season Leader

H/B PROGRAMS

Winter Hiking Program - Fred Smith

Spring Hiking Program - Elizabeth Ryan

116 registered & paid participants, Joy St. occupancy max is 125

Trips:

- 14 program trips starting April 18th and going through the weekend of July 10th
- There are 3 posted affiliated hikes and a fourth in the works. Two are cross listed with YM, and the other two are regular HB hikes.
- I am still working with LW to get two affiliated trips with them (may or may not be cross listed).
- Cardigan is booked and we should be making the payment on that by next week

Class:

- All presenters are set and the presentations are starting to come in
- Boot Night is confirmed for April 23rd at REI Boston, with a social event to follow at Yard House
- WMGs are ordered and should be arriving at Joy Street later this week
- The manuals will be going to the printer at the end of the week

The program budget was approved by the committee during the March 2015 meeting. As of now, the program is still on budget (waiting for confirmation of participant program fees) and most of the larger expenses have been finalized.

Individual Trip Surveys

Series of 10 questions for the purpose of participants to express what they liked and didn't like about a particular trip. Feedback could be used to modify the trip lineup for next year. Responses might also expose gaps in the course content. It is also a way for participants to rave about how great the trip (co)leaders are. In the event a participant has a concern, there is also a direct method to provide that information within the survey as well as the contact info for the committee chair. Additionally, it is a way for the program to cross check how the participant's expectations are being set, and whether or not we are meeting them.

Discussion

Limited Tool - reports will have to be correlated, will not initially be able to provide direct feedback to each leader

Affiliated trips will have "option" of participating

Wilderness First Aid - Paul Terenzi

- No June program, conflict with host site
- Next HB coordinated WFA will be in September
- Paul has information re: other programs available through other organizations

Slide Show & Pot Luck Series - Julie LePage (via written report)

March 24 – Everest Lodge to Lodge Trek by Keith Watling

Over 60 people attended. Wonderful presentation, an excellent time was had by all!

Wednesday April 15th

Ron Janowitz, a NH AMC hike Leader will be speaking about his experience as a National Park Volunteer Ranger At Natural Bridges National Monument in Utah.

Wednesday May 13th

Last one until next fall!

Gary Munson, AMC Hike Leader, will be presenting about the AMC's own Cold River Camp in the Baldface Region of NH.

OLD TOPICS

Rule Change: Handling of Winter Conditions – *Carl Gustenhoven and Stephen Conlin*

Second vote approved

Propose Rule 6.9 be modified to read:

Leader is a volunteer who has been approved by the Committee and granted the authority to submit trip and activity notices to the Trip Coordinator for publication in the On Line Activity Data Base (or successor thereto), and to lead hiking trips or activities, primarily day hiking and camping trips. 4 season (winter) Leaders may lead hiking and camping trips in the winter as well in the spring, summer and fall. 3 season Leaders may lead trips in the spring, summer and fall but not in calendar winter or when winter conditions are in effect.

In conjunction, propose the creation of a new Rule 6.21:

Winter Conditions will be in effect during calendar winter and whenever, in the judgment of the Trip Coordinator or at the time of the trip, there is a reasonable expectation that conditions (such as cold temperatures, wind, snow, ice, sleet or freezing rain) will be comparable to those typically experienced during calendar winter. Winter conditions will be in effect whenever snowshoes or crampons are required. Winter conditions will not apply to trips conducted east of (within) Route 495 or east of the Cape Cod Canal.

Rule Change: Rescinding Trip Approvals - *Carl Gustenhoven*

Second vote approved

rule 5.2 be amended to include the following subsection 5.2.1.3:

5.2.1.3 If the circumstances of the activity change or if the Trip Coordinator becomes aware of additional pertinent information that disqualifies publication of the activity, the Trip Coordinator may rescreen the activity and rescind publication until such time as it is determined that the activity has been brought into compliance. The Trip Coordinator is expressly not required to continuously review all previously screened activities to monitor compliance, but is authorized to act when and if a change in circumstance or additional information comes to light that warrants a review of the activity.

NEW TOPICS

How does single-day leadership training fit with H/B needs? - *Stephen Conlin*

- Discussion reflected there is no interest in pursuing an additional/lesser "leadership" category within HB for which a single-day training course would be appropriate.

Cross-listing and Leadership reciprocity - *Stephen Conlin, Deferred*

Leadership application template - Carl Gustenhoven and Keith Watling

- Michael will present an evolution of thoughts from meeting and present at next meeting.
- Consider some additional open ended question to allow for expansion of response to include general knowledge leader may have about the applicant beyond the details requested on the application
- Safety is an important leadership component, consider adding to application
- Send any additional thoughts to Michael Swartz

NEXT MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, June 9 - Alex Nedzel, Lexington

Tuesday, September 8 - Carl Gustenhoven, North Andover

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, 8:39pm

RECONVENE 9:43pm

The committee voted to suspend the Leader under discussion for a period of 4 months.

ADJOURNED 9:47pm

Faith Pulis and Alex Nedzel