

FROM the CHAIR

Today's Children: Tomorrow's AMC

So what will the future of the Appalachian Mountain Club look like? It's not an answer to be found by simply looking into a crystal ball. AMC staff members, in fact, are working with the leaders of all the chapters to develop a direction, called Vision 2015, which defines where the organization needs to be in seven or eight years to continue its mission of promoting conservation and outdoor recreation. While a number of ideas have been raised, a couple of important suggestions



were mentioned during the AMC Spring Gathering in April. And, as it turns out, the Berkshire Chapter is already moving down the right path.

But first things first. One of the AMC's

most important goals is to preserve open space. Without that, we'll obviously run out of many undeveloped places to wander; and the wildlife we enjoy will become more difficult to observe, while many species may entirely disappear. The AMC is a key player in preserving the great wild places of the Northeast.

Another important goal, also vital to the future of the organization, is to get children interested in the outdoors. Yes, get 'em hooked while they're young! What could a 5, 10, or 15-year old AMC member become in a decade or two? A strong hike leader, perhaps? Or an enthusiastic

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Outdoor Leadership Training Builds Skills and Teamwork

by Donna Walters and Maureen Flanagan



The March 10–11 Outdoor Leadership Training Weekend at Noble View was hailed as a huge success, as 21 participants—the largest turnout ever—honed their leadership skills in an atmosphere that fostered team building and camaraderie.

For the first time ever, the weekend workshop was held in the newly completed Double Cottage at Noble View, with food and lodging available. Not only did the participants have a scrumptious spaghetti dinner on Saturday and a Sunday morning breakfast, they also enjoyed a great evening of entertainment after their many hours of training.

The workshop participants, ranging in age from 19 to 70, included ten young women from the Mt. Holyoke Outing Club (MHOC), in addition to two Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee members, several other Chapter members, and a previously approved leader who had never had formal training. Three volunteer trainers (Rob Robertson, Wayne Rodrigues, and Donna Walters), AMC staffer Danny Twilley, and two new trainers-in-training (Bill Babcock and Matt Emerson) conducted the program.

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First Annual Family Fun Day: Saturday, August 4

details on page 2

First Annual FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, August 4, 2007, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m

Where: AMC Noble View Camp, Russell, MA

The Berkshire Chapter will be hosting its first annual Family Fun Day at Noble View on Saturday, August 4, 2007, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A potluck lunch will kick off the day. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, nature walk, games, prizes and surprises. Be sure to bring your swimsuits. This is a free event for the young and the young at heart.

Please RSVP to Bob Wallner (413-454-7519 or familyprograms@amcberkshire.org).

Website Committee Update

The Website Committee continues to evolve as its newer members take on larger areas of responsibility. Deputy Webmaster Bob Bergstrom (deputy-webmaster@amcberkshire.org) now manages Chapter email announcements, discussion lists, and email addresses. He continues to be our top-level administrator for online event listings in the AMC Trip Planner. Website Editor-in-Chief Nancy Gonter (web-editor@amcberkshire.org) oversees the "static content" of the website, and also posts news and information to the website's news page and to our Chapter's news and announcements email list.

Useful links:

Chapter website: http://amcberkshire.org

• Chapter news page: http://amcberkshire.org/news • Email list sign-up page: http://amcberkshire.org/lists

• AMC Trip Planner: http://trips.outdoors.org

Ian Beatty Website Committee Chair

From the Chair, continued from page 1

naturalist? Maybe even a Chapter Chair? Imagine the possibilities!

Today's kids are bombarded with artificial experiences like theme parks, electronic gaming, and cyberspace. Shouldn't we also expose them to the healthy benefits of enjoying nature? Leave behind the roller coasters, keyboards, and remote controls. Take a hike in the woods or up to a high alpine meadow. Go snowshoeing, skiing, or paddling.

For the Berkshire Chapter, we believe the best way to bring kids out to the trails is to focus on activities for families. I'd like to welcome Bob Wallner to our Chapter's Executive Committee. Bob has stepped up to take the position of Family Programs Chair, and he is already working on familyoriented Chapter events, beginning with a Family Fun Day at Noble View on August 4. He enjoys being outside with his own family and is excited about the opportunity to organize ways of sharing this enjoyment with others. Perfect! Thank you, Bob!

So, AMC parents, stay tuned for upcoming nature-oriented events that everyone in your household can enjoy. Show the youngsters how we can protect the land and its creatures, and have lots of fun while appreciating it. Our future depends on it.

> Very best wishes, Jon Hanauer Berkshire Chapter Chair chapterchair@amcberkshire.org 413-568-0990

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2007 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: Jon Hanauer

(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Vice Chair: Deborah Levine (vicechair@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)

Treasurer: Kelly Druzisky (treasurer@amcberkshire.org) Secretary: Pat Stevenson (secretary@amcberkshire.org)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail Committee:

Cosmo Catalano (at@amcberkshire.org; 413-458-5349) Jim Pelletier (wanderer0131@yahoo.com; 413-454-4773)

Berkshire County Representative: vacant Berkshire Exchange Publisher: Jon Hanauer

(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Canoe and Kayak Committee:

Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson (paddling@amcberkshire.org)

Conservation Committee: Patricia Lukas (conservation@amcberkshire.org; 413-253-5711)

Entertainment Committee: vacant

Family Programs: Bob Wallner

(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org; 413-454-7519)

Membership Committee: Deborah Levine (membership@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)

Mountaineering Committee:

Jim VanNatta and Alice Hodgdon (mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)

Noble View Committee: Rob Robertson (nobleview@amcberkshire.org; 413-549-4963)

Nominating Committee: Rob Robertson (nominating@amcberkshire.org; 413-549-4963)

Outings Committee:

Dave Koerber (outings@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-4650) Bob Napolitano (outings@amcberkshire.org; 413-534-8955)

Past Chair: Rob Robertson (413-549-4963) Public Relations Committee: Bess Dillman

(publicity@amcberkshire.org; 413-667-5178) Trails Committee: Patrick Fletcher

(trails@amcberkshire.org; 413-562-9863)

Training and Education Committee: Donna Walters

(training@amcberkshire.org; 413-367-3025)

Website Committee:

Ian Beatty (ian@amcberkshire.org)

Young Members Committee: vacant

Other Helpful Contacts

Membership in a Bottle: Chris Ryan (bottles@amcberkshire.org; 413-549-4124)

Regional Director: Dale Geslien

(dalegeslien@sbcglobal.net; 203-778-3651)

Regional Trails Coordinator: Sara Sheehy

(ssheehy@outdoors.org; 413-528-8003)

Tuesday Hiking: Gloria LaFlamme (413-664-9648)

Berkshire **Exchange**

- June 2007 -

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Northern Berkshires map from the Massachusetts Trail Guide, © Appalachian Mountain Club

Need a phone number?

If the person you want to contact by phone has no number listed, please call the Chapter Secretary, Pat Stevenson, at 413-625-2709.

January Cardigan High Cabin Outing Featured Snow and Good Fun by David Koerber

On Saturday, January 13, eight adventurous hikers started out on minimal snow for a weekend trip to the Cardigan High Cabin. All plans for a ski and snowshoe weekend were forgotten and we trekked in with just hiking boots with a thin layer of snow on the ground. We didn't encounter slippery conditions until we reached the cabin and it started to snow steadily. It would be more winter than any of us had seen so far, so all was not lost. The AMC cabin caretaker, who was just leaving as we arrived, took the group picture you see below.

We spent Saturday getting settled in, planning the weekend, gathering water, and chopping wood. Getting water was a treat with the ice all around. Andy Gagner chopped away while others got the stove going, and the rest of us carried wood and stocked up the split wood pile. Saturday evening was a cordial dinner session with many conversations, and the evening ended with a game of pitch/set-back. We had Andy's gas lantern and enough candles going to hold a séance. Sam kept a watch on the

wood stove all night and we slept well, keeping nice and toasty. It snowed all night and into the day on Sunday.

Sunday morning brought the need to climb. We strapped on what gear we had and headed up the mountain. We tried several approaches, trying to get everyone to the summit, but it was just too steep for those with creepers and Yaktrax. Three of us with full crampons eventually made it to the top, while the others chose lower trails where the going was a little friendlier. There were no views due to the snow and fog, but it was interesting to scale the summit anyway, and we returned to the cabin for a late lunch. With the weather forecast calling for more snow overnight. three members of our group decided to head home. After their departure, the rest of us decided we'd go out for more exploring and took a trail we hadn't been on yet.

We had another cordial dinner and conversation on

Sunday night, but this night the fire went out and we slept without heat. We were all pretty comfortable as we had our deep winter bags. Monday morning we packed up, cleaned the cabin, and hiked out in fresh snow. Four inches of snow were on the ground as we walked down the mountain to Cardigan Lodge. We shook off our gear and enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate while waiting for the sanding trucks to arrive. Guests at the Lodge were also waiting to leave and we "convoyed" out behind the plow truck as it made its exit. The remaining five of us stopped at a brew pub in W. Lebanon, NH, for one last "cold one" and lunch before going our separate ways and heading back to the "regular" stuff of life.

We all had a great time and thank Donna Walters for allowing us to use the reservation when she could not be there to lead.

Participants were Sam Richardson, Don Murphy, John Murphy, Bob Napolitano, Andy Gagner, Amy Risen, Cory Ptak, and Dave Koerber.



photo by David Koerber

Your Feedback is Requested!

We'd really, really like your input. What do you love about the Berkshire Chapter? What could be improved? Are we doing enough of the things you enjoy? Do you have any suggestions?

Please follow the link at amcberkshire.org to give us your comments, suggestions, and criticism. It's easy and anonymous. Please do it today!

Exciting Progress at Noble View –

Summer's Started With a Bang at Noble View!

Construction has started on the bathhouse, with blasting for the foundation and septic system tanks in May (see photos below). Project completion is scheduled for 2008. Everyone's looking forward to showers, flush toilets, and dishwashing stations. If you're interested in volunteering to work on the bathhouse, give Gary Forish a call at 413-519-3251, or email him at forgary@comcast.net. We always have plenty of work that will match any skill level.

What a Surprise - We Still Need Your Help...

I know it's hard to believe, but we still have openings on the Noble View Committee. If you have some skills that are deteriorating due to lack of use, why not put them to work? We need talented and committed people to help in these roles: Vice Chair, Development Subcommittee, Trails Subcommittee, Marketing Subcommittee, and Programs Subcommittee. Also, we need help with mowing the lawns every two weeks, maintaining the trails on one Saturday per month, and various tasks during our work weekends.

Become a Key Holder

If you're short on time and energy, but still want to contribute to the revitalization efforts at Noble View, consider becoming a Key Holder. Your annual fee entitles you to the use of a gate key and a 10% discount on lodging. Please contact me (413-549-4963 or nobleview@amcberkshire.org) to find out more about the benefits of our Key Holder program.

Come And View Your Estate

Whether it's for work, or work that feels like play, or unadulterated play, come out to Noble View. Enjoy a day hike, stay overnight, join us for trail work, or attend one of the great trainings, programs, hikes, potlucks, or family events you'll see listed in the *Berkshire Exchange*, *AMC Outdoors*, or outdoors. org. Bring your friends and family! Do it today!

Yours in service, Rob Robertson Noble View Chair

FUN-FILLED EVENTS

Our annual **Chicken Barbecue and Fireworks Viewing** is **Tuesday, July 3**. Celebrate Independence Day with an outstanding chicken barbecue and spectacular fireworks viewing. Bring blankets or camp chairs. Please RSVP to Gary Forish at 413-562-6792.

The Worcester Chapter enjoyed a fabulous weekend at Noble View in May. We had so much fun together that we've scheduled a **Berkshire-Worcester Family Weekend** for **August 3–5**. Bob Wallner, the Berkshire Chapter's Family Programs Chair, has scheduled a day of family fun events for **August 4** (details on page 2), and both overnight and day guests are welcome. Whether it's for the day or the whole weekend, please bring the family out to play at beautiful Noble View. For info or to sign up, contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963.

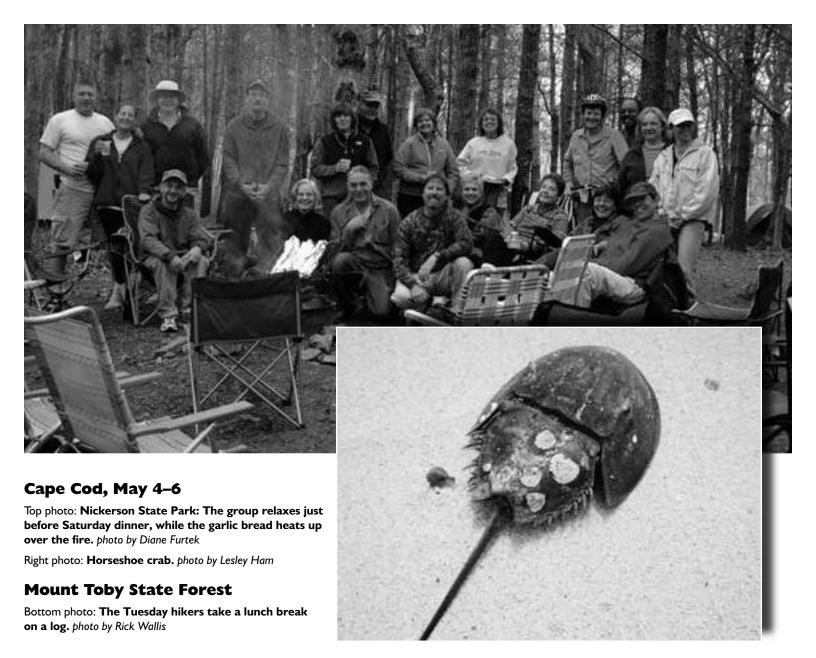
We're having our monthly **Berkshire Chapter Potluck Dinners** at Noble View this summer. Save the dates: **Tuesday, July 10, and Tuesday, August 14**. Contact Deborah Levine for details, 413-584-6065.

We're doing about 3 or 4 hours of **trail work** starting at 9 a.m. on **August 18** and **September 15**, and **Fall Work Days** are scheduled for **September 15–16**. Please contact Rob Robertson for info or to sign up, 413-549-4963.

Left photo: Holes have been drilled 20 feet deep for the dynamite charges. photo by Rob Robertson

Bottom photo: The blasting fractured the rock ledge to accommodate the foundation and the septic system. The rock and soil was displaced by the blast, causing the grade of the blast field to rise significantly. Photo by Gary Forish







Potluck Dinners to Welcome Members

The Berkshire Chapter is planning a series of fun and informative presentations accompanied by potluck dinners. Join in for a chance to enjoy programs about a variety of topics while socializing with fellow members. A short orientation will be held for new and returning members, or anyone who wants to hear what is happening, what volunteer opportunities exist, and how to get involved. Summer events will be at Noble View (see page 4), but save the dates for the fall too.

The fall events will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 220 Main St., Northampton, MA. Enter through the side door. Potluck dinners will start at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share with 4–6 others. Programs will begin at 7 p.m. and orientations will follow at about 8 p.m. The Conservation Committee encourages attendees to bring their own plates and utensils if possible.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 11: In a program sponsored by the Conservation Committee, Russ Cohen will present a slide show and talk about edible wild plants of New England. He will bring a "foraged goodie" to share at the potluck dinner.

October 9: "Oh, the places we've been!" The Berkshire Chapter will host its first annual "Travel Show" at the October Monthly Potluck Dinner. We are looking for Chapter members who have photos from their travels near and far and would like to share them with others. Everyone will have a chance to share some images and stories with the group. We are looking forward to an eclectic and entertaining evening. If you would like to participate, please contact Deborah Levine at membership@amcberkshire.org or 413-584-6065.

November 13: Sponsored by the Conservation Committee, a program by AMC staffer Hawk Methany will address "Climate Change: A Global and Northeast Perspective."

December 11: To be announced.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help our members to have fun!

- Executive Committee -

If you're interested in working with some really nice people and taking one of these posts on our Executive Committee, please contact Jon Hanauer at chapterchair@amcberkshire.org or 413-568-0990.

Berkshire County Representative

The person who takes this position will organize activities and events for our members who live in Berkshire County, and may also coordinate with our Entertainment, Membership, and Outings Committees. Also, organizing events jointly with the AMC's Mohawk-Hudson Chapter would be a great idea.

Young Members Committee Chair

Our Young Members Committee has activities targeted to members in their 20s and 30s, but are always open to everybody. This Committee Chair would organize activities and events, or solicit leaders to do so. Another responsibility would be to make sure members who send out announcements for events are on the Chapter's list of approved leaders.

- Noble View Camp -

Licensed Plumbers

With construction beginning on the bathhouse, licensed plumbers are needed to assist in several phases of the project. If you can help, please contact Gary Forish at 413-562-6792.

- The Membership Committee Needs You -

The Membership Committee is seeking enthusiastic, energetic AMC members to help out with a variety of activities to welcome new members and coordinate events that bring everyone together. If you can spare an hour or more we could use your help arranging and organizing events, making phone calls to welcome new members, planning activities, and many more possibilities. This is a great way to get involved and meet more Berkshire Chapter members without a major time commitment.

Also, if you have a talent you'd like to share, we would like to hear from you. Naturalists, artists, musicians—anyone with a passion to share—all are welcome.

Contact Deborah Levine at membership@amcberkshire.org or 413-584-6065.

- Outings Committee -

Monthly Coordinators

We're looking for monthly coordinators to work with the Outings Committee to schedule outings and find leaders to plan those outings. Coordinators solicit leaders and assemble a list of activities two months prior to the month they're responsible for (July 1 for September, August 1 for October, etc.). Please contact Bob Napolitano at 413-534-8955 (before 8 p.m.), or Dave Koerber at 413-568-4650 (home, before 9 p.m.) or 617-480-8225 (work). Or, send an email to outings@amcberkshire.org.

In Memoriam

EDWIN S. NELMES – A life member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1933, died March 2007.

Outdoor Leadership Training Builds Skills and Teamwork, continued from page 1

Many thanks to the following experienced leaders who also participated: Elbert Bowler, Tom Eaton, Chris Fogarty, Julian Hadley, Juliana Vanderwielen, Pat Stevenson, and John Tu. These leaders made themselves available to serve as mentors for the new trainees who will be required to complete three co-leads with an experienced leader in order to meet the Chapter's leader qualifications. This was the first time experienced leaders, other than the trainers, were invited to participate in new leader training. The turnout was fantastic and we look forward to harnessing their expertise in a greater capacity at future trainings.

The workshop agenda, based on the Mountain Leadership School Handbook, included activities such as instruction on safety practices, leader awareness, decision making, trip planning and preparation, group management, and principles of wilderness first aid. Each day included four hours of indoor instruction and three hours of outdoor practice. Participants engaged in scenarios, playing roles encountered when leading trips, including accidents, injuries, hypothermia, and leading groups with fast and slow hikers. They also learned about group dynamics and leadership styles that can be utilized for different types of situations.

New ways of presenting material enlivened the workshop, with an emphasis on hands-on learning. Leave No Trace principles, for example, were actively demonstrated as participants paced off 100- and 200-foot courses to enable a concrete understanding of how far off the trail to go to set up camp or take a bathroom break. Trainees also experienced first-hand the difficulties of carrying an injured hiker out of the woods. Using a Stokes litter, which was donated by Berkshire Mountain Search & Rescue, Inc., they took turns carrying a "wounded" hiker. These hands-on activities were supplemented by Rob Robertson modeling a trailhead talk and Matt Emerson demonstrating accident scene management techniques, a focus of the training this year.

The volunteer leaders who came on Saturday provided an invaluable resource for explaining the basics of leading a trip—how they lead hikes, where they go, what pace they set. The workshop also gave them the opportunity to introduce themselves to the new trainees as they prepare for the co-leading requirement of the training. As of this writing, Gwen Blodget is the first new leader from this training session to complete the required co-leads and is now officially on the approved leaders list! Kudos to Gwen who plans to lead hikes for the Tuesday hiking group.

With the group staying together in the Double Cottage, evening activities were a valuable part of the team building—and provided lots of fun as well. The group played games, including an AMC version of The Price is Right and a trivia quiz, hosted by Rondi Stearns, an AMC staffer from Pinkham Notch. Rondi brought prizes provided by AMC such as Nalgene water bottles, hats, coffee mugs, and AMC books. Deb Levine concocted a fantastic spaghetti dinner and provided her much-loved homemade

A Summary of The Berkshire Chapter's Leader Qualification Guidelines

To join our great team of approved Berkshire Chapter leaders, candidates must satisfy the following requirements:

- Successfully complete the Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training course, or an equivalent course.
- Successfully co-lead three (minimum) scheduled
 Chapter trips with at least two different leaders.
- Leaders desiring to lead in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, or other remote wilderness areas, require specific additional training related to the perils involved with extreme climate, temperature, and terrain variations.

For a copy of the complete text of these requirements, contact the Outings Committee or the Training and Education Committee. (Please see page 2 for contact information.)

brownies for dessert. The next day, Wayne Rodrigues and Janice Doubleday cooked up a great Sunday morning breakfast.

Many thanks to everyone who made the weekend both a terrific learning experience and a lot of fun—including the volunteer trainers, the experienced leaders who showed up to mentor the new leaders, and all the participants who contributed to make this an outstanding workshop. "It was the best leader training I've ever been a part of," says Rob Robertson, our past Chapter Chair and new Noble View Chair, "and the Double Cottage was the perfect place to make it all come together."

"The focus on high-quality leadership training is what sets the AMC apart from other outdoor clubs," says Donna Walters, Training & Education Chair. "Our trip leaders have excellent training and trip participants notice the difference. 'Let's be safe and have fun' is our motto, and this is where it all starts."

The next Leadership Training Weekend will be held October 27–28. If it sounds like something you'd be interested in doing, why not give it a try?

AMC Authors Share Their Work

On May 8, Wendy and John Sinton presented a slide show and discussion of their new book, *The Connecticut River Boating Guide: Source to Sea*, written with Elizabeth Farnsworth. Their presentation marked the beginning of the monthly Berkshire Chapter potluck dinners. An enthusiastic group of Chapter members enjoyed a delicious dinner and informative presentation. The event sparked exciting ideas for future paddling trips and other events. Books were available for sale and Wendy and John autographed many copies. The event was held at the Unitarian Universalist Society building in Northampton. The monthly potluck dinners will resume in the fall.

Poetry Reading Celebrates Publication of Susan Middleton's New Book

On April 29, Chapter member, poet, and hike leader Susan Middleton read from her new book, *Seed Case of the Heart*, at a Chapter-sponsored poetry reading held at the Woodstar Café. Woodstar owner and AMC member Rebecca Robbins generously offered the space and donated the coffee for the event. Those in attendance listened rapt as Susan read many poems inspired by nature. Fellow poet Susie Patlove also read from her work.

Check Out AMC Destinations' Familiarization Tours!

Not many folks took advantage of the most recent FamTour at Highland Center and Joe Dodge Lodge, and we can't figure out why. These FamTours offer current and aspiring chapter trip leaders the chance to visit AMC Destinations and learn more about the great offers available to chapter groups. You'll get VIP treatment from really nice staff members, you'll meet leaders from other chapters, and the price can't be beat! Visit http://www.outdoors.org/chapters/groups/fam-tours.cfm for more details.

Save the Date for the AMC Fall Gathering, October 12–14

The New Hampshire Chapter invites you to enjoy the fall foliage at the AMC's Highland Center in Crawford Notch. More information soon at www.amc-nh.org.



Easter Sunday on Monument Mountain, looking at the Devil's Pulpit and Butternut ski area. photo by Sharon Siter

Chris Ryan, PO Box 9369, North Amherst, MA 01059

Please mail completed form with check to:

Questions? Contact Chris Ryan at 413-549-4124

- June Hoerle -

Wishing you all the best during your recovery!

June, the members of the Berkshire Chapter are wishing you continued success for your recovery from surgery. We're so glad to know you're already getting active again, and look forward to seeing you at Chapter events.

MEMBERSHIP IN A BOTTLE

For the cost of your annual membership, you will receive:
A Nalgene® water bottle • A \$10 gift certificate good for AMC books, lodging, and workshops • An AMC window decal • A subscription to AMC Outdoors • A new member packet with your Club ID, a copy of current Chapter activities, and our quarterly newsletter, the Berkshire Exchange.

	IC Berkshire Membership Form -
	Individual "Membership in a Bottle" kits
-	550 each).
	Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits. \$75 each).
	Senior "Membership in a Bottle" kits
(\$25 each, age 69 and over). Age:
<u> </u>	Young Member "Membership in a Bottle" its (\$25 each, up to age 30). Age:,
I have e	nclosed a check for the total amount of
\$	made payable to Berkshire Chapter AMC.
Please r	nail the kits to:
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	will be sent to the address above, and the ship recorded in that name, unless you indicate e.)
	nis offer is for <u>new members only</u> . Not for is, please, Thanks.

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