

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



Fall 2007

A Call To All Families!

by Bob Wallner, Family Programs Chair

Greetings. In the last issue of the *Berkshire Exchange* I was formally introduced as the Chapter's new Family Programs Committee Chair. I agreed to take this position in an effort to provide my children and myself with an opportunity to meet other area families whose interests don't solely revolve around video games or "who's getting voted off this week."

It has taken some time for me to learn the ropes, but starting this fall Berkshire Chapter Family Programs will be running. Our goal is to host family friendly programs that build teamwork and communication, help families learn new skills, and, *most importantly*, are within a family budget.

A start will be to host one main event per month. As word spreads, we will be able to do more "impromptu" events. **We need ideas and help.** "Help" can be anything from willingness to plan a trip, to providing ideas, to simply spreading the word to other families, friends, etc.

Listed on page 2 are a couple of upcoming family events, already planned and open for registration. And, coming this winter and spring, be sure to watch for more Berkshire Chapter Family Programs in western Mass. and other Northeast locations.

I hope to see and hear from you soon. Please contact me at familyprograms@amcberkshire.org or 413-454-7519.

Chapter Events

pages 2 & 3

Appalachian Trail Day

page 4

Noble View

pages 6 & 7

**ALL ARE WELCOME:
old friends • new friends
new members • prospective members!**

Big Berkshire Bash

Saturday, November 3, 2007, 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Bigger and better than ever! A fantastic evening of dining and entertainment at the Summit View Banquet House, Holyoke. Special guest will be Victory (www.victoryband.net); dance to the rock-n-roll songs you love from yesteryear.

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Social hour

6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. – Dinner

7:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Dessert, business meeting,
volunteer recognition

8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – Entertainment by Victory

Summit View Banquet House

555 Northampton Street (Route 5), Holyoke, MA; 413-538-7431.

Save the Date

You'll really be disappointed if you miss it!

Advance Reservations Required

The postmark deadline is October 27. (Sorry, no walk-ins.)

For Directions and More Information

please see amcberkshire.org or call Deb Levine (413-584-6065).

Use the reservation form on page 8.

Outdoor activities during the day; please see page 3 for details.

Upcoming Fall FAMILY WEEKENDS

Family Weekend at D.A.R. State Forest in Goshen, MA November 9-11 (Fri.-Sun.)

Whether you are a great-grandparent or a toddler, join us for a weekend filled with hiking, fishing, storytelling, and s'mores. Bring your food, water, camping gear, and a story to share. Composting toilet on site (no running water). Enjoy 15 miles of hiking trails along two ponds and up to a fire tower. A fee of \$10 per family covers both Friday and Saturday night.

Reserve by November 1.

Contact Bob Wallner at familyprograms@amcberkshire.org or 413-454-7519.

Weekend in Florida for Only \$20 Per Person December 14-16 (Fri.-Sun.)

Join the Berkshire Chapter for a trip to Florida (Florida, Massachusetts, that is). Four cabins with woodstoves have been reserved at the Savoy State Forest Campground. Weather permitting, we can enjoy activities such as cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, or ice fishing. If the winter is mild, plan on hiking some of the over 50 miles of trails that Savoy State Forest has to offer.

Deposit required. Reserve by December 1.

Contact Bob Wallner at familyprograms@amcberkshire.org or 413-454-7519.

Berkshire Chapter LEADERSHIP TRAINING

• October 27-28, 2007 •

Hey, wouldn't you like to be a Berkshire Chapter leader?

Whether you'd like to become a Chapter leader or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning/management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. The \$25 fee covers day training and materials. Fee is refundable to Berkshire Chapter leaders once you've completed your three co-leads and have led your first event for the Chapter. Overnight lodging available for \$15/night. Advance payment requested. For more info or to sign up, please contact Registrar Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

Get the very latest event listings!

<http://trips.outdoors.org>

Just select BERKSHIRE in the Chapter field (leave the other fields blank). Then click the SUBMIT button.

Don't forget to check in at home!

<http://amcberkshire.org>

LATE-BREAKING NEWS &
IMPORTANT CHAPTER INFORMATION

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 Cynthia Martin-Thompson

(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)

Post 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:

Christine Fogarty

(training@amcberkshire.org; 978-372-8448)

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

– September 2007 –

Editor: Maureen Flanagan

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AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108 • 800-372-1758

Title photo:

Trillium in Chester-Blandford State Forest,

by Jon Hanauer

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.

Highlights of Upcoming Chapter Activities

More activities are listed on pages 2 and 7.

For complete listings of all Berkshire Chapter events, please see *AMC Outdoors* or visit <http://trips.outdoors.org>.

Sat., Oct. 6. Road bike ride. Westfield/Southwick loop starting at 9 a.m. "Comfortable" pace, 20-30 miles with optional breakfast stop. Call by Thurs. 9 p.m. for local meeting place. Leader: Elbert Bowler (413-532-4464).

Sat., Oct. 6. Appalachian Trail Day. Please see page 4.

Sun., Oct. 7. Hike M-M Trail, Section 8, Amherst (C4C). This leisurely paced, 2-hour afternoon hike is suitable for beginners. Hike the eastern section of Holyoke Range State Park from Bay Rd. to the ledges of Rattlesnake Knob. Linger here for a picnic and enjoy breathtaking views of Long Mtn. Meet at corner of Rte. 116 and Bay Rd., Amherst, in parking lot across from Atkins Farm. Call for meeting time. Leader: Donna Walters (413-367-3025; dwalters2800@comcast.net).

Tue., Oct. 9. October Monthly Potluck Dinner and New Member Orientation. Unitarian Universalist Society, 220 Main St., Northampton. A fun evening of Chapter members' travel photos and stories. Dinner 6-7 p.m.; bring a dish to share. Program at 7 p.m. with a new member orientation to follow. To register or ask questions, call Leader Deborah Levine (413-584-6065 before 8 p.m.).

Tue., Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27, etc. Tuesday Hiking (B3BC). Call the coordinator or check the web site for details. Leader: Gloria LaFlamme (413-664-9648 before 8 p.m.).

Sun., Oct. 14. Hopping through the Hopper (B3B). Woodland walk surrounded by beautiful creeks and peaks of Greylock Reservation. We climb Mt. Prospect (views N and W) and after lunch descend to Money Brook Falls, avoiding Greylock summit. Bring water, lunch, sturdy boots. Gaiters and walking sticks helpful (several stream crossings). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Hopper Brook Trailhead (end of Hopper Rd., off Rte. 43 south from Williamstown). Precipitation cancels. Leader: Susan Middleton (413-628-4039).

Sun., Oct. 14. Taconic Crest Trail (B3C). Petersburg Pass south to Berlin Mtn. Moderate pace, 5-8 miles, steep descent toward end of hike. Meet 9 a.m., intersection of Rtes. 7 & 43, Williamstown, MA, across from General Store. Car spotting before hike. Should be good fall colors. Bad weather cancels. Call to register. Leader: Tom Eaton (413-665-3187).

Sat., Oct. 20. Jug End to Race Brook (A3B). Hike on the AT. Call by Thurs., Oct. 18 for details. Leader: Beth Case (413-796-8447). Co-Leader: Dian Behringer (413-587-9344).

Sat., Oct. 20-21. Griffith Lake on the LT-AT, VT (A3B). We'll pass over Styles Peak (3392') and Peru Peak (3429'), then the Peru Wilderness Area with foliage everywhere. Group ltr. to 10. LNT ethics a must and will be taught. A small fee may be required to the GMC caretaker at the Lake (\$6/person) Call leader to confirm and determine if rain cancels. Meet 7:30 at Staples, Greenfield off 2 W, exit 26 off I-91. Leader: Alan Doty (413-369-4464, aelydoty@msn.com).

Sun., Oct. 21. Upper Goose Pond Closing Work. Contact leader for meeting time and other details. Leader: Pat Fletcher (413-562-9863; hiker6@comcast.net).

Sat.-Sun., Oct. 27-28. Leader Training. Please see page 2.

Sat., Oct. 27. Hike Beseck Ridge on the Mat-tabesett Trail (B2B). Ridge hike with beautiful views. Bring lunch, snack, and liquids. Call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Diane Crowell (413-734-8188).

Sat., Oct. 27. Mahican-Mohawk Trail. Shelburne Falls to the South River. Contact Leader for meeting place and time. Leader: Elvery Veal (413-665-3010, v.veal@comcast.net).

Sun., Oct. 28. Shatterack Mountain, Russell. Enjoy spectacular, 3-state views high above the rugged Westfield River valley in the Berkshire foothills. Fascinating geological features. We'll do a loop (about 4.5 miles). Some sections are very rocky. Bring sturdy hiking shoes/boots (no sneakers), water, food, extra layers, wind and bug protection. Meet 10:30 a.m. at ATM kiosk, Friendly's parking lot, Rte. 202 opposite Mass Pike exit 3, Westfield. Call for more info. Rain may cancel or change event. Leader: Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990).

Sun., Oct. 28. Mt. Negus (B3B). Surprising views, variety of terrain. Steep for first 20 min. (requiring hands in a couple of spots), then medium uphill grade over open ground; level or downhill after lunch. Bring lunch, water. Rain cancels. Meet 9 a.m. at Staples/Big Y pkg. lot, Rte. 2 W, off I-91 exit 26, Greenfield. Leader: Susan Middleton (413-628-4039 before 11 p.m.).

Sat., Nov. 3. Big Berkshire Bash & Annual Meeting, Holyoke. Please see page 1.

Sat., Nov. 3. Berkshire Bash road bike ride. East Longmeadow/Somers Loop starting a 9 a.m. "Comfortable" pace, 20-30 miles with optional breakfast stop. Call leader by Thurs., Nov. 1 for local meeting place. Leader: Elbert Bowler (413-532-4464 before 9 p.m.).

Sat., Nov. 3. Berkshire Bash Mt. Tom Reservation hike (B3C). We will hike up the side of Mt. Tom past the monument to fallen servicemen, into the saddle between Mt. Tom and Whiting Peak, over to Goat Peak, out past Bray Lake and Whiting Street Reservoir. Meet 10 a.m. at Brooks Drugs' parking lot on Rte. 5 (Northampton Street). Leader: Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955 before 8 p.m.; nappyofma@comcast.net).

Sat., Nov. 3. Wild & Wacky Pre-Annual Meeting Hike. We're goin' for a walk. Wanna come? Get primed for a rockin' good Annual Meeting. Earn extra credit for snippets of songs, spoken verse, or other unusual behavior on this late foliage hike with two cheerful and enthusiastic leaders. We'll go 3-5 miles at a moderate pace, near the Annual Meeting venue, and we'll finish in time for you to get beautiful for the Big Show. Bring boots, water, snack. Rain cancels. Leader: Christine Fogarty (978-372-8448 before 9 p.m.). Co-Leader: Rob Robertson (413-549-4963 before 9 p.m.).

Sat., Nov. 3. Berkshire Bash McLennon Reservation hike (C3C). Short (3-3.5 hr.) hike through hilly woods, passing by secluded Hale Pond. May see moose tracks, old-growth trees. Bring snack, water, hiking boots; poles helpful. Heavy precip. cancels. Meet 12:30 p.m., Tyringham Cobble Trustees of Reservations pkg. lot, 1/4 mi. up Jerusalem Rd. from P.O. in center of Tyringham, MA, which is 4 mi. S on Tyringham Rd. (becomes Main Rd.) from Rtes. 102, 20, and Mass Pike Exit 2. Leader: Susan Middleton (413-628-4039).

Sun., Nov. 4. Franconia Ridge (White Mountains). Ascend Mt. Lafayette via Bridle Path following the ridge over Mt. Lincoln and descend via Falling Waters Trail. 9 miles. A strenuous hike. Limited number of hikers allowed. Contact leader no later than Nov. 1 to sign up and plan carpooling. Leader: Helga Ragle (hragle@crocker.com; 413-253-3041).

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 10-11. Weekend Backpack. Location to be determined. Call during first week in Nov. for details. Leader: Dave Koerber (413-568-4650 before 9 p.m.; dkoerber@earthlink.com).

Sun., Nov. 11. Metacommet-Monadnock Trail, Sections 11-12 (B3C). From Enfield Rd., Pelham, to Cushman Rd., Shutesbury. 8 miles. Meet 9 a.m. at trail head parking lot, Cushman Rd., Shutesbury. Rain cancels. Leader: David Wells (413-789-1097).

Tue., Nov. 13. Monthly Potluck Dinner and New Member Orientation. Unitarian Universalist Society, 220 Main St., Northampton. Sponsored by the Conservation Committee, a program by AMC staffer Hawk Methany will address "Climate Change: A Global and Northeast Perspective." Potluck dinner: 6-7 p.m.; program: 7-8 p.m. with new member orientation to follow. Please bring a potluck dish to share. The Conservation Committee encourages attendees to bring their own plates and utensils if possible. Contact Deborah Levine (413-584-6065 before 8 p.m.) for info.

Sun., Nov. 18. Leader's Choice. Call for meeting info. Leader: Tom Eaton (413-665-3187).

Sat., Nov. 24. Metacommet-Monadnock Trail, Section 1 (C3BC). Hike from Rising Corner, CT, to MA Rte. 57, with potential for more if group and time allows. New members and beginner hikers are welcome too! We'll go at a moderate pace. Wear appropriate dress. Bring sturdy footwear, liquids and snacks. Rain cancels. Contact Leader Christine Fogarty (978-372-8448 before 9 p.m.). Co-Leader: Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990).

Sun., Dec. 2. Seven Sisters (B3C). Start at Bachelor St., go up and over Mt. Norwottuck to Notch Visitor Center, up and over Bare Mtn., Mt. Hitchcock to Skinner, out to spotted cars at Hockanum Cemetery. Weather will determine options. Early start as the days will be short. Leader: Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955 before 8 p.m.).

Celebrate Appalachian Trail Day on Saturday, October 6!

The Berkshire AMC's Appalachian Trail Management Committee is sponsoring 14 hikes on all sections of the AT in Massachusetts.

Hikes vary in difficulty and length. Please contact the trip leader for more info and any changes in rendezvous place or starting times. For general information about AT Day, contact Jim Pelletier at 413-454-4773 or at@amcberkshire.org.

For all hikes, wear suitable clothing and bring plenty of water, as well as lunch or snacks for longer hikes. Hikes will go rain or shine.

After the hikes, the AT Committee will be sponsoring a cookout at the Tyringham Fire Department Picnic Pavilion on Main Rd. in Tyringham. Stop by for a bite to eat, to meet other hikers, and to report about trail conditions and what you saw on your hike.

Hike #1: Sages Ravine to Race Brook Falls Trail. Ten miles with waterfalls, hemlock groves, and beautiful views from open cliffs. Includes part of the Undermountain Trail, Paradise Lane, and Race Brook Falls Trail, as well as a section of the AT. This is a strenuous but rewarding hike for those in good condition. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Race Brook Falls Trail parking area on Route 41 in South Egremont, 3 miles south of Jug End Rd. Leader Jon Greene (413-528-3106; greene@mc.com). A3AB

Hike #2: Race Brook Falls Trail to the AT and north to Jug End Rd. Beautiful waterfalls, views of Mt. Greylock, the Catskills, other mountains, and the Housatonic valley. A strenuous hike of 7 miles using Race Brook Falls Trail as an access. Meet 9 a.m. at Race Brook Falls Trail parking area on Route 41 in South Egremont, 3 miles south of Jug End Rd. Contact Jim Pelletier for hike leader information, (413-454-4773; at@amcberkshire.org). B3AB

Hike #3: Jug End Rd., Sheffield, to Boardman St. A moderate hike of 5.5 miles with no major ascent. See a variety of habitats from open fields to woodlands. Meet at 10 a.m. at Guido's parking lot across from the Great Barrington Fairgrounds. Leader Bob Parker (413-229-0472). B3D

Hike #4: Home Rd. to Benedict Pond. A moderately strenuous hike of 7.5 miles, over East Mountain and along ledges with nice views. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Guido's parking lot across from the Great Barrington Fairgrounds. Leaders Bob Snyder and Mary Berryhill (413-528-4022; rls@simons-rock.edu). B3BC

Hike #5: Benedict Pond to Tyringham Cobble. Moderately strenuous, 9 miles, including views, a beaver pond, shelters (including the new shelter at South Wilcox), spruce grove, and interesting rock formations. Meet at the Trustees of Reservations Tyringham Cobble Parking lot on Jerusalem Rd., Tyringham, at 9 a.m. Leader Debra Weisenstein (508-358-4169; weisenstein@aer.com). A3C

Hike #6: Fernside Rd. to Goose Pond Rd., Tyringham. This is a moderate and enjoyable 7.5 mile hike with varied scenery including old stone walls and overgrown pasture. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Tyringham Fire Station on Main Rd. Leader Jim Pelletier (413-454-4773; at@amcberkshire.org). B3C

Hike #7: Rte. 20 to Goose Pond Rd. Explore the Upper Goose Pond area and two recently built sections of trail. Cross the Mass Pike on the footbridge. Also take a side trip to Upper Goose Pond Cabin. Approximately 5.5 miles of moderate, scenic walking. Meet 10 a.m. at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on Route 20 in Lee/Becket. Leader Steve Smith (978-692-8219; stevenhsmith@verizon.net). B3C

Hike #8: Rte. 20, Lee, to Pittsfield Rd., Washington. Approximately 9.5 miles of moderately paced and strenuous hiking through October Mountain State Forest, over Becket Mountain, and along scenic Finerty Pond. Meet 9 a.m. at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on Route 20 in Lee/Becket. Leader Chuck Brown (617-876-4798; midniteramblr@hotmail.com). A3B

Hike #9: Pittsfield Rd., Washington, to Grange Hall Rd., Dalton. A pleasant, moderate hike of 7 miles with good views from Warner Hill summit and a visit to Kay Wood shelter. Meet 10 a.m. at Burgner's Market parking lot, 777 Dalton Division Rd. and Williams St., Pittsfield. Contact Jim Pelletier for hike leader information (413-454-4773; at@amcberkshire.org). B3C

Hike #10: Housatonic St. to Grange Hall Rd. A total of 4 miles round trip. This will be a short, interesting hike for those who are not free to walk in the morning. Possible 1/2 mile extension to Kay Wood AT Shelter. Meet at 1 p.m. at AT crossing near the train tracks on Housatonic St., Dalton. Leader Frank Morrison (781-326-3082; frankmorr@comcast.net). C4BC

Hike #11: Cheshire to Gulf Rd., Dalton. About 8 miles of mostly moderate hiking. Nice views of Hoosac Lake, and the valley and mountains from Cheshire Cobble. See Gore Pond, one of the highest ponds in the state. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail parking lot on Depot St. in Cheshire. Leader Dave Koerber (413-568-4650; dkoerber@earthlink.com). B3BC

Hike #12: Rte. 8, Cheshire, to Mount Greylock summit. This is a strenuous hike of approximately 7 miles. You will hike through meadows and open woods. Then climb (sometimes steeply) through balsam forest and mixed woodlands. Meet 9 a.m. at the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail parking lot, Route 8, Cheshire. Leader Elvery Veal (413-665-3010; v.elvery@comcast.net). B3B

Hike #13: Pattison Rd. to Mount Greylock summit. This is a 5.5 mile, strenuous hike involving some steep climbing on Mounts Prospect, Williams, and Greylock, rewarded with great views. Meet 9 a.m. at the Greylock Community Club parking area on Route 2, 500 ft. east of Phelps Ave. Leader Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955; outings@amcberkshire.org). B3B

Hike #14: Massachusetts Ave. to the Vermont border. North on the AT and return using the Pine Cobble Trail. This is 8 miles of fairly strenuous but pleasant hiking, with good views from Pine Cobble. Meet 9 a.m. at intersection of Cole Ave. and North Hoosic Rd. in Williamstown. Leader Bob Hatton (413-458-3123). B3B

AMC Hike Ratings

Hikes are rated according to their distance, pace, and ruggedness. A typical rating might be "B3C". The first letter indicates the hike's distance:

AA = over 13 miles

A = 9 - 13 miles

B = 5 - 8 miles

C = under 5 miles

The number in the middle indicates the pace the leader expects to set (on average terrain):

1 = very fast (2.5 mph or faster)

2 = fast (2 - 2.5 mph)

3 = moderate (1.5 - 2 mph)

4 = leisurely (less than 1.5 mph)

The final letter indicates the kind of terrain:

A = very strenuous

B = strenuous

C = average

D = easy

If there are two letters at the end (for example, "B3BC"), it indicates the terrain is somewhere between the levels indicated by either of the letters alone. As always, if you have any questions about what the hike will be like, call the trip leader or hike contact person.



Rosmarie O'Connor: 1937–2007

A Tribute to a 4-Star Person

In thinking about Rosmarie and what to say, I do so want to get it right. I can just see her smile, and hear her say in her lilting voice, “Now, Gloria, don’t be so silly!”

Recently, she asked me how she was doing as our email list manager. She caught me by surprise! I felt, and I knew that everyone else felt, that she was doing a top-notch job. And that’s what she was told. I was also thinking, what else can I say to her to highlight her exemplary efforts? The movie ratings popped up, so she was given the rating of 4 stars.

Rosmarie was not only 4 stars in that regard, but also in so many other ways. A ray of sunshine, fun loving, a hard worker, very giving of her time to help others; and when challenged, persevered until she got it! She will be sorely missed.

To honor her, and to keep her memory and spirit alive, the hike on October 23 will be called the Rosmarie O'Connor Tuesday Hike. Her birth date is October 20. This hike will take place every year, and it will always be the Tuesday following her birthday. Just where the hike will take place will be decided later. The suggestion was brought up and talked about during the hike on July 31, and everyone felt that it was very fitting.

Gloria LaFlamme,
Tuesday Coordinator



Rosmarie O'Connor. photo by Terry O'Connor

These are just a few of the dozens of remembrances that were shared with Rosmarie’s family and friends:

This sudden news of Rosmarie O'Connor’s tragic death is a shock we shall have to live with for some time. Rosmarie’s ebullient spirit has been so central to this group. Certainly without her, our spirits will be considerably dampened for many Tuesdays to come. Such a friendly, sweet lady with so much vitality. What comfort can we be to her husband, Terry? But we thank him for the happy life he provided for such an extraordinarily vivacious woman. The gracious warm hospitality of their beautiful home remains unforgettable.

—Harold Kulungian

I am so sad to hear of Rosmarie’s death. My heart and tears are with you all. Her smile; her wonderful cheerful nature; her readiness to help others and the “love of life” atmosphere that she created all around her—she will be so missed. What a good life she lived, and we were fortunate to be a part of it.

—Cindy Mahlau

Rosmarie was a goddess. She was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. Her joie de vivre spoke through her energy and her animated blue eyes. She had an unlimited generosity and caring for others. She will always be my inspiration.

—Bea Robinson

We were shocked by the terrible news about Rosmarie’s passing. We were so happy to meet her on several Tuesday hikes and to chat with her along the trail. Last April, she was the one who introduced us hikers from France to the rest of the group. We really loved her kindness, patience, and efficiency in explaining to us all the details for each week’s hike. We are back in France now, but we do share everybody’s sorrow and will be present by thought at Rosmarie’s funeral in Holyoke.

—Peter and Florence Gole

Oh my God...I am in tears as I just read of Rosmarie’s death. I just can’t believe it. We knew her so well, and she was so great helping me with the 2003 Fall Gathering. And then there were our emails back and forth all the time. The last time we saw her was at Elizabeth Terp’s surprise party at the Whately Inn—she and Terry sat at our table. Also, Rosmarie and Terry came to several of our holiday parties. She will be missed so much. Rosmarie was a very special, elegant lady and we will all miss her terribly.

—Barbara Veal

Rosmarie was her usual cheerful self on the Mount Monadnock outing on July 10—especially during the last part of the hike down. I was near her when I heard her encourage others to have stamina and to make the most out of a difficult warm day. She will be deeply missed by her family members and many friends.

—Dave Conley

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!

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2008 Nominees –

Chapter Chair: Jon Hanauer; **Vice Chair:** Deborah Levine; **Treasurer:** Kelly Druzisky; **Secretary:** Pat Stevenson

Appalachian Trail: Cosmo Catalano, Jim Pelletier; **Berkshire Exchange:** Jon Hanauer; **Canoe & Kayak:** Charlie Camp, Connie Peterson;

Conservation: Patricia Lukas; **Family Programs:** Bob Wallner; **Membership:** Deborah Levine;

Mountaineering: Cynthia Martin-Thompson, Jim VanNatta; **Noble View:** Rob Robertson; **Nominating:** Rob Robertson;

Outings: Bob Napolitano; **Past Chair:** Rob Robertson; **Public Relations:** Bess Dillman; **Trails:** Patrick Fletcher;

Training & Education: Christine Fogarty; **Website:** Bob Bergstrom; **Young Members:** Steve Beauregard (acting)

76 Years at Noble View – Committed, Enthusiastic, Going Strong

I've recently been reading through archive materials dating back to the purchase of Noble View. In some ways today's Noble View is very different, and in others it's exactly the same.

Today, we're really making an effort to be open, welcoming, and inclusive to AMC members and the general public; it seems that, in the past, we really tried to restrict access to those who weren't part of the club. Today, we're required to be self-supporting; in the past, the Chapter regularly supported Noble View on an annual basis. (In fairness, I should mention that Noble View owes the Berkshire Chapter \$30,000 for a loan granted in 2002 for the Double Cottage renovations, and \$2,500 for a loan in 2006 to match a Supplemental Dues Allocation grant for kitchen equipment for the Double Cottage.)

As for the similarities, there are many: calls for volunteers for various projects and Work Days; expressions of gratitude for contributions of labor, equipment and supplies, and funds; a strong interest in preserving tradition; letters recommending this or that specific project or policy; and a pervasive sense of gratitude for this wonderful place.

Howard M. Buffinton, the first Chairman of the Noble View Committee, reports on November 4, 1931, "Quite possibly the Noble View Committee has not done everything you thought ought to be done at Noble View during the past year; the Committee cheerfully admits its shortcomings and realizes that it can report only beginnings instead of achievements. But at least there have been beginnings and our weaknesses or failures will serve as guideposts of what not to do..."

Some Words of Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge the Berkshire Chapter's historic and current support of our mission. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Boston, Worcester, and Berkshire Chapters, as well as to the AMC's Small Facilities Grant Fund for generously supporting the Double Cottage and Bath House projects. Likewise, we're very grateful to the individual donors and volunteers who have supported Noble View with enthusiasm and generosity throughout its history.

Thanks to Kevin Costa, who has been our accountant for some years, and to Mary Conley, who will be taking over these responsibilities. Thanks also to SCA Conservation Corps/Massachusetts Parks AmeriCorps Program for their hard work on the trails at Noble View over the past four years. This outstanding partnership has resulted in some great trail reroutes and some beautiful bridges and causeways. Thanks also to all the folks who have joined us for Work Days and Third Saturday Trail Work Days. The buildings, grounds, and trails have benefited from your hard work.

Thanks to all of the companies and individuals who helped with the Double Cottage renovation and the current Bath House project, whether through volunteering their time and energy, or supplying materials or labor at reduced or no cost. The Double Cottage's renovation wouldn't have succeeded without these generous acts.

No words of appreciation would be complete without a heartfelt acknowledgement of Gary Forish's and Fred Hoekstra's continuing work on the many projects at Noble View. Carpentry, roofing, forming and pouring concrete, mowing the lawns, registering guests, plowing and shoveling snow, maintaining the viewshed, and removing wind-fall trees from the trails are just a few of the tasks they undertake so well.

Bath House Update

We've poured, insulated, and backfilled the foundation, and have installed underground plumbing, propane, and electrical work. Next we'll be pouring the floor slab, and then we'll be framing the building and closing it in, we hope before Thanksgiving.

We especially need volunteers over the coming weekends and months to work on the Bath House project. Folks

with electrical, plumbing, and carpentry skills are especially welcome. If you don't have construction skills but are interested in learning, this will be a great place to do just that. If you'd just like to come and help out, we'll find a place where your efforts will bear fruit. Come out, meet great people, do good work, and feel good as a result!

Join the Team

Noble View is managed by a Committee of volunteers, and the maintenance and upkeep are also done by volunteers. Our work is supported financially by income from lodging, and from programs such as SOLO Wilderness First Aid training. Our Noble View Key Holders are also an important source of financial support and historically have contributed many volunteer hours to upkeep and maintenance.

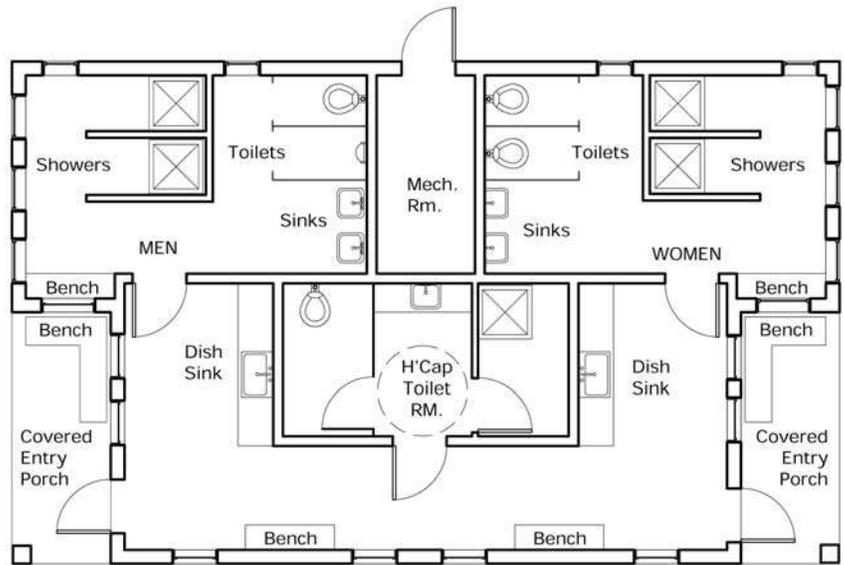
Please consider volunteering (regularly, if possible) at Noble View. There's always work to do, great people to work with, and fun and a sense of satisfaction to be had! In addition to the published Work Days, your help is always welcome on Trail Work Days, from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturdays of every month.

Finally, the Noble View Committee has some specific roles that we need to fill:

- **Vice Chair** – to help coordinate and facilitate the work of the Committee.
- **Development Subcommittee** – to work with AMC staff to research grants and write grant proposals.
- **Trails Subcommittee** – to coordinate volunteers to perform trail work and help with clearing invasive plants.
- **Marketing Subcommittee** – to attract AMC members and the public to the property for programs, events, and general use.
- **Programs Subcommittee** – to plan programs and events.

As a volunteer-managed facility, Noble View relies solely on the efforts of those generous folks who are willing to do some good work for a good cause. It is a challenging time, and your support—whether as a volunteer, Key Holder, program participant, day visitor, or overnight guest—is vital to Noble View's success.

Respectfully,
Rob Robertson
Noble View Chair



NOBLE VIEW BATH HOUSE
FLOOR PLAN



NORTH

• Noble View Calendar •

— Fun-Filled Weekends —

Fri., Nov. 16 – Sun., Nov. 18

Fabulous Fall Hiking Weekend

Join us for a great fall hiking weekend. The \$90 fee includes lodging in newly renovated Double Cottage on Fri. & Sat. nights and all meals from Fri. dinner thru Sun. lunch. BYO beer/wine/snacks. Conditions permitting, we'll see the Keystone Arch Bridges or check out Sanderson Brook Falls, and we'll explore Noble View's 360 acres. Hike, relax, hang out with new friends. Beginners and new members are especially welcome. Registration requested by Nov. 1. Leader/Registrar: Rob Robertson (413-549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net). Co-leader: Deborah Levine (413-584-6065; deborahl@juno.com).

Fri., Nov. 30 – Sun., Dec. 2

Open the Holiday Season with Simplicity

Join us for a great weekend of hiking and simple holiday traditions. Relax in the peaceful spirit of the season and the coming solstice. We'll hike at Noble View, or locally. Fee of \$90 per person includes lodging in newly renovated Double Cottage on Fri. and Sat. nights and all meals from Fri. dinner through Sun. lunch. BYO beer/wine/snacks. Hike, relax, hang out with new friends. Beginners and new members especially welcome. Registration requested by Nov. 16. Leader/Registrar: Rob Robertson (413-549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net).

Sat., Jan. 19 – Mon., Jan. 21

Ski/Snowshoe/Socialize – MLK Weekend

Join us for a great winter weekend at Noble View! Fabulous food, lovely trails, lots of laughs. Let's hope for snow! The \$90 fee includes lodging in newly renovated Double Cottage on Sat. and Sun. nights and all meals from Sat. lunch through Mon. lunch. Fri. lodging and Sat. breakfast available for additional \$20. BYO beer/wine/snacks. Hike, snowshoe, ski, hang out with new friends. Beginners and new members are especially welcome. Registration requested by Jan. 4. Leader/Registrar: Rob Robertson (413-549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net).

— Training and Education —

Sat., Oct. 27 – Sun., Oct. 28

Berkshire Chapter Leader Training

Please see page 2.

Sat., Nov. 3 – Sun., Nov. 4

SOLO – Wilderness First Aid

Standard first aid practices are generally based on the assumption that help will arrive shortly and that the patient will be out of your hands and at the hospital in under an hour. Accidents can and do happen, and all too often members of a group are not capable of dealing with the emergency. This situation not only leads to improper care of the patient, but it also endangers the entire group. WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise where there is no ambulance, no roof or walls to provide shelter from the elements, few supplies, an unknown wait for help, and efforts to move the patient a short distance might take hours. Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem-solving scenarios that provide hands-on experience. The WFA course is an intense yet fun journey through the world of wilderness emergency care and is recommended for all outdoors people. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry make this course unique. Fee: \$130 with optional lodging available at \$10 per night in the Double Cottage. \$80 subsidy available for active Berkshire Chapter leaders. For further information, call 413-519-3251 or email forgary@comcast.net.

Sat., Dec. 8 – Sun., Dec. 9

SOLO – Advanced Wilderness First Aid

Current Wilderness First Aid certification is a prerequisite for this course. Advanced Wilderness First Aid (AWFA) builds on the skills taught in WFA, providing more in-depth information on topics already covered such as medical and environmental emergencies, and presents new skills such as litter improvisation and litter-carrying techniques. More hands-on practice with greater emphasis on leadership is a key element. Practical simulations and scenarios provide practice in backcountry leadership and rescue skills. Fee: \$145 with optional lodging available at \$10 per night in the Double Cottage. For further information, call 413-519-3251 or email forgary@comcast.net.

— Volunteering and Socializing —

Sat., Oct. 20

Trail Work Day

Breaking the ice is easy! This is a great opportunity to meet other Chapter members and to pitch in where help is really needed. No experience is necessary. Plan on 3 hours of working together on the trails. Then we'll tour the Farmhouse and Cottages, enjoy long-range views looking east over Westfield, and enjoy lunch and some social time. Bring 2 liters of water, sturdy boots and gloves, and lunch. Meet 9 a.m. at Noble View. Contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

Sat., Oct. 20 – Sun., Oct. 21

Fall Closing Days

Many workers are needed to help close the Farmhouse and North Cottage and prepare the camp for winter use. Inside work cleaning buildings, plus cleanup of field/lawn debris and weeding of flower beds. Rain or shine. Bring work gloves; other tools will be provided. Lunch and water will also be provided. Meet 9 a.m. at the Farmhouse; gate opens at 8 a.m. Please call 413-562-6792 to RSVP for lunch or for further info.

Sat., Nov. 17

Trail Work Day

Please see Sat., Oct. 20 for description. Contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

Sat., Nov. 17 – Sun., Nov. 18

Woodcutting Days

Many hardy, handy, and helpful folks are needed to get in a supply of firewood for the coming year. Bring wood-splitting tools, gloves, a sense of humor and a strong will. A large supply of wood will be available for splitting and piling into the wood shed. Coffee, hot chocolate, water, and a tasty beef stew lunch (equally tasty vegetarian option also available) will be provided. Please call Gary at 413-562-6792 to RSVP for lunch.



BIG BERKSHIRE BASH

- RESERVATION FORM -

Event is Saturday, November 3, 2007

Members and non-members welcome!

ANNUAL MEETING • CASH BAR • DINNER • DANCING

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR REGISTRATION
POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 27!**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of persons attending:

_____ At \$25 each

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Berkshire Chapter AMC**.

Mail completed Reservation Form and your check to:

Diane Furtek, 152 Wedgewood Drive, Ludlow, MA 01056

Questions? Need directions? Call Deborah Levine (413-584-6065).



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*.

- AMC Berkshire Membership Form -

I wish to purchase:

- _____ Individual "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$50 each).
- _____ Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$75 each).
- _____ Senior "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, age 69 and over). Age: _____.
- _____ Young Member "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, up to age 30). Age: _____.

I have enclosed a check for the total amount of \$ _____ made payable to **Berkshire Chapter AMC**.

Please mail the kits to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Is this a gift membership? Yes No

(Bottles will be sent to the address above, and the membership recorded in that name, unless you indicate otherwise.)

Note: This offer is for new members only. Not for renewals, please. Thanks.

Please mail completed form with check to:

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

Questions? Contact Chris Ryan at 413-549-4124 or bottles@amcberkshire.org

Fall 2007
BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



**Berkshire Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club**
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Boston, MA 02108

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