



amcberkshire.org
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Fall/Winter 2011



BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

FROM *the* CHAIR

Are You a Volunteer?

Hi Folks! Well so far it's certainly been a year to remember. As one of my favorite inspirational speakers used to say "if you can't think of something nice and polite to say in response to a catastrophe, just say *unbelievable!*" There have certainly been some real challenges both nationally with the continued *unbelievable* economy and locally with some *unbelievable* weather. That said, in times of strife there seems to arise that special hero who will always come in the nick of time to help and comfort us in our time of need. Who is that special person? It's the Volunteer! The Volunteer has his/her super power to lift our spirits when we are down and lend a strong hand when it's needed. The Volunteer never gives up, but instead holds up those who have, helping to return their dignity and humanity to a weary world. The Volunteer is a master of disguise and comes in every shape, size, age and ability. The Volunteer is a master organizer, bringing order to chaos and discipline to anarchy.

On June 1, just as my small town of Monson was preparing to celebrate the coming of summer, school endings and graduations, and our annual Summerfest, a Category 3 Tornado touched down in Westfield, literally tearing a gash in the earth for 39 miles eastward and devastating many communities in its path. Monson took a direct hit in the center of town, taking out the only grocery store as well as town offices, the library, several historic churches and other facilities and causing damage to over 200 homes, including close to 50 total losses. In just a few minutes it looked like the world had been turned upside down (one friend's house actually was just that). It was nothing less than an unrecognizable warzone, with roads having disappeared in a mass of trees and wires and the once lovely hillsides raked clear of their majestic trees. It seemed like it might take not days, but weeks and months to clear the massive destruction.

But then it happened. The blue skies came just minutes later and heralded the army of the Volunteer. Before the maelstrom had even completely passed over, the Volunteer disguised as a teenage girl set up a Facebook page to help facilitate coordination of help efforts. Then he appeared as numerous neighbors who immediately dug through the rubble to free

those under the debris. From here the Volunteer mobilized her armies, the government workers and leaders to comfort and coordinate recovery, the vast convoy of Utility Workers with their hundreds of repair trucks and legion of telephone poles, the National Guard to protect our property and politely but firmly tell the enemy armies of "sightseers" to "move along" and let us get to work. He set up a headquarters at the local community church, the steeple ravaged by the storm but the spirit far from broken. From here the volunteer fed the hungry, clothed the needy and sent out its missionaries of food and goods providers and chainsaw warriors to the nearly unreachable realms of the town. In just days, new poles and lines were strung, roads and waterways were cleared, and homes were cleared and cleaned. In less than a month, what appeared to be an insurmountable task became a celebration of re-emergence of a strong and united community...thanks to the Volunteer.

In these difficult times, it is easy to say "Hey, I have to take care of me and mine," and to some extent this is certainly the truth. After all, charity does begin at home, for it is out of the home that the Volunteer comes, not from some paid agency. True volunteerism is the backbone of American society, from the volunteer army of the Revolution to the marches for equal rights and, most importantly, that unsung local hometown helper volunteer. Do you have volunteer experience? Do you encourage and support your family members to volunteer? There is nothing more personally satisfying than contributing to a community. Why not try it today? There are many opportunities waiting right outside your front door. Drop me a note if you need some ideas.

I wish you all a safe and prosperous end of 2011 and a happy start to 2012. And don't forget to get outdoors!

See page 4 for some great AMC volunteer opportunities.

Respectfully,
Hikin' Dave Sauriol
Berkshire Chapter Chair
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org
401-523-4672



 **Saturday, October 8**
APPALACHIAN TRAIL DAY 
see page 5

DINNER, SPEAKER,
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, November 5
see page 3

It's Time to Enter the 2011 AMC Photo Contest!



**"Gearing Up Before the Final Push," by Tracie A. Henry, New Hampshire Chapter.
Winner of the "AMC in Action" category in the 2010 AMC Photo Contest.**

The AMC's 17th annual photo contest is now open to all members, with more prizes than ever up for grabs. This year's Grand Prize winner will receive a spot in an upcoming photography workshop and an accompanying stay at an AMC destination. Winners of the "Kids, Families, and Adults Outdoors," "Scenics and Nature," "AMC in Action," and "People's Choice" categories will receive prizes from Black Diamond, Deuter, Merrell, and Outdoor Research.

Visit www.outdoors.org/photocontest for the full rules and entry instructions. Entries will be accepted until November 15, with the winners appearing in a spring 2012 issue of *AMC Outdoors*.

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

September 2011

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Title Image: photo by Jon Hanauer
Humphreys Peak, Arizona



Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2011 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: David Sauriol

(davesaur@greyst.com; 401-523-4672)

Vice Chair: *vacant*

Treasurer: Sonja Goodwin

(treasurer@amcberkshire.org; 413-534-4049)

Secretary: Nora Hanke

(secretary@amcberkshire.org; 413-527-8384)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail Committee:

Jim Pelletier

(at@amcberkshire.org; 413-454-4773)

Berkshire County Representative: *vacant*

Berkshire Exchange Committee:

Chair/Publisher – Jon Hanauer

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

E-News Administrator – David Jones

(enews-admin@amcberkshire.org)

Canoe and Kayak Committee:

Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson

(paddling@amcberkshire.org)

Conservation Committee: Sabine Prather

(conservation@amcberkshire.org; 413-949-3914)

Family Programs: *vacant*

Membership Welcoming Committee:

vacant

Mountaineering Committee:

Bill Fogel

(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org; 413-427-1693)

Sarah Long

(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org; 845-235-3127)

Noble View Committee: Frank Evans

(FEvans6568@aol.com)

Nominating Committee: *vacant*

Outings Committee: Jon Hanauer

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

Past Chair: Deborah Levine

(past-chair@amcberkshire.org; 413-322-9416)

Public Relations Committee:

Sabine Prather

(publicity@amcberkshire.org; 413-949-3914)

Trails Committee: Patrick Fletcher

(hiker6@comcast.net; 413-562-9863)

Training and Education Committee:

Eric Gove

(training@amcberkshire.org; 413-374-0467)

Website Committee:

Chair/Webmaster – Bob Bergstrom

(webmaster@amcberkshire.org)

Content Editor – *vacant*

Young Members Committee:

Paxton Berardy

(ymchair@amcberkshire.org; 860-758-7275)

Other Helpful Contacts

Membership in a Bottle: Chris Ryan

(geolopes@comcast.net; 413-549-4124)

Regional Director: Dale Geslien

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

Regional Trails Coordinator: Matt Moore

AMC Southern New England Trails Office, South Egremont

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

Tuesday Hiking: Irene Lamson

(ilamson@comcast.net; 413-584-6644)

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

Berkshire Bash

Saturday, November 5, 2011 • 6:00 p.m.

Friends, Romans and country folks, lend me your ear.

The time of the annual meeting is here.

There'll be food and much laughter

*And **Pathfinder** thereafter*

To speak of the trail far and near.

So all Berkshire region

Drop by the Hadley American Legion

November 5 just around 6 p.m.

Let us know you'll be coming

So we won't just be wondering

And reply to chapterchair@amcberkshire.org.

There's a small facilities fee of \$10 if you please

That we'll collect as you come to the door.

Just mark down the date, so you will not be late

And help us celebrate another great year.

Social Hour • Cash Bar
Potluck Dinner • Annual Meeting
Volunteer Recognition • Guest Speaker

A fantastic evening of dining and entertainment.
Special guest will be Ron "Pathfinder" Strickland,
trailblazer, author, and conservationist.

Please bring a dish to share with 6-8 people.
Last name A-C, salad; D-M, dessert;
N-S, casserole; T-Z, appetizer.

American Legion Hall
162 Russell St. (Route 9), Hadley, MA

For Directions and More Information

Please contact David Sauriol at
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org or 401-523-4672

PATHFINDER

Ron "Pathfinder" Strickland is one of only two living founders of national scenic trails. Beginning in 1970, he began to create a pathway from the Continental Divide at Glacier National Park, Montana to the Pacific Ocean at Cape Alava, Washington. In 1983 he and his fellow explorer, Ted Hitzroth, thru-hiked the proposed trail's 1200 miles east to west to publish its innovative guidebook. In 2009, that route was established by Congress as the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Ron Strickland has also developed new concepts such as the 7700-mile, transcontinental Sea-To-Sea Route. Oregon State University Press published his memoir, *Pathfinder*, in May.

AWARDS

June 2010: Ron and Scenic Trails Research received the prestigious L.L.Bean Outdoor Heroes Award.
October 9-11, 2009: ALDHA, the Gathering, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA. The Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association extended "special recognition to Ron Strickland for all of his efforts in creating the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail."
November 17, 2008: The 19th National Trails Symposium in Little Rock, Arkansas awarded Ron Strickland its Lifetime Service Award.
October 2002: At the American Land Trust Alliance Rally in Austin, Texas, the Conservation Fund awarded him the \$50,000 American Land Conservation Award.
August 2001: He received the \$10,000 Chevron Conservation Award for his work to create and preserve the Pacific Northwest Trail.
2001: Ron founded the non-profit organization Scenic Trails Research, which he still heads. The mission of Scenic Trails Research is to help to develop new national scenic trails such as the 1200-mile Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) and the 7700-mile Sea-To-Sea Route.

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee: 2012 Nominees

OFFICERS

Chapter Chair: David Sauriol; **Vice Chair:** vacant; **Treasurer:** Sonja Goodwin; **Secretary:** Nora Hanke

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier; **Berkshire County Representative:** vacant; **Berkshire Exchange:** Jon Hanauer;
Canoe & Kayak: Charlie Camp, Connie Peterson; **Conservation:** Sabine Prather; **Family Programs:** vacant;
Membership: vacant; **Mountaineering:** Bill Fogel, Sarah Long; **Nominating:** vacant; **Outings:** Jon Hanauer;
Past Chair: Deborah Levine; **Public Relations:** Sabine Prather; **Trails:** Patrick Fletcher; **Training & Education:** Eric Gove;
Website: Bob Bergstrom; **Young Members:** Paxton Berardy

– OUTDOOR EDUCATION –

Leader Training, Berkshire/Worcester Chapters

Prindle Pond, Charlton, MA • Saturday–Sunday, October 29–30

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 and management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene control, leader awareness, and decision-making. Fee of \$40 includes 2-day training, materials and meals. Overnight lodging available for \$20 (members) or \$25 (non-members). Advance payment requested. Existing leaders attend at no charge.

Eric Gove (413-374-0467; amc.berkshire.te@gmail.com)

SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training

Noble View Outdoor Center, Russell, MA

Saturday–Sunday, November 19–20

Improve your skills and increase your confidence. Learn accident scene management and patient care at western Massachusetts' Noble View Outdoor Center (nobleviewoutdoorcenter.org)! Standard first aid practices are generally based on the assumption that help will arrive soon and 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. Not only does this lead 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 shelter from the elements, your supplies are few, and the length of your wait for help is unknown. Lectures and discussions are supplemented by hands-on scenarios. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry make this course unique. Fee of \$140 with optional lodging available. Subsidy available for active Berkshire Chapter leaders. All are welcome: AMC members as well as members of the general public.

Gary Forish (413-572-4501 before 8 PM; forgary@comcast.net)

– VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES –

VOLUNTEER FOR THE BERKSHIRE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

If you'd like to be part of the top level of Berkshire Chapter leadership and you're interested in one of these exciting positions, or would like to know more, please contact David Sauriol at 401-523-4672 or chapterchair@amcberkshire.org.

Chapter Vice Chair

The Chapter Vice Chair works with the Chapter Chair to develop goals and establish benchmarks to achieve these goals. The Vice Chair attends (and represents our Chapter in the Chair's absence) the AMC-wide Chapters Committee meetings. The Vice Chair would be nominated to become Chapter Chair at the end of the current Chapter Chair's two-year term.

Family Programs Chair

Do you enjoy getting outside with your family? Would you like to share your love of the outdoors and the excitement of introducing children to new adventures in the natural world? Then consider becoming involved with Family Programs. We are looking for someone with energy and enthusiasm to take on this role and develop family-friendly outings and activities.

Membership Welcoming Committee Chair

Organizing events is especially helpful in introducing new and prospective members to our chapter and the AMC. Help us welcome new members and encourage them (as well as the general public) to join us in all our activities.

Nominating Committee Chair

We are looking for someone to assist our Chapter's committees in identifying and developing qualified individuals for leadership roles in the Berkshire Chapter. This role is vital to the continuity of Chapter leadership. We need someone who has, or is willing to develop, a broad knowledge of our Chapter and its members, and who would enjoy helping to identify talented members and leaders and encouraging them to become more involved.

Website Content Editor

Are you web savvy? Would you like to use your skills to keep Chapter members up-to-date on happenings? We are looking for a website content editor to work with the Website Committee Chair and keep the information on our website current and interesting. We are currently considering redesigning our website and this would be an exciting time for someone with some time, energy, and skills.

Celebrate Appalachian Trail Day on Saturday, October 8!

The Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee is again sponsoring hikes along the AT in Massachusetts.

Hikes vary in difficulty and length. Please contact the appropriate trip leader for more info and to learn of any changes in rendezvous time/location. For information about AT Day events, 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 Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, off Rte. 7 near the border of Lenox and Pittsfield. Follow the signs off Rte. 7 onto Dugway Rd., 1.6 miles to the Sanctuary. Stop by for a bite to eat, meet other hikers, and 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 8:30 AM; contact leader for meeting location. Leader: Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955 before 8 PM; nappyfoma@comcast.net). A3AB

Hike #2: Race Brook Falls Trail to the AT and north to Jug End Rd. Beautiful waterfalls, plus 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 AM at Race Brook Falls Trail parking area on Rte. 41, South Egremont, 3 miles south of Jug End Road. Leader: Helga Ragle (hrgale@crocker.com). 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 10 AM at Guido's parking lot across from the Great Barrington Fair Grounds. Leader: Jan Nettler (413-667-0278; 7deer@comcast.net). B3D

Hike #4: Home Rd. to Benedict Pond. Moderately strenuous, 7.5 miles, over East Mountain and along ledges with nice views. Meet 9:30 AM at Guido's parking lot across from the Great Barrington Fair Grounds. 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, spruce grove, and interesting rock formations. Meet at the Trustees of Reservations Tyringham Cobble parking lot on Jerusalem Rd., Tyringham, 9 AM. Leader: Kent Godfrey (413-644-0075). 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 9 AM at the Tyringham Fire Station on Main Rd. Leader: Pete Rentz (413-442-6732). B3C

Hike #7: Rte. 20 to Goose Pond Rd. Explore the Upper Goose Pond area. 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 AM at the AT parking lot, Rte. 20, Lee/Becket. Leaders: Steve Smith (978-692-8219; stevenhsmith.smith@gmail.com) and Nicole Kimborowicz. B3C

Hike #8: Rte. 20, Lee, to Pittsfield Rd., Washington. Moderately paced, moderately strenuous, 9.5-mile hike through October Mountain State Forest, over Becket Mountain, and along scenic Finerty Pond. Meet 9 AM at the AT parking lot, Rte. 20, Lee/Becket. Leader: Deb Weisenstein (508-358-4169; weisenstein@aer.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 AM at the Burgner's Market parking lot, 777 Dalton Division Rd. at Williams Street, Pittsfield. Leader: Don Fairbanks, (413-212-7953; gdfairbanks@verizon.net). B3C

Hike #10: Housatonic St. to Grange Hall Rd. Round trip total of 4 miles. This will be a short, interesting hike for those who are not free to walk in the morning. Possible 0.5-mile extension to Kay Wood Shelter. Meet 1 PM at AT crossing near the train tracks on Housatonic Street, Dalton. Leader: Hank Barton (413 527-4568; habarton@charter.net). C4BC

Hike #11: Cheshire to Gulf Rd., Dalton. About 8 miles of mostly moderate hiking. Nice views of Cheshire Reservoir (Hoosac Lake), the valley and mountains from Cheshire Cobble, and Gore Pond (one of the highest ponds in the state). Meet 9 AM at the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail parking lot, Depot St., Cheshire. Leader: TBD (contact Jim Pelletier at 413-454-4773 or at amcberkshire.org). B3BC

Hike #12: Rte. 8, Cheshire, to Mount Greylock summit. This is a strenuous hike of approximately 8.4 miles from Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in Cheshire to Mount Greylock summit (with shuttle back to rail trail). You will hike through meadows and open woods. Then climb—sometimes steeply—through balsam forest and mixed woodlands. Meet 9 AM in parking lot adjacent to Ashuwillticook Rail Trail (Church St.), Adams. Leader: Becky Barnes (413-499-7003). B3B

Hike #13: Pattison Rd. to Mt. Greylock summit. This is a 5.5-mile, strenuous hike involving some steep climbing on Prospect, Williams, and Greylock mountains, rewarded with great views. Meet 9 AM at the Greylock Community Club parking area on Rte. 2 (500 ft. east of Phelps Ave.). Leader: Matt Moore (413-528-8003; mjmoore@outdoors.org). B3B

Hike #14: Massachusetts Ave. to the Vermont border. Hike 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 AM at intersection of Cole Ave. and North Hoosac Rd., Williamstown. Leader: TBD (contact Jim Pelletier at 413-454-4773 or at amcberkshire.org). 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:

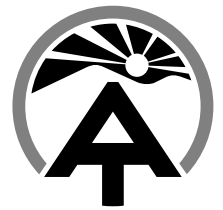
A = very strenuous

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.



**Rocky Mountain
National Park,
Colorado.**
photo by Tom Harrington



**On Mount Elbert,
Colorado.**
photo by Tom Harrington





**On Mount Elbert,
Colorado.**
photo by Tom Harrington

**Climbing up the
Ammonoosuc Ravine
Trail on Mount
Washington, New
Hampshire**
*photo submitted by
Gail Blackhall*



• *In Memoriam* •

LUCILLE “LIBBY” HANAUER – Passed away on September 11. The mother of Outings Committee Chair and Berkshire Exchange Publisher Jon Hanauer.



Active volunteers for the Outings Committee were invited to the Leader Appreciation Barbecue, held on September 10 at Noble View Outdoor Center. Several of those who came stayed for this photo opportunity. The event was hosted by Eric Gove (Training & Education Chair) and Jon Hanauer (Outings Chair). *photo by Eric Gove*

Fall/Winter 2011
Berkshire
EX
MA

Berkshire Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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