

The Berkshire Exchange



Your Connection to the Outdoors

May/June 2017

We Need All of You

By Jan Alicia Nettler, Chapter Chair,
AMC Berkshire Chapter

Most of the great work in the AMC is done by volunteers. And there are all kinds of people doing just a few things, while some of you do so much. When we have a potluck (next one is June 11), some people come early to set up tables and do other assorted jobs. Sometimes someone will volunteer to do a couple of hours of trail work. Maybe someone will call ahead to reserve a meeting room. We appreciate those little things. Then there are those who do a lot more. Some of you lead hikes, bicycling and paddling trips, or teach people how to climb. Some of you help teach at our leadership training, some have adopted sections of the New England Trail or the Appalachian Trail and maintain those sections all year long.

The Executive Committee is looking for people to step up too. Right now we need a Communications Coordinator. And when elections come next November, we might have to replace several positions. We'll need a new Co-Chair, and perhaps a new Treasurer and Secretary. Contact me or our Vice-Chair, Martin Mahoney, if you want information about these positions chair.amc.berkshire@gmail.com or vice-chair@amcberkshire.org

And then there are some who devote much of their life and passion in working in the outdoors and volunteering for the AMC. **One such person is Pat Fletcher who died last fall. Pat was a**

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A northern view of the NET section 1 bridge. Photo by Margo Chapski.

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AMC Berkshire Chapter
Executive Committee
2017

Subscribing to our E-Newsletter!

Chapter Officers

- **Chair:** Jan Alicia Nettler
(chair.amc.berkshire@gmail.com)
- **Vice Chair:** Martin Mahoney
(vicechair@amcberkshire.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jane Glushik
(treasurer@amcberkshire.org)
- **Secretary:** Roger Beer
(rbeer4@comcast.net)

Committee Chairs

- **Appalachian Trail Committee:**
Jim Pelletier (at@amcberkshire.org, 413.454.4773)
- **Berkshire Exchange Committee:**
Nate Szymanski (berkexeditor@amcberkshire.org)
- **Biking Committee:**
Brant Cheikes & Janine Papesh
(bicycling@amcberkshire.org)
- **Conservation Committee:** vacant
- **Family Programs:** Margo Chapski
(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org)
- **Membership/Social Committee:**
Bess Dillman (membership@amcberkshire.org)
- **Mountaineering Committee:**
Jim Van Natta & Ingrid Nelson
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)
- **Noble View Committee:** Frank Evans
(fevans6568@aol.com)
- **Nominating Committee:** vacant
- **Outings Committee:**
Kathy Martin (hiking@amcberkshire.org)
- **Paddling Committee:**
Charles Murray (paddling@amcberkshire.org)
- **Communications Committee:** vacant
- **NE National Scenic Trails Committee:**
Heather Wyman (squareroot123@gmail.com) &
Dana Gronbeck (dgronbeck1@gmail.com)
- **Training and Education Committee:** vacant
- **Website Committee:**
Evan Yeadon (webmaster@amcberkshire.org)
- **Young Members Committee:**
Nicole Dewberry (youngmembers@amcberkshire.org)

Other

- **Chapter Trips Approver:**
Jon Hanauer (approver@amcberkshire.org)
- **Noble View Outdoor Center:**
Frank Evans (fevans6568@aol.com)
- **Regional Director:** Sharon Foster
(regionaldirector@amcberkshire.org)
- **New England Trail Coordinator:**
Bridget Likely (blikely@outdoors.org)
- **Tuesday Hiking:** Lewis Popper
(lewis.popper@gmail.com)

If you haven't validated your membership online yet, please do so and create your User ID and Password before proceeding.

1. Go to www.outdoors.org and click on "Sign-in" at the top of the page.
2. Login into your online account.
3. Go to Manage Profiles.
4. Scroll down and find "E-Newsletter Subscriptions."
5. Click "Add" for the Berkshire Exchange subscription.
6. Enjoy Bi-Monthly Updates about your favorite AMC chapter!

Do you have...

... a story ...

... a photo ...

... or a question for ...

The Berkshire Exchange?

Send us an e-mail at:

berkexeditor@amcberkshire.org

Future and current editions of
The Berkshire Exchange can be
found at:

www.amcberkshire.org/berkex/

June Potluck!

Sunday June 11th
Lee Congregational
Church, Lee, MA

Doors Open @ 5:30 PM

Meet fellow hikers, learn about the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and how to join us on the trail, paddling or mountaineering.

Bess Dillman will be giving a presentation on Berkshire trails.

New and prospective members welcome!

RSVP with Bess Dillman—
elizabeth.dillman@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Open Upper Goose Pond Cabin for the Season

When: Saturday May 13, 9am – 4pm

Where: Beaver Storage, Rt 20 Lee, MA

How: Register with Cosmo Catalano at at@amcberkshire.org

New England Trail - Atherton Brook Bridge

When: Wednesday May 17

Where: Quabbin Gate 11 Rt 202, MA

How: Register with Michael Zlogar at mzlogar@amcberkshire.org

Repair Side Hill on A.T. South of Old Adams Road

When: Saturday May 23, 9am – 4pm

Where: Jones Nose Parking, Rockwell Rd, Mt Greylock, MA

How: Register with Cosmo Catalano at at@amcberkshire.org

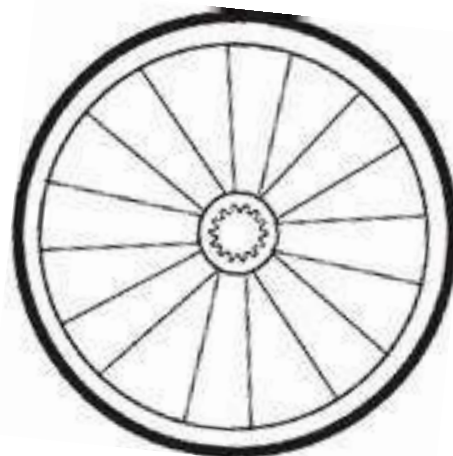
Repairs to Coopers Brook Bridge

When: Saturday June 10, 4am – 4pm

Where: Goose Pond Rd, AT Crossing, Tyringham, MA

How: Register with Cosmo Catalano at at@amcberkshire.org

Lets Go For A Ride



Sure, you knew you could hike, paddle, and climb mountains with the AMC, but did you know you could also go bicycle riding with your AMC friends?

In February, the Berkshire Chapter approved a new Bicycling Committee to add cycling to the Chapter's menu of outdoor activities. This new committee is co-chaired by Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh, a couple who have been riding together for more than two decades, but only recently relocated from the Boston suburbs to their new home in the Pioneer Valley. In fact, they first met at an AMC Boston Chapter event, and soon after discovered a shared passion for cycling (and each other). "We're thrilled that the Berkshire Chapter has welcomed us with open arms, and excited to help chapter members discover the beauty of the Pioneer Valley and Berkshires at the pace of a bicycle ride," says Brant. Janine adds, "I've led both single-day and multi-day bicycle rides for the Boston Chapter since the 1990s, and just completed an AMC leadership training weekend to refresh my skills, so I'm ready to lead AMC cycling groups here in Western Massachusetts."

The committee has established a website at amcberkshire.org/bicycling, and has also created an email announcement list to which members may self-subscribe. (Instructions on how to subscribe can be found on the bicycling committee website.) The first group ride of the season is scheduled for May 20th, and has been posted on the AMC's activities page at activities.outdoors.org. Because the level of interest in group cycling trips among Berkshire Chapter members is unknown, the committee plans to start small. According to Janine, "To get started, this season we'll run a single group ride per month through September, with moderate speeds and distances." In addition, the Young Members Committee as well as the Family Programs Committee are both exploring the idea of incorporating bicycling to their activity menus.

Stay tuned for more news! The committee will share updates through its website, through monthly e-mail blasts, and through future newsletter articles like this one. Write to bicycling@amcberkshire.org if you want to learn more right away!

Join Our Executive Committee!

The Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee is the top level of chapter leadership, representing all the committees that keep our chapter moving. Joining the Executive Committee is an excellent opportunity to lead an area you're passionate about and help guide the chapter's activities. This year, we are actively seeking individuals for the following roles. If you would like to nominate someone, please email vicechair@amcberkshire.org.

Nominating Committee Chair

The functions of the Nominating Committee are to assist Chapter Committees in identifying and developing qualified individuals for leadership roles in the Berkshire Chapter and to nominate qualified members to fill the slate of officers each year.

Communications Chair

The Communications Chair coordinates all communications of the Berkshire Chapter, including the Berkshire Exchange, monthly member emails, and Chapter website content. The Chair works closely with the webmaster, newsletter editor, and Facebook administrator, and explores other ways to effectively communicate with the members. The previous chair is available to advise the incoming chair.

Training and Education Chair

The Training and Education Chair arranges for and helps organize basic level Outdoor Leadership Training and Wilderness First Aid Training. The Chair certifies that new leaders have completed all necessary trainings. The previous chair is available to advise the incoming chair.

**Don't miss a Trip!
Get AMC trip listings delivered
right to your email inbox!**

Receive a custom list of upcoming AMC activities! Select the things you like to do, in the places you like to do them, from any or all AMC chapters. You decide whether your custom list will be e-mailed to you daily, weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Sign up for an AMC Activity Digest by following these steps:

- 1) Go to outdoors.org, click "SIGN IN" at the top of the page, and log in using your username and password
- 2) In the "Personalize Your Communications" section, click "Activity Digest"
- 3) Sign in again under "I Already Have an AMC Account"
- 4) Click "Create new digest"
- 5) Customize your Activity Digest by selecting specific activities, locations, and/or chapters. If you are using a PC, hold down the 'Ctrl' key on your keyboard to select more than one item (if you are using a Mac, hold down the 'command' key instead). If you would like to make a digest specific to Berkshire Chapter events, select "Berkshire (Mass.)" under "Group/Chapter."
- 7) Click the "CONTINUE" button, then click the "SUBMIT" button and wait for your first digest to arrive!

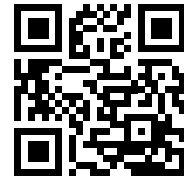
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long time member of the AMC and was Chair of the Trails Committee and then the New England Trails Committee for about 2 decades. He loved the M & M Trail (it's historical name). He played a significant role in getting it designated as a National Scenic Trail. He was always doing trail work and promoting the trail. In fact, he was doing trail work on a section on Mt. Grace on the day he died. I new him only about one year. He was acting Chapter Chair when I agreed to become Chair in 2015. I loved being around him. He always put a smile on my face. I miss him.

Pat Fletcher will be honored on National Trails Day, **Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m.** on section 1 of the NET. You can find this on Rising Corner Road, Southwick, MA. A monument will be placed at the newly constructed boardwalk. After a presentation, there will be a short hike on the NET. Please join me there to honor an amazing volunteer.



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