

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC)

Annual Meeting

November 5, 2016 The Chariot, Hendersonville

The Annual Meeting of the Carolina Mountain Club was held Saturday, November 5, 2016 at The Chariot restaurant in Hendersonville. Before the Business Meeting, the Challenge Awards were presented: Vance Mann, chair of the Challenge Awards, reported that 19 persons completed challenges this year and that a total of 229 members have completed challenges since 2000. Vance Mann and Jack Fitzgerald were present to accept their awards.

Complete Challenge Completer list for 2016:

- Youth Partner Challenge – Cameron and Jacob Cox
- AT-MST Challenge – Jack Fitzgerald, Vance Mann, Dennis Smith and Bob Williams
- Waterfall 100 Challenge – Gina Alberti, Beth Bradshaw, Mark Inman, Andrew Kunkle, and Chuck Rosen
- SB6K Challenge – Robert Livezey, Brad Thacker, Jeffery Younginer, Scott Gullberg, Robert L Keely, Jeffrey L Austin, Caitlynne Cash, Christopher Randall
- Total Completed Challenges since 2000 – 2 Youth Partner Challenge (initiated 2015) ; 7 AT-MST Challenge (initiated 2015); 21 “90 in 90” AT Challenge (one year-2013); 21 “90 in 90” MST Challenge (one year-2013); 15 Lookout Tower Challenge (initiated 200); Pisgah 400 Challenge (initiated 2003); SB6K Challenge (initiated 1973); and 20 Waterfall Challenge (initiated 2009). Not counted-82 completed challenges 1973- 1999 – SB6K and 32 with no date for SB6K.

Call to Order

President Barbara Morgan called the meeting to order and asked the group for a moment of remembrance for those who had recently left us; Past President Lenny Bernstein, hiker and past Council Secretary Marlene Santa Maria, and MST advocate when it was proposed 39 years ago, Allen DeHart.

Welcome to Guests

Vice President Randy Fluharty introduced the guests and thanked them for their support of the CMC mission.

From the Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Morgan Sommerville, Southern Regional Director; Julie Judkins, Director of Education and Outreach; and Jason Zink, Visitor Use Manager. North Carolina Forest Service: Allen Nicholas, Supervisor; Pisgah Conservancy: John Cottingham, Executive Director; Pisgah District of the Blue Ridge Parkway: Craig Yow, Facility Manager; Friends of the Mountains to the Sea Trail: Steve Metcalf, President of the Board of Directors; and Kevin Adams, guest speaker.

Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting

Barbara Morgan presented the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting as written.

Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2017 Budget

Barbara said that the bylaws call for an annual review of the financial accounts and asset statements of the club. This review of the records of the former treasurer and was conducted by Marcia, Ann, and Barbara. The financial records of the club were determined to be in good condition and no irregularities were found. The review recommended an inventory of the tools used in trail maintenance, and this has been completed.

Ann Hendrickson, Treasurer, presented the comparative statement of activities showing year to date 2016 General Fund, 2016 Annual Budget and proposed 2017 Annual Budget, which is a balanced budget; the 2017 proposed budget is \$27,000. She provided an overall of the Club's financial viability:

- It has been a challenge to match revenue with expenses, in part due to the increased website maintenance and overall costs of committee chairs maintaining routine business.
- It has been a banner year for donations with increased demand for Walt Weber's book and several restricted donations and funds provided to trail maintenance for purchase of tools.
- Efforts to streamline the financial function of the Club include of a designated credit card to condense payment to vendors as well as electronic bill pay.
- The 2017 Proposed budget reflects efforts to streamline operations without raising dues with the anticipation that club membership is stable and growing modestly.
- Three new line items were developed to assure available funds for CPR/FA for Maintenance; President's miscellaneous fund; and trail maintenance training and education.
- In order to fund these additional line items it was decided to eliminate the paper copies of "Let's Go", which will result in over a \$2,000 cost savings. Members will get the revised Lets' Go by email and modifications will be made for those not having a computer, printer, or email address.
- To assist in defraying the administrative costs of on-line payments it was decided to charge an automatic \$1 service fee per online transaction.
- Effective 2017, the \$10 Diamond Brand Vouchers for new and renewing members will be electronically produced, saving the Club the cost of mailing to each member.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2017 Budget as presented.

Council Nominations and Elections

Before his passing, Past President Lenny Bernstein worked with the Nominations Committee and developed the slate to be voted upon. Marcia Bromberg, as Acting Chair of the Nominating Committee,

presented a slate of names for open positions and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. She then said that the slate would be voted on as a unit.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the slate for 2017:

Treasurer: Ann Hendrickson (second two year term)

Secretary: Paula Massey (second two year term)

Councilor at Large: Tom Weaver (second two year term)

(Note: in 2016, Ann, Paula, and Tom all completed the last year of an unexpired two year term that had been vacated.)

Councilor for Communication: Kathy Kyle (second two year term)

Councilor for Conservation: Ruth Hartzler (second two year term)

Councilor for Trail Maintenance: Ron Navik (first two year term)

Note: Continuing on the Council; no election needed since all are second year terms.

President: Barbara Morgan

Vice President: Randy Fluharty

Councilor on Education and Outreach: Kay Shurtleff

Councilor for Hiking: Brenda Worley

Councilor for Membership: Lee Silver

Councilor for Technology: Marcia Bromberg

Councilor at Large: Steve Pierce

Barbara noted that Pete Petersen is now completing his second term as Councilor for Trail Maintenance and is the only one leaving the Council at this point. Throughout his tenure, he has led the trail maintenance function of the club with dedication, skill, sensitivity, and ingenuity. He has worked tirelessly to document our maintenance agreements, to ensure a productive work schedule, and to ensure that appropriate guidelines are followed. We will miss his presence on the Council. As he was not in attendance, his certificate will be mailed to him.

Approval of Proposed Bylaws revision to Article VI

Copies of the CMC Bylaws were distributed with the proposed change underlined. Barbara presented the reasons for the proposed change:

- The role of the Nominating Committee is to come up with a slate to fill positions after each two-year term or after the two-term limit has been reached. The reason for the change is the fact that often Council members are more aware of the skillset needed for each Council position. So, on the committee, they are in a good position to help make these important recommendations to the chair.
- The role of the Awards Committee is to work with your nominations and decide on the Distinguished Service award and the Award of Appreciation. The reasoning is similar, but in this case the additional members who are also on Council may be more aware of an individual's excellence in areas not as visible to hikers and trail maintainers. I'm thinking of individuals who work more in the background such as communications, conservation, and technology. We don't want to overlook these valuable people.

- It is important that there still will be at least two members on each of these committees who are not members of Council.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change to the Bylaws, Motion passed.

Club Awards

Barbara appointed Marcia Bromberg to serve as Awards Chair after Lenny's passing. She announced the two Distinguished Service Award recipients: Jack Fitzgerald and Pete Petersen. This award is given to members who have demonstrated continued exemplary service to the Club over a long period of time. Jack was recognized for his consistent efforts to lead hike as well as the creation of the Waterfall Challenge and Pete for his leadership and efforts in heading up the Trail Maintenance arm of the as well as his work with our agency partners and in securing letters of agreements with the various forest management groups.

President's Report

Barbara stated that this year has been a good one for the club:

- Membership is strong – 1050 members with 180 new members compared to 150 last year.
- Hiking Committee has scheduled hikes on Wednesday, Sunday (full and half-day) and at least one Saturday a month; in addition, MeetUp was introduced on a trial basis.
- Walt Weber's MST book was re-published and is now available on Amazon.
- Trail maintenance has remained a priority with seven crews regularly working on MST and AT trails. Barbara thanked Becky Smucker for her years of excellent leadership of the Wilderness Crew. A major accomplishment was the completion and dedication of the ten-mile section of the MST around Waterrock Knob.
- Conservation committee has devoted endless hours of work on the Forest Management Plan; attending hours of meetings all over WNC, writing and revising the provisions of that plan, and advocating for hikers and for access for trail maintainers, while recognizing that the final plan must address multiple use.
- Education and Community Outreach committee completed its first series of Youth Partnership Challenge hikes, and the first completers of this challenge, Cameron and his father Jacob Cox were there to accept their award. In addition, we have work underway to strengthen the concept of Leave No Trace in the casual hiker who doesn't understand the impact of bad practices.
- Councilor for Technology, a new position created last year, has been an effective interface between the programmers of website and the needs of website.
- Councilors at Large, Tom Weaver and Steve Pierce have contributed greatly; Tom through his skill in trail assessment and his role on the State Trails commission, Steve in spearheading the successful completion of The 100 Favorite Trails project and work on the Operations Manual.
- Communication Committee has produced the quarterly Let's Go, eNews, and posted information on our Facebook page.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Barbara adjourned the meeting and turned it over to begin the program. Jack Fitzgerald introduced the guest Speaker Kevin Adams, who gave an outstanding program about photographing waterfalls.