

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC)

2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) was held at the Doubletree Hotel, 115 Hendersonville Road, in Asheville.

President Randy Fluharty welcomed members and guests.

Challenge Completers

Prior to the Business Meeting, the Challenge Awards were presented by Chris Koebelin, chair of the Challenge Committee.

- AT-MST Challenge - Ramsay Roth
- Waterfall 100 Challenge – Robert McCammon, Donald Gardner, Dee Gee English, Grace Lovine, Stephanie Lovell, and Kimberly T. Strike
- Pisgah 400 Challenge – Paul Benson, Jonathon Perry, Ginny Waggener, and Vance Waggener
- Lookout Tower Challenge – Zachary Robbins, John Cansler, and Lance Harlin
- South Beyond 6000 Challenge – Zachary Robbins, Stephanie Wallace, Robert DeBrecht, John Cansle, Judy Magura, Jim Magura, Sharon Smith, Eric Bruce, Dianna Morris, Jonathon Perry, and Todd Fischer
- Youth Partnership Challenge. Jan Onan announced the following completers of the Youth Partnership Challenge: Thomas Cook, Sam Durham, Stephanie Wallace, Claire Wallace, and Cora Wallace

Introduction of Special Guest: President Randy Fluharty introduced Richard Thornburgh, the District Ranger for the Appalachian District of the Pisgah National Forest. Richard spoke complimenting CMC and expressing appreciation for the club's partnership with the National Forest. He said that CMC volunteers contribute the lion's share of the work done on area trails, and this is extremely worthwhile and valued.

Call to Order

President Randy Fluharty called the meeting to order. Since Secretary Paula Massey was absent, Barbara Morgan was asked to take minutes of the Annual Meeting.

Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting

Randy Fluharty presented the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual meeting as written.

Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2019 Budget

The Bylaws call for an annual financial review to be conducted by the President, the Vice President and one other member not on the Council. This year the review was conducted by Randy Fluharty (President), Debby Jones (Vice-President), and Bob Levy (club member). Barbara Morgan (Past President) was there at the Treasurer's request. It consisted of a careful review of records of documentation of income and expenses and examining receipts for purchases to ensure expenditures were appropriate for the fulfilling of club business. The financial records of the club were found to be in good condition and no irregularities found.

Treasurer George Bauernfeind presented the 2018 Statement of Activities through September 30 showing year to date General Fund, the 2018 Annual Budget, and the proposed 2019 Annual Budget. The proposed 2019 budget is a balanced budget of \$33,700. The main reasons for the increase over the 2018 budget of \$28,175 were the anticipated increase in interest yield with reinvested CDs of our reserve fund and additional income from sale of the Edition 3 MST book by Walt Weber. He provided an overview of the contributions and expenses.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2019 Budget as presented.

Nomination and Election of Officers

Barbara Morgan, the immediate Past President and current Nominating Committee Chair, first brought an item regarding the term of the Treasurer up for consideration. She presented the fact that, at last year's Annual Meeting, George Bauernfeind was on the slate and elected to a two-year term. However, according to the Club's By-laws, the Treasurer is to be nominated in an even year, not an odd year. She proposed that this be corrected by adding his name to the 2018 slate received by members via email, to serve a two-year term of 2019-20. She added that we recognized that if he is elected to another two-year term, he would actually be serving five years total, not four. A round of applause followed, indicating unanimous support for the proposal to add his name to the current slate.

President Fluharty then asked for nominations from the floor, and hearing none, asked for a motion: A motion was made to vote on the slate as a unit, and this was approved. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the slate for 2019.

Treasurer – George Bauernfeind (first two-year term)
Trail Maintenance- Ron Navik (second two-year term)
Secretary – Kathy McAuley (first two-year term)
Conservation – Mike Fisher (first two-year term)
Communication – Stuart English (first two-year term)
Councilor-at-Large – Hugh Hensleigh (first two-year term)

Continuing on Council in 2019 (no election needed)

President - Randy Fluharty
Past President - Barbara Morgan
Vice-President - Debby Jones

Education and Outreach – Jan Onan
Hiking – Gregory Betchel
Membership – Lynn Saul
Technology – Judy Magura
Councilor at Large – Chris Koebelin

Recognition of Departing Council Members

Randy thanked these three members of the Council, who are completing their terms, for their excellent service to the club.

Secretary – Paula Massey
Communication – Kathy Kyle-Corn
Conservation – Ruth Hartzler
(Note: Mike Fisher had been Councilor at Large, but now was elected as Councilor for Conservation)

CMC Awards

Prior to the presentation of Awards, Randy gave special surprise recognition to Ken and Carol Deal for their commitment and ten years of leading the annual Cookie Hike. While they are turning the leadership of this annual tradition to another CMC member, he presented them with a specially designed “cookie monster” stuffed animal, complete with hiking boots and CMC patch. The Deals received a round of applause for their efforts on behalf of CMC.

Barbara Morgan, chair of the Awards Committee announced the recipients of this year’s awards:

- . **Award of Appreciation** – This year’s award went to Walt Weber and “the gang”, consisting of Stuart English, Bob Beach, Rich Evans, and Les Love. The award was in recognition of their contribution through field-work and writing to the third edition of the MST guide, *Trail Profiles and Maps from Clingmans Dome to Mt Mitchell and Beyond*. Walt received the “hiking stick” and they all received certificates of the Award of Appreciation.
- . **Distinguished Service Award** – Ann Hendrickson for her outstanding accomplishments with her work on the Friday Crew, her work with crew leaders in planning and carrying out trail maintenance, and even procuring grant funding for tools and supplies. Her work in planning and providing leadership for the rehabilitation of Max Patch was a crowning accomplishment. This award was presented at the annual Trail Maintainers’ Picnic.
- . **Honorary Lifetime Membership Award**, by Council – Skip Sheldon for his exemplary work as crew leader of the Friday Crew for 15 years with honesty, dedication, passion, and commitment. This award was presented at the annual Trail Maintainers’ Picnic.

President’s Report

A summary of Randy Fluharty’s past year as President and CMC in general:

. Council leadership - Current Council exemplifies the energy and enthusiasm necessary to carry out the work of the club.

. Membership – Almost 200 new members have joined year to date, resulting in about 1200 total members. In an effort to improve the Club and increase member activity, the Council decided to survey the membership. Thanks to the efforts of Kathy Kyle, Lynn Saul and Jan Onan, who developed, distributed and analyzed the survey, we now have recommendations and direction to move forward. Members indicated that they wanted more hike choices, further integration of technology, and outreach efforts to younger and diverse members.

. Operations Manual – Thanks to Steve Pierce for coordinating the completion of the initial version of the manual last year. The manual is currently being updated and revised with the goal to complete this before the end of the year, with Barbara coordinating the process. Council has set the goal of making available to the membership on the website in the coming year.

. Technology - Judy Magura, with the assistance of Jim Magura, have initiated several improvements to the website: an improvement in performance, redesigning the public site, and providing mobile device adaptability. With the help of Tim Carrigan, she made revisions to the “back office” so that hike leaders could take more control of the hike scheduling. Chris Koebelin worked with them to redesign the SB6K Challenge to be more “user friendly.”

. Hiking Schedules – This year there were 117 hike leaders leading 177 scheduled hikes with increased diversity to take full advantage of this beautiful area. In addition, increased use of Meetup has resulted in additional choices and opportunities to hike.

. Conservation – This has been a busy year for the Conservation Committee under the leadership of Ruth Hartzler, to provide for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Plan Revision, and involved working with the Stakeholders’ Forum to develop compromise solutions that give the best overall result for the various user groups. The Committee also worked with the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership, including the Recreation and Wilderness Designations interest groups. The Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release in early 2019. To assist in this effort, the Committee drafted a policy statement on maintaining multi-use trails that will give the Club future guidance. Finally, the committee participated in the Kids Rally at the Forest Supervisors Headquarters.

. Youth Partner Challenge – This program continues to grow with five recipients of challenge awards.

. Education and Outreach Committee – In addition to overseeing the Youth Partnership Program, the Committee, under the leadership of Jan Onan, coordinated two survival training classes and have a map navigation class planned. And through Brenda Worley’s efforts, there will be a wilderness first-aid course available this month and Gregory Bechtel of Hiking, hike leader training is in the works.

. Trail Maintenance – With the hard work of Ron Navik (Councilor for Trail Maintenance) and his team, this has been another stellar year of accomplishments. These included the massive Max Patch refurbishment which required extensive coordination with our partners, the Forest Service, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Cherokee Forest Service. An AT tag grant and LL Bean grant were obtained to help fund this endeavor. In addition, the MST extension project was completed with the help of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Cherokee Nation. In addition, the trail maintainers have worked on Bull Gap/Rattlesnake Lodge Trail Improvement; the Mt. Pisgah Trail refurbishment, the John

Rock Trail refurbishment, the MST work near Craggy Gardens Visitor Center; the Rich Mountain Fire Tower refurbishment; and a three-week Konnarock Crew project relocating the AT near Jones Meadow. And of course it is important to thank all those members who conduct routine trail maintenance of the 400 plus miles that CMC oversees. A series of training courses were conducted for maintainers, and thanks to a new position of grant coordinator led by Kathy McCauley, additional funds are being secured to seek out funding opportunities.

. Randy thanked all these chairs, coordinators, and club members, who have made CMC – 95 years old this year - a strong and viable organization.

Other Business

Randy asked if there was any other business to come before the Council, and there was none.

Adjournment

Randy adjourned the meeting and turned the program over to Vice President Debby Jones and Les Love to introduce the guest speaker, Jennifer Pharr Davis.

Minutes prepared by Past President Barbara Morgan, in the absence of Paula Massey, Secretary.