

OHA Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2024
Called to Order: 7:13pm

Introductions (Stroker Rogovin and Phoebe Howe)

Award for coming from the furthest distance goes to Joan Chevalier!

There were 61 voting members in attendance, and a quorum was established. After a roll call across the decades, the 1970s might have had the strongest representation! Mike Waddell, Ken Olson, and Bethany Taylor all represented for current Huts Manager. Emma (EB) Brandt represented for the AMC.

Honorary Awards (Ethan Daly)

Honorary OH membership was bestowed upon the following individuals for their service to the AMC. Read more about them, what they have taught this community, their energy, and their kindness in the most recent Tator. Donations have been made in their honor to the organization noted:

- Larry Garland- Donation to Mt. Washington Valley Trails Coalition
- Nancy Ritger- Donation to the Waterman Fund
- Skip Spadaccini- Donation to Animal Rescue

Huts Update (Bethany and EB)

This year has been tough to execute without Skip, Nancy, and Larry. EB is crushing it, though, and we're thrilled to have her in this role. Otherwise, we still have 8 huts, and the huts employed 100 intelligent and talented people this past year. Thanks to all OHA who continue to uphold this experience.

Current Croo Huts Update (Tom Oliver)

Lots of people, great energy, Carter came close to possessing all 8 coveted raid items: propeller, sword, helmet, Jeeves, Wilbur, French Horn, and 2 others. There was great weather this summer, but also some oddities with water- failed at Zealand, brownish orange at Carter. Bethany noted that Tom and the Lakes croo cleaned and cleared a lot of old nasty stuff, which will do much to make the huts special for future generations.

Secretary Report (Jared Liu)

Action: dispensed with reading the 2023 minutes, unanimously approved

Dues paying membership is strong. The last three years in order (2022 to 2024) have been 401, 437, and 469... an increase! Moreover, we're seeing an increase in the number of members who renew their membership annually without skipping a year. Jared also ran through a number of edits to the bylaws, including what will be 3-year term limits going forward, with a maximum of 4 terms (or 12 years).

Action: bylaws unanimously approved

Treasurer Report (Jared for AL Razat)

Income up but not as much as in 2023; expenses up and more than in 2023. Ultimately, still in the black this year and for the organization. We're in great shape.

Presentation of the following Steering Committee Officers and Members-at-large for 2024 (Jared)

Best wishes to Pheobe Howe, who is stepping off the Steering Committee after this meeting.

Nominations for a 3-year term ending Nov. 2027: Bill Oliver, Lawrence “Stroker” Rogovin, Kim “Schroeder” Steward, Gerry Whiting.

Action: Unanimously approved that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of nominations

The full Steering Committee for the coming year will be:

Carter Bascom: Secretary Emeritus
Emma “EB” Brandt: Resuscitator Editor
Jesse Carlson: Member at Large
Al Kamman: Member at Large
Jared Liu: Secretary
Bill Oliver: Member at Large
Anne-Laure “AL” Razat for Treasurer
Lawrence “Stroker” Rogovin: President
Doug Shaffer: Member at Large
Kim “Schroeder” Steward: Website
Bethany “Benny” Taylor: Huts ex officio
Deirdre Vander Schaff: Member at Large
Gerry Whiting: Member at Large

Cabin Update (Phoebe)

Many hands contribute to keeping the cabin operational. Thanks to them all. There was an update about the road washout and ongoing repairs, replacement of the fridge, and user night trends. We saw lower cabin use this year, which might be a return to pre-pandemic levels. Otherwise, a few reminders: don’t turn off the propane any longer and do reserve on the website to get the lockbox code (the key isn’t at Pinkham)!

Featured Speaker (Phoebe)

1970s Trailblazing Women of the Huts, Shelters, and Trails (with apologies from the Secretary for brief notes from such amazing stories):

- Saundy Cohen: From Brooklyn to NH on a snowshoeing trip with husband, they came across John Nutter and a group on cross-country skis who convinced them to be the first Ed Squad in 1971. After a year, her husband was ready to go home, but she was loving it so much and applied to Ken Olson to be the Fall Caretaker in 1972. It nearly didn’t happen, because women weren’t allowed to do this without a male co-lead. Ultimately, a pointed conversation with an attorney and the Huts Committee worked it out. She knows Ken was supportive, too.
- Nancy Thomas: Got her first pair of Limmers for high school graduation, and presently asked when women would be able to apply to work in the huts. Thanks to Ken Olson and John Nutter, she was hired in 1972 to do guided hikes with Tom Johnson (TJ). Later, thanks to other trailblazers, she was hired to the huts, and Joel Wright was equally supportive. During her time, she packed 80-100 pounds, including empty propane bombs, and did everything equally with the men. Ultimately, was HM at Zool and Flea. Also spoke about how the AMC still struggles to be racially representative.
- Adele Dinsmore (not in attendance): Saw a posting for Volunteer Naturalist, and hired by John Nutter. Later interviewed with Trails Crew Board for Caretaker role. Thanks to Saundy’s trailblazing, she got the role for Speck Pond. And shout out to Larry Jenkins for the lobster

dinner! Finished by advocating to diversify the pool of candidates and the pay to provide greater access.

- Joan Chevalier: Majored in climbing trees rather than playing with dolls. Started on kitchen crew, spent 1 summer in the huts, but really wanted trails. Settled for Caretaker at Guyot, which was also amazing. Thanks to Bob Proudman for using this role to help build the case for women on trail crew. So much of who she is today is thanks to her work with the AMC.
- Anne Michalec: Garfield Caretaker in 1978. Didn't get the job the first year she applied in 1976, but Bob Proudfoot was so supportive that she reapplied. Has fond memories of being on the roof with the Greenleaf croo, passing messages to thru hikers, getting an internship in DC, listening to Bob White play the trumpet, the foo horn, and whirlies. Does not have fond memories of the black flies! Later went on to lead guided hikes, which was a dream. And thanks to the women who trailblazed for her.

Other Bidness

The room indicated that the experience at Pinkham has been good, which is helpful feedback for the Steering Committee to consider for future years.

Chair's Comments

Thanks to Phoebe Howe for her amazing work over the years.

Cabin Season Pass for \$100, Family Pass for \$150.

Dues and donations pay the bills. Thank you.

The land to the north of us will be coming for sale soon. Thanks to Bill Oliver and Mike Waddell for leading these conversations. The ongoing road repairs are also combined.

2025 Events: 5/19 Spring Reunion and 11/1 Fallfest, as well as Steering Committee meetings via Zoom quarterly: 1/7, 4/8, 6/10, 9/9, 11/18.

Thanks to Phoebe Howe for planning the Annual Meeting and to Gerry Whiting for the toast.

Next Steering Committee Meetings will be on:

Nov. 19, 2023, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3105879688?pwd=bW1NQXnNUZPaURCd9EdXBtM3hkQT09>

Or Phone: 929-205-6099, Meeting Number: 3105879688#, Passcode: 780291#

Adjourned: 8:55pm