ADK 46er Correspondents Meeting
Date: January 16th 2016

In Attendence:
(13) Correspondents of (29) active were present:
Joe Ryan
Spencer Morrissey
Cindy Kuhn Yourdon
Fran Shumway
Steve Shumway
Tom Fine
Leslie Fine
Margaret Murphy
Daniel Lewicki
Kelly Wilbert
Seth Burgess
Pat Desbiens
Victoria Challingsworth

(3) Administrative:
Mark Simpson
Neil Simpson
Kathy Murray

- (6) Spouses:
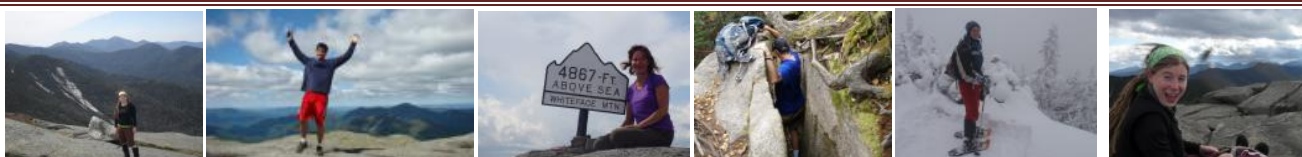 (Not named above)

-Special Guest Joe Bogardus

Subsequent to a decent buffet meal at the Asian Buffet in Saranac Lake, Mark started in by thanking everyone for their attendance and assistance in the project. The reason for the meeting was to discuss website and flow issues discovered from the pilot project. Group discussions and consensus on direction on these issues will generate a list tasks. Some of these will be isolated as required to be completed and before announcing success of the pilot project.

1. *Mark: Hiker training on website operation*. Some hikers 'get it' and log, and correspond using the message board, others are using but not corresponding, others trying to email their correspondent. Discussed was a narrative on hiker page. Tom Fine suggested to co-produce a video using screen capture that can be posted on the hiker page. Neil will source 'best' software ASAP. Mark and Tom will team up as soon as 1/30. Within this video can be messages expressing our legacy, and encouraging corresponding to build the program and its intent.

2. *Mark/Spencer: Hiker message templates.* Use of a template in some form, especially for new hiker accounts could really help with speeding process. Discussed (and agreed by consensus) was misuse of templates will devalue the experience. However, and agreed by

consensus, use of technology to make correspondents job easier and templates can be implemented by having 'blurbs' or canned statements about items such as LNT, or Grace's legacy, etc. that can be poked into the message at anytime. Public AND private templates were discussed. Mark and Neil will discuss and release something functional very soon. Update: Neil has already released an initial version of templates that works. Tweaking to meet more of template intent is coming soon.

3. *Steve: What to do about 'run away' social conversation message board probability.* Discussed by all was - We don't want to non responsive, however we do have lives and want to be able to handle many accounts in balance. Consensus agreement was three fold management
    a. Ensure a statement about courtesy to Correspondents and their time is expressed in intro/welcome by the Correspondent. This will differ for each correspondent.
    b. Ensure similar statement is in the hiker training video that will be posted on hiker page.
    c. Use of a Public template message that can be sent to a hiker 'easily' when they are abusing the website intent of logging peaks and journey statement to the Correspondent and have turned it into a social conversation. The assignment of the construction of this message is either missing from the notes or was not assigned. Anyone who will (or said they would) take this task on, please contact Mark.

4. *Mark: Issue of too much success. We will be faced with rush of aspiring hikers in the spring.* Discussion on how we will handle this and how we can prepare in advance.
    a. Joe Ryan suggested we add disclaimer explaining that there may be delays in response to into the front page of the website. Consensus agreed.
    b. Spencer suggested a manual 'breaker switch' that sends email to new applicants explaining delays in response that contains LNT and other introductory information.
    c. Joe Ryan suggested lobbying ASAP for more correspondents and also adding statement to finishers to 'give back' and suggest possible ways to help that include corresponding. Update: Joe Ryan presented a new correspondent since the meeting: Kathryn Behuniak; she is now on board bringing us to (30) Correspondents.
    d. Mark: We will continue to develop ways to make the process easier so a Correspondent can handle many hikers.

5. *Joe Bogardus (and emailed previously by Nancy Buckley): Issue of a hiker logging journeys without corresponding.* Discussion on importance. Posed was logging a peak, have an email sent to the assigned Correspondent. Consensus agreed until Tim Fine suggested adding feature where date of last edit could be seen. Consensus agreed this was superior.

6. *Cindy Kuhn Yourdon: What about messaging a hiker if he/she has not sent a message lately?* Concensus agreed this was an individual decision as it may lead to social relationship. Discussion will occur at a next meeting on dealing with 'inactive' and or non corresponding accounts. Mark : October for next meeting a good idea? Joe Bogardus: How about the day of the Fall Meeting?

7. *Victoria Challingsworth: What happens after finishing?* Presently an email is sent to hiker with a link to the Office of the Historian. Neil to verify the Correspondent is cc'd. Cindy: This email needs to be 'much more' to include congratulations, info on the 46ers and encouraging participation. The assignment of the construction of this message is either missing from the notes or was not assigned. Agreed by consensus was that finishers will have access to view their account after finishing, but the capability of posting further logs, pictures, messages will be discontinued. Anyone who will (or said they would) take the task of the finish letter task on, please contact Mark.

8. *Margaret Murphy: Issue of are we recording hikes or journey*? Much discussion on whether we are recording' peaks' or 'journeys'. i.e. a given peak may be ascended more than once as part of climbing all peaks. The site was originally started to record 'journey' format, indicating counts of peaks, but adding up the 46 towards finishing separately. Agreed by consensus is the 'journey' is what we stress and we should be recording them as part of this as such.

9. *Spencer: The correspondents can post a profile pic, can we open that up to the hikers*. Neil: Yes. Agreed by consensus. Update: This has been added on the website.

10. General consensus that all 'formal' letters i.e items above – 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 7 to be passed by the board before utilizing.

    - John Sasso, phone conversation with Mark prior to the meeting as he was unable to attend; his additional comments and suggestions are items 11-16

11. *Can we sort the pictures by 'journey'?* This aligns with item 8.

12. *Can we have picture captions/descriptions?* Neil: This is already a feature; it seems that hikers are not using it. Agreed by consensus we need to highlight this use and its importance in the training video, item 1.

13. *Documents folder; do we need this?* Agreed by consensus to leave as is until we can sort files by 'journey'.

14. *Can we have a table for each hiker account that lists completed peaks and other information such as height, ascent date(s) and using links that go to the 'journey' and associated correspondence.* Agreed by consensus to table.

15. *Can we have a live map for each hiker account*? Agreed by consensus to table.

16. *Can we have on the main all pages a DEC alert simulcast for closures and warnings? This could be a real value added service to the hikers.* Discussed was to include this as an advanced message board for general notices and publishing notices for trail work and other 46er events. Agreed by consensus that this should be high on priority list. Update: Neil has added a News tab that appears on each page. This will become expanded to include items as mentioned in this item, but as a start will house 'Meeting Minutes'.

    - Jack Coleman, an email sent out prior to the meeting as he was unable to attend; his additional comments and suggestions are items 17-19.

17. *How do we differentiate the correspondents program from the other electronic social platforms like Facebook, Meetup, and forums*? Expanding on Items 3, 14, 15, 16, discussed was that we need to make sure we provide value added experience in line with aspiring to be a good 46er. This is NOT a social media platform.

18. *How, or do we, show the value in that one on one relationship when we speak in plural tense.* Grace was very specific in for use of the plural, in times that we are sharing the experience. Concensus agreed we will use this as best guide.

19. *How do we differentiate a physical accomplishment from a fellowship of like minded group who want to give back to the people and peaks.* This sounds like a further extension of Item 17; we will continue to work on value added and differentiation.

20. *Mark: General request of a Co-Administrator (backup). Anyone interested, please contact him direct.*

21. *Vic offered to rewrite Hiker Guidelines to closer meet how site works/will work as part of training (Item1)*

Summarization:
It is very evident how popular this program can be. We must be prepared to handle the duty and be mindful to our legacy program as close as possible, making the journey special and life changing for the aspiring hiker. We will do what we can to point out principals of environmental protection, education for proper usage of wilderness areas, and invite participation in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation-approved trail projects.

Agreed by consensus to address these items before telling the board 'we are ready':
1,2,3,4a,7,8,9,10,16

Distribution:
All Correspondents
Brian Hoody
Siobhan Carney-Nesbitt
Pete Hickey
Joe Bogardus
Chris Sekellick
Phil Corell
Website News Tab