
The Ponkapoag Eagle

April 1, 2006

A Community Newsletter Published by the
Volunteer Management Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club Camp at Ponkapoag Pond

April 1, 2006



Opening Day Saturday, June 24th

There will be a work party at Ponkapoag from 10 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 24, 2006. We need many hands to prepare the cabins for summer rental. A committee meeting is scheduled from 4 pm to 5 pm (Meet at the lodge). All are welcome to attend. See page 4 for a listing of other meeting dates.

Summer Manager News

Camp will be managed by a tag team this summer. From June 24 until July 29, Beth and Keziah Furth will be managers. For the second half, Francesca Stark will be the manager.

This year, the managers will stay in Rogers, where managers have often stayed in past summers. That makes Pine, with its spacious layout and 6 beds, available for rent this summer.

Lifeguard Search

We are looking for both a full-time and a part-time lifeguard in order to provide 7-day coverage at the beach from June 24 to September 4. Work hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; day-of-week schedules are flexible. Applicants must have current Red Cross certification. Pay is \$12/hr. If you know anybody who might be interested, have them call Beth or Keziah Furth, 617-232-0121.



Letter from the Vice Chair of Facilities.

Hello Fellow Ponkers,

Spring is in the air. Or is it the sound of busy tools echoing thru the trees and across the pond? Yes, it is time to think about the health and well being of the camp. Although the winter was mild, for the most part, our beloved cabins can always use, YOU, our most cherished commodity, aside from the land itself. Trish, myself and other winter campers have compiled an

important TO-DO list. We will need all able bodies, skilled and not so skilled, to be at the **Work Parties on April 30th, May 20th, June 4th, and June 24th (Opening Day weekend)**, all work parties will officially start at 10am and end at 4:00. You're more than welcome to come early and stay late. Food and refreshment will be served @ 1pm (I'll do a better job on that this year) and all the water you can drink all day.

I have a few very important projects to complete before we open for the summer season. Please mark your calendar. Call or Email me with your skills if you would like specific duties.

Upcoming projects:

- Reconfigure cabins by building new bed platforms
- Rebuilding walkways to cabins
- New cabin roofs (3)
- Replace rotten wood and siding on pump house, cabins, Ladies outhouse, and many other major and minor repairs.

Thanks everyone.
Kevin C. Dowd
Vice chair of facilities
or something
kevindowd2@msn.com
617-792-2591



The End of the Dowd Administration

Unlike certain other administrations, the Dowd administration, after four years, is relinquishing power. As their reign gasps its final breaths, I believe a few thank you's are in order.

Kevin: Thank you for being our fix it cowboy and keeping the fires burning and flipping all those burgers and improving our roads in your Wildman Bobcat. In your tool belt, you are a one-man Habitat for Humanity, our selfless Good Samaritan, and an inspiration to the lazy-good-for-nothin rest of us.

Darlene: Thank you for counseling all of our teenagers and for painting your toenails the same orange as the outhouses and sharing your Chinese Water Dragon. Thank you also for letting our kids be kids and teaching them to respect both nature and our woodland community. You brought us thriving flower boxes and Adirondack chairs. Thank you for your stories and cackling around the fire in that wonderful way that you do.

Marianne Taylor



photo by Marianne Taylor

Reserve Your Cabin or Tent-Site Today!

Campers may mail in summer reservation requests after April 1, 2006. Requests received by April 29th will be processed together during the next week. After that, It's first-come first served!

Committee Meetings

Spring Meetings:

Camp's Volunteer Management Committee will hold spring meetings Sun., April 30; Sat., May 20th; and Sun., June 4th. All meetings will be held at the main lodge (or just outside it) at 4 p.m. following the work party. Items to be discussed include summer programs, updating membership and address lists, permit renewal and government relations, facilities planning, and whatever else comes up.

Summer Meetings: Summer meetings will be Sun., July 9 and Sun., Aug. 6 at 4 p.m. at the main lodge.

Fall Meetings: A fall meeting will be held Sun., October 22 @ 3:00 pm at the main lodge.

Mail Reservation Requests to:

AMC Ponkapoag
P.O. Box 582
Randolph, MA 02368.
Mark reservations "SUMMER."

To Reserve a Cabin or Tent Site

Send the reservation form requesting the week or weeks, the number of campers, any specific cabin or site desired, and a phone number where you can be reached. Include a check or money order written to "AMC Ponkapoag" for the deposit indicated. Send your form or letter to P.O. Box 582, Randolph, MA 02368.

For daily and weekend rentals, reservations are booked upon receipt of the full amount of the rental in advance. For rentals of a week or longer, reservations are booked upon receipt of a deposit (see reservation form). Balance is due upon arrival. (See rates in the table.) Cancellations / Refunds –Applicants who cancel at least 30 days from the time of their stay will receive half of their deposit back. Deposits for cancellations made less than 30 days from the time of stay are not refundable. Campers will be charged for the full rental period they reserved regardless of late arrival or early departure. In cases of severe weather or extreme emergencies, refunds may be made at the discretion of the Ponkapoag Volunteer Management Committee. The rental form is located at the end of this newsletter.

Schedule

Weekly rentals are from 2:00 pm check in on Sunday to 11:00 am check out on Sunday.
Weekend rentals run from Friday 1pm to Sunday 11am.

No Running Water Until July 7

Starting this year, the camp drinking water supply won't be available until July 7. Campers should bring their own drinking water. We have to limit our water supply to less than 60 days per year in order to be classified, according to state regulations, as a seasonal water supply.

Priority in Booking Reservations

Priority in summer bookings is given to volunteers who have contributed at least 25 hours of service in the previous 12 months. If that is you, describe your service in a note attached to your reservation request.

Summer reservations are filled as they are received, starting April 29th. Reservations received before April 29th are treated as though received on April 29th.

Cleaning Deposit

A check in the amount of \$25.00 is required for all cabin rentals during the summer season. This deposit will be returned if the cabin is left clean after check out. If you would like your cleaning deposit check returned; please leave a self addressed stamped envelope at the camp office, otherwise it will be destroyed.

What is the fill-in list?

A total of 3 weeks may be reserved in advance during the summer season. The fill-in list allows you to book additional weeks on an as available basis. Cabins not booked by advance reservation within two weeks of the start of the rental period, and cabins made available by last-minute cancellation, can be booked by those on the fill-in list regardless of their previous bookings in that season. If you are interested in having your name placed on the Fill-In Reservations Waiting List submit a \$50.00 deposit check to the summer manager.

Weekends in Summer Months

A limited number of tent sites may be available for weekend rental: mid-day Friday to Mid-day Sunday. Call for availability.

Off Season Rentals

If you are interested in renting a cabin during the off-season at Ponkapoag (before June 24 or after Labor Day), please mail a completed reservation form with a deposit check or money order to:

Off Season Reservations
P.O. Box 582
Randolph MA 02368

For more information on off-season rentals contact Trish Minton @ (781) 961-7007 or review the AMC Ponkapoag Camp Rental Rates and Reservation Policies included in this newsletter.

Free cabin available for volunteers who run programs or do maintenance.

Volunteer to run an educational or recreational program, or to do camp maintenance work (fixing screens or more skilled projects) and you can stay free in North cabin this summer. Volunteer work can be done during the week or on weekends. Programs can be aimed at children or adults. Interested? Contact one of the summer managers: Beth Furth (furthfolk@yahoo.com, 617-232-0121) or Francesca Stark (francesca_stark@brookline.me.c.edu, 617-566-1934).

The Boardwalk



photo by Tom Fitzgerald 2006



photo by Marianne Taylor

Local Film News

Dear fellow Ponkies,

We had so much fun last summer filming our movie “The Ponkapoag Witch Project.” If you missed our backyard Halloween premier, don’t you worry! We’ll be screening it again at Ponkapoag this coming summer. Imagine, your own gorgeous faces on the big screen! (remember Love Train?) Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Marianne Taylor

Hippies Descend on Ponkapoag



photo by Marianne Taylor

This exclusive photo was taken the day Ponkapoag was overrun by a group of hippies last summer!

Do We Have Your Email Address?

In order to help reduce mailing costs and speed communications, Camp is increasing its use of email, using it where possible to replace regular mail. Regular mail will continue to be sent to those for whom we don’t have an email address, or who otherwise request it.

This newsletter is being sent by email as well as regular mail. Did you get both? If not, we need your address! Please send e-address, street address, name, and phone number updates to our membership secretary Jennifer Hogue, jenhogue@comcast.net.

Cabins Reclassified

Several cabins have been reclassified with respect to size for the summer season to reflect beds on cabin porches. At the same time, the summer rate for a “medium” cabin has been reduced from \$180 to \$170 per week.

Mark your Calendars!

Bring a Friend!



Work Party Dates 10am – 4pm

Sunday April 30th
Saturday May 20th
Sunday June 4th
Saturday June 24th

Committee Meeting Dates

4 pm @ Lodge
Sunday April 30th
Saturday May 20th
Sunday June 4th
Sunday July 9
Sunday August 6

3 pm @ Lodge
Sunday Oct. 22



photo by Tom Fitzgerald 2006

I write from Ponkapoag during a rather tame winter
When life at camp starts to slow, it's the time that I prefer
In the summer camp is full and children's shouts fill the air
After Labor Day camp is a haven for all to share
Then the winter crews show up with tools of the trade
With chain saws, hammers, saws and such: repairs are made
Generators, compressors and nail guns begin their cry
As the ongoing repairs keep the cabins warm and dry
A well-deserved paddle on the pond returns the quiet
After all of the carpenter's machines quell their riot
And when all of the work has come to an end
Loud and raucous parties are around the bend
The Winter Managers take their stand:
"NO THREE PALLET FIRES!" is their command
The temperature drops, the pond freezes over
Skates, hockey and hot Chocolate are in order
The thrill of ice rules the land, the workers lay low
Network newscasters announce a threatening snow
Winter campers become eager with anticipation
Sleds, Snow shoes and skis are now toys of emancipation
The white blanket that covers the camp this day
Will give children and dogs a new place to play

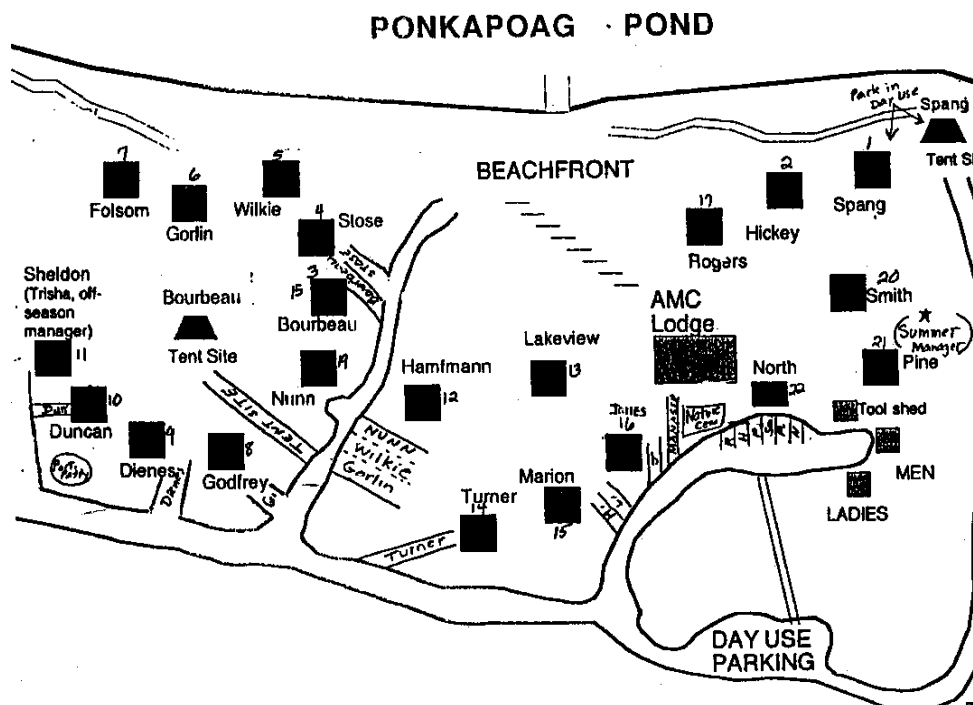
written by Coach Guido



Photo by Lynn Feingold 3/11/06

cabin	summer size	summer beds	off-season beds	off-season size
Wilkie	small	3	3	small
North	small	2	2	small
Stose	small	3	2	small
Spang	small	3	3	small
Smith	small	3	3	small
Lakeview	small	3	3	small
Jones	small	3	2	small
Hickey	small	3	3	small
Dienes	Medium	5	4	Medium
Duncan	Medium	5	4	Medium
Folsom	Medium	4	4	small
Godfrey	Medium	4	3	small
Gorlin	Medium	5	4	Medium
Nunn	Medium	5	5	Medium
Bourbeau	Large	5	3	Medium
Hamfman	Large	5	3	Medium
Marian	Large	6	6	Large
Rogers	Large	5	5	Medium
Turner	Large	6	5	Large
Pine	Large	6	4	Large

* some cabins are not available for winter rental, call the winter manager for availability during the off season.





Facilities Description

18 Rustic Cabins and two tent sites are situated on the wooded southern shore of Ponkapoag Pond. Cabins vary in size, accommodating 2 to 8 people. They are furnished with beds, tables and chairs. Almost all cabins have wood stoves that keep the cabins toasty warm even in the coldest weather. Each cabin has parking for only one vehicle. Guests using more than one vehicle are required to park the additional vehicle in the day use parking lot. Please note that cabins have no electricity, running water or linens. No housekeeping is available.

- All cooking is done on personal camping stoves or in outdoor grills and or existing fire-pits. Firewood can sometimes be purchased from managers or fallen wood can be gathered in the woods using common sense. Cutting standing trees or branches is strictly forbidden in the Blue Hills.
- You must bring your own drinking water except for the 59 days before Labor Day, when you can usually have the option to fill containers from the tap at the lodge providing drinkable well water.
- The lodge, in the center of camp, provides indoor space for games, reading, get-togethers, educational exhibits, information sharing and some electric light most evenings. Two outhouses are located near the lodge, and two more "portajohns" are located at the southern end of the camp. You must take out your trash; there is no trash disposal at camp. We have a Carry-in/Carry-out Policy.

- Swimming, canoeing, and sailing activity centers around a small sandy beach and wooden dock. A life-guard is on duty during the summer. A row boat and life jackets may be rented during the summer season. Swimming is only allowed when there is a life guard present. This is a DCR regulation.

- Fishing from the shore or boat is also popular, but must be kept well away from the beach/dock area.

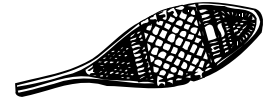


- Hiking opportunities abound on the 6500 acres of the Blue Hills Reservation. Local jaunts include the six miles trail around the pond and a variety of destinations like the duck pond, Blue Hill, the bog board walk, and lemon squeeze rock.

- Organized educational activities are often led by volunteers. Guided hikes focus on geology, plants, birds, mammals as well as hiking and trail maintenance skills. Past work shops have included basketry, paper-mache, and photography. Check the calendar of events in this newsletter, the bulletin board at the lodge, or ask the manager how you can lead an activity.

- Golf and horseback riding facilities are within a few miles.

- Winter sports include alpine and Nordic skiing, snow shoeing, sledding, and ice fishing.



- Saturday night pot-luck dinners have long been a tradition at camp. Bring your favorite recipe to share and bring enough plates and utensils for yourselves.
- Access is limited to vehicles that can negotiate rutted unimproved roads. The entrance is off of Randolph Street in Canton. The combination to the gate lock is provided when you make a reservation.

Ponkapoag Eagle Editorial Policy

Contributions: Given limitations of space and time, every effort will be made to print all contributions and opinions. Send in things like listings of bird and animal sightings, news about trails, discussion of conservation issues, drawings, boating safety suggestions, recipes, and contributions from children. Deadlines for Eagle contributions are:

September 1 for Fall edition
March 1 for Spring edition.

All forms of communication are very welcome, but computer files in Microsoft Word are the easiest. Email to Wendy Rapson at Riverwench@msn.com



AMC Ponkapoag Camp Rental Rates and Reservations Policies

To Inquire about Facilities, Policies, and/or Availability

Call 781-961-7007 on weekdays between 8:30 and noon. Or visit www.outdoors.org

To Reserve a Cabin or Tent Site

Send a form or letter requesting the week or weeks, the number of campers, any specific cabin or site desired, and a phone number where you can be reached. Include a check or money order written to "AMC Ponkapoag" for the deposit indicated in the "Payment" section below. If possible, please use the Camp Reservations Form printed in this newsletter. Send your form or letter to P.O. Box 582, Randolph, MA 02368.

Volunteering: An essential part of camping at Ponkapoag is helping out. Interested in volunteering? If you have volunteered 25 hours or more, please check the box on the reservation form for priority reservation and include a letter describing your volunteer hours at camp during the past year.

Payment:

For daily and weekend rentals, reservations are booked upon receipt of the full amount of the rental in advance (See table). For rentals of a week or longer, reservations are booked upon receipt of a deposit (see reservation form). Balance is due upon arrival. Cancellations / Refunds –Applicants who cancel at least 30 days from the time of their stay will receive half of their deposit back. Deposits for cancellations made less than 30 days from the time of stay are not refundable. Campers will be charged for the full rental period they reserved regardless of late arrival or early departure. In cases of severe weather or extreme emergencies, refunds may be made at the discretion of the Ponkapoag Volunteer Management Committee.

Schedule:

Weekly rentals are from 2:00 pm check in on Sunday to 11:00 am check out on Sunday. Weekend rentals run from Friday 1pm to Sunday 11am.

Weekends in Summer Months

A limited number of tent sites may be available for weekend rental: mid-day Friday to Mid-day Sunday. Call for availability.

Priority in Booking Reservations

All requests for summer reservations must be received after April 1 and before April 29th.

For all other requests, priority is based upon the date the form or letter is received and volunteer hours at camp (minimum 25 hours).

Advance Reservations:

Advance reservations will be accepted until two weeks before the rental week on a first-come first-served basis up to the per-family-per-season maximum. Per-family-per-season maximums are 3 weeks total in the summer and one month in other seasons. Advance reservations will be processed starting February 1st for Spring Reservations and starting August 1st for Fall Reservations.

Fill-In Reservations:

Cabins not booked by advance reservation within two weeks of the start of the rental period, and cabins made available by last-minute cancellations, can be booked on a first-come first-served basis by anyone regardless of their previous bookings in that season. If interested, indicate on your reservation request form or in a letter that you would like to be on the Fill-In Waiting List. A \$50.00 deposit check is required to hold your request. See manager for more details.

Waiting Lists: Managers will maintain waiting lists for both categories of reservations: Advance and Fill-In.

Cleaning Deposit – A check in the amount of \$25.00 is required for all cabin rentals during the summer season. This deposit will be returned if the cabin is left clean after check out. If you would like your cleaning deposit check returned; please leave a self addressed stamped envelope at the camp office, otherwise it will be destroyed

	Off Season	Summer June 24 - Labor Day
Small Cabin Sleeps 2-3	\$30 weekend \$12 extra day \$60 per week \$160 per month Maximum: 1 month	\$140 per week Maximum: 3 weeks
Medium Cabin Sleeps 4-5	\$40 weekend, \$16 extra day \$80 per week \$215 per month Maximum: 1 month	\$170 per week Maximum: 3 weeks
Large Cabin Sleeps 6	\$50 per weekend \$20 extra day \$100 per week \$270 per month Maximum: 1 month	\$200 per week Maximum: 3 weeks
Tent Site one family per site	\$ 35 per weekend	\$16 per day \$35 per weekend \$65 per week

Reserve Your Cabin or Tent-Site Today!

Mail in Summer Reservation Requests Right Away!
Requests received by April 29 will be processed together during the next week.
After That, It's First-Come First Served!

"Maximum" means the maximum period within one season, for which one can book an advance reservation. Read carefully the policies on Advance and Fill-In Reservations.

* The Ponkapoag Camp Volunteer Management Committee will make six cabins available for 6 month rentals during the winter months. A 3 month schedule is also available during the winter months (Nov - Jan. and Feb. - April). These are assigned by lottery conducted at a general meeting of the Committee. Winter cabin requests must be received by September 15 and include a letter describing 40 hours of volunteer work done at camp.

* **Missionary Point Group Site** (when available) min 8 people /max 12 people - \$6 per person. Call for details.

Mail Reservations Requests to:

AMC Ponkapoag
P.O. Box 582
Randolph, MA 02368.
Mark reservations "SUMMER." Or "OFF-SEASON"

RENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Renters of cabins and tent sites must maintain a primary residence other than the camp.

Renters must be at least 21 years of age.

Register all persons who will occupy the cabin or tent site.

Youths under the age of 18 are not be left alone.

Carry out everything you carry in. No trash disposal on site

Phone on the day of arrival between 8 and 9 am to obtain the current gate lock and to inform the manager of estimated arrival time. Office phone 781 - 961- 7007

Drive and park your vehicle only where vehicles are permitted. Adhere to all DCR and Ponkapoag Camp rules protecting the environment and the safety and rights of all campers and visitors.

Build fires only in existing fireplaces.

Leave the cabin or tent site clean and tidy. A \$25.00 cleaning deposit check (refundable) is required for all cabin rentals.

Please volunteer some of your time while staying here. Help keep the camp an attractive place to stay. See the manager for details.

To request a reservation, please send a deposit check or money order, (\$50 deposit for 1 wk, \$100 deposit for 2 wks, \$150 deposit for 3 wks) the completed reservation form and self addressed stamped envelope to:
AMC Ponkapoag, P.O. Box 582, Randolph, MA. 02368
Attention: Summer Reservations or Off Season Reservations (depending on which season desired)
Deposits for cancellations made less than 30 days from the time of stay are not refundable.

THIS REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT.

----- **cut here** ----- **cut here** -----

Print Name of Renter (person responsible for the safety & conduct of all persons in group) in this box:

Last name _____	First Name _____
-----------------	------------------

Renter's Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Renter's Home Phone: _____ License Plate # _____ State _____

Renter's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Do you want to be on our mailing list? Yes ___ No ___

List all additional persons staying overnight: (If you need more space, use the back of this form)

NAMES (PRINT)	Age (if under 21)
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

Official Use Only

Assigned Cabin: _____

Dates Rented: _____

Rental Fee: _____

Deposit: _____

Amount Due: _____

For Off Season reservations only rental dates desired
 From _____ to _____

For summer reservations only

Total # of Weeks Desired _____

1st Choice: from _____ to _____

2nd Choice: from _____ to _____

3rd Choice: from _____ to _____

Preferred Cabin/Tent site

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

Rental Deposit Enclosed Yes ___ No ___ Self addressed & stamped envelope enclosed? Yes ___ No ___

Priority Reservation (check one) ___yes ___no If yes, attach letter stating your efforts. Minimum 25 hours required

What is the AMC Ponkapoag Camp Anyway?

Maybe you've never seen a Ponkapoag Eagle before, and you are wondering what this is all about? Well, the answer is that it's a publication about a volunteer managed camp that enables you to feel hundreds of miles away from civilization and be less than 15 miles from its hub at the same time! Ponkapaog Camp is your ticket to the outdoors. Hiking, kayaking, biking, skiing, mountaineering...from nature walks to weeklong wilderness explorations of the beautiful Blue Hills, the AMC Ponkapoag Camp offers a world of fresh-air activities. We teach skills, maintain trails, protect the natural environment – and have a great time together enjoying the outdoors. The camp has its own resident manager. Advance reservations are required. Looking for more information about Ponkapoag Camp? Call for volunteer opportunities, activity information and reservations at: 781-961-7007. Or Visit the Appalachian Mountain Club website at www.outdoors.org

Officers of AMC Ponkapoag Camp

Chair: Peter Furth, Vice Chair for facilities: Kevin Dowd
Vice Chair for administration: Edward Dowling,
Secretary: Phil Whitehead, Treasurer: Henry Barbaro
Education and Environment: Wendy Rapson
Roads and trails: Trisha Minton
At Large: Ann Landers and Ed Shugrue

Newsletter published Spring and Fall

Comments and questions about our newsletter are welcome:
please call Wendy at (508) 586-1018 or email at
Riverwench@msn.com

Contact Jennifer for address corrections and deletions at
jenhogue@comcast.net.

AMC PONKAPOAG CAMP

PO Box 582

Randolph, MA 02368