

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

FALL 2000

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is a recreational hiking association of volunteers who preserve and improve the Appalachian Trail as the nation's premier, continuous, long-distance footpath.

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club



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TRAIL BLAZER

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CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Holiday Potluck & Art show
Saturday, December 9??

WORK HIKES

Sunday, October 1
TINKER CREEK BRIDGE

Sunday, October 15
CATAWBA SHELTER

Sunday, October 29
ANDY LAYNE TRAIL

Sunday, November 12
ANDY LAYNE TRAIL

Sunday, December 3
ANDY LAYNE TRAIL

Hike-planning Meeting
Monday, November 13

BOARD MEETINGS

(Open to Club members who contact host in advance.)

Thursday, September 28, 7 30 p.m.
Hosted by Sharon Bottomley

Thursday, October 26, 7 30 p.m.
Hosted by Mike Ferguson

Thursday, November 30, 7 30 p.m.
Hosted by Charles Parry

**The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
 The Appalachian Trail Conference
 and a member of The Nature Conservancy**

Hike Schedule - Fall 2000

Guests

Visitors are always welcome. Come dressed for hiking. You are expected to follow the directions of the hike leaders.

Transportation

You may drive your own car if you wish; however, the hike leader is responsible for arranging transportation and all will follow his/her directions. The cost to help defray car expenses is noted on the schedule and should be given to the driver.

Meeting Place

The point of departure is at the discretion of the hike leader, so always check with the leader when planning to attend.

Saturday, September 23 - 8:00 AM Rock Castle Gorge

11 miles Strenuous - \$3.50 carpool fee
Gary Hale 268-5283, John Lynham 336-292-7637

Sunday, September 24 - 1:00 PM Buffalo Mountain

4 miles Moderate - \$3.50 carpool fee
Liz & Bill Lamson 774-8981

Sunday, October 1 - 8:30 AM TINKER CREEK BRIDGE WORKHIKE

No carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402, Lucien Metayer 344-1877

Sunday, October 1 - 1:00 PM Fenwick Mine Trail

2 miles Easy - \$3.00 carpool fee
Sue Scanlin 989-0497, Linda Akers 776-1969

Sunday, October 8 - 8:00 AM Upper St. Mary Wilderness Loop

11.5 miles Strenuous - \$4.00 carpool fee
Larry Austin 254-2092, Gary Hale 268-5283

Sunday, October 8 - 1:00 PM Seven Mile Mountain

6 miles Moderate - \$3.00 carpool fee
Maurice Turner 334-2128, Zetta Campbell 366-8165

Sunday, October 15 - 8:30 AM CATAWBA SHELTER WORKHIKE

\$1.50 carpool fee - Ron McCorkle 982-8289

Sunday, October 15 - 1:00 PM Hoop Hole - Lower Loop

4 miles Easy - \$3.50 carpool fee
Liz & Bill Lamson 774-8981

Sunday, October 22 - 8:00 AM Garden Mt. VA 623 TO FS 222

11 miles Moderate - \$4.00 carpool fee
Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140, Jill Gawne 384-7023

Sunday, October 22 - 1:00 PM Sharp Top

3 miles Moderate - \$3.00 carpool fee
Sue Scanlin 989-0497, Mike Ferguson 344-8525

Sunday, October 29 - 8:30 AM ANDY LAYNE WORKHIKE

\$1.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, October 29 - 1:00 PM Huckleberry Trail

6 miles Easy - \$3.00 carpool fee
Mike Ferguson 344-8525, Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140

Sunday, November 5 - 8:00 AM Sinking Creek Mountain

12 miles Moderate - \$2.50 carpool fee
Jill Gawne 384-7023, Sharon Bottomley 989-1818

Sunday, November 5 - 1:00 PM Bottom Creek Gorge

5 miles Moderate - \$3.00 carpool fee
Betty Mathews 343-4225
Zetta Campbell 366-8165

Sat., Nov. 11 - 1:00 PM Veteran's Day Brush Mt. - Audie Murphy Monument

8 miles Moderate - \$2.50 carpool fee
Ken Garrett 890-8946, Betty Mathews 343-4225

Sunday, November 12 - 8:30 AM ANDY LAYNE WORKHIKE

\$1.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

Holiday Potluck and Art Show

The AT community represents an astonishing range of people with diverse skills, interests and talents who are brought together by a common love for hiking and nature. Some of you paint, stitch, perform, write, or otherwise create. Do not be backward in stepping forward. We need you. Please bring your work for this non-commercial display for the enjoyment of the club and so that we can get to know the other you. Call Larry Metayer at 344-1877 or email: metayer@roanoke.infi.net so we can accommodate your needs. We will set up before the evening begins. (We have no license to sell)

Bring a main dish, vegetable, salad or desert. We supply paper and drinks. We think the date is December 9 but call Shirley Kothheimer or Linda Akers when those lucky stiffs get back from Alaska.

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members. We look forward to meeting you on the trail soon.

William Cook
Louann L. Black

Scott Meyers
Kevin Myatt
Jennifer Cooper

Heather Vovakes
Stephanie Kent
Jennifer Wolff

President's Message

From what I've been hearing, the Corn Boil/ATC Celebration was a great success. While I was in Scotland, many of you were enjoying good food, music, and companionship while paying tribute to 75 years of stewardship by the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Mega-kudos to Lucien Metayer who constructed the display and coordinated the entire program. Special thanks also to Linda Akers, Mike Dawson, Bill Gordge, Shirley Kothheimer, Charles Parry and the Konnarock crew – as well as to Supervisor Joe Church and Mayor Ralph Smith who were kind enough to make the proclamations.

Moving on to the Blazer: as each of you knows, every issue contains announcements, reports from various officers, and the hike schedule along with hike write-ups. As important as these are, the Blazer could be a lot livelier if it were supplemented by contributions from Club

members at large.

What we would like to have is just about anything that relates to outdoor experiences, in general, and to the Appalachian Trail, in particular. We want accounts of hiking in other parts of the country or the world, pastoral musings, poetry, fiction, photos, art, cartoons, crossword puzzles, trail trivia – even your thoughts on Zen Buddhism if you can relate them to the “trail experience”. In short: you name it – we're ready to listen.

We know that there are a lot of talented folks out there in the membership and this is an ideal opportunity to share whatever you've got. The deadline for the winter Blazer is not until the 30th of November, so you've got plenty of time. Let those creative juices begin to flow. Our newsletter editor, Bob Peckman (366-7780), wants to talk with you. Don't let him down!

Dick Clark

Hikemaster Report

Summer has gone quickly again, so there is nothing for us to do but enjoy the milder weather and bright colors of autumn.

Let me take this time to thank all of the leaders and assistants because as we all know without your willingness to volunteer there would be no club. I would also like to mention again the service awards program which was printed in the summer Blazer and is on the web-Blazer. The year of record will be October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000. I will be compiling the list of winners by counting the hike reports as printed in The Trail Blazer. The current year's winners will be announced in the next Blazer,

and their awards will be presented at the annual banquet. If I miss-count you please contact me! Let me also mention the 113-mile club. If you have hiked all of the Appalachian Trail that is maintained by the RATC you may be entitled to a 113-mile patch. If your dues are paid just submit a signed declaration, and I will send you one free patch. Have you just joined the club? Would you like to complete your 113 miles? Give me a call, I would love to schedule your necessary hikes in the next Blazer. The next hike-planning meeting will be Monday, November 13th.

Mike Ferguson

Trail Supervisor's Report

Summer is over and the Konnarock Crews have come and gone. We had 8 or 9 club members earn Konnarock T-shirts and 17 or 18 club members work with the crews. The reason for the ambiguity is that David Hicks is a club member, who also was a crew member during the War Spur session. In addition to David, the club members who earned T-shirts were: Malcolm Black, Bill Floyd, Bill Gordge, Charles Parry, Kris Peckman, Clyde Perdue, Maurice Turner and Jimmy Whitney. Marianne Demko, Dana Helsley, Jenny Lamb, Rhonda Mick and Scott Meyers all did their first and in some cases second and third workhike with the Konnarock Crews. We are glad to have all of you come out and hope to see you again. I want to personally thank everyone who came out. Altogether we worked 54 person days with the crews. It was a good effort by a small number of people. I would like to have seen more people out. The good news is that both relocations are open. A few days ago I received an ATC envelope in the mail containing two pictures and a note. It was from the assistant crew leader. One picture was of the Konnarock crew, the

other of the RATC crew. The note said:

Hey Charlie,

Thanks again for all your help and of course the cold beverages. You and your club are some of the most active in the south! Hope to see you again.

Susan

This fall and winter, our main task is to try to finish the Andy Layne Trail relocation. While there is still quite a bit of work to be done out there, I think that we can have the relocation open by spring. Remember, you are always welcome on workhikes, there will always be cold drinks at the end of the day and if you come often enough, you can win a hat or T-shirt.

Charles Parry

Land Management Supervisor's Report

It is nearly the end of July and it seems awful early to be writing a report for the fall Blazer. It seems like I just wrote the last one for the summer.

Nothing has changed on the 765 kV power line. We are waiting for the State Corporation Commission to make the next ruling. This could be several months away. Until that ruling has been handed down nothing else is to be done.

All of the house demolition is done for now. We have proposed action on the cabin near the Andy Layne Trail, and currently it is scheduled for demolition in 2001 when the next budget money will be available. That is of course subject to change. We have also started discussion on the land and house near 220 in Daleville that is a "term estate" as to what should be done with it. There are several proposals including putting the Southwest Virginia field office there. It is to the north of 220 beside the Trail. A "term estate" means that the Park Service acquired the rights to the land, but the people who own it have the right to remain in it for a specified term. It will be a few

years before title transfers to the Park Service. I would like for us to be ready with a plan when it does transfer so that we can promptly start action.

Permits will be submitted to start the pole barn activity in September. I have checked with both the highway department and the county and there should be no problem with permits to build the small pole barn for storage of club trail maintenance materials. The area will be available only for material storage. No other activities will take place there. There will be no water or power. The first step is to install a driveway.

Lastly we need to paint several miles of ax-blazed Park Service Boundary this fall after the leaves are off. It was blazed a little over a year ago and needs to be painted before we lose the ax blazes. This is a two- or three-day job for a two- or preferably three-man crew.

Anyone interested in either boundary blazing or working on the pole barn, please contact me.

Hal Cantrill

The Blazer is on-line! Visit <http://ratc.org> and click on [Newsletter](#) in the left column, thanks to David Cheslow. You can also go straight to <http://peckmanjazz.com/blazer.htm>.

The Blazer deadline is always five weeks before the last hike scheduled in the previous Blazer. The best way to send Blazer material and hike reports is to cut and paste it into email or attach a txt file or MS-Word-97 file to bob@peckmanjazz.com or mail a floppy. I can scan plain typing and of course handwriting is also fine. I am just the editor; you are the authors.

In the interest of space I will be editing all Blazer input, including hike reports. I will try not to harm the poetic value. Don't hold back to help me. I can cut it down but I can't cut it up.

Working with the hike reports I notice how many non-members hike so often that we think they are members. Leaders please remind repeat guests that our dues are dirt cheap and they supply the workers who sweat to maintain the trails we are enjoying!

Bob Peckman

The RATC Mid-Week Crew

We continue with our two major work projects - first, rehabilitation of the Ferrier Trail on the Northern slopes of Broad Run Mt., and second, construction of new trail on private land on the East side of Read Mt. in Roanoke County.

For a while we seemed to have been trapped in the mid-afternoon thunderstorm cycle, invariably being drenched in thunderous rains and the woods dark as twilight. Nevertheless, regardless of the weather, we find the mountains always beautiful, the work strenuous but not hard, and the friendships easy (good to see you Mac).

We are quite interested in the potential for integrating our trail rehab plan with the proposed C & O Rails to Trails project from New Castle to Eagle Rock, along the Craig Creek Valley. Things are moving right along. Here is some information for those who might want to be involved in the process:

The ROW is 26.4 miles long, is still owned by the State, includes 5 wonderful old bridges, would pass through the tiny communities of Horton, Parr, Oriskany, Barbours Creek and Virginia Mineral Springs.

A cooperative effort is being mounted by Craig and Botetourt Counties, The Virginia

Department of Highways, The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, The U.S. Forest Service and Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Commission. A project team has been formed, and a feasibility study is underway.

A public hearing and workshop involving all the above parties will be held at: Eagle Rock Elementary School on September 14, 2000, 4-7 PM. and at Craig County High School in New Castle on October 5, 5:30 – 8:30 PM.

Project area maps and schematic drawings will be available for review. Public comments will be taken and included in the Trail Development Plan, the final draft of which shall be presented in December.

For those individuals who are interested in this project, it might be a good idea to show up at one of the meetings. Get on the mailing list. Who knows? An overwhelmingly negative public response or lack of interest might put the plan in jeopardy. It should be a beautiful trail. People have talked about it for years. Finally all the major players have come together and it looks like they mean business.

Bill Gordge.....774-3016

Hike Reports	Fall - 2000
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Sunday, May 28, 2000 Chestnut Ridge Trail
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Rained out.

June 3-4, 2000 Whiterocks Campout & Workhike

Charles Parry (leader), Lynn Bryant, Hal Cantrill, Mike Ferguson, Larry Cook

On Saturday Hal, Larry, and I clipped our way through the Mountain Lake Wilderness area and removed a few blow-downs with Hal's crosscut saw.

We got down to the campground by 4:30 and decided to work the campground loop before dinner. We were back by 6:00, made camp and cooked dinner. Hal baked biscuits and chocolate chip cookies with his reflector oven.

On Sunday morning, we decided to send Hal and Larry up to the top of the mountain to work their way down to Bailey gap with loppers and crosscut. I went down to Stony Creek to meet Mike and Lynn. As I was early, I took a side trip to Glen Alton which was recently purchased by the Forest Service. On the way out I saw a young bear.

I met Lynn and Mike at the trail head near the Pine Swamp Shelter. We left one vehicle there and drove to the A.T. road crossing. The weather was a bit iffy, but we decided to blaze and carry only hand saws. It turned out to be a good decision on both counts. I blazed while Mike and Lynn clipped. We finished that section by noon.

After lunch we drove to the upper road crossing, near Bailey Gap Shelter and worked back to VA-635. This time we took a chain saw and needed it. The trail was swarming with through hikers. I guess we saw 10 on Saturday and 20 on Sunday. After finishing that section, we drove back to the upper road. As Hal and Larry weren't there we headed up toward Bailey Gap Shelter and met them just before reaching the shelter.

**June 4, 2000 - Thunder Ridge
Overlook to Cornelius Creek Shelter**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Carolyn Baratta (assistant), Dana Helsley

What a beautiful place for a hike this is. Yet only three turned out for it. Earlier in the morning it was misting in some places and the clouds were hanging low on the mountains. Later the clouds lifted, but still covered the sky. It was discouraging weather for hiking. Yet, sometimes these hikes turn out to be the best. So it was this time. Although the sky was gray and there were no distance views, we walked through gardens of rhododendron and laurel. Somehow the colors look brighter on a day like this.

On Thunder Ridge Overlook Trail, there was a family trying to discern a view, and a group of girl back packers who had been on the trail for two weeks. Along the route we encountered a number of through hikers. We didn't count, but there might have been thirty people in all. It was pleasantly cool and there were no bugs – well hardly any

We girls do appreciate Dana sticking with us slow hikers. As Carolyn & Zetta drove back, a deer crossed the road in front of them --a final treat.

**June 11, 2000
Julius Knob and Tinker Cliffs**

The Players: Dick Clark (leader?), Sharon Bottomley (assistant), H.R. Blankenship, Jim Folger, Dana Helsley, Harry Neumann

The hike was listed as 9-11 miles; it would be nine miles only if the gate to the Bennett Springs entrance to Carvins Cove was open. It wasn't. Moreover, No Parking signs lined the access road for another half-mile or so back from the gate. This immediately ran up the round-trip hiking distance to at least 12 miles and we hadn't even started. Not a good sign when the heat index is already moving into the uncomfortable zone.

We got moving anyway – walking on roads until we hit the Boy Scout Trail which would take us to the Appalachian Trail not far from Lambert's Meadow. Going north on the A.T. for a short distance, we picked up the trail to Julius Knob.

In spite of the haze, the view from the Knob wasn't too bad and we considered taking our lunch break up there on the cliffs. However, the consensus was to push on to Tinker Cliffs – then less than a mile away. Or so I thought!

The bush-whack to Scorched Earth Gap should have been straightforward – I'd done it many, many times before. But, as it turned out, I managed to start down on the wrong angle and soon found myself in unfamiliar territory. Luckily, we soon found a dry stream bed which I was sure would eventually bring us to Lambert's Meadow. It did, but not before we had done a lot of scrambling through some very rugged terrain.

Eventually, we collapsed with relief at the Lambert's Meadow picnic table where two things became immediately clear: 1) this was going to be our lunch break; and 2) Tinker Cliffs and the rest of the planned hike would have to wait for another day.

After lunch, we quickly regained the Boy Scout Trail where we began retracing our steps back to the cars. How many miles did we end up walking? I'll never know for sure, but I'd certainly guess a minimum of 13. I'm very grateful to the rest of the group for being such good sports and taking the whole thing in stride.

**June 11, 2000
Pandapas Pond Loop**

Charles Parry (leader), Neil Fitzpatrick (assistant), Debbie Fitzpatrick, Zetta Campbell, Sherry Kessel

Substituting for Gloria, who was working, I met the others at the entrance to the Pandapas Pond area. We drove down to the lower parking area and

walked half way around the pond before finding a trail up the mountain. There were several people picnicking, fishing and swimming in or around the pond. After 1/3 the way up we intersected two other trails, but continued to the top where we hit the fire road. We walked about a mile down the road before we saw a trail to the right which we took. The first half mile was quite steep and then we came to a Forest Service boundary sign and then I realized we had cut across private land. We continued on down and finally came to a creek and a trail intersection. We took a roundabout way through some rhododendron and eventually got back to the pond. It was a nice hike for a hot day.

June 15-19
Brushy Mountain Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant), Bill Floyd, Bill Gordge, Jimmy Whitney, Jenny Lamb, Malcolm Black, Marianne Demko, Dana Helsley, Ron McCorkle plus K-crew Josh Adams, Susan Guida, Terri Wagner, Jeremiah Brobeck, Charlotte Crittenden, Alex Nichols, Elaine Wolfe, Jalitte Beal, Dennis Crowley, Bob Kyle, Bill Clemens, Vicki Johnston

On Thursday the two Bills worked alone until the crew arrived. When Kris and I got there out there on Saturday, we were very impressed with how much trail had already been dug. On Saturday, Kris, Jenny and I spent most of the day raking. It was becoming obvious that we would finish the connection on Sunday. After lunch on Sunday, there was not enough digging room for everybody. One group moved to the north end of the relocation to complete the connection there. A few others stayed in the middle, a few went to the south end to finish the connection and Malcolm and I did the blazing. After finishing the blazing a few of us worked on previous-years trail that had sloughed in. On Monday I had to teach, but the plan was for Bill Floyd and the Crew to go to the top of Brushy Mt. South of VA 606 to put in a side trail to an overlook. Bill went up from 42 and worked all day, but the Crew couldn't find the worksite.

June 18, 2000
Cove Creek Basin

Larry Austin (leader), Gene Downs, Joseph McManus, Sherry Kessel and guest Keith Hennessy

This afternoon 7.5-mile hike was amid a very humid atmosphere. Temperature was in mid-80's with variable cloudiness and the always possible

thunderstorm. The five of us met at the Daleville Park and Ride and traveled to Arcadia via 1-81 and onward to Panther Ford Bridge where the AT crosses Jennings Creek. At this location, we started the hike at 1:35 p.m. walking Jennings Creek Road about 7/10 mile crossing a footbridge over Jennings Creek to enter Little Cove Mountain Trail. This 2.8-mile trail is a blue-blaze trail following a nice stream for a ways prior to its ascending up the mountain where it intersects the AT. We headed north on the AT along the ridge passing the Little Cove Mountain Shelter in about 1 and 1/2 miles. Just past the shelter was a nice rock outcropping where we stopped for a view and of course a snack. We continued on the AT for another 2 1/2 miles back to our starting point, encountering a thunderstorm during the last few hundred yards, completing the hike around 5:15 p.m. We had a good group of hikers and enjoyed the conversation, views and exercise.

June 25, 2000
Sunset Field to Thunder Ridge

Linda Akers (leader), Gloria Parry (assistant), Marianne Demko, Beverly Williamson

We got on the trail on this hot, hot summer afternoon, about 2:50 and arrived back at the second car about 5:30. We encountered one small generic snake, and lots of wildflowers - sundrops, beard tongue, Canada Lilies (beautiful!), lots of milkweed, dolls' eyes (formative stage), country rose, fly poison, etc. Had forgotten what a beautiful trail this is -- with waist-high ferns flanking the trail before and after the crest of Apple Orchard Mountain. Due to the heat, we were glad to have cut the hike down to a 5 miler.

July 1, 2000
Petites Gap to the James River

Zetta Campbell (leader), Sharon Bottomley (assistant), and guest Keith Hennessy

It was perfect weather for hiking--blue skies, zero chance of rain; not hot. It was Keith's second hike with the club.

At trail's end on the James, where we left Sharon's car, there was a couple from Quebec, Canada, hiking the whole trail. Then we drove up to Petite's Gap and found a couple from the Natural Bridge Club lollygagging around a camp-stove, but armed with trail tools; that is, they were going to do some trail maintenance. There were also three backpackers,

resting before tackling High Cock Knob. The Knob is the most challenging feature of this hike but, after the long ascent and the long descent, there is an inviting camping area where other trails come in and a spring is nearby. Here we paused for a drink, a snack, and a rest. After this, there were miles of easy smooth trail. Oh yes, there were rocky places, but nothing bad. We enjoyed nice views of mountain ridges, High Cock Knob. Also we began seeing beautiful views of the James winding its way far below. At Matt's Creek Shelter, we encountered two weekend backpackers from Hampton who were looking forward to hiking the trail the opposite way we had come the next day. Oh boy! That would be mostly uphill! For us it was uphill from the shelter and down the other side to Route 501 and the James and Sharon's waiting car.

July 2, 2000

Price Mountain – Sulfur Ridge Loop

Mike Ferguson (leader), Maurice Turner (assistant), Liz and Bill Lamson, Carol McPeak, Dana Helsley, Dick Moran, Bobbie Stitcher plus Bozo the dog

After finally finding the trail head, we began a steep ascent on Price Mt. We eventually learned it was uphill both ways because after the climb to the ridge line we quickly descended to the river bed only to have to climb back to our starting point. The human hikers enjoyed the views of Craig Creek Valley and the Catawba Creek Valley while Bozo enjoyed lapping up what was left of the branch that ran along the trail bottom. We also picked an abundance of blue berries.

Upon climbing back up the trail, we were all pleasantly surprised as Carol pulled out a big cooler which contained a large, ice cold, watermelon. What a welcome treat! Thanks again Carol.

July 9, 2000

North Mountain to Route 311

Kris Peckman (leader), Sharon Bottomley (assist.), Dick Moran, Bobbie Stitcher, and Guests Keith Hennessy and Marianne Demko

The forecast was for temperatures in the 90s in Roanoke, but on North Mt. the shade of the trees and a good breeze kept us comfortable, at least for most of the day. We started off by missing the turn off the woods road onto the new Catawba Valley Trail and had to backtrack, but luckily this was a patient bunch. And the Catawba Valley Trail was worth waiting for! It is a lovely, gentle grade, and those of

us who remember the old trail, before the midweek crew rerouted it, are grateful at every step. Near the top of the trail, we all stopped together to admire a most bodacious yellow mushroom, about 2 feet wide and several thick layers high, on the ground with some smaller companions nearby. Marianne said it is an *Omphalotus illudens*, and it is bioluminescent, meaning it glows in the dark!

The ridge of North Mountain contains plenty of ups and downs, none of them too long. The views were obscured by both trees and haze, but the walk was exceedingly pleasant. It was pretty steady hiking, with one lunch stop and several much-needed water breaks. By the end I think we were pretty well beat up, especially after the breeze died down. We had nothing to complain about, though, after Dick described carrying 75-100 lb. on his back through Vietnam! The rerouted trail at the end of the hike (required by the recent land dispute and again, thanks to Bill Gordge and the midweek crew!) was easy to follow, except at the very end as you emerge onto Route 311.

July 9, 2000

Angels Rest

Mervin Brower (leader), Dave Miller (assistant), Blanche Brower and Zetta Campbell

We started our hike at Bluff City and went to the top. There were red raspberries at the lower part. The Rhododendron were still out at the top of Angels Rest. The temperature was about 82 degrees and the humidity was high. So we went at a slow pace. The view from the top was good as usual. There were lots of mushrooms on the trail and one very pretty fungus on the bottom of a tree.

July 16, 2000

Tinker Cliffs from the Andy Layne Trail

Bill and Liz Lamson (leaders), H.R. Blankenship, Dana Helsley, Bobbie Stitcher, Harry Ballard and guests Marianne Demko, Gary Bible, Christie Meredith, Bill and Kathy Weikart, and Fred Cockey

This was a wonderfully cool, sunny day for a summer hike. We heard a few rumbles of thunder, but nothing rained on our parade from Route 779 up the Andy Layne Trail to Tinker Cliffs. At the top we settled down on the rocks to eat our snacks and take in the beautiful picture-postcard view. That view is the perfect reward for the sweaty pull up to Scorched Earth Gap. After awhile we noticed a rainstorm coming across the Catawba Valley and decided it

was a good idea to start down. The sun was still shining when we reached the parking lot, so I think the storm went to Roanoke instead, as the roads were wet when we got back to town.

July 23, 2000
Whitetop - Laurel Creek Circuit Hike

Larry Metayer (leader), Maurice Turner (assistant), Bobbie Sticher, Ed Wallace and guests Ellen and Gabriel Szego

The drive to Damascus was a rainy one. After a mix-up at the exit, we got together at Cowboys in Damascus. It was voted to try to hike on the Virginia Creeper Trail. If it rained then we would return to our cars. We started hiking in a drizzle but it stopped and the sun came out about mid-afternoon. We hiked to Taylor Valley and back for about 8 miles. Everyone enjoyed looking at the wildflowers and listening to the stream of Laurel Creek. At the end of the hike, we headed for ice cream. The day started out rough but ended nicely. - Happy Trails

July 27 to 31, 2000
War Spur Workhike

Charles Parry (leader), Kris & Bob Peckman (assistants), Clyde Perdue, Maurice Turner, Jimmy Whitney, Malcolm Black, Bill Gordge, Marianne Demko, Scott Meyers, Jim Hutchings, Ron McCorkle, Rhonda Mick, Brian Kelley, Bill Floyd, Plus K-crew Josh Adams, Susan Guida, Elizabeth Adams, Jeran Caulder, Clay Buckner, Dave Hicks, Tom & Janice Doyle, Philip Keicher, Malcolm Gillis, and Brendan Perry

On Thursday Bill G., Jimmy, Maurice and I hiked in from the bottom and were shortly thereafter joined by Bill F. and Clyde. The Konnarock crew arrived a while after lunch. Rocks, big ones were the main topic of the day. The Konnarock crew brought in two rock bars and we quickly realized the need for more. Two more were brought in on Friday and that seemed to satisfy the demand. By Saturday afternoon we started getting out of the rocky areas and the pace picked up. Ron and I formed a company "Rocks R Us" and spent most of the day moving rocks for various customers. On Sunday, Brian wheeled the entire relocation. It is just over 2 miles from the War Spur Trail to the shelter, compared to about 1.2 before. On Monday, we opened the final section of the relocation, blazed it and found time to install 4 waterbars on the section of the old trail just above the relocation. It was a great crew and a good week. The new trail is a

major improvement over the old trail.

July 30, 2000
Sunset Field to Apple Orchard Falls

Zetta Campbell (leader), Dana Helsley and guests Bill and Kathy White, Mary and George MacKenzie, and Gary Bible

Although the sun was out, the views from the Parkway were very hazy, and black clouds floated about. It was humid and very warm, but a cool breeze greeted us at Sunset Field Overlook. As we descended to the Falls, it grew warmer and we were out of the breeze. The stream roared as it tumbled down the mountainside. There was plenty of water coming over the big falls, thanks to the rain. To our surprise, a bridge was being built at the foot of the falls. We met several people along the trail, among them J. Isbell (I think) who had phoned, but was not sure he would make the meeting time and so came on his own. He had two big beautiful dogs, one of which was a therapy dog – works with children, I believe. The Whites and MacKenzies were friends who had lived here before, had moved to separate places and had come back here to live. Thanks to Dana who served as point man and Gary who drove one of the two vehicles. On the way back we saw some deer cross the road in front of us.

August 6, 2000
Johns Creek Mt. To Route 42

Ed Wallace (leader), Gary Hale (assistant), Rhonda Mick, Larry Austin, Dana Helsley, Bobbie Sticher, & guests Marianne Demko and John Hollandsworth

The temperature was relatively cool, but it was very humid. Marianne collected lots of various fungi, mushrooms, Indian Pipe, etc. awesome display due to rainy weather. Bobbie and I saw a bird big enough to carry off Cleveland – maybe a heron. John spotted a rattlesnake sitting on the trail. Thought it would rain, we would all get wet and I would lose at least one hiker. It didn't, we didn't and I didn't.

August 13, 2000 – Cornelius Creek Shelter - Glenwood Horse Trail Loop

Larry Austin (leader), Eric Miller (co-leader), Rhonda Mick, HR Blankenship, Carol McPeak, plus guests Sandra Rouse and John Hollandsworth

From the Daleville Commuter Lot we drove to Floyd Field on the Blue Ridge Parkway about 6 miles north of the Peaks of Otter where we parked to

begin the hike. The weather was partly cloudy and cool for August—a beautiful day for hiking. We began the hike by taking a blue-blaze from the Parkway past the Cornelius Creek Shelter to the AT and headed North for approximately 3 miles on the AT to the intersection with the Apple Orchard Falls Trail. Along the way we took a side trip to Black Rock Overlook to view distant mountains and valleys to the west and north. We ascended the Apple Orchard Falls Trail for .3 miles to Sunset Field on the Parkway where we enjoyed a great view and lunch on a grassy knoll. We crossed the Parkway to the east side of the Blue Ridge and traveled down a forest service road for approximately .5 miles crossing a meadow where we entered the Glenwood Horse Trail. We utilized the Glenwood Horse Trail for the balance of the trek back to where we parked. We observed several deer, a number of wild flowers (including Pale Touch-Me Not, Three leafed Rosinweed, Evening Primrose and Joe-Pye Weed), beautiful Ostrich ferns, a waterfalls, and scores of swallowtail butterflies enjoying the fine nectar of Rosinweed, Joe-Pye Weed and Milkweed. This perky group of hikers completed this loop in 3.5 hours.

**August 14, 2000
Stiles Falls**

Jean Huffman (leader), Betty Mathews (assistant), Mary Gaminde, Carolyn Baratta, Linda Akers, Zetta Campbell plus guests: Erin Baratta, Carl Godsey, John Gaunt, Chris Burden, Margaret Prato, Martha Dishner and Jen Cooper

The day dawned cool and beautiful after a night of rain. We all met Linda at Camp Alta-Mons and got underway at 1:45. Camp Alta-Mons is a Christian camp so I thought it appropriate that with the exception of me we had 12 disciples – I mean hikers. We also had an invasion of butterflies. One of the girls coaxed one on her hand and it let her pet it. John and Betty found a dead turtle and a little boy to play with it. By the way, Betty was a wonderful and competent assistant. I was lucky. We all finished up and on the way home it started to sprinkle. I was so proud of my clumsy self for not falling into the water on the five stream crossings hopping from rock to slippery rock. Then later at the K&W Cafeteria I knocked over a glass of water, spilling most onto myself. Drat.

**August 19, 2000
Manassas Gap to Ashby Gap**

Jimmy Whitney (leader), Bobbie Sticher, HR Blankenship and guest Don Hoak

A gorgeous day accompanied our quartet up I-81 to just outside Winchester to leave our 1st vehicle. Saw quite a few hikers including a 1997 through-hiker headed to Connecticut. His poor dog got bitten by a copperhead a few days previously but he seemed to be ok. We ate lunch at a strange looking Dick's Dome Shelter. It looked like a gigantic dome tent with asphalt shingles on the side. Discovered all sorts of jack-in-the-pulpit berry clusters. Thanks to Bobbie for helping identify those. A great day ended shortly after 8:00 back in Daleville

**Roanoke Appalachian
Trail Club**



RATC Overseer Assignments Spring 2000

VA 611 (South end)

Kenny Garrett, Chris Bolling

VA 606

Mike and Virginia Reilly

Dismal Creek

Bill Floyd & Leslie Kay

Ribble Trail (north end)

David Hicks

Powerline

Charles & Gloria Parry

US 460 Bridge

(Break in our section)

Pine Swamp Shelter

Mike Ferguson

Bailey Gap Shelter

Hal Cantrill

War Spur Shelter

Clyde Perdue & Bill Ross

Rocky Gap

Brian & Leigh Anne Kelly

Sinking Creek

Jim & Jill Gawne

Niday Trail

Sara Patterson

VA 621

VA 621

Linda King & Dave Cheslow

VA 620

Bob & Kris Peckman

VA 624

Ed Bessel, Don Nulph & Maurice Turner

VA 311

Red Crone & Leonard Adkins

Campbell Shelter

Ron McCorkle

Brickey's Gap

Bill Gordge

Ditch Trail

Zetta Campbell & Dick Clark

Angel's Gap

John Lynham & Lucien Metayer

US 220

Homer & Therese Witcher

VA 652

Jim & Linda Hutchings

Salt Pond Road

Dave Miller

Black Horse Gap (North end)

Hike Schedule – Fall 2000 *(cont.)*

Saturday, November 18 - 1:00 PM
McAfees Knob then Dinner at Homeplace

7 miles Moderate - \$1.50 carpool fee
Sue Scanlin 989-0497, Linda Akers 776-1969

Sunday, November 19 - 10:00 AM
Mason Knob Exploratory Hike

5 miles Moderate - carpool fee TBA
Ed Wallace 774-0175, John Lynham 336-292-7637

Sunday, November 26 - 9:00 AM
Apple Orchard Falls - Cornelius Creek Loop

7.5 miles Moderate - \$3.50 carpool fee
Larry Austin 254-2092, Betty Mathews 343-4225

Sunday, November 26 - 1:00 PM
Roaring Run

3 miles Easy - \$3.50 carpool fee
Zetta Campbell 366-8165

Sunday, December 3 - 8:30 AM
ANDY LAYNE WORKHIKE

\$1.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402, Ron McCorkle 982-8289

Sunday, December 3 - 1:00 PM
Sawtooth Ridge

5 miles Moderate - \$1.50 carpool fee

Liz and Bill Lamson 774-8981

Saturday, December 9?? - 6:00 PM
Holiday Potluck & Art show

Christ Lutheran Church - Brandon & Grandin Roads
Verify date with Shirley Kothierner 562-0356

Sunday, December 10 - 8:00 AM
FS 222 TO VA 610

10 miles Moderate - \$4.00 carpool fee
Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140, Jill Gawne 384-7023

Sunday, December 10 - 1:00 PM
Sandstone Ridge

3 miles Easy - \$1.50 carpool fee
Ed Wallace 774-0175, Sharon Bottomley 989-1818

Sunday, December 17 - 8:00 AM
Sherando Lake - Torry Ridge

10 miles Moderate - \$4.00 carpool fee
Dick Clark 989-7053
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, December 17 - 1:00 PM
Smart View Loop Trail

3 miles Easy - \$3.50 carpool fee
Ken Garrett 890-8946, Gary Hale 268-5283

**Roanoke Appalachian
Trail Club Application
New & Renewal**

If accepted for membership, I agree to:

1. Support the objectives of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
2. Abide by the rules of the National and State Parks and Forests
3. Respect the interests of the owner when on private property
4. Keep trails and woodlands free of litter and
5. Abide by instructions of the leader on group hikes and trips

Names(s) _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____

Family Membership New 1 year \$20 New 2 year \$35 Renew 1 year \$15 Renew 2 year \$30
 Individual Member New 1 year \$15 New 2 year \$25 Renew 1 year \$10 Renew 2 year \$20 Life \$50
 Make checks payable to **RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282** Amount Enclosed \$ _____