

TRAIL BLAZER  
Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club  
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Winter 2009

*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.*



McAfee's 2007 by Greg Bryant

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting Potluck – March 14<sup>th</sup>

This history in the making! Last year we decided for the Annual Meeting to be a Potluck but too late for the Blazer. It looks like the banquet concept has gone the way of quill pens. The meeting and election will be short and painless. The program will be good. The food will be exquisite. How many organizations ask you to come to just one meeting per year? Come out; support the RATC.

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## Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

|                          |                                   |                      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cindy Aubuchon & Family  | John S. Busher 3rd                | Jon & Annie Lawrence |
| Doug Buchanan            | Tom, Denise, Sam & Brooke Knisely | Adam LeRoy           |
| Michael & Monica Burgoon | Adrian & Michael Langford         | B. Ivy Lidstone      |

We look forward to meeting you soon: hiking on the trail, at work, social event, or a board meeting.

Thanks for special donations from:

|                         |                   |                  |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Laurie & Leonard Adkins | Christopher Lynch | Maurice Turner   |
| David & Lori Jones      | Fred Meyer.       | Norvell Wellford |

*Mervin Brower*

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## Trail Supervisor's Report

The new Pine Swamp Bridge is done. A new roof is now on Pine Swamp Shelter and our short relocations are now complete. We will have a half-day hike in early March (only 3 miles) where you can see all of the above. There are two people that I want to thank for their help and ideas regarding the Shelter roof. First is Kerry Wood of ATC who first proposed the idea of a primitive materials roof and also gave us a good deal of help. Second is Hal Cantrill, without whose expertise, the job would have been much more difficult and not done as well. He also put in a lot of hours on the

project. I also want to thank everyone else who helped with the project. We never had too much help. It was exactly one year from start to finish.

The next project that we will continue to work on during the off season (fall and winter) is the relocation on Tinker Ridge south of Angels Gap. Next summer we will begin work on the Bluff City relocation with the Konnarock Crew.

*Charles Parry*

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## Hikemaster's Report

I went on a two-week trip to Glacier National Park in Montana in September. The park is huge, with over one million acres and 700 miles of hiking trails. The trails are in great shape. They obviously put a lot of time and money into trail maintenance. I hiked nearly every day. Needless to say, the views of the surrounding mountains were spectacular. I saw a variety of wildlife on the hikes, including grizzlies, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep. The grizzlies are very active in September, feeding on berries for up to 20 hours to build up fat stores for the winter. Glacier is

truly one of the gems of the national park system and a hiker's paradise. Let me know if you are planning a trip there and I can recommend some trails to hike.

Looking for free trail maps? Several web sites offer an excellent selection of trail maps and descriptions, many for trails in Virginia. All of the maps can be printed out for use while hiking. Hikingupward.com has maps for nearly a hundred trails in Virginia and West Virginia, including maps for McAfee Knob and Dragon's Tooth.

Midatlantichikes.com has dozens of maps for trails in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. Trails in our area on the site include the Apple Orchard Falls/Cornelius Creek Loop and the A.T./Mar Hau trail loop. This site also has a great section on the types of plants and animals that are seen along the trail. Backpacker magazine has recently added hundreds of trail maps, profiles, and hike descriptions to its web site, backpacker.com. There are extensive maps for day and overnight hikes for the entire length of the Appalachian Trail. Virginia trails included on the site include Rock Castle Gorge and Mount Rogers. You can download the entire book "Guide to Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive" for free at ajheatwole.com. Mr. Heatwole first wrote this book back in the 1970s. It has descriptions of many trails in the park.

I've been hiking on trails throughout Virginia since the early 1980's. We are certainly blessed with numerous great hiking trails here in western Virginia. Below is a top ten list of my favorite day hikes in the state, listed in order of preference.

1. Mount Rogers, eight mile out and back hike to the highest point in Virginia, with open vistas and semi-wild ponies.
2. Old Rag Mountain, tough rock-scrambling to get to the top of an interesting granite-dome. 360-degree view at the summit.
3. McAfee Knob, steady climb to classic southern Appalachian viewpoint.

4. Spy Rock/Priest Mountain traverse, awesome views from Spy Rock along the way, descend along Crabtree Falls, at 1,200 feet one of the highest in the East.
5. Old Hotel Trail/Cole Mountain loop, located in the Mt. Pleasant Scenic Area, nice 8 mile loop hike with great 360-degree views from the mountain bald on Cole Mountain.
6. Fuller Rocks/Big Rocky Row loop, ridgetop walking with outstanding views of the James River gorge.
7. Cascades/Barneys Wall, a spectacular waterfall and breathtaking views from an 800-foot high cliff all in one hike.
8. Tinker Cliffs, much less crowded than McAfee with the same mesmerizing views of the Catawba Valley.
9. Rock Castle Gorge loop, Fairly strenuous 11 mile loop with open mountain meadows and a steep descent into the gorge.
10. Mount Pleasant, another great loop hike in the Mt. Pleasant Scenic Area.

More detailed descriptions of the ten hikes and links for trail maps and direction to the trail heads have been posted on our web site, ratc.org. Please send me your list of favorite hikes and we will post it on the web site also.

*Mike Vaughn*

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### National Park Service Cumulative Awards

About 5 years ago NPS started giving cumulative service awards to trail club members who had worked certain numbers of hours. The rules are 40 hours a pin, 125 hours a second pin, 250 hours a patch, 500 hours a hat and 1000 hours a vest. You start over again once you reach 1000, so several of the long-term members are on their second time around. Any kind of work that you do for the club counts, including trail work, hike leading, attending meetings, helping with the socials, club officer's duties, etc. This years winners of a pin at 40 or more hours are: Steve Burt, Pat Guzik, Dan

Phlegar, Mike Smith, David Wickersham, Matthew Yancey; a pin at 125 hours is: Hugh Hall; a patch are: Liz Belcher, Dana Helsley, Dave Perry, Bob Stimson; a hat are: Roger Holnback, Jerry Kyle, Charles Parry, Kris Peckman, Homer Witcher; a vest are: Larry Austin, Blanche Brower, Merv Brower, Kenny Garrett, Ralph Hart. Congratulations to everyone. Several more will reach these milestones next year.

*Charles Parry*

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## Read Mountain Preserve

Roanoke County celebrated the opening of Read Mountain Preserve on October 23rd. This wooded, mountain park in the Bonsack area will preserve 243 acres of land, and features a 1.9 mile trail built by Bill Gorge and the Mid-Week Crew. The moderate hike includes several beautiful views along the trail to the summit of Read Mountain. This park was preserved through the efforts of Ron Crawford, who organized the Read Mountain Alliance, and the Western Virginia Land Trust. The County received generous land donations and easements from Dr. Al Durham, Fralin and Waldron, and Matilda and John Bradshaw.

Hours: 6:00am-Dusk

Directions from Downtown Roanoke: Take US 460 East towards Bonsack. Shortly before you reach the Bonsack Walmart, turn left onto Huntridge Road. Travel 1 mile to left on Crumpacker Road. Look for park entrance on the right, just past Tolman Circle.

Directions from Interstate 81: Take the Troutville exit and turn onto US 220 South (Cloverdale Road). Travel 5.5 miles to a right onto Hillview Drive. After passing Cortland Road, take second right onto Crumpacker Road. Look for park entrance on the right, just past Tolman Circle.

*Liz Belcher*

## Hike Reports

### **Sunday, July 6, 2008 1:00PM Daleville (Rt 220) to Mountain Pass Road (Rt 652)**

(Original lost in Bob's cyberspace)

David Sutton (leader), Dena Goldberg, Zetta Campbell.

Thunderstorms were lurking overhead as we began our hike. Lots of blackberry bushes along the way so we had a quick snack. We made it to Hwy 11 (Lee Hwy) and a little beyond then turned around back to the cars as we heard more thunder. We had a light rain as we headed back but still had some fun.

### **Sunday, September 7, 2008 8:00AM Brushy Mountain (Rt 16) to Dickey Gap (Rt 16)**

John Miller & Hugh Hall (co-leaders), John Merkwon, Carl Cornett, and Linda King

On Interstate 81 on the way to the hike we saw a doe and two fawns. Fortunately they stayed off the road. The hike started around 10:00 am with temperatures in the middle 60s. There was a nice breeze and although the temperatures rose to the upper 70s and the sun was shining, we stayed fairly comfortable as the trail was mostly shaded.

Our first stop was the Partnership Shelter. This shelter has hot and cold running water as well as a nice two story sleeping area. After a while the group sort of spread out and while the leader was sweeping he saw a

very large doe cross the trail in front of him. The deer didn't seem a bit shy.

When the leader caught up with the group he found that Hugh had discovered a blacksnake on the trail and Carl had picked it up. The snake and Carl posed for a few pictures. Then Carl reluctantly let the snake go home or where ever snakes go.

Once again the group spread out and the leader, again sweeping, saw a small four point buck on the ridge above him. Soon after he heard military jets navigating the mountains in practice dog fights. Soon after that we arrived at the Trimpi shelter. Maybe because of the name the conversation turned to the Wapiti Shelter and ghosts.

A short distance from there the group saw a small toad or frog hop across the trail. The final climb took its toll on the hike leader. Most of the group got off the trail at 4:00pm but the leader made it out about 4:20pm. The hike and the snacks were enjoyed by all the participants.

**Sunday, September 14, 2008 8:00AM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to  
Trout Creek (Rt. 620)**

Kris Peckman (leader), Carl Cornett, Fred Meyer, Bob Peckman, Fred Walters

Hot weather was forecast, but up on the ridgetops where we were, there was a good stiff breeze which made hiking on this sunny, clear day very pleasant. We lost our first 20% before we even descended Sawtooth Ridge. I know we aren't allowed to lose more than 10% of our hikers, but Bob had actually planned to leave early, so I don't think that counts. Before he left us, Bob photographed a box turtle not yet scared enough to hide under its shell.

There wasn't much water in the creek on the Sandstone Ridge section, and the cows must have been sheltering from the heat, because we never saw them despite the abundant cow pies. Carl pointed out the remnants of what must have once been a mill on that creek.

There were only a few groups of "tourists" on the Dragon's Tooth section. One fellow drove from Richmond to hike both MacAfee's and Dragon's Tooth in one day. (Of course, our own Fred Meyer drove from Charleston, WV to hike in the Shenandoahs yesterday and 13 miles with us today, and still had to drive back to Charleston when we finished the hike.)

The highlights of this hike came near the end. Shortly before we reached the Pickle Branch shelter, Fred Walters almost stepped on a snake ("If it was a snake, it would have bit me."). It was indeed a teenage rattlesnake, which Carl picked up and held for us while its rattles vibrated furiously.

Upon reaching Trout Creek, Carl stripped to his skivvies and took a delicious dip in the creek. He said that was the best part of the whole hike. We told him we'd like to see him do it again in December.

**Sunday, September 14, 2008 1:00PM  
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders), Mia Copeland

We went in one car to the start of the hike on FS road

59. The weather was sunny, humid and about 90 deg F making it warm for hiking, but we did not have trouble with creek crossings. We met several other hikers on the trail, some going from Sunset Field rather than the loop. We stopped for a break at Apple Orchard Falls where there was a small stream going over the falls. It was pleasant resting there. We stopped and took pictures. We were finished hiking by 5 o'clock.

**Sunday, September 21, 2008 8:00AM & 1:00PM  
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Dick Clark, Kris Peckman, Steve Burt, Mervin Brower, Blanche Brower, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher

I had not been up on Tinker Ridge since our last work hike in February. Not too surprising nothing had changed, a piece of half finished trail was exactly where we had left it. As it had been about 20 months since the relocation was flagged and I had forgotten how many switchbacks were left, we decided to first walk the flag line. The answer was three including the one we are working on. It was clear that we have enough work for a couple years. The good news is that we cross the old trail two more times, so we can open it a piece at a time. In the morning we had only four workers, but at lunchtime we heard someone yell down in the gap below us. After a while Homer and Therese showed up and we learned that yellow jackets had stung Therese while they were trying to move a fallen tree off the trail. Soon after Merv and Blanche arrived. It was a nice day and the digging was not too difficult, so we got about 300 feet of new trail dug.

**Sunday, September 28, 2008 8:00AM  
Read Mountain Trail**

Maurice Turner (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Carol McPeak, Fred Walters, Dave Wickersham, Bob Blankenbaker, Mary Gilbert & Son, Dave Bowers & Catcher, Margarita Cubas, Mike & Monica Burgoon.

We met at Market Square E. on 460 and drove to the trailhead via Rt. 460, left on Huntridge and left on Crumpacker and right at the stone columns to the parking lot. It was a pleasant day and everyone seemed to enjoy the hike to the top of Read Mtn. by a trail system that consisted of switchbacks over many rock steps and a rock bridge over a small stream which was dry this time of season. We stopped at Buzzard's Rock for a time to enjoy the views of the valley including the regional airport and mountain range to the west and northwest. We returned via the same trail to the parking lot. Everyone seemed to like the trail which was the first time for most hikers.

**Monday, September 28, 2008 8:00AM  
Old Hotel Trail, Cole Mountain Loop**

Gary Bible (leader), Janie Bible, Kathy Keiter, Ryan Bayse

The four of us met at 8:00 a.m., and decided to drive two cars to the trail head. We parked our vehicles at the A.T. crossing and walked a short distance down the gravel road to the trail heads. Our capable leader (yours truly) did not immediately see the Hotel trail sign, so we ventured down an old forest road. The forest road was uneventful but we did get some rather good exercise in that span of about 5 miles. Upon our return, I found the trail sign about 20 yards from where we originally started.

We walked back to our cars, and then decided to take the A.T. up to the summit of Cole Mountain. We dropped Janie at the first bald. She decided to park herself on a rock to enjoy her coffee from one of those "self-heating containers." The rest of us continued on to the summit at Cole Mountain. The balds made for some very nice tread ways. Unfortunately, at 1:30 in the afternoon, we were completely surrounded by fog with little visibility. We descended down to Janie's perch and enjoyed lunch together, before the final descent to the cars. We missed the spectacular views but reaped the benefits of good exercise and good company!

**Sat. & Sun., October 4 & 5, 2008 8:00AM  
Pine Swamp Shelter Roof Repair**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Mike Smith, Peggy Bryant, Kenny Garrett, Ron Sloan, Marcia Murphy, Steve Reisinger, Steve (hiker)

We had hoped to finish the roof this weekend but that proved not to be the case. I brought some boards and metal on Saturday and the remainder on Sunday. We had only four people on Saturday and still had some rafters to put up on the back side. Hal and I worked on rafters while Mike and Peggy bought in lumber and steel. When they finished, I asked Mike to do some repair work on the picnic table. It took us all day to get the rafters finished. On Sunday morning we had four people and two more in the afternoon. Kenny offered to carry in lumber. Steve R. did the sawing using the picnic table as saw horse, while Hal and I nailed boards to the roof. We had quite a bit of shimming to do, so it went slow. By lunchtime we had finished the front side. After lunch we went to work on the back side, which took all afternoon. Ron and Marcia arrived and began hauling in the metal. We decided the best place to store the metal was behind the shelter. It was a pretty good weekend's work given the limited amount of help that we had.

**Sunday, October 12, 2008 8:00AM  
A.T., Petites Gap to James River**

Kris Peckman (leader), Linda King (assistant), Maya Bohler, Sarah Gano, Pat Guzik, Carol McPeak

We had an all-women's group today for a beautiful hike on a spectacular day. Linda's niece Sarah, an ROTC nursing student at Radford, was the baby of the group. Carol and Maya each carried 25-30 pounds (Carol's was birdseed and Maya's water, so no one on this hike would go hungry or thirsty), in preparation for their upcoming backpacking trip. The hike starts off with a stiff climb up Highcock Knob, then is mostly downhill (emphasis on the "mostly") the rest of the way. We had great fall colors and nice views of the James River. There were little fish in Matt's Creek by the shelter. Near the end of the day we met a woman section-hiker whom Bobbie Stitche and Linda Akers had shuttled earlier in her hike, giving RATC a good name in her book. The finale was crossing the James River on the magnificent footbridge. (Foot Bridge)

**Sunday, October 12, 2008 1:00PM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Mary Gilbert, Mia Copeland, H.R. Blankenship, David Sutton, Linda Sutton, Matt Sutton, Jean Warren (part of the way up)  
And guests: Dominique Simmons, Robert (Bobby) Monteith

Although we left Hanging Rock OM in three cars very shortly after 1 PM, the parking lot on Catawba Mtn. was all filled up by the time we arrived there. Several cars were already parked along the road and luckily there were still a few spaces left for us. Since nobody had signed up to be a co-leader, H.R. and David, the 'racers' in the group, were designated to be the leaders while Sue took over as the sweep.

As was to be expected on such a beautiful day, hikers were all over the trail and we ran into some familiar faces, too. Jean turned around after about an hour to take care of other pressing matters. By the time Sue approached the top, H.R. was already on his way down again. The view from the top was only slightly hazy and the fall colors were not quite at their prime yet. Splendid nevertheless!

Sue decided to take Mia, Dominique and Bobby down the "figure 8" way, but promptly missed a turn. So we ended up bushwhacking for about a mile until we got back on the unmarked trail down to the fire road. And that wasn't the only mishap. They come in threes, don't they? Along the way, a branch had knocked Bobby's glasses off, and we frantically searched for them. After

about 20 minutes, success! And once back on the fire road, Sue realized she didn't have her hiking stick in her hand anymore. Argh! (I'll go back on Tuesday to the place where Bobby's glasses had been lost and found and where I last knew I had my stick and see if I can retrieve it.).

Overall, spending some time atop McAfee Knob is worth every obstacle along the way.

**Sunday, October 19, 2008 7:00AM  
Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Dragon's  
Tooth parking lot via Andy Layne and North  
Mountain trails**

Kenny Garrett & Linda King (co-leaders), Gary Oberlender, Sandra Cothran, Fred Walters & K-9 Cujo

The morning began crisp and cool as I scraped the ice from my windshield before leaving my house. This was one of the first frosts of autumn. The small group met at Orange Market, before ascending Rt 311 to park the cars in the proper lots. We actually began this somewhat epic stroll at approximately 7:30 from the trail head on top of Catawba and struck out north on the A.T. Fred had brought along his trusty sidekick, Cujo, who quickly made friends with all of us. We made MacAfee's Knob in great time, and took a quick break to catch our breath. The longer we stopped, the quicker we felt the chill from the still freezing temperatures. We continued on towards Tinker Cliffs for a lunch destination. I observed several deer disappearing over the saddle at one point. We arrived at the cliffs at approximately 11:30, sweaty and hungry. We picked out a comfortable rock for our exquisite dining location and commenced to eating and laughing, and having a wonderful time. After appeasing our appetites, we began the first of our two steep descents, this one being the Andy Layne Trail. Once at the bottom, we took a quick break to say our good-byes to Cujo and Fred. The remaining four of us continued on across Rt 779 to follow the yellow blazed trail up North Mountain. The first mile of this trail was in dire need of clipping and re-blazing. We finally found the correct path and began climbing, and climbing, then climbed a little more. This might not have seemed much, except for the twelve miles we had already logged on our legs before this ascent. We took another snack break after reaching the ridge and started discussing the easy ridge-walk ahead. Linda was the only member of the group who had traversed this mountain in the past, and quickly informed us that our ridge walk resembled the Richter scale from the San Fransico earthquake. As we crossed the top of the mountain, we were able to enjoy a beautiful view of Tinker Cliffs across the valley and even picked out our lunch spot. We had met approximately 25 hikers on the

A.T. and the Andy Layne Trail, and were surprised to meet six more on North Mountain. As we continued our trek, we began to notice more and more bear scat. From my keen deductive reasoning skills, I felt that where there was much bear scat, there must possibly also be a bear. Well, I was wrong....there were three of the furry fellows playing on the trail. Linda saw them first, and being that we were upwind, we actually had the privilege to watch them play for a couple of minutes. One was climbing a tree, while the other two were wandering about. The first one saw us and ran quickly over the hill. He was soon followed by the one bounding from the tree. The third one kind of looked around for a while trying to figure out where the other two went. He finally looked in our direction, and quickly followed the direction of the others. The only other wildlife we observed was a chipmunk, and numerous blue jays and woodpeckers. We continued our stroll on this seemingly never-ending up and down ridge, until all of a sudden we were going down steeply. We had arrived at our second steep descent. This downhill actually took a harder toll on our bodies than the previous miles, as it was very steep and rocky. We reached the Dragon's Tooth parking lot at 6:40 (just before dark). All of us were elated in our own ways for our personal accomplishments of completing this 22+ miler hike. But for all the joy I felt for this achievement, I'm man enough to admit that I was a little sore for a couple of days. I do look forward to hiking through God's beautiful creation in the future with these great hikers (including Cujo!).

**Sunday, October 19, 2008 10:00AM  
Flat Top Mountain**

Jean Warren (leader), Laurie and Scott Spangler, Dominique Simmons, Mary Gilbert and her faithful companion, Son.

So much for **carpooling**: we all drove in separate cars. What an incredibly beautiful fall day we had!!! **Colors-a-blazing** all along the Parkway. Hiking on the trail, however, didn't offer us the same beauty until we reached the top with mountain vistas. Laurie kept saying we should see the view in one direction and I kept saying it was in the other direction. Well, we both learned of an additional vista on top! Taking a break on a huge boulder, Mary and Son took advantage of its warmth by sprawling out on it. It felt good to get out of the cool winds. Scott and Laurie shared their high-powered binoculars with us and could see the eye color of the hikers on Sharp Top. Both are also experts on wildlife and could identify the soaring ravens, hawks, and buzzards. As always, what a delightful way to spend the day! And we felt so smug hiking Flat Top, since cars were parked by the hundreds it seemed along the Peaks of Otter.

**Sunday, October 26, 2008 8:00AM  
Flat Top/Sharp Top/Harkening Hill**

Gary Bible (leader), Kathy Keiter, John Miller, John Merkwon

We met at 7:00 am, an hour earlier than originally planned, at Market Square East to allow additional hiking time.

We dropped a vehicle at the Peaks Visitor Center, and continued on in one vehicle to the Flat Top trail head. Start time was 8:00 a.m. Ascent up Flat Top was at a brisk pace with a very brisk wind hitting us from the West. The rocks at the summit greeted us with sunshine and excellent visibility. Hawks were riding the thermals above us.

After a quick snack and short break, we descended into the Picnic area. We followed the trail along the back side of the lake to the Sharp Top bus stop. We took a short break, the Bus was tempting, but we hit the trail again.

The trip up Sharp Top was at another brisk pace, we reached the summit at approximately noon. The wind was still rather chilly but we huddled amongst the rocks at the top and enjoyed the warming effect of the sun's rays. We ate lunch, took pictures, and began our descent. On this descent, we must have passed several dozen people and half a dozen dogs making the ascent of Sharp Top on a day that was fast becoming very beautiful.

We returned to the parking lot, crossed the Parkway, and began our ascent of Harkening Hill. Kathy led up our last climb at another brisk pace. Once we reached the Summit, we enjoyed a nice break. We continued on and took the side trip to Balance Rock. We tried our best to knock the rock off its fulcrum with no success. Our descent was at a more leisurely pace with a few sore feet slowing us a down a bit. We reached our destination with plenty of daylight left. This was a great outing and a good time was had by all. Tri-fecta complete!

**Sunday, October 26, 2008 1:30PM  
Lee Hollow (Rt 621) to Niday Shelter Beginner Hike**

David Sutton (leader), Linda Sutton (assistant), and Kathy Ruble (trail sweep)

A perfect day for a hike, anywhere. Zetta had other plans so Dave took her place. The leaves are just about at their peak, before they start falling off the trees. This is a nice hike, but maybe could use additional white markings to direct hikers. Otherwise it is great.

There is one major yellow jacket nest in the ground right next to the trail. It is located about 1/2 mile north of Niday shelter. It was a good hike and we all really enjoyed it.

**Sunday, October 26  
Pine Swamp Shelter Workhike**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Bob Foutz, Chamrocun Siu, Mike Smith, Wes Barnes

We had originally planned to work on Saturday, but the weather forecast persuaded us to move it to Sunday, and it was the right choice. Hal and I had done a little figuring over the past couple of weeks and decided that we needed one more sheet of metal for both the front and back. We got everything in one trip. We first had to square up the roof by putting one sheet of metal on each end of the roof and doing a diagonal measurement. Also, we had to cut off the lower ends of the rafters to uniform length. Once we got started Bob and I worked on the roof, putting screws through the metal into the boards. Hal cut off rafters while Mike put some steps in for the upper bunks. Both Hal and I noticed we had difficulty getting up there. Chamrocun handed the metal up to us. By lunchtime we had finished the front side and Wes had arrived. After lunch Wes and Hal began flashing around the chimney, while Bob and I started putting metal on the back. We had bought 6 and 10 foot sheets of metal for the front and back, so it would not have to be cut. On the front the only cutting was the last sheet, which had to be cut to width. On the back we had more cutting to do because of the chimney. It went well and Wes got the messy job of putting roofing cement between the flashing and roofing around the chimney. Anyway, by quitting time the roof was on and we hauled out left over metal. I stopped at one of the Montgomery County trash collection sites on the way home to get rid of the waste metal. The only job remaining was hauling out the leftover lumber, but that will have to wait for another day. It was exactly one day short of a year from the time we removed the old roof. A lot of work was done in that year.

**Sunday, November 2, 2008 8:00AM  
Sprouts Run Loop**

Carl Cornett & Dan Phlegar (coleaders), Larry Austin, Ted Beauregard, Pat Guzik, Hugh Hall, Kris Peckman, Kathy Phlegar, Andy Robins, Mike & Sheila Vaughn, Fred Walters, & Trevor Wilkes

Thirteen hikers showed up at the Sprouts Run Trailhead alongside Solitude Road in Botetourt County. What a beautiful day for a hike! By 8:55 A.M. the group headed up Wilson Mountain, and very

shortly everyone soon forgot about the slight nip in the morning air. Some bear scat was spotted on the trail. Dan saw an opportunity to have some fun. He positioned himself at the base of a large tree and, as Kathy and Sheila approached talking of the possibilities of seeing a bear, Dan let out an unbelievably low growl, making some very tense moments for the two ladies. To reinforce that bears do exist here, Larry pointed out claw marks on a large oak tree where bears had climbed in search of acorns. As the trail merged onto a packed gravel road, we stopped for a group picture under a beautiful yellow sun-drenched tree. At Hoop Hole Gap, we left the road and turned back onto the trail with 3.4 miles to go. The group stopped for lunch at 11:40 A.M. along Sprouts Run at a nice flat spot that just happened to have a fire ring. The leader waved a wand and produced hot dogs, buns, and the trimmings for a wiener roast. Once the



fire got going, everyone took turns roasting dogs and eating. By 12:45 P.M. everyone was full, the gear was packed, and the hike continued. Down the trail Larry pointed out a very interesting and somewhat rare shale barren area. The "classic" shale barren association is restricted to Greenbrier, Monroe, and Hardy counties in West Virginia and the neighboring counties of Virginia. Larry walked us up a hill to show us patches of Prickly Pear Cactus associated with such dry arid areas. Larry passed around a picture he had taken in this area during the spring, of a rare white-haired leather flower. We continued our hike back to the vehicles and around 2:05 P.M. were ready to return to Daleville. We all agreed Larry had done a fantastic job of marking and maintaining the trail. Thanks Larry!

**Sunday, November 2, 2008 1:00PM  
Fort Lewis Mountain**

David Sutton (leader) Sue Scanlin (co-leader) H.R. Blankenship, Rebecca Reiff, Kevin R. Stovall, Mary Gilbert & Son, Steven Tomaziefski, and Pat Cousins.

A beautiful day for a hike on a fall afternoon. We all had plenty of rest after that extra hour we gained from the time change the past night. After parking, we jumped right over the dried creek bed and to the trail. This trail goes up the mountain for about 2 miles from here. Lots of fresh air and crunchy leaves. This was a great hike, being so close to the city. We completed the hike around 5pm and had lots of fun!

**Sunday, November 9, 2008 8:00AM  
Work Hike: Pine Swamp/Stony Creek Relo.**

Charles Parry, Kris Peckman, Gloria Parry, Wes Barnes, Homer Witcher

Last August we began a short relocation near the Pine Swamp trailhead, which would eliminate a short steep section of trail. As we had done three short relocations in the area, I decided to have Kris wheel the trail. Gloria and I had met Kris at Pandapas Pond and left her vehicle there. As Gloria wanted to leave early, we took two of our vehicles. We left my truck at the Pine Swamp parking area and went up to the new bridge to get Kris started. Of course Gloria and I had to walk the new bridge. By the time we returned Wes had arrived and assumed we were working somewhere up on the mountain and was gone. As it looked like it could rain (it did not), Gloria and I decided to blaze the trail first. We did white on the new AT then blue on the part of the old AT that will be used as an access trail. By the time we got ready for serious work, Wes had arrived. There was not a long section left to build, but about half of it was rocky, very rocky, big large rocks. I knew this was the case from last summer and came prepared with two rock bars, which were only about 100 yards away in my truck. Before lunch time Kris came rolling through and continued on up to the shelter. After lunch Gloria left and soon after Homer arrived. Wes, Homer and I spent most of the afternoon removing rocks while Kris dug the less rocky parts of the trail. By quitting time, we had a pretty good trail in. We did not have time to close the steep section of the old AT, so that is now an unblazed trail. Hopefully, we will get back soon to do that. Incidentally, when Kris sent me the mileage data and I checked it against the old data book, the distance from the bridge to the shelter had not changed at all.

**Sunday, November 9, 2008 1:00PM  
Grassy Hill Nature Preserve**

Maurice Turner(leader), Sue Scanlin, Zetta Campbell, Mary Gilbert, John Lynham, Karl Kunkel, Cris Cowan, Kenny and Lance Garrett.

Four of us met at Lowe's on Franklin Rd. and drove to

meet the others at the trailhead off Business Rt. 220 in Rocky Mount. We took the orange blaze Slope Trail that ascends up to the blue blaze East Loop, which you first hike part of to the short white connector trail to the red blaze West Loop. In returning from the West Loop, you then hike the remainder of the East Loop to intersect with the Slope Trail. If you hike the entire trail system, it is approximately 6.5 miles. The DCR has done an excellent job in identifying the trail system with the blazing and the signage.

The weather was very pleasant, partly cloudy, cool but very comfortable for hiking. The fall foliage was still somewhat colorful and from the ridgetop looking down into the valley toward Cahas Mtn. range was a spectacular sight to see. There were a few wildflowers along the trail on the ridge near the power lines. The leaves had some color to them that were on the trail and it was nice to have them there for an enjoyable hike. Everyone got back to the parking lot before sunset. It was interesting to see the windmill by the parking lot; the building permit on the pole suggests it was for the School Board.

**Sunday, November 16, 2008 8:30AM  
Bearwallow Gap Loop**

Leaders: Larry Austin & Lois Smith (leaders), H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Jen Schaeffer, Maurice Turner, Paul Jones, Maya Bohler, Carol McPeak, Kris Peckman and Mike Vaughn

The weather for this hike was windy and cold. The skies were quite beautiful with parting clouds allowing rays of sunshine to filter through and descending to various areas of the valley floor. We moved along rather rapidly as the wind would not allow too much lingering. We stopped for lunch on the AT in the shelter of a rock formation near Mills Gap just off the Parkway. After we bushwhacked off of the AT to a rock formation, we had spectacular views of the mountains north and west. After leaving this rock formation we headed down the mountain to the horse trail via a bushwhack and were rewarded again with fabulous views of the valley below. We met two backpackers along the AT who were probably southbounding. At the beginning of the hike Carl found a wallet along the trail. At lunch we decided to take a peek inside to see if we could determine who it belonged to. There was a telephone number in the wallet and Jen called the person who resided in the Fincastle area. Apparently she had lost it the prior Monday on a horse ride and was very happy to know someone had found it. We told her to meet us at the horse trail parking area where we began our hike around 2:00 p.m. as that was an estimate of when we would get back to our vehicles. She was there and very

grateful for the find. We enjoyed some hot cider; coffee and snacks and departed after a quite invigorating and beautiful hike.

**Sunday, November 16, 2008 11:00AM  
Bennett Springs Loop Hike**

Jean Warren (leader), Lynne Jacoby with K9 Hooper, Mary Gilbert with K9 Son, Teresa Hagan (from Ohio), and Thomas Farmer (from South Carolina)

Even though the temperature was in the mid-upper 40's with the wind blowing, mixture of clouds and sun, and even a smidgen of snow flurries, we all agreed it was a beautiful day! At the very beginning of the trail, there was a deer leg, followed by someone's shoe. Left over fall colors displayed bright yellow throughout the forest. The climb up felt steep, but once at the top it was a nice ridge walk before the descent. It's always fun on this trip to point out the telephone that is hung on a tree with instructions on what to do in case of an emergency. Near the end of the trail, someone with engineering skills built a rounded rock monument in the shape of a 5-foot beehive. Another great hike, where we all hiked the same speed and solved the world's problems!

**Sunday, November 23, 2008 8:00AM  
Hoop Hole, Upper Loop**

Kris Peckman (leader), Bob Peckman (misleader), Mike & Sheila Vaughn, Maya Bohler, Pat Guzik, John Merkwon

This hike is a figure-8 and we did it clockwise without crossing in the middle of the 8. The total length was almost 10 miles. We passed the middle of the 8 after about 2 miles of moderate walking. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> mile we were starting to see some snow. That is where Kris, Pat & Sheila turned around for other commitments. Here is Kris's write-up for their return:

*"You can report from the three bailouts that we had a lovely walk back down to the lower loop, where we went down the other side from the way we came up. Along the way we saw a plant which we think was wild ginger, and a plant we couldn't identify. The stems grew flat on the ground, with opposing green leaves about one half inch long, deep green with white veins. Interspersed among the leaves were orange-red berries. Later we learned it was probably partridgeberry."*

After that the walking became much steeper. At about the 4-mile point the trail made a right turn. Everyone besides me decided to keep straight ahead another ½ mile up to Montgomery Knob. I opted to sit down and

eat my lunch. When I got cold, I hiked on, taking care not to miss where the trail makes a right turn. The map does not show that the trail continues past that turn as the Roaring Run Trail. I should have turned after a cairn. I should have turned in a saddle before climbing Shoemaker Knob. When the blazes became the standard yellow surrounded by some orange, I should have turned around. It was only when I reached the Roaring Run parking lot that I knew I was the great misleader. Fortunately no one was misled. Hitch-hiking is not like it used to be. The owners of the store on the corner shuttled me the last 2 miles up the main road.

The rest of the group realized what had happened when they almost missed the turn and never caught up with me. They also had a very nice hike down. A marker at the turn might have prevented the problem. Shared cell-phone numbers would have reduced the stress. I held the only car keys. We all had a very fine day. Here is Maya's report on the parts I missed:

*"We did climb up the ridge to a rock formation. There was some snow on the ground up there, about 2 inches, and it was pretty steep up, about 15 minutes climb. We had lunch on the rocks which was very nice since there was no wind and you could even feel a little warmth from the sun. The view to both sides of the ridge was extensive and beautiful. And it was so quiet,*

*no road noise, no airplanes. I don't know if we were on Montgomery Knob because there was another rock pile further up, but we were too tired to do more climbing and did not want to take too much time since Bob had stayed back. About half-way down we almost stumbled into a hunters' camp. They had set up 3 very large tents right off the trail and had a big woodpile. Obviously they were not there only for a few days. When we approached, three guys in camouflage outfits stood there staring at us. We asked them if they had seen another hiker ahead of us, but they answered in the negative. That's when we started to get really worried about Bob.*

*Anyway, everything worked out fine. We waited only about 20 minutes by the car when Bob was delivered by the pick-up truck. We were very happy to see him!"*

And Mike Vaughn's: *"Three of us climbed up the ridge to near the top of Montgomery Knob. It was steep and slippery due to snow on the ground. We stopped at a dry spot for lunch. It was a clear and sunny day so the views were magnificent on both sides of the ridge. The hike back down was uneventful. We passed a large hunter's camp near the trail. It was a Sunday, so they weren't hunting. The water was low in Stony Creek, so the four or five stream crossings were easy."*

## Hike Schedule

Going on a group hike can fulfill a number of worthwhile purposes. These include such things as physical conditioning, social interaction, the enjoyment of nature, and the thrill of reaching a spectacular viewpoint. The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club consistently tries to provide a wide range of hiking opportunities for people of all ages, interests and abilities. Guests are always welcome to join us.

For the most part, we rate our hikes as follows:

**Easy** – 3 to 5 miles; good trails or old roads; modest elevation changes.

**Moderate** – 5 to 8 miles; steeper trails which may be rough in places.

**Strenuous** – 8 miles and up; long hikes with extensive climbs and possible rough trails or bushwhacking.

Hikes which do not fall neatly into one of these categories may be rated **easy-moderate** or **moderate-strenuous**.

You may drive your own car to the trailhead if you wish. However, carpooling is encouraged to save gasoline and because trailhead parking may be limited. The hike leader is responsible for arranging such carpooling as may be required. While there is no fee to hike with the club, the indicated amount is to defray automobile expenses and should be given to the driver of your carpool.

**You will need to call the leader to find out where the hiking group will be meeting. If you are new to hiking, the leader can also give advice about clothing, footwear, and equipment. If you are unfamiliar with the hike, the leader will be glad to answer your questions and help you evaluate whether or not it is suitable for you.**

**The club is always looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. If you know of someone that you think would be a good hike leader, or wish to nominate yourself, please contact Mike Vaughn at 540-99-2350 or email [mikeva999@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeva999@yahoo.com).**

**Sunday, January 4, 2009 8:00AM  
Mountain Lake Loop**

7.0 miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee  
62 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County, this hike will explore the 6.5 miles of trails in and around the Mountain Lake Resort.

**Carl Cornett**..... 342-3950  
**Gary Bible** ..... 977-2954

**Sunday, January 4, 2009 1:00PM  
Daleville (Rt 220) to Mountain Pass Rd (Rt 652)**

3.2 miles, Easy, \$.00 carpool fee  
0 miles from Roanoke

This hike will head north on the A.T., passing through woods and crossing Virginia Route 11 near Troutville. It will then ascend a hill to an open field that provides good views of the surrounding mountains.

**Dave Sutton** ..... 774-0648

**Sunday, January 11, 2009 8:00AM  
Curry Creek Trail to Troutville (Rt 11)**

9.6 miles, Strenuous, \$.50 carpool fee  
8 miles from Roanoke

We will be hiking up the scenic Curry Creek Trail from Route 634 in Botetourt County to The A.T. near Wilson Creek Shelter. The hike will then head south on the A.T. to Route 11 in Troutville, passing over Fullhardt Knob. With the leaves off the trees, along the trail there are good views of the valley below.

**Dave Wickersham**..... 774-0439  
**Maya Bohler**..... 344-6588

**Sunday, January 11, 2009 1:00PM  
Star Trail**

4.5 miles, Moderate, \$.00 carpool fee  
0 miles from Roanoke

We will use a series of trails to do a loop hike on Mill Mountain.

**Maurice Turner** .....540-334-2128

**Sunday, January 18, 2009 8:30AM  
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate, \$.00 carpool fee  
0 miles from Roanoke

We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge in Botetourt County.

**Charles Parry**.....540-951-1402  
**Dick Clark** .....989-7053

**Sunday, January 25, 2009 8:00AM  
Cascades to Butt Mountain**

10.8 miles, Strenuous, \$5.50 carpool fee  
54 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County near Pembroke, the hike will first go along Little Stony Creek to the Cascades – an impressive waterfall. It will then go up the Nature Conservancy Trail to Barney’s Wall, a cliff that features a 700-foot drop. There is a great view of the New River Valley from Barney’s Wall. From there it will continue along the ridgetop of Butt Mountain to the location of an old fire lookout tower. The Forest Service charges a nominal fee (\$3.00) to park at the trailhead.

**Linda King**.....342-2411  
**Kris Peckman**.....366-7780

**Sunday, January 25, 2009 1:00PM  
Stony Creek (Rt 635) to Bailey Gap Shelter**

4.1 miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County, this hike will climb up Butt Mountain to Bailey Gap Shelter. Total elevation gain is 1,200 feet.

**Kenny Garrett**.....892-5786  
**Sue Scanlin** .....989-0497

**Sunday, February 1, 2009 8:00AM  
Montebello Fish Hatchery to Crabtree Falls**

8.1 miles, Strenuous, \$6.00 carpool fee  
64 miles from Roanoke

Beginning at the Montebello Fish hatchery in Nelson County, the hike starts with a steady climb up an old fire road. At 1.0 miles it intersects the A.T. The hike will then head north on the A.T. After a half mile we will reach Spy Rock. Spy Rock is a granite dome with great, 360-degree

views of the Priest Wilderness area and other surrounding mountains. It requires some rock scrambling to get to the top. The hike will continue on the A.T. for another three miles to the intersection with the Crabtree Falls trail. At 1,200 feet this falls is the highest east of the Mississippi. We will descend along the falls trail back to the parking lot.

**Mike Vaughn..... 992-1350**  
**John Miller..... 375-3250**

**Sunday, February 1, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Cascades National Scenic Trail**

4.0 miles, Easy, \$5.00 carpool fee  
 54 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County near Pembroke, the hike uses trails which run along both sides of Little Stony Creek, which ends near the Cascades – an impressive waterfall. If the weather is cold, the waterfall could be frozen, a magnificent sight. Usually the hike will go up one side of the creek and come back on the other. The Forest Service charges a nominal fee (\$3.00) to park at the trailhead.

**Sue Scanlin..... 989-0497**  
**Pat Guzik..... 540-808-9708**

**Sunday, February 8, 2009 8:00AM**  
**Cahas Mountain**

7.5 miles, Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee  
 8 miles from Roanoke

This hike will be on Cahas Mountain, near Boones Mill. The hike will start with an ascent of the mountain, which will involve some bushwhacking (going off trail). It will then go along the ridgeline to Howe’s Rock, which has good views of the valley below.

**Maurice Turner..... 540-334-2128**  
**Dick Moran..... 389-3744**

**Sunday, February 8, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

8.0 miles, Moderate, \$.00 carpool fee  
 0 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, north of Roanoke. Except for a short feeder trail, the route follows the Appalachian Trail to Hay Rock and back again. There are several good overlooks along the way, but the best one is Hay Rock. This overhanging chunk of

sandstone provides shelter on one side and great views on the other – for those willing to scramble to the top.

**Mervin & Blanche Brower..... 387-9732**

**Sunday, February 15, 2009 8:30AM**  
**Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate, \$.00 carpool fee  
 0 miles from Roanoke

We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge in Botetourt County.

**Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402**  
**Dick Clark..... 989-7053**

**Saturday, February 21, 2009 9:00AM**  
**Lee Hollow (Rt 621) to Sarver’s Cabin Trail**

8.8 miles, Strenuous, \$1.75 carpool fee  
 18 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County, this hike will go south on the A.T. for 7.5 miles, ascending Sinking Creek Mountain. Total elevation gain is 1,300 feet. We will pass the Niday Shelter along the way. The hike will then descend back to route 621 via the Sarver’s Cabin Trail. Sarver’s Cabin is another shelter along the A.T. There are good views along the ridgeline of Sinking Creek Mountain.

**Kenny Garrett..... 892-5786**  
**Hugh Hall..... 725-8874**

**Sunday, February 22, 2009 11:00AM**  
**Catawba Mt. (Rt. 311) to Sawtooth (Rt. 785)**

4.3 miles, Easy, \$.50 carpool fee  
 6 miles from Roanoke

Located in Roanoke County just west of Salem and I-81 near the Catawba Valley. This is an up and down ridge walk through the forest coming out on pasture near the end. There are great views of the surrounding valleys off both sides of the ridge.

**Jean Warren..... 384-6229**  
**Mike Ferguson..... 344-8525**

**Sunday, March 1, 2009 1:00PM  
Stony Creek (Rt 635) to Pine Swamp Shelter**

3.0 miles, Easy, \$5.50 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

Join RATC Trail Supervisor Charles Parry for a recreational hike, showcasing the new foot-bridge across Stony Creek and a recently relocated section of the A.T. The hikers will also get to view the new roof on Pine Swamp Shelter. Last year a tree fell on the shelter, destroying the roof. Since the shelter is located in a federal wilderness area, only hand tools could be used in the building of the new roof. Much of the work on the trail relocation and roof replacement was performed by RATC members.

**Charles Parry**.....540-951-1402  
**Mervin & Blanche Brower** ..... 387-9732

**Sunday, March 8, 2009 8:00AM  
Douthat State Park**

10.0 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
23 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Bath County. It combines six trails to form a loop of about 10 miles. The hike provides lake side walking before entering the woods and the climb to the top of the mountain. It provides views from Tuscarora Overlook and Lookout Rock. It also passes by Blue Suck Falls and follows the creek back to the starting point.

**Kris Peckman**.....366-7780  
**Mike Vaughn**..... 992-1350

**Sunday, March 8, 2009 1:00PM  
Seven Mile Mountain Beginner Hike**

5.1 miles, Moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee  
34 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County on Forest Service land, this hike is a nice ridge walk.

**Zetta Campbell** .....366-8165  
**Ed Wallace** ..... 774-0175

**Saturday Night, March 14, 6:00PM  
Annual Meeting Potluck**

Christ Lutheran Church Corner of Grandin & Brandon  
No reservation necessary.

**Carolyn McPeak**..... 890-2855

**Sunday, March 15, 2009 8:00AM  
A.T., Petites Gap to James River**

9.9 miles, Strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee  
39 miles from Roanoke

The hike is in the James River Face Wilderness located in Bedford and Rockbridge County and starts at the Blue Ridge Parkway. After a stiff climb to Highcock Knob (3073') it's a pleasant downward trending hike to James River (678') with occasional views to the west and grand finale on the James River Foot Bridge, longest foot-travel-only bridge on the AT.

**John Miller** .....375-3250  
**Gary Bible** .....977-2954

**Sunday, March 22, 2009 8:00AM  
Pearis Mountain Work Hike**

5.0 miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

We will be clipping, removing blowdowns, and reblazing the trail south of Pearisburg.

**Charles Parry**.....540-951-1402  
**Kris Peckman**.....366-7780

**Sunday, March 22, 2009 11:00AM  
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

5.7 miles, Moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee  
26 miles from Roanoke

This is a popular hike located in the North Creek camping area, near Arcadia. A blue-blazed trail, steep in places, leads uphill to Apple Orchard Falls. The falls are impressive and the trail has been greatly improved in recent years. Beyond the falls, a crossover path leads to the Cornelius Creek Trail which follows the creek downhill - back to the parking area.

**Jean Warren**.....384-6229  
**Sue Scanlin** .....989-0497

**Sunday, March 29, 2009 8:00AM  
Patterson and Price Mountains**

15.8 miles, Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee  
32 miles from Roanoke

This loop hike is in Botetourt County. It begins on the Patterson Mt. Trail, ascending Patterson Mt., descending on the Helms/Loop Trails, climbing the Price Mt. Trail, descending on the Kelly Trail, and again climbs Patterson Mt. on the Tucker

Trail, returning to the starting point via the Patterson Mt. Trail. Total elevation gain is 4,120

Carl Cornett..... 342-3950  
Don Hoke..... 563-2902

**Sunday, March 29, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth**

5.2 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
9 miles from Roanoke

Located on Cove Mountain near the Craig and Roanoke County line, the hike to Dragon's Tooth ascends steep, rugged outcrops of quartzite which form the spine of Cove Mountain. A difficult hike, Dragon's Tooth summit offers magnificent views of nearby and distant peaks year-round.

Kenny Garrett..... 892-5786  
Maya Bohler ..... 344-6588

**Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Annual Potluck and Business Meeting**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM (Saturday)**

**Christ Lutheran Church, Corner of Grandin and Brandon**  
**Dinner served promptly at 6:30 PM**

**Program: To Be Announced**

**Reservation Form (No reservation necessary)**

**Want to Help?: Call Carolyn McPeak, 890-2855**

**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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ New Member Packet fee \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Indiv. # of years \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Family # of years \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Individual life membership \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Family life membership \$300.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Year you joined RATC (make a guess!) \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282 Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President, Roger Holnback

556-2919..... rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

Vice President, Mervin Brower

387-9732 ..... mervin@brower.cc

Secretary, David Perry

..... dperry@westernvirginialandtrust.org

Treasurer, Blanche Brower

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Land Mgmt. Supervisor, Bob Stimson

540-552-0580 ..... bpstimson@verizon.net

Conservation Supervisor, Liz Belcher

384-6772..... lbelcher@co.roanoke.va.us

Trail Supervisor, Charles Parry

540-951-1402 ..... parrycj@math.vt.edu

Shelter Supervisor, Kenny Garrett &amp; Jonathan Reed

293-7967..... codenine911@hotmail.com

265-4782..... ratc\_shelter@yahoo.com

Hikemaster, Michael Vaughn

992-1350..... mikeva999@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor, Bob Peckman

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Membership Coordinator, Mervin Brower

387-9732 ..... mervin@brower.cc

Counselor Leonard Adkins

..... habitualhiker.va@netzero.net

Counselor, Dick Clark

989-7053..... jandrclark@cox.net

**ANCILLARIES**

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540-890-2855 ..... mcpeakcr@aol.com

Webmaster, David Perry

..... dperry@westernvirginialandtrust.org

Roanoke College Rep., Brian Chisom

389-7393 (H), 375-7393 (W)..... chisom@roanoke.edu

Mid-week Workhikes, Bill Gordge

774-3016..... bgordge@cox.net

**OTHER**

Southwest &amp; Central VA Regional Director, Laura Belleville

540-953-3571 ..... lbelleville@appalachiantrail.org

ATC Regional Representative, Kerry Wood

540-953-3571 ..... kwood@appalachiantrail.org

Regional Partnership Committee Representative, Charles Parry

540-951-1402 ..... parrycj@math.vt.edu

Regional Partnership Committee Alternate, Roger Holnback

556-2919..... rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

ATC-LT Coordinator - James River to New River and Director  
Western Virginia Land Trust, Roger B. Holnback

556-2919 ..... rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

ATC-LT Coord. New River to Damascus, Steve Reisinger

504-951-7580 ..... srei38@hotmail.com

Roanoke Valley Greenways Liaison, Roger B. Holnback

556-2919 ..... rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

Sir Speedy Printer

344-8550 ..... info@sspeedy.net

**CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**Annual Meeting Potluck**  
**Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM**

**WORK HIKES**

**Sunday, January 18 - 8:30 AM**  
**Tinker Ridge relocation**

-

**Sunday, February 15 - 8:30 AM**  
**Tinker Ridge relocation**

-

**Sunday, March 22 - 8:00 AM**  
**Pearis Mountain**

**Hike Scheduling**

**Contact Mike Vaughn**  
**992-1350 – mikeva999@yahoo.com**

**BOARD MEETINGS**

(All members are always welcome.  
Please let the host know you plan to attend.)

**Monday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Hosted by *Blanche & Mervin Brower***

**Monday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Hosted by *Liz Belcher***

**Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Hosted by *Dick & Judy Clark***

**The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of  
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
and a member of The Nature Conservancy and the Western Virginia Land Trust**