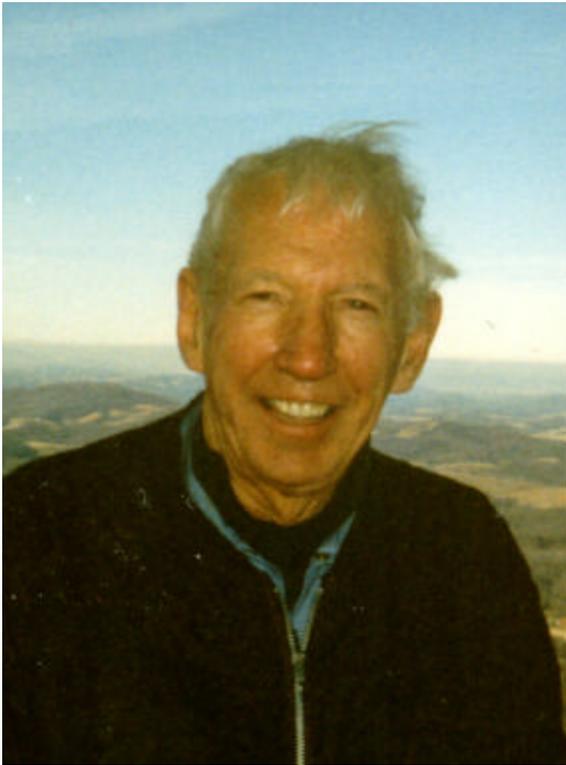


TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

SPRING 2001

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.



Andy Layne
Trail Builder and Friend
1912-1991

What's Inside...

Hike Schedule	2 & 15
New Members	3
President's Message	3
Trail Supervisor's Report	4
Hike Master's Report	4
Andy Layne	5
Nomads Story	6
A Letter from the Heartland	6
Telephone Tree	7 – 10
Live by the Forest?	11
Hike Reports	11 – 14
Membership Renewal	15
Club Activities	16
Contacting the RATC	16

TRAIL BLAZER

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
PO BOX 12282
ROANOKE VA 24024-2282

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROANOKE, VA
PERMIT 509



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Dick Clark
989-7053artsoun@roanoke.infi.net

Vice President, Lucien Metayer
344-1877metayer@roanoke.infi.net

Secretary, Laurie Adkins
384-7485

Treasurer, Stephanie Kent
986-0787skent65@hotmail.com

Land Mgmt. Supervisor, Hal Cantrill
387-2347hacantrill@worldnet.att.net

Trail Supervisor, Charles Parry
951-1402parrycj@math.vt.edu

Shelter Supervisor, Ron McCorkle
982-8289rdsinvco1@home.com

Hikemaster, Suzanne Barnett
772-4273

Newsletter Editor, Bob Peckman
366-7780bob@peckmanjazz.com

Membership Coordinator, Liz Lamson
774-8981blueridge@prodigy.net

Counselor, Leonard Adkins
384-7485

Counselor, Don Nulph
774-8618nulph-d@home.com

ATC Board of Managers, Jimmy Whitney
344-4117jwhitney@mooreandcampbell.com

ATC Board of Managers Vice Chair, Jim Hutchings
427-4536James.Hutchings@indsys.ge.com

ATC Trail & Land Management Committee-Hal Cantrill
387-2347hacantrill@worldnet.att.net

ANCILLARIES

Social Chairman, Shirley Kothiemer
562-0356

Phone Tree Chairman, Liz Lamson
774-8981blueridge@prodigy.net

Hike Reports Editor, Kris Peckman
366-7780kris@peckmanjazz.com

Newsletter Distribution, Bobbie Stitche
890-2140bobbie@rbnet.com

Webmaster, David A. Cheslow
389-7791dcheslow@swva.net

Roanoke College Rep., Brian Chisom
389-7393 and375-2084

Mid-week Workhikes, Bill Gordge
774-3016bgordge@home.com

ATC Land Trust Coordinators

James River to New River, Roger B. Holnback
540-473-1515holnback@aol.com

New River to Damascus, Steve Reisinger
504-951-7580srei38@hotmail.com

The Blazer is on-line through <http://ratc.org> and at <http://peckmanjazz.com/blazer.htm>.

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES**WORK HIKES**

Sunday, April 1
Brushy Mountain

Sunday, April 29
Blazing South of Pearisburg

Saturday & Sunday, June 2 & 3
Whiterocks

Saturday & Sunday, June 16-17
Konnarock Crew Millers Cove

Saturday & Sunday, June 23-24
Konnarock Crew Millers Cove

Hike-planning Meeting
TBA

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Thursday, April 19, 730 p.m.
Hosted by Liz Lamson

Thursday, May 17, 730 p.m.
Hosted by Hal Cantril

Thursday, June 21, 730 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 - SPRING 2001

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.

Sunday, April 1 - 8:00 am Brushy Mountain Workhike, Bland Co.

\$3.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Kenny Garrett 890-8946

Sunday, April 1 - 1:00 PM Fulhardt Knob from Rt. 11

7 miles moderate - \$1.00 carpool fee
Lucien Metayer 344-1877
Bobbie Stitche 890-2140

Sunday, April 8 - 1:00 PM - Wind Rock-War Spur Overlook-Chestnut Trail

5 miles easy - \$3.00 carpool fee
Bobbie Stitche 890-2140
Linda Akers 776-1969

Saturday, April 14 - 7:00 am Swift Run Gap to Black Rock Summit Shenandoah Nat'l Park

17 miles strenuous - \$4.50 carpool fee
Eric Miller 342-5030

Sunday, April 22 - 8:00 am Mar Har Trail and Three Ridges Loop

15 miles very strenuous
Kris Peckman 366-7780
Maurice Turner 334-2128

Sunday, April 22 - 1:00 PM Bloodroot Hike Sandstone Ridge

3 miles easy - \$1.50 carpool fee
Liz Lamson 774-8981
Bill Lamson 774-8981

Sunday, April 29 - 8:00 am Workhike blazing south of Pearisburg

\$3.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Ron McCorkle 982-8289

Sunday, April 29 - 1:00 PM Harvey's Knob to Bobblets Gap

3 miles easy - \$2.50 carpool fee
Zetta Campbell 366-8165, Don Nulph 774-8618

Saturday, May 5 - 7:00 am Rt. 600(Elk Garden) to Rt. 603(Fox Creek) Grayson County

16.9 miles strenuous - \$4.50 carpool fee
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117

Sunday, May 6 - 1:00 PM Trillium Hike Flat Top Mtn.

5 miles moderate - \$3.50 carpool fee
Ed Wallace 774-0175
Bill & Liz Lamson 774-8981

Sunday, May 13 - 8:00 am Rt. 311 to Daleville

19 miles strenuous - \$2.00 carpool fee
Kris Peckman 366-7780
Jean Huffman 268-5051

Sunday, May 13 - 1:00 PM Jennings Creek to Bryant Ridge Shelter

7 miles moderate - \$3.00
Bobbie Stitche 890-2140
Maurice Turner 334-2128

Saturday, May 19 - 9:00 am Trail Days Damascus

\$4.00 carpool fee
Ed Wallace 774-0175
Mike Ferguson 344-8525

Sunday, May 20 - 1:00 PM Lady Slipper Hike Bearwallow Gap to Little Cove Mtn Trail

4 miles easy - \$3.50 carpool fee
Zetta Campbell 366-8165
Dick Clark 989-7053

Sunday, May 27 - 8:00 am Peters Mtn, Narrows to Pine Swamp Shelter

\$3.50 carpool fee - 19.5 mile strenuous
Kenny Garrett 890-8946

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Mary Ratliff, PO Box 3683, Radford, VA 24143, 540-731-4563, mratliff@swva.net

Gary Bible, 5315 Hunt Ridge Rd, Roanoke, VA 24012

Lois C. Smith, PO Box 367, Daleville, VA 24083, 992-3701

Crady Adams, 4420 Pine Spur Rd, Vinton, VA 24179, 892-5605, rcacrazy@aol.com

Doug Clary, 2323 Windsor Ave, Roanoke, VA 24015, 342-9693

Garrett Ray Bonds, 1699 Bruno Dr, Goodview, VA 24095, 890-8839

Tom & Dolores Skelly, 2402 Avenel Ave, Roanoke, VA 24015, 342-8124

Macon Sammons, PO Box 592, Palmyra, VA 22963

We look forward to meeting you on the trail soon.

Liz Lamson

President's Message

It seems hard for me to realize that I've been president for almost a year now. It has been a good experience and I look forward to serving for another term.

There have been many interesting aspects to the job. Last spring, for instance, I became involved with a project of the Roanoke County planning department. Together, we took a number of hikes to determine what parts of Roanoke County are visible from the Appalachian Trail. To its credit, the county plans to take this so-called "viewshed" into account when making future decisions about major building projects or rezoning.

In June, I attended the Appalachian Trail Conference Presidents Meeting in Harpers Ferry. Throughout a week-end of discussions and seminars, interspersed with a picnic and other social events, I enjoyed meeting and discussing issues with presidents of other clubs up and down the trail.

And, for sheer serendipity, nothing can beat the hiker from Montana who liked the trail in the Roanoke area so much that he sent the club a contribution of \$250. Talk about something to make your day a little brighter!

Not such good news for the club, however, is the imminent departure of Mike Dawson. In his 21 years as our ATC representative, Mike has done a truly outstanding job. He has always been accessible and he has handled every issue facing the club, specifically, and the Appalachian Trail, in general, in a completely professional manner. As some of you know, Mike and Tina will be making their new home in the Seattle area. Mike will be working for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association while Tina has a teaching position at Antioch University. We wish them both the very best.

Dick Clark

Please email me: bob@peckmanjazz.com so I can add your email address to the database. The Blazer deadline is always five weeks before the last hike scheduled in the previous Blazer.

The Andy Layne pictures are available as prints for \$0.55 each, as a CD of 16 pictures for \$2 (parts and postage) or they can be down-loaded free-of-charge from the eBlazer.

----- Remember I am just the editor; you are the authors. -----

Bob Peckman

Trail Supervisor's Report

Please allow me to borrow a phrase, "Ask not what the trail club can do for you, ask what you can do for the trail club". These words were good advice for the country when John F. Kennedy spoke them in 1961 and certainly good advice for the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club and other volunteer groups today. This spring we are honoring Andy Layne on the 10th anniversary of his departure from this life. During my 25 years with RATC, I have known few people who have given as much to the trail and the trail club as Andy did. Of course, most of us have other responsibilities that limit the time we can devote to the trail club. However, each of us who is able should try to give something to the club. There are many ways that you can do this, among them coming on workhikes, leading or assisting hikes, assisting with social activities and becoming a board member. In recent years, we have had difficulty in filling some of the board positions.

This winter, we went on a bridge rebuilding spree. We had several bridges that were built in the 1980's using native timbers for stringers. Of course, the stringers eventually began to rot and cause a safety problem. At the time I was planning to replace these stringers, a Boy Scout, Chris Roberts from Blacksburg, called me wanting an Eagle Scout project. Thanks to Chris and his scout troop, we got six bridges in the Dismal Creek area replaced in January. In February, thanks to Bill and Katherine Cochran for their support, we got the stringers

and bridge supports replaced on the AT bridge across Catawba Creek.

We got good news and bad news regarding chainsaw certification. The good news is that we have courses running for new and re-certification. Three of our members will participate in a new certification course in Blacksburg in late February. The bad news is that the only re-certification course is in the Mt. Rogers area on March 3, the date of our banquet and Andy Layne Trail dedication. Therefore most of us will be unable to attend that session. We hope to get a re-certification course scheduled for Blacksburg later this spring. There are also courses for new certification scheduled for Sherando Lake Campground on March 17 – 18 and Mt. Rogers area April 28 – 29. Contact Therese Martinez 540-544-7388 or tmartinez@atconf.org if either of these are of interest to you.

Finally, let me close with another opportunity to give something to the club. The Konnarock Crews will be with us three weeks this summer working on the Millers Cove relocation which will move the AT closer to Pickle Branch Shelter. They will be here June 14 – 18, June 21 – 25 and August 9 – 13. We will have weekend workhikes scheduled to coincide with their visits, but you can work with them any day, Thurs. – Mon. Let's try for an extra good turnout this year.

Charles Parry

Hikemaster's Report

Is everybody suffering from cabin fever yet? Well we've got lots of great spring hikes in the schedule. The most important being the workhikes. As you can tell, there will be the campout workhike in June soon followed by two consecutive weekends of the Konnarock Crew. Maybe we'll all earn shirts this year. We've got four different wildflower strolls along with five different death marches of 15 miles or more. Of course if you don't want to hike, there is always the Trails Days at Damascus which includes the hikers parade. If you're new to the club, Trail Days is something you definitely want to experience.

Is your favorite hike missing from the schedule? Is the section of trail you need for your 113 mile patch not included? Do you want to help keep the club viable and able to offer two hikes per weekend excluding major holidays? The simple solution is to volunteer to help lead or assist. We are always looking for new leaders and will even accept prodigal leaders and assistants. All are welcome. How about calling me to set up your next hike?

Mike Ferguson

A TRIBUTE TO ANDY - A LEGEND IN HIS TIME

We wouldn't be remembering Andy had he not loved nature. Dick Clark describes Andy as unique. Other than being one of a kind, I best remember him for his intelligence. He was baptized in and attended Vinton Methodist Church (now Thrasher Memorial). He graduated from Vinton High School in 1929 at the age of 16. He was salutatorian of his class. His year book, the Roacovin, listed him as the most capable senior and a dramatic genius. He graduated from National Business College July 13, 1932 and received the Degree of Honor Graduate in Business. He was a member of the National News Staff and contributed feature articles which were copied by various house organs throughout that section. At 20 years of age, he accepted a position as secretary to John L. Dickerson, President of Kanawha Valley Bank in Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Dickerson was also connected with the Dickerson Fuel Company and other industries. While living in Charleston, Andy attended St. Mark's Methodist Church.

Andy was one of the outstanding members of the Charleston Judo Club taught by Lawrence Frankle. He played on the Pritchard Motor Company Baseball team and the Rose City Press Volleyball team that held the state championship for 6 years.

Andy enlisted in the Army Air Force in the early part of World War II. Place of entry was Fort Thomas, Kentucky, March 11, 1942. Organization: 4000th AAF Base Unit. Military occupation specialty: AAF Supply Technician, stationed in England. He served his country well and received European-African Middle East Theatre Ribbons and the Good Conduct Medal. His separation was Patterson Field, Ohio, October 26, 1945.

After a short stay with his family in Vinton, Andy decided that he wanted an outside job and went to work for our brother Ray who owned Valley Electric Company in Staunton. He completed 4 years of apprenticeship in the electrical trade; then, in 1955, he made Portsmouth, Virginia his permanent home. He worked as a construction electrician with job assignments through his union, working around Staunton, Richmond and New Jersey. In January, 1953, he went to Keflavik Air Base which is 40 miles from Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, to work on a radar installation.

Andy loved the swamps almost as much as the mountains. He was a member of the Tidewater ATC for many years. He was an active trail maintainer and best remembered as one of the "Swampers". He was active

in scouting potential trails through the Great Dismal Swamp and for developing the trail system at Merchants Mill State Park.

In 1978, Andy canoed the Suwannee River in the Okefenokee Swamp. Mom received a card saying "You have to be crazy to sleep with these alligators". But he loved it!

After retiring from the Norfolk Naval Shipyards in 1977, Andy moved to Roanoke to help take care of our Mother. As usual, he did a remarkable job, loving her until the end. It was about this time that he became active in the Roanoke ATC.

Andy gave a lot, asked very little, and never wanted recognition. He was a simple man. He had a 20-year collection of National Geographic magazines. I did see a lot of pride in him the day he handed me a copy of National Geographic "Mountain Adventure-Exploring the Appalachian Trail" and said "Look on page 51". It was Ron Fisher's article about him and Andy building a stile over a farmer's fence near Sinking Creek. Andy had made the National Geographic Society! He often told me of the things he wanted to do most in his life: walk the entire Appalachian Trail, canoe on the Suwannee, white water on the Colorado and backpack in Alaska.

Andy loved so many things. To name a few: Andy loved God, Andy loved his family, and Andy loved Olevia. He loved to educate himself. He loved the land and the waters, all sports, trains and ships, the British Isles, to write, books and maps, to bicycle, canoe and exercise. He loved to pick his guitar, to collect rocks, Chet Atkins, food, for me to fix him a country breakfast of ham, red eye gravy, eggs, potatoes, home grown tomatoes and biscuits. Then he would just stand back and say "Just look at that". I have so many pictures of him looking over the land, and I think of Lucy Larcom's words "I don't own an inch of land but all I see is mine".

Vince Gill's tribute to his older brother "Go rest high on that mountain son, your work on earth is done" says it all to my older brother. Andy's work on earth may be done; but, as you walk and enjoy his beautiful trail, I know his spirit will be with you and I pray you will keep his memory alive.

Walk with nature, her path leads to peace.
Happy trails and God bless you.

Carlos Ellis

The Nomads

For those of you who have hiked our trail between McAfee's Knob and Tinker Cliffs and viewed a rock blazed in red with the inscription "Walk for your health, Nomads, April 10, 1932", have probably asked yourselves "Who done it?". When I was club historian, members queried me as to what I knew of these folks and, although I searched the archives, I found nothing on them. This changed when a neighbor, Mary Lou Rakes, and I were babysitting our grandchildren. On an offhand remark about hiking, she stated that, when she was a child, her parents would place her in a blanket, strap her to her daddy's back, and off they would go over the nearby mountains with a group called the Nomads. The Nomads! My curiosity was perked. She related that her parents were in the group and her mother, Sara Murray, was still available. Naturally, I called Mom who is an active retiree from G. E. and, as she proudly states, the first female photographer within the corporate system. The following lines are her remembrance of the Nomads.

They were a small group of acquaintances. Lacy Murray, Clarence Owen and Charles Patton were postal employees. Her husband, Eddie Murray, worked for the Norfolk and Western. They began hiking during the early depression years (1929-1930) when there was little money available, fewer people in the area, poor roads and many times, no trails. Also the work week extended into Saturday. Therefore, every Sunday the boys would choose a mountain to hike. If the weather was fair the girlfriends and wives would join them. If not, the men walked rain or shine. The routine started with the

purchase of groceries which, with utensils, were packed up the hills to their summits whereupon the men-folk would cook. According to Sara, the favorite menu was Virginia ham, potatoes, beans and red-eyed gravy. They hiked over terrain which is familiar to us today. McAfees, of course, was a favorite destination where, at that time, there was just one residence, an Oakey family member. There was no road leading to Tinker Mountain, but the inhabitants there lived in a log house. 12 O'clock Knob was free of homes, except for a few down on the Salem side. They hiked in the Goshen Pass area and in Northern Botetourt where they came upon old cemeteries where Confederate soldiers were buried.

As the 30's neared its end, the Nomads married off and produced children. At that time their priorities shifted from walking in the woods to walking with the kids. For a decade the Nomads roamed the hills of the Blue Ridge and for almost 70 years after placing their blaze on a rock their identities remained a mystery, until now.

In retrospect, they were ahead of their time. We today are aware of the necessity of balancing the sedentary condition of the work place with more strenuous physical activity elsewhere; not so back then. We follow their example by walking, on Sundays, in the mountains, to breath nature's clean air, to view the beautiful scenery, and to sweat a little as well. It is called "Walking for your health". Case closed.

Ed Bessell

A Letter from the Heartland

Hi Bob,

I wanted to send you our new address & phone number: Jim & Jill Gawne, 5539 Elkhorn Dr Apt 126, Indianapolis, IN 46254, Home: (317) 298-6041, Work: (317) 230-2385, email: gawnejm@aol.com.

Jill is starting work Monday (3/5) at the Marion County Health Dept. WIC (Women/Infant/Children) program. She will be providing nutrition education to this federally-subsidized population group. She has been enjoying her sabbatical, but says she is eagerly looking forward to starting this new job.

It's really flat here! We miss the mountains. I have an AT 2001 calendar hanging by my desk at work - I often gaze wistfully at it! Please extend our best wishes to all our RATC friends!

Please convey our regards to all our friends in the RATC!

*Regards,
Jim*

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Telephone Calling Tree - March 2001

This updated calling tree replaces the one issued in October 1999. When there are emergencies or unexpected events, we need your participation and support to send messages to the RATC membership. When a message is “passed down the tree,” please call the 4 to 6 names listed with black boxes to the right of your name. Other members will be counting on you to get important information. If you are at the end of a branch, you have no one to call at this time.

Not all members are listed in the calling tree. We do not have phone numbers for some, and others are a long distance away, so messages would not be helpful. If you are not listed and want to be, call Liz Lamson (774-8981). Call me also, if you are not sure whom you are supposed to contact.

Liz Lamson, Phone Tree Chairman

**Use
Sheet 1
01-04-phonetree.xls**

**Use
Sheet 2
01-04-phonetree.xls**

**Use
Sheet 3
01-04-phonetree.xls**

**Use
Sheet 4
01-04-phonetree.xls**

Do You Want to Be a Landowner Along the Appalachian Trail? And Have a Home in the Woods!

You can become a Conservation Buyer through The Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust. Our program matches conservation buyers – people like you --with people who are selling land along the A.T. You locate your home out of sight from the Trail, and all we ask is that you donate a conservation easement on the rest of the property. A conservation easement "runs with the

land;" that is, no present or future owner can develop it! AND, because an easement is an irrevocable gift of a property right, you get a nice income tax deduction equal to the value of the easement. Contact Bob Williams, Director of Land Trust Programs, at bwilliams@appalachiantrail.org, (304) 535-6331, or Write to PO Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

Hike Reports

Winter - 2000

Sunday, September 10, 2000 Bearwallow Gap to Jennings Creek

Bobbie Stitcher (leader), Larry Austin (assistant), H.R. Blankenship, Gary Bible, Jennifer Cooper, Marianne Demkó, Frank Dieter, Gary Hale, Dana Helsley, Bev Linn, Jesse Mann, Dave Miller and Jean Warren

Thirteen hikers traveled north on I-81 to Arcadia and left three cars at the trailhead at Jennings Creek. We then continued on a gravel road that took us up to the Blue Ridge Parkway and then to the trailhead at Bearwallow Gap. We began the hike and reached the high point of Cove Mountain after 1.5 miles, then hiked the next 5 miles of Cove Mountain ridge before the final descent to Jennings Creek. It was a beautiful day, very quiet and peaceful during the hike. Some of us ate at the Cove Mountain Shelter and the rest ate at the rocky outlook just past the shelter. At this outlook there are views of the Buchanan area and Purgatory Mountain. A very large rattlesnake was seen on the trail by a few of the hikers. A contact lens was lost by one of the hikers who did not realize it was gone until we had hiked further. But it was an enjoyable hike on a sunny day. (This report had been on time for the last *Blazer*.)

Sunday, November 19, 2000 Mason Knob Exploratory Hike

Ed Wallace (leader), John Lynham (assistant), Dana Helsley, H.R. Blankenship

Mason's Knob is a beautiful, nearby mountain. It is completely on private property. The landowner generously gave us permission, this one time, to hike to the top, but her land is still closed to the public. The views from the top are spectacular. There is an old hang-gliding ramp on the top where a long time ago hang gliders sailed down to Cotton Hill Rd. Good hike and great views.

Sunday, December 3, 2000 Brush Mountain Workhike

Charles Parry (leader), Ron McCorkle (assistant), Dana Helsley, Rhonda Mick

Since the Andy Layne Trail relocation was finished, we had a free workhike. Actually, the plan changed during the day. We met at the Trout Creek trail crossing where we planned to replace some crib logs on Brush Mountain and then work on the Pickle Branch spring trail. We found considerable cribbing that needed replacing on the first pull up Brush Mountain from the creek. In fact, it was lunchtime when we finished the job. Dana wanted to go on the afternoon hike, so after a rather cold lunch, I decided we could better spend the afternoon replacing a set of log steps on the Craig Creek end of Brush Mountain. So we drove around there and discovered there were nine steps that needed replacing. By the time we finished, it was quitting time, but we felt we made some good improvements on the Brush Mountain section.

Sunday, December 3, 2000 Sawtooth Ridge

Liz Lamson (leader), Linda Akers, Marianne Demkó, Dana Helsley

The weather report had projected a 90% chance of snow for this day, and that couldn't have been more wrong. The sun was bright, the sky was a beautiful winter blue, and the views were fantastic on both sides as we made our way up and down Sawtooth Ridge. We were back at the parking lot on Catawba Mountain before four, making this a short but very nice hike.

**Sunday, December 10, 2000
Sandstone Ridge**

Ed Wallace (leader), Zetta Campbell, Dana Helsley, Gary Bible

We started out on the Dragon's Tooth Trail, turned north on the AT. Due to freezing rain earlier in the day, the footing was pretty dicey once we hit the rocks on the AT. We crossed Sandstone Ridge, then backtracked to the junction of the AT and Scout Trail which we followed back to the car. Pretty cold, dreary day.

**Sunday, December 17, 2000
Smart View Loop Trail**

Kenny Garrett (leader)

As much as I enjoy hiking in any weather, I regret having to cancel this hike. The reason for the cancellation was that the weather had caused the Parkway to close, and there was no other route to the Smart View Loop Trail.

**Sunday, January 7, 2001
Dragon's Tooth to Trout Creek**

Bobbie Stitche (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant), H. R. Blankenship, Bill Mistele, Laura Montague, George Pearson, Bob Peckman

With temperatures starting at 36 degrees and going into the high forties we had a perfect day for a hike on the A.T. We left two cars at Trout Creek and took Bill's van to Va. 624 to start the hike. We had views on a rocky outcropping at Rawie's Rest. At Viewpoint Rock we had views of the gap between North and Cove Mountains. At Devil's Seat we had views of the Catawba Valley and Mountain. We then descended and came to the campsite which is the intersection of the A.T. and the blue blaze trail most hikers take from the parking lot for Dragon's Tooth. We continued going up and after climbing on the rock at Dragon's Tooth we had views of the Catawba Valley, McAfees Knob and Big Tinker Mountain. After leaving the Tooth we passed over the summit of Cove Mountain following a wooded ridge. We walked in snow at least 12 inches at times and many deep leaves along the trail. We had lunch and hiked down to the Pickle Branch Shelter. Finally we took a trail near the shelter to the road that would lead us to our cars. It was an enjoyable hike on a very nice day. We were pleased to have George on this hike who has lived in Alaska the past 24 years.

**Sunday, January 14, 2001
Price Mountain/Patterson Mountain**

Kris Peckman (leader), Sharon Bottomley (assistant), Bob Peckman, John Lynham, Bill Mistele, Jennifer Pfister

As enjoyable as this hike was, I think the exploratory trip that the two leaders took a couple of weeks earlier was more eventful.

It has been several years since the club has hiked beyond the Sulfur Ridge Trail on Price Mountain, and it has also been several years since any blazes were painted or any trail regrading was done on either mountain. So we did a good bit of scouting and backtracking before we found the trails we planned to use. We started out on a blustery day with occasional snow showers. The parking lot contained the rather grim sight of a deer head and the body of a small red fox. Every half hour or so we met yet another party of bear hunters. (We forgot about this detail when we planned our exploration for a Saturday in December.) We eventually found our trails, then on the return trip we re-met a large bear-hunting party with several dogs, as they were leaving the woods. About twenty minutes further up the trail, we found their campfire still blazing. Remember I said it was a blustery day? We felt obliged to try to scoop up what snow we could gather from an ever wider perimeter, until we finally got the fire out, or at least reduced to mild embers.

On the day of the actual hike, the weather was much warmer and we were able to park the pickup van at the end of the trail, saving about a mile of road-walking. This area, while much frequented by hunters, has a remote feel, and the mountains are more pointy than those closer to Roanoke. We hiked about half the length of the Price Mountain trail, then headed down the side of Price Mountain on the Kelly Trail. At the bottom we crossed Patterson Creek and the Forest Service road, then headed up the Tucker Trail to the top of Patterson Mountain. The Forest Service has tried to improve the Tucker Trail by adding switchbacks, but this improvement has merely added confusion, since the old, straight-up-the-mountain trail is criss-crossed by the switchbacks. Once we reached the top of Patterson Mountain, we followed the ridge on the Patterson Mountain trail back to our waiting van. There are nice views of the Craig Creek valley visible through the trees in the winter time from Patterson Mountain.

We had a congenial group and a very enjoyable day. I think we were all a little out of shape after the holidays, though, because we were quite ready to finish when our

ten miles were up. Just as we got into the cars to head back to Roanoke, the predicted raindrops began to fall.

**Sunday, January 14, 2001
Flat Top**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Suzanne Barnett (assistant), Laura Feretti, Rich Buckingham, Mervin and Blanche Brower, Dana Helsley, Gary Bible

This visit to Flat Top was not like our usual visit in the “merry, merry month of May” when the trillium and other spring flowers are in bloom. The mountain in its winter mode was in neutral shades of brown and gray and, of course, white. Snow didn’t cover the ground, but there were areas of it. It was a gray day and the mountain was in the clouds. No distance views today. No views of Flat Top either! From the visitor center you could not see it at all. It was harder to climb with snow and ice on the trail with occasional miniature ice rinks. A couple of solidly frozen waterfalls were very impressive. There were a few other people on the trail—very few. It was a good thing we decided to hike down the other side to the picnic grounds instead of returning the way we came up. Although it is rocky at first, there were no ice rinks on this side. There were drifts of snow a foot or more deep to wade through, but lower down the trail improved until it was actually excellent and we could pick up the pace. The last hikers got out of the woods while it was still light. On the ride back we saw a couple of deer on the side of the road. Sorry to say, Suzanne, the assistant, had a bad cold and came out anyway. That night she couldn’t sleep and had a miserable day the next day. The hike did not cure her cold as she had planned, but she claimed it didn’t make it worse. Still, maybe she should have “stood in bed”.

**Sunday, January 21, 2001
Brushy Mountain Workhike**

Charles Parry (leader), Kenny Garrett (assistant), Dana Helsley

Kenny and I met at the Kimberling Creek trail bridge and thinking no one else was coming, drove to Lickskillet Hollow and started clipping back toward Kimberling Creek. Just as we reached the power line, someone said hello, and there was Dana. There was about an inch of snow on the ground so he was able to track us. Unfortunately, we hadn’t brought an extra pair of loppers and the extras were back at Kimberling Creek in my truck. Dana decided to drive back to Kimberling Creek, get a pair of loppers and hike in to meet us. It was a rather cold day with some sun, so our lunch break was rather short. About an hour after lunch we met Dana again. This time we all hiked out together, doing more clipping along the way. We also took a look at the

trail along the old road and discussed places where we needed to move the trail to the uphill side of the road. That work will have to wait for another day.

**Sunday, January 21, 2001
Wolf Creek Greenway**

Mike Ferguson (leader), Ron McCorkle (assistant), Reanna McCorkle, Bill Mistele, Lynn Bryant, Sherry Kessel, Mary Lou Gaminde, Marjorie Griffith, Bill McCralis

All started well until Reanna decided to fall into a half frozen mud puddle. Daddy Ron immediately came to the rescue and shortened their hike from 3 miles to 50 yards.

The remaining hardy souls persisted and finished the grueling hike which started at 1:00 and ended at 3:00. Along the way, Lynn filled us in on the history and future of the greenway. Let’s all hope that the plans come to fruition.

This hike/stroll is great as a family leg stretcher so try it out.

**Sunday, January 28, 2001
Hay Rock**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Suzanne Barnett (assistant), Nancy Chapin, John Hollandsworth, Jennifer Pfister, H.R. Blankenship, Bill Mistele, Lois Smith, Jean Warren, Mac Sammons, Karen Bentley, LaVerne Davis, Bobbie Stitche, Suzanne Osborne, Carol Via, Sharon Rippee, Odie (dog)

This was a rather mild January day, beautiful, sunny, blue skies. It clouded up some later. The trail was rather muddy at first in the lower elevations, but there was no problem. A number of other people were out on this fine day. Most of them seem to have brought their dogs, as did we. Sharon caught up to a group of us relaxing at the first rocky overlook of the Cove. Number One leader led from the rear while Suzanne Barnett went on to Hay Rock, gathered up those who went the distance, brought them back and, along with Zetta and Sharon, followed to pick up any stragglers. There were none. A very nice hike.

**Sunday, February 4, 2001
I-77 to Lickskillet Hollow**

Kenny Garrett (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant), Bob Peckman, H.R. Blankenship, Bobbie Stitche, Jennifer Pfister, Rhonda Mick, Hillary Hudson (member of the National Park Service in Utah)

What started off cool and cloudy quickly turned warm and sunny. According to H.R.’s GPS system, this hike

was actually 13.7 miles long, although the signs indicated 12 miles. All seemed to enjoy the stroll and the workout. There was plenty of laughter and a good time was had by all.

**Sunday, February 4, 2001
Devil's Marbleyard**

Ed Wallace (leader), Ralph Hart, Dana Helsley, Doug Clary, Bill Mistele, Sarah Burns, Kim Davis, Karen Poff, Jodi Cannanty, Cody Siguron, David Bowers, Vicki Van Valkenburg, Sue and Shay Vasquez, Maurice Turner, Linda Akers, Mary Lou Gaminde, and Nancy Chapin

You can tell by the number of hikers that today was a beautiful day for hiking. The only animal we saw was a dead horse under a frozen waterfall (ice fall?). Still had a bridle and saddle on it. Didn't see its rider.

**Sunday, February 11, 2001
Catawba Creek Bridges**

Charles Parry (leader), Don Nulph (assistant), H.R. Blankenship, Bill Gordge, Brian Chisom, Bill & Katherine Cochran, Lynn Bryant, Ron McCorkle, Dana Helsley, Maurice Turner and guest workers Philippe More, Stephanie Fry, Mary Thomson, Terry Bussey, Sarah Morrow and Carrie Travis

Terry Bussey and I hauled the lumber out to the Cochran's on a trailer on Thursday. On Friday Bill hauled it over to the bridge site on his trailer. Bill loaned us a generator which we picked up on Sunday morning and left in Dana's truck all day. As we had over 75 holes to drill, the generator made the job a lot easier. We divided into three groups, one building a pier, the other two each putting together a stringer. When the Roanoke College group arrived, we had them start to disassemble the old bridge. We left enough planks on it so we could still cross. A bit later some of the students started moving rock in a wheelbarrow to fill the pier. By lunch time we had the pier done and filled with rock and the stringers put together. Also most of the nails had been pulled out of the decking. After lunch we got the stringers across the creek with the aid of a rope. We quickly got them in place and started decking, building steps, tearing apart the old bridge and stashing the rotting logs above the highwater line on the back side of the creek. The new bridge is upstream 15 or 20 feet from the old one. Ron spent quite a bit of time constructing a trail to the new bridge on the back side. Shortly after lunch Bill and Katherine arrived. When the Roanoke College group left at 2:00 pm, the job was

winding down. We spent another hour or so cleaning up, loading up extra lumber, sorting tools and admiring our work. It had been a bit cool in the morning, but by afternoon, it was quite pleasant in the sun.

When we cut one of the old stringers, the other end broke and fell in the creek. It was then that we realized how bad it was. The old bridge was built in the fall of 1982 with native timber stringers. It had served its time. With treated lumber the new bridge will hopefully last twice as long.

**Sunday, February 18, 2001
Cornelius Creek Shelter to Petites Gap**

Ed Wallace (leader), Sue Scanlin, Dana Helsley, H.R. Blankenship, Bobbie Stitche, Jennifer Pfister, Beverly Williamson

It was 22°F when we left Roanoke, so it must have been about 12°F when we crossed Apple Orchard Mtn. Saw quite a few deer. The faster hikers had made the car switch and had the cars heated up when the rest of us finished.

**Sunday, February 18, 2001
The Cascades**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Suzanne Barnett, Jean Warren, Ann Rogers, Doug Clary

This was a beautiful day with blue skies, bright sunlight, but cold air. Perhaps the cold was the reason for the small group. Small is sometimes nice though, as it was this time.

For most of the group, since they had not been there before, it was a sightseeing hike—in no big hurry—except for Suzanne who went as fast as she could in training for a 63-mile, 24-hour walk (gulp!) later in the year. The stream was truly at its best, roaring over the boulders, and icicles hanging from branches over the stream, ice sculptures everywhere. Icicles decorated the sides of the gorge. The Cascades itself was at its best even though it was not frozen over. Ann took pictures all along the way, leaving no exposures on her film for the big falls, although we told her to save some for it. There were so many photo ops along the way. The walk high up beside the falls is built very sturdily, but a big chunk of ice had broken off, falling on a section of the thick railing and breaking it as if it were just a toothpick.

This was a real treat today.

Hike Schedule SPRING 2001 *(cont.)*

**Sunday, May 27 - 1:00 PM
Rock Castle Creek**

4 mile easy - \$3.50 carpool fee
Betty Mathews 343-4225
Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Sunday, June 10 - 1:00 PM
Rt. 621 to Niday Shelter**

3 miles easy - \$2.00 carpool fee
Zetta Campbell 366-8165
Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Saturday & Sunday, June 16-17 - 8:30
Konarock Crew Millers Cove-Pickle Branch**

\$2.00 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, June 17 - 1:00 PM
Carvin Cove Boat Launch to Graveyard**

4 miles easy - \$2.00 carpool fee
Maurice Turner 334-2128
Jean Huffman 268-5051

**Saturday & Sunday, June 23-24 - 8:30
Konarock Crew Millers Cove-Pickle Branch**

\$2.00 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, June 24 - 1:00 PM
Buffalo Mtn.**

4 miles moderate - \$3.50 carpool fee
Linda Akers 776-1969
Betty Mathews 343-4225

**Saturday/Sunday, June 2/3 - 8:00 am
Whiterocks Campout Workhike**

\$3.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Hal Cantrill 387-2347

**Sunday, June 3 - 8:00 am
Whiterocks Day Trip Workhike**

\$3.50 carpool fee - Mike Ferguson 344-8525

**Sunday, June 3 - 1:00 PM
Rhododendron Hike, Thunder Ridge Overlook
to Cornelius Creek Shelter**

7 miles moderate - \$3.50 carpool fee
Liz & Bill Lamson 774-8981

**Saturday, June 9 - 7:00 am
Rt. 728 to Damascus-Washington Co.**

13.5 miles moderate - \$4.00 carpool fee
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117
Eric Miller 342-5030

**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 _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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
 Make checks payable to **RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282** Life \$500