

# TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB



**SUMMER 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.*



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## TRAIL BLAZER

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**CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES****Saturday, August 11, 2001 – 5:00  
Cornboil – Whispering Pines****August 31 to September 3  
Multiclub Meet - Sherando Lake****WORK HIKES****Sunday, July 15, 2001 - 8:00 AM  
Brushy Mountain****Sat & Sun, August 11&12, 2001 - 8:30  
Konnarock Crew at Miller's Cove****Sunday, September 23, 2001 - 8:30AM  
Miller's Cove****Hike-planning Meeting  
TBA****BOARD MEETINGS  
(Open to Club members who  
contact host in advance.)****Thursday, July 26, 730 p.m.  
Hosted by *Laurie Adkins*****Thursday, September 6, 730 p.m.  
Hosted by *Liz Lamson*****Thursday, October 11, 730 p.m.  
Hosted by *Dick Clark*****The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of  
The Appalachian Trail Conference  
and a member of The Nature Conservancy**

## Hike Schedule

**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, July 1, 2001 - 8:30 AM**

**Bearwallow Gap/Little Cove Mtn Trail Loop**

10 miles strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Lucien Matayer 344-1877, Ken Garrett 890-8946

**Sunday, July 1, 2001 - 1:00 PM**

**Sawtooth Ridge**

5 miles moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
Maurice Turner 334-2128, Ray Lawson 982-2150

**Saturday, July 7, 7:00PM**

**Moonlight Hike to McAfee's Knob**

7 miles moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
Zetta Campbell 366-8165  
Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637

**Sunday, July 8, 2001 - 8:30 AM**

**AT & Andy Layne Trail: 311 to 779**

12 miles strenuous, \$2:00 carpool fee  
John Lynham 336-292-7637  
Rusty and Laura Schundler 344-4745

**Sunday, July 15, 2001 - 8:00 AM**  
**Brushy Mountain Workhike**

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

**Sunday, July 15, 2001 - 1:00 PM**  
**Chessie Nature Trail**

6 miles easy, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Suzanne Barnett 772-4273, Linda Akers 776-1969

**Saturday, July 21, 2001 - 8:30 AM**  
**Upper Hoop Hole Trail**

9 miles strenuous, some bushwhacking  
Homer & Therese Witcher 992-3932

**Sunday, July 22, 2001 - 1:00 PM**  
**McAfee's Knob**

7 miles, \$1.50 carpool fee  
Maurice Turner 334-2128  
Gloria Parry (540) 951-1402

**Sunday, July 29, 2001 - 8:30 AM**

**AT Trout Creek to 785 Via Dragons Tooth**

9 miles mod/strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee  
Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140

**Sunday, July 29, 2001 - 1:00 PM**

**Otter Creek Trail**

4 miles easy, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Ken Garrett 890-8946, Terri McClure 375-2650

**Saturday, August 4, 2001 - 6:00 PM**

**Moonlight Hike to Apple Orchard Mountain**

5 miles moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Zetta Campbell 366-8165, Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, August 5, 2001 - 8:30 AM**

**AT & Andy Layne Tr. RT 220 to Rt. 779**

12 miles strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
Laurie Adkins 384-7485  
Rusty and Laura Schundler 344-4745

**Saturday, August 11, 2001 - 5:00 PM**  
**Cornboil - Whispering Pines**

Absalom Smith Road  
Shirley Kotheimer 562-0356, Hal Cantrill 387-2347

**Sat & Sun, August 11&12, 2001 - 8:30 AM**  
**Konnarock Crew at Miller's Cove**

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

**Sunday, August 12, 2001 - 1:00 PM**  
**Harkening Hill**

4 miles easy/mod, \$3.00 carpool fee  
Ed Wallace 774-0175, Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637

**Saturday, August 18, 2001 - 7:00 AM**  
**Burke's Garden - VA 42 to Route 623**

17 miles strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee  
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117, Dave Leaman 345-5345

## Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Linda & John Hertzog, Lowell & Cindy Reardon, Dick & Laurie Potteiger, David Nova, Mary Reaser, David M. Furlong, Carrie Davis, Dwayne Smith, Jeff Rakes, Merle Heckman, Mark Totty & Family, David L. Wickersham, Brian & Tonya Mangum, Charlotte Lomax, Nancy Chapin

We look forward to meeting you on the trail soon.

*Liz Lamson*

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## President's Message

In response to the many phone calls, letters, and e-mail that I get for information about local hiking opportunities, sooner or later I get around to McAfee Knob.

Among knowledgeable hikers who live in the Roanoke area, it is just about everybody's favorite mountain. That is certainly true in my case. Some friends of mine introduced the Knob (no clarification is necessary) to me when I was in high school back in the mid-fifties. It was love at first sight; and, although I've climbed it hundreds of times since then, I still get a rush of excitement when I step out onto those cliffs again.

What's not to like? With a seven-mile round trip of fairly easy walking (only the odd steep stretch here and there), it's well within the physical capabilities of a lot of people. And the view – which really hasn't changed that much in 45 years – is simply spectacular. You see the Catawba Valley and Tinker Cliffs in the foreground give way to the jumbled mountains of the Blue Ridge – as far as the Peaks of Otter on a clear day. Or walk to the end of the cliffs and watch as the Roanoke Valley unfolds beneath your feet.

And there's something else to consider: McAfee Knob is a beautiful mountain. Its profile, which has always reminded me of a cresting wave, has a classic simplicity that is almost breathtaking.

As many of you know, however, McAfee fell on hard times in the late seventies. At that time, much of the surrounding land was privately owned and there were several cabins and vacation homes

accessible by the fire road. An architect drew up plans for a house that was to be cantilevered over the edge of the cliffs. And, from the perspective of the landowners, hikers were persona non grata. As a result, some of these landowners banded together and moved to block access to the trail. This forced RATC to relocate the Appalachian Trail off of Catawba Mountain and onto North Mountain – where it remained until 1987.

Over the intervening years, the National Park Service bought up the old trail corridor lands (going to condemnation in at least one case) with the goal of returning the trail to the Knob. RATC, working in parallel, rerouted part of the trail to remove it from the fire road and built the Catawba shelter. An expanded parking lot was constructed at the former site of Bunk Sweeney's Mountain Top Inn (EATS!) on Route 311.

Finally, in the spring of 1987, the Appalachian Trail ran over McAfee Knob once again – this time fully protected by what is, in effect, a linear National Park.

The current popularity of the Knob is difficult to exaggerate. On a crisp, blue day in October, the parking lot will be full to overflowing by mid-morning. Open the current Appalachian Trail Conference brochure and there's a marvelous double page spread of McAfee. It's almost an icon. Rumor has it that it's the most photographed spot on the entire A.T. True or not, the Knob is certainly worthy of that distinction.

*Dick Clark*

## Trail Supervisor's Report

Summertime means that the Konnarock Crews will be visiting us to help us improve our trail. This year is the first time that we will have the crews working on a single project for three weeks. In 2001 and 2002, we will be working on a relocation in the Millers Cove area that will cut the distance from the AT to Pickles Branch Shelter in half. It will also eliminate some erosion problems and bring the AT through some of the open fields of Millers Cove. Hopefully, by using part of the current shelter access trail as a temporary AT, we can open the first half of the relocation this year and the remainder next year.

Unlike some of our work projects, this is one job where we never have too much help. I would like to see at least 30 people work with the crews this summer and at least 10 people earn T-shirts by working at least 5 days with the crews. Will I get my wish? You are the ones who can make it happen. The dates of the Konnarock crew visits are June 14 – 18, June 21 – 25 and August 9 – 13. Due to summer school teaching I will only be able to work on Saturday and Sunday during the first two visits, but will work all 5 days during the final week. I hope to see you out there.

**Charles Parry**

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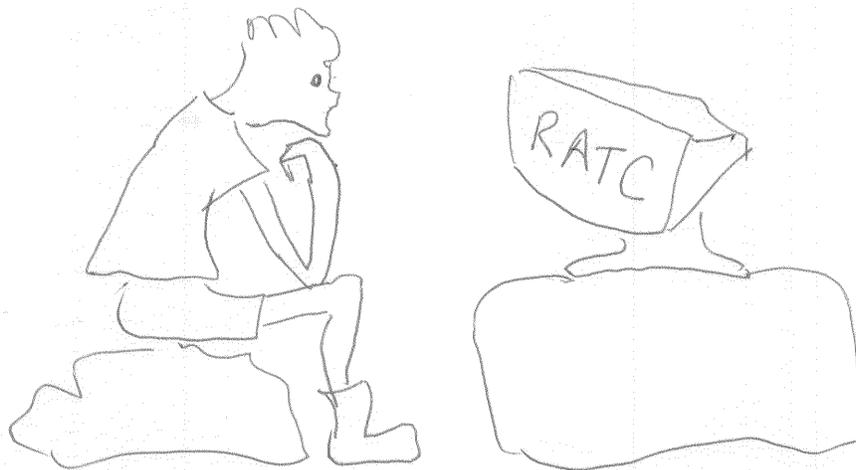
## RATC Online

The RATC website is up and running! Visit the site at <http://www.ratc.org> The site is constantly being updated so there are new things to discover all the time. You can learn about our shelters, work hikes and special projects. There's a calendar of events, just in case you've misplaced your Blazer, and you can print out a membership renewal form too. While you're visiting the site, be sure to enter your email address to join our email list. Then you'll receive all the latest news about the Sarver Hollow Shelter project as well as other late-breaking news

about our section of the AT. The hikes section is small but growing. There you'll find trail maps, elevation profiles and hiking directions as well as photos to tempt you to walk in the woods. Of course there are helpful links, contact information, and a photo gallery.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the web site, contact Dave Cheslow at [dcheslow@rev.net](mailto:dcheslow@rev.net)

**David Cheslow**



**Kris Peckman**

## Hike Reports

### Sunday, February 25, 2001 Grouse Trail to 311

The weather was wet that morning. Both leaders (Betty Mathews and Mervin Brower) had to cancel but Blanche Brower (Merv's wife) stepped up to the plate and went out to meet prospective hikers for the day, but nobody showed up!

### Sunday, March 4, 2001 Rocky Gap to Rt. 42

Bobbie Stitcher (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant), Bob Peckman

On a misty Sunday morning we met at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock. We traveled to New Castle and then on to Rt.42 where we left one car near the A.T. trail. We left the other car at Rocky Gap and, with rain-suits, began the hike. We ate lunch at the Laurel Creek Shelter and then hiked on crossing the Laurel Creek and finally going through fields to our car. We stopped in New Castle and each got a delicious scoop of ice cream. It was a wonderful hike on a misty and foggy day!!!!

### Sunday, March 11, 2001 Angel's Rest

Betty Mathews (leader), Ken Garrett (assistant), Members: Jesse Garrett (Ken's son), Ralph Hart, Lois Smith, Dana Helsley, Jean Warren; Guests: Linda Lou Palmer, Don Lawhorn, Charlotte Lomax, Tanya Leslie, and Karen Bentley

Karen was on a mission that day to find her boyfriend, John Hollandsworth, on top of the mountain. He had bought a new tent and couldn't wait to camp and try it out. We found him right where he was supposed to be with Bozo, his loyal dog companion.

The weather was super. It was in the sixties and sunny. The top of the mountain was covered in snow. The warm temperature made the snowball fights pretty painless. It took us almost 2 hours to get to the top. It was steep and muddy from the snow. We "slid" **down** in much less time! All in all it was a super day and a great work-out.

### Sunday, March 18 Daleville Tree Planting

Charles Parry (leader), Lucien Metayer (assistant), Hal Cantrill, Fred Coughlan, Wendell Boitnott, Lynn Bryant, Dana Helsley, John Lynham, Kris Peckman, Jon Nelson, Laurie Adkins, Brian Chisom, Sarah Morrow, Mary E. Thomson, Tomaho Yoskho, Sahar Nadeem, Jess Hench, Philippe Moore, Lindsay Marshall, Chesnee Simmons

It was a warm March day and we could drive right to the worksite, so we got to work quickly. We tried to plant trees on a ten-foot grid. We used an assortment of ropes and tape measures with flags tied at ten-foot intervals to space the trees. We worked in groups of two with one person making holes with the digging bar and the other putting the seedlings into the hole with the digger squeezing dirt around the roots. We had 1000 Virginia pines and 1000 white pines to plant. With the good measure that the Virginia Division of Forestry gives you, I expect we had 2500 seedlings. People came and people left, and still we had trees left. We planted seedlings in three different areas and finally finished just after sunset with three people remaining. Let's hope the seedlings have been able to survive the dry spring.

### Sunday, March 18, 2001 Sunset Field to Petite's Gap

Mervin Brower (leader), Bill and Liz Lamson (assistants), Blanche Hale, Marianne Demkó, Bobbie Stitcher, Betty Mathews, Doug Clary

We organized the car switch at the parking lot to leave one car at Sunset Field and then drive on to Petites Gap. This meant that no one had to wait for the car to be taken to the parking lot. The climb up from Petites Gap is fairly long but gives one a good workout. We had our first break at Thunder Ridge Shelter. This was probably a little late to call a break. The weather was nice and sunny but a little on the cool side. Two of our fast hikers did not know that the turnoff back to the Blue Ridge Parkway was at Apple Orchard Falls Trail since

Sunset Fields is not listed on the sign, and they walked another three miles to come out at Cornelius Creek Shelter. We wondered what had happened to them, but found them on the Parkway. Doug walked down to the Apple Orchard Falls to get a little more exercise. The rest of us had enough with the seven miles.

**Sunday, April 1  
Brushy Mountain Workhike, Bland Co.**

Charles Parry (leader), Kenny Garrett (assistant), Bob and Kris Peckman

This was one of the few rainy days we have had this spring, and it wasn't all that bad, just on and off drizzle. Much of the new trail south of the Kimberling Creek bridge that was built in the early '90s had filled in and needed regrading. There were also some of last year's weeds that needed cutting in the open field a bit farther south. Bob took the club weedeater and went to work on the weeds while the rest of us redug the trail. As there was significant leaf cover on the uphill side of the trail, it had to be raked before we could dig. Regrading trail is much easier than digging new trail as there are fewer roots and rocks to deal with. We had more work up on the mountain that we wanted to do, but it was midafternoon when we finished these tasks, so the other work will have to wait.

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

Lucien Metayer (leader), Bobbie Stitche (assistant)  
Canceled because of rain.

**Sunday, April 8 - Wind Rock-War Spur  
Overlook-Chestnut Trail**

Bobbie Stitche (leader), Linda Akers (assistant), Karen Bedwell, Gary Bible, Malcolm Black, Zetta Campbell, Marianne Demkó, Dana Helsley, Sherry Kessel, Sue Scanlin, Jean Warren

On a beautiful, warm and sunny afternoon at Mountain Lake we left a car at the Chestnut Trail parking lot. Then we all got in the back of Dana's truck and went to the Appalachian Trail parking lot to start the hike. We hiked on the A. T. (stopping at Wind Rock) and then on the War Spur Trail to the

Chestnut Trail. We all agreed it was a perfect day for hiking.

**Sat/Sun, April 21/22  
Sarver Hollow Cabin Construction**

Saturday members - Todd & Bob Athey, Liz Belcher, H.R. Blankenship, Kevin Black, Malcolm Black, Lynn & Peggy Bryant, Dave Cheslow, Red Crone, David & Lucy Downs, Bill Gordge, Dana Helsley, Dave & Terry Kahn, Stephanie Kent, John Lynham, Lucien Metayer, Kevin Myatt, Charles Parry, Steve Reisinger, Rusty & Laura Schundler, & Maurice Turner, Guests - Bob Athey, Matt Chittham, Steve Hinchee, Kenny Reid, Natalee Waters, & Tom Willcox,

Sunday members - Kevin Black, & Malcolm Black, Dave Cheslow, Stephanie Kent, Bob Minor, Guests - John Hollandsworth & lovable dog Odie

Eleven stout workers showed up last Saturday to finish digging footing holes and mix and pour concrete. The final three holes were knocked out in half an hour- much speedier than earlier crews had managed (the earlier crews claimed they purposefully left the easy holes for those coming later). We installed the steel reinforcement in the footing holes, rechecked the layout and elevations of the shelter with string lines and began mixing concrete with water hauled from the spring. The rest of the day was mix and pour, mix and pour- 36 bags of concrete mix (80 lb. bags). At lunchtime the Downs provided hot chicken sandwiches and fixings as their contribution from the Down Home B&B that they own on Rt. 311. Hot food on a workhike? I could personally get used to that. Charles continued scouting the proposed access trail to the spring.

**Sunday, April 22  
Mau-Har Trail and Three Ridges Loop**

Rabbits: Maurice Turner (assistant leader), Larry Austin, H.R. Blankenship, Dana Helsley  
Tortoises: Kris Peckman (leader), Bob Peckman, Karen Bentley, John Hollandsworth

We started from Daleville in two cars, already divided evenly between hares and tortoises. We arrived at the trailhead in Virginia's newest

Wilderness Area by 9:45. As we climbed up the A.T. to the junction with the Mau-Har Trail, we counted 74 hikers coming down, most of them a group of Boy Scouts who had spent the night at the Harper's Creek shelter. At the start of the Mau-Har Trail the hares and tortoises parted company, not to see each other for the rest of the day.

This trail is heaven for wildflower lovers, especially this week. The Mau-Har Trail is the richest, but we saw wildflowers over the whole hike. They included two different chickweeds, both with star-like flowers, but one slightly larger than the other, purple, white, and yellow violets, birdsfoot violets, halberd-leaved violets, wild geranium, May apple (not yet in bloom), bloodroot with its fruit, fire pink, cut-leaved toothwort, lyre-leaved rock cress, moss phlox, Dutchman's breeches, pink azalea, wood vetch, wood anemone, and Solomon's seal just unfolding. The winner was the veritable carpet of large-flowered trillium near the waterfall on the Mau-Har Trail.

At the Maupin Fields shelter we met a man who had just lost two Golden Retrievers near the summit of Three Ridges. John advised him to advertise at Rusty's (an unofficial trail hostel nearby) and was still giving him directions when a biker en route to Oregon stopped by and offered to take the card with him, since he was spending the night at Rusty's. After filling up a water bottle from the spring, with an iodine tablet from a friendly through-hiker who also appeared just when we needed him, the tortoises struggled on up to the summit. By this time the sun was downright hot, but the view was splendid. At the summit we met a through-hiker who reported that a couple had found the dogs and were heading with them toward Harper's Creek shelter, carrying one of them in an improvised sling. When we reached Harper's Creek shelter after a very long but beautiful walk down Three Ridges, we found it empty. Maurice later told us that they had met the dogs' owner on his way up toward the shelter, so we now presume they were reunited. We hope the dog who was being carried recovered after getting some water.

The sun was setting as the tortoises hiked down the last stretch. We arrived at the car at about 8:00 pm. Maurice's note on the car said even the hares didn't finish the hike until 6:20. It was a hot day! The

signs said the hike totaled only 13 ½ miles, not the advertised 15. None of the tortoises believed the signs and accused the leader of fuzzy math.

Here are some notes from Dana of the hares: Where was the "very strenuous" part? The count for the day (not including us) was: Other people on the trail: 87 (albeit most were Boy Scouts). Dogs on the trail: 5. Trillium: 100's (easily). Larry's pedometer logged a little over 12 miles, while my GPS locator showed the total as 12.8 miles.

### **Sunday, April 22 Bloodroot Hike Sandstone Ridge**

Liz Lamson (leader), Bill Lamson (assistant), Zetta Campbell, Mary Lou Gaminde, Sherry Kessel, Blake Mitnick, Bill Leaman, Marcia Kelly, Bill Misteale, Jack Lienhardt, and Marianne Demkó

This was a lovely, sunny April day with temperatures close to 80 degrees. Occasionally the sun went behind the clouds, and that was a welcome cooldown while we were hiking across open pastures. Since this hike was a short three miles, we took time to really look for bloodroot. Never found any but did see trillium, columbine, star chickweed, spring beauty, and purple violets.

We met a couple of through hikers; one of them was from Australia. It was a pleasant day to savor the warm spring air, the blue sky, and the incredible green of Catawba Valley pastures.

### **Saturday, April 28, 2001 Sarver Hollow Cabin Construction**

Dave and Lucy Downs, Kevin Black, Lynn Bryant, Charles Parry and Maurice Turner. Guests: Bob Athey, Terry and David Kahn. Did I forget anyone?

The group finished digging the last 3 foundation holes, laid out all the "level lines" and poured concrete pads in 9 of the 12 holes. Charles also finished flagging a possible approach trail - shorter than the last and having only one switchback. All-in-all, a very good day's work!

Special thanks to Dave and Lucy Downs of the Down Home B&B for feeding the crew this last weekend... everyone says the food was great!

**Sunday, April 29**

**Workhike blazing south of Pearisburg**

Charles Parry (leader), Bill Pifer, Kris Peckman

This was our fourth blazing trip in the area in the past year. Two of the previous trips were rained out, and the third had threatening weather. Today the weather was fine, but the crew was small. We did our best, reblazing from Doc's Knob shelter to Pearisburg. Unfortunately, about a mile into the trip, our clippers broke and we had to send Bill back to the truck for a replacement pair. I carried a chain saw and scraped. Bill and Kris took turns painting and clipping. It is a rather lengthy car switch and blazing is somewhat slow, so it was after 7:00 when we got back to Kris's car and 9:30 before I got home.

Bill through-hiked the trail last year and now lives in Christiansburg. He wants to give something back to the trail. It was great to have him with us and I hope we will see more of him.

**Sunday, April 29**

**Bobblets Gap to Montvale Overlook**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Don Nulph (assistant), and guests Barbara Franck and Merle Heckman

On this fine, sunny, spring day, it was surprising there was such a low turnout. Yet, small groups are pleasant and maybe more relaxed. So it was this time. The leaders altered the route as listed in the schedule. For logistics purposes, we started at Bobblet's Gap and ended at Montvale Overlook instead of Harvey's Knob Overlook. According to the guidebook, this made it exactly three miles. Otherwise the hike would have been only 2 ½ miles. I would recommend this route in the future. Although it was a little hazy, the distance views were great, hiking, as we did, parallel to the Parkway. Wild or Mountain azalea was in bloom, as were yellow cinquefoil and violets. Don grumbled to Zetta that she told him it was a level hike. While it wasn't exactly climbing a mountain (We were already up there), admittedly it did have its ups (and a few downs).

Some people were out taking pictures. Two fellows were seated on folding chairs at Montvale

Overlook, watching hawks. They were there before we started and apparently hadn't moved from that spot when we returned to the overlook.

**Wednesday, May 2, 2001**

**Sarver Hollow Cabin Construction**

The midweek group showed up on Sinking Creek Mountain, as did the rest of the shelter materials, courtesy of the USFS helicopter. Bill Gordge, Lynn Bryant, Peggy Bryant, Maurice Turner, Malcolm Black, and Kevin Black hiked up the mountain after the helicopter finished its drops. We placed all the pier forms and poured them full of concrete and are now ready to begin the carpentry end of this project.

**Saturday, May 5**

**Rt. 600(Elk Garden) to Rt. 603(Fox Creek)  
Grayson County**

Jimmy Whitney (leader),  
No phone calls – No hike.

**Sunday, May 6**

**Sarver Hollow Shelter Construction**

It was a terrific weekend at the Sarver Hollow Shelter site - and a lot of work got done too.

At one point there were 27 people on the site... we had crews who sunk sign posts, repaired the springhouse, cleared up trash from the cabin ruins, built the outhouse (no walls yet), framed the floor and deck, nailed down the tongue-in-groove flooring and cleared the low brush from around the shelter.

We conscribed 3 section hikers, 2 on Saturday and one on Sunday, to help and several curiosity seekers stopped by as well.

The Roanoke Times put us on the front page of the Virginia Section on Sunday (!)- including a great picture. You can read the text (sorry no picture) at: <http://www.roanoke.com/roatimes/news/story111495.html>

**Sunday, May 6 - 1:00 PM**

**Trillium Hike Flat Top Mtn.**

Ed Wallace (leader), Liz Lamson (assistant), Bobbi Stitcher, Marianne Demko, Sherry Kessel, Sharon

Harrison, Merle Heckman, Blake Mitnick and Zetta Campbell

Nice day for a stroll up Flat Top. We saw a few wildflowers, but were about a week late for most of them. What few trillium we did see, were pink and weel past their prime. We did see bellwort, lousewort and wild ginger.

Most of the hikers went over the other side of the mountain while Liz and I drove around and picked them up at the big spring. On our way down we ran into Zetta, who got a late start.

**Sunday, May 13  
Rt. 311 to Daleville**

Kris Peckman (leader), Jean Huffman (assistant), Laurie Adkins, Dana Helsley, Bob Peckman, Gary Hale

The weather was stunningly perfect for today's hike: sunshine, good visibility, temperatures in the 60s and a brisk breeze—very energizing. The group started from Route 311 at 8:50 am and stayed together till McAfee's Knob, where of course we stopped for a break to admire the view. After that we began to spread out, and the "leader" never saw either Gary or Dana for the rest of the day. Laurie, Jeanne and the Peckmans had lunch together at Tinker Cliffs. Everybody left either a note or a phone call at the end to say they had arrived. Arrival times in Daleville ranged from 5:45 pm to 8:45 pm.

Flora included: lots of pink ladyslippers all along the route, wild geranium, pink azalea, spiderwort between Brickey's Gap and Tinker Cliffs, lily of the valley, bluets, turkey's beard, mountain laurel, Bowman's root, star grass, and rattlesnake weed.

Fauna included salamanders, plenty of birds chirping in the trees and one robin on the trail who would fly ahead about ten feet, and when we began to catch up, fly ahead another ten feet, and so on, presumably until we were well away from its nest. Other fauna: two joggers, a handful of thru-hikers, and a half dozen young ladies in pink dresses and bonnets sunning themselves on Tinker Cliffs.

**Sunday, May 13, 2001  
Bryant Ridge Shelter to Jennings Creek**

Bobbie Stitcher (Leader), Maurice Turner (Assistant), Larry Austin, Zetta Campbell, Sherry Kessel, Elizabeth Mize, Bill Mistele, Blake Mitnick, Jackie Thomas, Mark Totty

On Mother's Day 2001 we left cars at Jennings Creek and then traveled to the old A.T. trailhead on Va.714. We hiked up the old A.T. to the Bryant Ridge Shelter. This is a very unique shelter with a porch containing a picnic table and railing around the porch. There is a loft in the shelter where more hikers can sleep. We left the shelter and then connected with the A.T. and hiked down to Jennings Creek. It was a very enjoyable hike on a beautiful day.

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

Ed Wallace (leader), Mike Ferguson (assistant), Margaret, Billy and Natalie Ferguson, Lucien Metayer and Don Lawhorn

No rain this time, although we followed a rain storm from Radford to Roanoke. The usual Trail Days Celebration – good food, crazy hikers (weirdly dressed for the parade), one irate fireman whose truck was pelted with water balloons from the crowd, and good friends. Talked to Mac and Nancy McDaniel and J.R. Tate (who said to be sure to tell Malcolm and Jimmie "Hi"). They, along with David Jones, are going to hike the Colorado Trail this summer since mad cows and hoof-and-mouth are preventing Mac from hiking in Ireland. J.R. has a book about his through hike coming out this fall. Shirley, maybe we could get him to give a talk at one of our banquets.

**2001 AT Multi-Club Meeting**  
**Friday, 31 August – Monday, 3 September 2001**  
**at**  
**Sherando Lake Recreational Area, near Waynesboro, VA**

**Host:** Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC)

**Schedule:**

<b>Friday:</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>3:00 – 10:00 PM.</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>Registration</b>	<b>8:00 AM – 1:00 PM.</b>
	<b>Hikes</b>	<b>Throughout day.</b>
	<b>Excursions &amp; Activities</b>	<b>Throughout day.</b>
	<b>Catered Dinner (Optional)</b>	<b>6:00 PM.</b>
	<b>Music &amp; folk dancing</b>	<b>7:30 PM.</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Hikes</b>	<b>Throughout day.</b>
	<b>Excursions &amp; Activities</b>	<b>Throughout day.</b>
	<b>TATC cookout (Optional)</b>	<b>6:00 PM.</b>
	<b>General meeting</b>	<b>7:30 PM.</b>
	<b>Music &amp; folk dancing</b>	<b>Following meeting.</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>Check out</b>	<b>12:00 PM.</b>

**Excursions:** Visits to Monticello, Frontier Culture Museum, Wildlife Center of Virginia, and Wintergreen Winery (Free). Admission charges (approx. \$8/person) to some locations. Payment by check or cash.

**Activities:** Hiking on AT and other local trails, workshops, training sessions with Virginia Rescue Squad, rappelling, swimming, fishing, canoeing, folk dancing and music.

**Accommodations:** Group camping area includes ample tent sites, limited parking space for RVs but no hook-ups, rest rooms, hot showers, picnic areas. Bring chairs.

**Registration:** Deadline: Friday, 3 August. No refunds after 10 August.  
 Fee: \$12.00 per person. No charge for children under 16.  
 Continental breakfast on Saturday & Sunday. \$3.00/person.  
 Catered lasagna dinner on Saturday eve. \$13.00/person. \$6.00 for children 6 - 12.  
 TATC picnic cookout on Saturday eve. \$7.00/person. \$4.00 for children 6 - 12.  
 Use attached form. Meeting schedules, maps and directions will be mailed to registered attendees. Visit our website @ [www.tidewateratc.com](http://www.tidewateratc.com)

<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Rosanne Scott (Chairperson)</b>	<b>Pat Parker (Registration)</b>
	1383 Hammond Court	57 Buffalo Drive
	Norfolk, VA 23503	Hampton, VA 23664
	757-583-5960	757-851-9252
	<a href="mailto:rosannes@fsap.org">rosannes@fsap.org</a>	<a href="mailto:pat.a.parker@larc.nasa.gov">pat.a.parker@larc.nasa.gov</a>



**2001 AT Southern Regional Multi-Club Meeting**  
**Sherando Lake Recreation Area**  
**August 31 - September 3**  
**Registration Form**  
(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:** Persons \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(No charge for under 16 yrs.) (No camping fee/no RV hookup)

**Meals:** Optional (children under 6 free). Please check for Vegetarian Option (\_\_\_)

Saturday Continental Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$ 3 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening Catered Meal \* \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$13 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Age 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$ 6 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Continental Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$ 3 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Evening Cookout \*\* \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$ 7 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Age 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$ 4 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Lasagne

\*\* Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Salads, Drinks, etc.

**Total Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make check payable to: TATC . . . . . Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Registration Form by August 3, 2001 to: (no refunds after August 10<sup>th</sup>):**

**Ms. Pat Parker** (757) 851-9252

**TATC**

**57 Buffalo Dr.**  
**Hampton, VA 23664**

Emails: Patricia.parker3@att.net,  
pat.a.parker@larc.nasa.gov

**(Check our website for further details: [www.TidewaterATC.com](http://www.TidewaterATC.com))**

**Hike Schedule (Cont.)**

**Sunday, August 19, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Brush Mountain/Audie Murphy**

8 miles moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee  
Gloria Parry 540-951-1402, Ray Lawson 982-2150

**Sunday, August 26, 2001 - 8:30 AM  
Hoop Hole/Iron Mountain/Roaring Run Trails**

8 miles mod/strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Lucien Metayer 344-1877, Eric Miller 342-5030

**Sunday, August 26, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Cascades**

4 miles easy, \$3.50 carpool fee + parking fee  
Mike Ferguson 344-8525, Jean Warren 384-6229

**August 31 to September 3  
Multi-Club Meet, Sherando Lake**

Rosanne Scott, Tidewater Club, 757-583-5960

**Sunday, September 2, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Hoop Hole (lower Loop)**

4 miles easy/mod, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Pat Mankin 992-2716, Jean Warren 384-6229

**Sunday, September 9, 2001 - 8:30 AM  
Tar Jacket Ridge, Cole Mtn/Old Hotel Tr. Loop**

10 miles moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee  
Dick Clark 989-7053, Eric Miller 342-5030

**Sunday, September 9, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Thunder Ridge to Petite's Gap**

6 miles moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee  
Mervin Brower 387-9732, Kay Clatterbuck 989-8275

**Sunday, September 16, 2001 - 8:30 AM  
Sinking Creek Mountain**

10 miles mod/strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee  
Bobbie Sticher 890-2140, David Cheslow 389-7791

**Sunday, September 16, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Mill Mountain Loop**

6 miles easy/mod, \$1.00 carpool fee  
Mike Ferguson 344-8525, Dick Clark 989-7053

**Sunday, September 23, 2001 - 8:30 AM  
Miller's Cove Workhike**

\$2:00 carpool fee  
Charles Parry 540-951-1402  
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, September 23, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Christmas Tree Mountain/Stiles Falls  
Exploratory Hike**

6 miles moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee  
Zetta Campbell 366-8165, Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Saturday, September 29, 2001 - 6:00 AM  
Old Rag**

8 miles strenuous, \$6.00 + Hiking Fee  
Ed Wallace 774-0175, Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, September 30, 2001 - 1:00 PM  
Sharp Top**

3 miles moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee  
Linda Akers 776-1969, Mervin Brower 387-9732

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work 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