

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

SPRING 2002

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.



"That's funny - it didn't look like that in December!"

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CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, August 10 – 4-9 PM
 Catawba Community Center
 Corn Boil**

WORK HIKES

**Sunday, April 14 - 8:30 AM
 Catawba Mountain**

**Sunday, May 19 - 8:00 AM
 Blazing S. of Pearisburg**

**Sunday, June 1 & 2 - 8:00 AM
 White Rocks**

**Sunday, June 15 & 16 - 8:00 AM
 Konnarock – Bailey Gap**

HIKE SCHEDULING

**Monday, May 6 - 7:00 PM
 Hosted by *Suzanne Barnett***

BOARD MEETINGS

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

**Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
 Hosted by *Ron McCorkle***

**Thursday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
 Hosted by *Jimmy Whitney***

**Thursday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.
 Hosted by *Charles & Gloria Parry***

**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

**Saturday, April 6, 2002, 9:30 AM
McAfee's Knob**

7 miles, moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
Suzanne Barnett 772-4273, Zetta Campbell 366-8165

**Sunday, April 7, 2002, 9:00 AM
113-mile Hike #1
Black Horse Gap to Salt Pond Road.**

7 miles, moderate, \$2.00 carpool fee
Rusty & Laura Schundler 344-4745

**Sunday, April 14, 2002, 8:30 AM
Catawba Mtn. Workhike**

\$1.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Leonard & Laurie Adkins 384-7485

**Sunday, April 14, 2002, 1:00 PM
Carvins Cove Boat launch to Cemetery**

5 miles, easy, no carpool fee
Linda Akers 776-1969 & Sue Scanlin 989-0497

**Sunday, April 21, 2002, 8:00 AM
Mau-Hau Trail & Three Ridges Loop**

13.5 miles, strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee
Kris & Bob Peckman 366-7780, Lois Smith 992-3701

**Sunday, April 21, 2002, 1:00 PM
Montvale Overlook to Bobblets Gap & back**

6 miles, easy/moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
Kenny Garrett 890-8946, Jim Law 721-8964

**Saturday, April 27, 2002, 7:30 AM
RT 615 to RT 623**

9 miles, strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117, Dave Leaman 345-5345

**Sunday, April 28, 2002, 1:00 PM
Trillium Hike-Flat Top**

5 miles, moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
Ed Wallace 774-0175, Maurice Turner 334-2128

carpool fee 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, May 5, 2002, 9:00 AM
NBATC / RATC Joint Hike
Belle Cove-Little Rocky Row**

11.5 miles, strenuous, \$4.00 carpool fee
Dave Wickersham 982-1420, DLWICK@ATT.net
Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, May 5, 2002, 1:00 PM
Fire Pink Hike-Rock Castle Creek**

6 miles, easy, \$3.50 carpool fee
Linda Akers 776-1969, Bobbie Sticher 890-2140

**Monday, May 6, 2002, 7:00 PM
Summer Hikes Scheduled**

Please come and help (call ahead) or call before hand with suggestions. Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, May 12, 2002, 9:30 AM
Apple Orchard Falls - Cornelius Creek Loop**

7.5 miles, moderate-strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee
John Lynham 336-292-7637, Ed Wallace 774-0175

**Sunday, May 12, 2002, 1:00 PM
Falls Ridge Loop**

3 miles, moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
Maurice Turner 334-2128
Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637

**Saturday, May 18, 2002, 6:00 AM.
Old Rag**

8 miles, very strenuous, \$6.00 carpool + user fee
Jim Law 721-8964, Kenny Garrett 890-8946

**Sunday, May 19, 2002, 8:00 AM
Blazing S of Pearisburg Workhike**

\$3.50 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402,
Bob & Kris Peckman 366-7780

**Sunday, May 26, 2002, 1:00 PM
Lady Slipper Hike
Bearwallow Gap to Little Cove Mtn Trail**

4 miles, easy, \$3.00 carpool fee
Zetta Campbell 366-8165, Sue Scanlin 989-0497

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Allen & Robin Austin	Kathryn Greg	John & Tamara Miniclier	Marianne Russell
Raymond Bell	H.T. Harmon	John & Michelle Mullen	Beverly Williamson
Robert Bush	Don Hoke	Michael Parker	Robert Zampogna
Lynn Carter	Tim & Michelle Hudson	Bill Parsley	
Irving & Beth Elkins	Richard Koffman	Ann & Jim Phipps	
Greg Foster	William Miller	Jonathan Reed	

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

We look forward to meeting you on the trail soon.

Liz Lamson

President's Message

First, a bit of trail history. Twenty-five years ago, much of the Appalachian Trail route from (roughly) the Dragon's Tooth to Fulhardt Knob was either privately owned, on roads, or under the authority of the City of Roanoke.

In order to provide a permanent route for the Trail, the National Park Service began buying up corridor lands; and, by the late eighties, this process was largely complete. This had the interesting effect of creating a linear National Park -- but one without Park Rangers or a local management staff.

It thus became the responsibility of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club to deal with the basic management and monitoring issues of this newly-acquired corridor. To this end, RATC created the position of Land Management Supervisor.

Bill Gordge was the first to serve in this capacity and then, in the early nineties, Hal Cantrill took over. As Hal settled into the job, he found himself dealing with many issues not originally within his purview. The proposed (and still unbuilt) American Electric Power 765 kV power line is the most striking, but there have been many others: health concerns, plane crashes,

squatters, gas lines, and road construction projects – to name just a few.

As a result, the Board of RATC has created the position of Conservation Supervisor to handle these peripheral issues. Specifically, this officer will respond to external threats and trail incidents and make appropriate decisions regarding cultural aspects and natural resources of the Appalachian Trail. All of this will be done in concert with our agency partners: the Appalachian Trail Conference, The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.

After nine years on the job, Hal Cantrill is stepping down and has been replaced by Jim Hutchings. Jim, who until recently was chairman of the Southern Regional section of the Appalachian Trail Conference, has a wealth of experience with all sorts of trail issues. Liz Belcher, who will be our first Conservation Supervisor, is equally well qualified. Liz is currently the coordinator of Roanoke Valley Greenways and has previous experience with the Jefferson National Forest.

Our hats off to Bill and Hal for a job well done. Our best wishes to Jim and Liz as they team up to face the challenges ahead.

Dick Clark

<p>If the year on your label is 2001, then this is your last issue of the Blazer. Disregard if you paid in March. If it is our error, call 366-7780 and we will fix it. Please give us address changes. Every Blazer mailed to an incorrect address costs us \$0.94.</p>

Trail Supervisor's Report

So far the winter seems to have been kind to our trails, without a lot of ice to cause major damage. Let us hope this trend continues for another month. We currently have chainsaw certification and re-certification classes scheduled for March. We are also planning to have a trail maintainers meeting in April or early May, probably at Roanoke College. This year we hope to have some of the local ATC staff at our meeting. I will get in touch with all our overseers to select a convenient evening for our meeting.

This year we will have two visits from the Konnarock Crew. The first will be June 13 – 17 when we will work on trail improvements just to the north of Bailey Gap Shelter. If you have ever hiked that section of trail you will probably remember it as being extremely rocky. The goal is to do some rockwork to make this section more pleasant to walk. This year can be considered a

pilot project, as we expect considerably more than one week will be needed in this area. Our second project, August 8 – 12, will be on Pearis Mountain just to the north of Angel's Rest. There are two areas where the trail is extremely rocky and some other areas where the trail needs to be regraded. I hope to see many of you out working on these projects.

I wish to thank Dave Miller, who has served as trail overseer in the Wilson Creek area the past few years. Dave decided that he needed to give it up and has been replaced with Dana Helsley and Fred Coughlan. Both Dana and Fred have been very active participants in workhikes for the past year or so. Finally, I am attaching an updated list of our trail overseers.

Charles Parry

RATC Overseer Assignments Spring 2002

VA 611 (South end): Kenny Garrett & Chris Bolling	Clyde Perdue & Bill Ross Rocky Gap:	Ron McCorkle Brickey's Gap:
VA 606: Mike and Virginia Reilly	Brian & Leigh Anne Kelly Sinking Creek:	Bill Gordge Ditch Trail:
Dismal Creek: Bill Floyd & Leslie Kay	David Cheslow & Stephanie Kent Niday Trail:	Zetta Campbell & Dick Clark Angel's Gap:
Ribble Trail (north end): David Hicks	Sara Patterson & Red Crone VA 621:	John Lynham & Lucien Metayer US 220:
Power line: Charles & Gloria Parry	Linda King & Ray Bonds VA 620:	Homer & Therese Witcher VA 652:
US 460 Bridge: (Break in our section)	Bob & Kris Peckman VA 624:	Jim & Linda Hutchings Salt Pond Road:
Pine Swamp Shelter: Mike Ferguson	Ed Bessel, Don Nulph & Maurice Turner	Dana Helsley & Fred Coughlan Black Horse Gap: (North end)
Bailey Gap Shelter: Hal Cantrill	VA 311: Leonard & Laurie Adkins	
War Spur Trail:	Campbell Shelter:	

Leader & Co-leader Awards

Do you know that you can earn an RATC hat or T-shirt by leading or assisting on hikes? Five hikes earn you a hat; eight hikes a T-shirt, ten hikes earn both. This year our winners were: Hats: Sue Scanlin, Linda Akers, Maurice Turner, Liz Lamson, Bobbie Stitche, Mike Ferguson, Kenny Garrett & Suzanne Barnett. T-Shirts: Zetta

Campbell & Ed Wallace. Kenny Garrett & Suzanne Barnett, who earned hats for both hike leading and work hikes, may trade in their two hats for a T-shirt if so desired.

Thanks to all those who helped in leading & co-leading hikes from October 1, 2000, to September 30, 2001.

Suzanne Barnett 772-4273



Read Mountain

A Description and Historical Narrative

The Read Mountain Alliance is a citizen initiative interested in preserving the mountainsides and ridgelines of Read Mountain to provide wildlife habitat, create recreational opportunity and preserve the natural beauty of a Roanoke Valley Landmark.

This woodland island is surrounded on all sides by development and road networks. Each year brings further encroachment toward the mountain summit. A few years from now it is likely the opportunity to save this natural resource will be gone forever.

Read Mountain, with an elevation of 2,353 feet, was known as Mills Mountain on early nineteenth century maps. It was named for William Mills, an early settler who lived on the western side of the mountain, between Glade Creek and Buffalo (an early name for Tinker) Creek.

Colonel William Fleming, one of the prominent pioneers in the Roanoke Valley, lived along Buffalo or Tinker Creek and owned a 2,000-acre tract extending up the southern slopes of Mills Mountain in the late 1700's. Fleming, a surgeon, Regimental Commander at the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, Justice for Botetourt County and State Senator, was senior member of the Virginia Council. In this capacity he was acting Governor of Virginia for a brief period in June 1781, between the resignation of Thomas Jefferson and the election of Thomas Nelson. Fleming was the first doctor to serve in the Roanoke Valley. When General Andrew Lewis became ill and died in Bedford County on his way home from Richmond in 1781, his friend, Fleming, was at his side. Fleming died in 1795.

When the family of Mrs. Betsy Read moved from Henrico County to the newly formed Roanoke County in the 1840's, they lived along Tinker Creek and owned some of the Fleming land, extending to Mills Mountain. After they had lived in the community for some time, the Read family name became widely accepted as the name for the mountain. The Read family lived for more than a century in the historic home, Monterey, constructed in 1845 about a mile and a half south of Read Mountain.

The gap in Botetourt County, between Read Mountain and Coyners Mountain, has been known as Creely's Gap for two and a half centuries. The gap traversed by Alternate U.S. 220 running from Interstate 81 to U.S. 460 today, draws its name from Daniel Creely, who lived between Glade and Tinker Creeks in 1744.

Read Mountain has also been called Dead Man Mountain because of the resemblance of its profile to a recumbent corpse.

The Carolina Road ran along the western edge of Read Mountain. On this road in 1782 the Black Horse Tavern, a hostelry and stagecoach stop, was established. John Madison, a cousin of President James Madison, was the original owner of the Black Horse Tavern land. It is said that Andrew Jackson visited the Black Horse before and while he was president. Next to the tavern, William Kyle built Kyle's Hotel in 1854. It was also known as Bellevue and is now a private residence on Old Mountain Road.

Just as the upper slopes and ridgelines of Read Mountain appeared to travelers and the early residents of the Roanoke Valley, it appears to us today. This mountain is unique in that there are no buildings, roads, power lines, communication towers or any other man made structures on the higher elevations of this special mountain and prominent landmark. With your help the Alliance will work to keep it that way.

Sources: Kegley's Virginia Frontier by F. B. Kegley
Read Mountain - A Brief History by George Kegley
Places Near the Mountains by Helen Prillaman
A History of Roanoke County by Deedie Kagey
August 7, 2001

Hike Reports

Saturday, December 1, 2001 - 3:30 PM Moonlight Hike-Sharp Top

Mervin Brower (leader), Blanche Brower (assistant), Suzanne Barnett, Robert Bush, John and Michelle Mullen, Gary Adams.

The hike started from Market Square East on Route 460. This was a moonlight hike so we met at 3:30 to travel to Sharp Top. We met Gary up at the mountain. Some other people were to join us there also but they did not show up or got there earlier and went up without us. It delayed our start waiting for people. The temperature was about 65° F when started to climb. The sun set on our way up the mountain although it was still light when we first reached the top. It would have been nice to have left a little earlier and been on the top to watch the sunset. The night was crisp and cold (45° F) on the top, which allowed us to see for miles. It was very spectacular looking at all the lights and we could see as far away as Lynchburg. We stayed at the top about ½ hour after the moon had risen. We then walked back down the bus route rather than go down the trail. Everyone had a good time and made it back safely.

Sunday, December 2, 2001 - 9:00 AM Ferrier Trail

Kenny Garrett and Lucien Metayer (co-leaders), Gary Hale, Tim Watkins, Bruce Hornsberger, Lois Smith, Peggy Bryant, Jenny Watkins, Lance Garrett, Laura Montague, Dana Helsley, Cindy Bowles, Jennifer Pfister, Kris Peckman, Gary Adams, Harry Neumann

It was an unbelievable sixty-plus degrees on this early December day. The trails were well blazed. This loop has many creek crossings, but almost all were dry. I believe the hike was closer to six miles, instead of the advertised seven. One of the highlights of this stroll was the long section near the end where the trail was fairly straight and covered with deep green moss as it followed a semi-dry creek bed through a beautiful hollow. After all was completed, Lance did not appear tired!!

Sunday, December 9, 2001 - 8:00 AM Bailey Gap Area Workhike

Charles Parry (leader), Mike Ferguson (assistant), Greg Still, Dana Helsley

We met at the Pine Swamp parking area and looked in both directions for a blowdown that David Leaman had told me about. Not finding it there we drove a couple of miles up the road and found a blowdown just to the north of the road crossing, which we took out.

Next we drove up the Rocky Mountain fire road to the next road crossing. Our first project was to regrade the A.T. near the side trail to the lower spring for Bailey Gap shelter. To get this to hold up we realized that we needed a few steps going down the spring trail. There was a dead locust nearby which we cut for steps. Shortly after lunch this project was done. On the way up we noticed some waterbars that were in sad shape, so we spent a couple of hours replacing and cleaning these waterbars. I still had one more small project that I wanted to work on just below the road where we have a serious drainage problem. Here we replaced a couple of steps and waterbars and hope that it corrects the problem. Greg and Dana finished a few minutes before Mike and I did so I gave Greg my truck keys so they could put tools away. Mike and I came up in a few minutes and Greg and Dana said they were going to leave. Mike and I finished putting the tools away, and about that time I said to Mike, hey they've got my keys! Greg's vehicle was down on the main road at the fishermen's parking area. I said to Mike, do you think we can get there before they leave? It was about a mile by trail and 5 or 6 by road so I thought we had a chance, but no luck, they were gone when we got there. Unfortunately, we left Mike's car two miles down the road, so we walked down there, drove to my house, and got my extra key while Mike called his wife. We drove back and as we got near, saw lights about where my truck was. When we got there, my truck lights were on and it was running. Then I saw Greg. He and his wife had driven back to get my truck. He had called my house, but no one was home so left

a message. We never checked it while Mike and I were there. Anyway, it turned out to be a very long day.

**Sunday, December 9, 2001 - 1:00PM
Johnson Farm and Abbott Loop
+ Buffet at Peaks of Otter**

Ed Wallace (leader), Lucien Metayer (assistant), Linda Akers, Bobbie Stitche, John and Michelle Mullen, Lois Smith, Laura Montague, Jim Law

Nice day for a stroll. We walked up to the Johnson Farm, looked around, nothing going on. Most of us decided the buffet at the lodge would be more interesting, so we spent the rest of the afternoon there. Since we were so full, we gave up a planned walk around Abbott Lake.

**Sunday, December 16, 2001 - 7:30 AM
McAfee's Knob-Tinker Cliffs-Andy Layne
Trail**

Rusty and Laura Schundler (leaders), Gary Hale, Laura Montague, Lois Smith, Jennifer Pfister, Kris and Bob Peckman, Gary Adams

We began the day with nine hikers. We met at 7:30 at the Andy Layne trailhead and carpooled over to the Route 311 trailhead. All of us hiked up to McAfee's Knob to fund sunny skies and terrific visibility. Due to somewhat cool temperatures, Gary H., Laura, Lois and Jennifer chose to hike ahead before the rest of us. Bob had to leave early, so he headed back to the cars after reaching the top of McAfee's Knob. The second foursome then continued on. Trail conditions were excellent. All returned safely to the cars via the Andy Layne trail after a good hike under ideal weather conditions.

**Sunday, December 16, 2001 - 1:00 PM
Wolf Creek Greenway**

Suzanne Barnett (leader), Mary Lou Gaminde (assistant), Marianne Demkó, Mervin and Blanche Brower, Lynn Bryant, Bobbie Stitche, Jim Law

Mary Lou Gaminde and I led the hike on the Wolf Creek Greenway in Vinton. The weather was cloudy, but not cold. Lynn Bryant walked with us. He cleans the trail each day of litter and dog ---. Bobbie Stitche lives in Vinton and was helpful in meeting us and leading us to the greenway behind the Best Little Hair House off

Hardy Road. We had a nice walk with our friends and Peanut, the pup. Peanut was not used to hiking on gravel so he cleaned his paws often the next day according to his owner. Peanut is a red dachshund with a distinctive pink nose. He made great friends with Blanche Brower on the way back to the cars.

**Sunday, January 6, 2002 - 8:00 AM
Black Horse Gap to Bearwallow Gap (AT)**

Cancelled due to sleet, snow & closed Parkway.

**Sunday, January 6, 2002 - 1:00 PM
Apple Orchard Falls from Sunset Field**

Cancelled because of ice and freezing rain.

**Sunday, January 13, 2002 - 8:00 AM
Brushy Mountain, Bland Co. Workhike**

Charles Parry (leader), Kenny Garrett and Suzanne Osborne (assistants), Winfred Noell, Malcolm Black, Fred Coughlan

We decided to clip the trail from Licksillet Hollow to Kimberling Creek. We knew of one blowdown about 75 yards in, so we got that and I took the chainsaw back to the truck. All was fine until we had gone in about two miles where we had a large pine tree across the trail. I decided to go back to my truck for the saw. It took me about an hour and a half to get the saw and get back up there. It took only a few minutes to cut a large block out of the tree. Going on I found some more trees that I cut out. I had told the others to clip the blue blazed trail to the overlook and thought I would catch them there. Before I got there, Winfred came back down to meet me. We caught the others down on the old road and shortly after met Fred, who arrived late and had come up to meet us. We finished about 3 pm and had soft drinks before going back to get the other vehicles. This trail is now in very good shape.

**Sunday, January 13, 2002 - 1:00 PM
Read Mountain**

Ron Crawford (leader), Jim Law (assistant), Lowell and Cindy Reardon, Sue Scanlin, Bob Wade, Mervin and Blanche Brower, Gary Hale, James Norris, Vern Lorish, Mike and Renee Sayles, Lynn Bryant, Linda Akers, Laura Montague, Peggy Bryant, Doug Clary, Suzanne Barnett, Cindy, Tim and Colin Huber, Pat Malotte, Carl Reed, Ralph Hart, Sharon Harrison, Dana

Helsley, Jim and Cathy Crawford, Mark Catron, Bob and Kris Peckman

The weather was clear and breezy with temperatures in the mid/upper forties, a great day for a hike.

The hike started at 607 Ray St., Roanoke and proceeded along a 2-mile uphill leg to Buzzard Rocks. Along the way Crawford pointed out features including site of a Civil War era iron mine, vistas of Peaks of Otter, Stewarts Knob, fern forests, future trailhead locations, new constructed trail, view of the gap in Smith Mountain (dam location), industrial parks, etc. After arriving at Buzzard Rock, features pointed out included Carvins Cove, McAfees Knob, Roanoke Airport, Valley View Mall, and Hollins College. Historical structures were discussed (see article elsewhere in this Blazer). The hike then continued to the center of the mountain to the former site of the FAA aviation tower (dismantled two years ago). Reasons for the tower and its removal were discussed. Running along the ridge of the mountain, the trail carried the hikers to a boulder outcropping on a 90-acre tract that has been optioned by the Read Mountain Alliance (in the name of Roanoke County). Crawford explained the progress of the Alliance toward making Read Mountain an undeveloped preserve. One group of hikers flushed about 20 turkeys and Crawford discussed the deer, bear, fox and other wildlife seen on the mountain. Hikers returned to the starting point in several groups along several routes. The duration of the hike was about 3 ½ hours, and the distance covered was about 5 miles.

**Sunday, January 20, 2002 - 8:00 AM
Price Mountain**

Dave Wickersham (leader), Rusty & Laura Schundler (assistants), Gary Hale, Richard Koffman, Robert Zampogna

The previous day the Roanoke area received its first significant snowfall of the season – about 4 inches topped with a layer of sleet and freezing rain which turned into a crust of ice overnight.

The original trip itinerary was to have been a strenuous 13-mile point-to-point trek starting on the Ferrier Trail, connecting to the Lick Branch Trail, connecting to the little-used Price Mountain Trail, and finishing up at the Rt 606 Price Mtn.

trailhead. Due to concerns over the road conditions we decided to do an out-and-back hike starting at the Rt. 606 trailhead – if we could get there.

Gary, Laura, Rusty and Dave met at the Daleville Park 'n Ride and piled into Dave's vehicle for the ride to the trailhead. The roads were plowed to that point and we had no problems getting that far. We were met there by new RATC members Richard Koffman and Robert Zampogna who live only a couple of miles from the trail and are very familiar with the area.

The first half mile of the Price Mountain Trail, (hiking south from the trailhead), is a real killer uphill grunt even in the best of conditions. Richard and Robert knew a less difficult route to the ridge top. Anxious to learn more about the area, trip leader Dave took them up on their offer to show us. We hiked about two miles up a fire trail from the nearby Price Mountain recreation area (no facilities) to the saddle between Caldwell and Price Mtns. Upon reaching the saddle we followed a faint trail up to the Price Mountain ridge top.

It was beautiful on top where we found the trees heavily coated with ice and the snow deeper, fluffier and with less ice on top of it. The sky was bright blue and sunny and the temperature felt much warmer than 42 degrees.

We hiked the Price Mtn. Trail along the ridge to a gap a couple of miles shy of the Lick Branch Trail intersection. At that point Richard suggested we could avoid retracing our steps by bushwhacking down the mountain to hit a trail that is the continuation of the fire road we hiked in on. After consulting the maps, we all agreed to give it a try.

The descent off the mountain was no problem. The snow was packing nicely, creating handy temporary downhill steps. We found the trail just as Richard said. Now we were on the Stonecoal Creek side of the Caldwell/Price saddle. We followed the trail back up to the saddle, stopping briefly for lunch along the way.

From the saddle we hiked back out the fire road we had hiked in on. By now the snow was getting slushy and our feet wet so everyone was glad to wrap up the hike several hours sooner than if we had followed the originally scheduled itinerary. The consensus was that we covered about 7 miles.

Sunday, January 20, 2002 - 1:00 PM
Harvey's Knob to Bobblett's Gap

Cancelled due to weather and Parkway closure.

Saturday Night, January 26, 2002 - 6:00 PM
Moonlight Hike, Daleville to RT. 652(AT)

Suzanne Barnett (leader), Jo Switzer, the only other hiker to show up, besides Peanut. This was an excellent night in viewing the moon and stars, plus a great view of Roanoke's twinkling city lights.

Sunday, January 27, 2002 - 8:30 AM
Rt. 624-Dragons Tooth-Trout Creek Rt. 620

Kris and Bob Peckman (leaders), Dave Sutton (assistant), Larry Austin, H.R. Blankenship, Bobbie Stitcher, Sharon Bottomley, Cindy Bowles, Lowell and Cindy Reardon, Doug Clary, Betty Mathews, Charlotte Lomax, Sue Foy, Bill Parsley

Today it was impossible to believe it was January. Although the thermometer read 28 degrees when we met at the Orange Market, we were ripping off sweaters and pant legs very soon after we began climbing up from Trout Creek, where we started the hike to avoid starting the day with a car shuttle (we were later to pay for this). The leaders made sure everyone properly admired the new steps at Trout Creek and the relocation on the way up to the ridge top. Even though the Pickle Branch shelter is now much closer to the trail, we did not pay it a visit today. The views from the ridge top were magnificent all around. We could look from one end of Cove Mountain to the other, to see where we were going, and later, where we had come from. From various vantage points we saw all the surrounding mountains, Tinker Cliffs and Peaks of Otter. Several people at various times laid down to rest and were amazed at the intense blue of the sky. We snacked at Hemlock Point and lunched at Dragon's Tooth, where you had to wait in line to climb up, there were so many people. The sun on the rocks was like a Siren, and we found it very hard to leave. Last fall's fire left a lot of burn scarring both on the approach to Dragon's Tooth from south on the trail and on the way down from the Tooth heading north.

On the hike RATC gained a new member, who paid his dues on the spot! The hikers were a great combination of old and newer members.

This hike was on the AT all the way, which meant we enjoyed the views from Rawie's Rest and the sweet smell of pines along the stretch from Lost Spectacles Gap to 624. The car shuttle at the end of the hike seemed to last longer than it should have. We thought we were just being overly impatient, but it turned out that Bob got a flat tire while driving the other drivers back to Trout Creek to pick up their cars.

Sunday, February 3, 2002 - 9:30 AM
Cove Branch-Potts Arm Loop

Suzanne Osborne (leader), Terri McClure (assistant), Lois Smith, Gene Downs, H.R. Blankenship, Bobbie Stitcher, Bob and Kris Peckman, John Lynham, Robert Haynes, Cathy Wright and two friends

Varied terrain, beaver pond. Part of the group participated in the car switch; the other did the entire loop. Many thanks to Bill Gordge and the Midweek group for "readying" the trail the week before, and a special thanks to Winfred Noell who carried and made good use of the chain saw that day. The second half of the loop is unremarkable for scenery but offers a good workout.

Sunday, February 3, 2002 - 1:00 PM
Roanoke Mountain Loop

Suzanne Barnett (leader), Dave Sutton (assistant) Linda and Matthew Sutton, Marianne Demkó, Sharon Harrison, David Bowers, Sue Scanlin, Jean Warren, Georgia Gallaher, Dana Helsley, Gary Bible, Ralph Hart, and Mary Ann Russell with her escort, Sir Madison

On this afternoon the weather was somewhat cool. The Roanoke Mountain Loop was closed to traffic so it made our hike more enjoyable. There were others besides our group who were enjoying the walk. We walked up to the top of the loop looking at the mountain ranges we could see in the distance. Going down we took to the other side and arrived back in plenty of time to see the Super Bowl later that evening.

**Sunday, February 10, 2002 - 8:00 AM
Ribble Trail-AT Loop**

Kenny Garrett (leader), Rusty & Laura Schundler (assistants), H.R. Blankenship, Laura Montague, Gary Hale

Six brave souls decided to ignore the weather and head out to Bland County. After about 10 minutes of walking, the rain began to fall. The uphill portion of the Ribble Trail was definitely a good way to get the heart beating. After approximately three miles of climbing, the Ribble Trail intersected with the A.T. As the rain steadily fell, we walked through the mud and snow back down the mountain. We stopped for lunch at the Wapiti Shelter, and then continued on past the scenic pond. We walked through many natural tunnels of rhododendron and layers of fog. We all agreed that the walk was worth getting wet for!!

**Sunday, February 17, 2002 - 8:30 AM
Pickle Branch Shelter Workhike
Catawba Mountain Workhike**

Charles Parry, Bob & Kris Peckman, Fred Coughlan, Dana Helsley, Malcolm Black, Leonard Adkins, Jared Bourne, Joseph Bowman, Mylinh Nguyen, Josh Mandel, Brian Chisom, Sarah King and Kate Collins.

It was a rather cold and blustery day on top of the mountain. Fortunately most of us were working on the side of the mountain where we were protected from the wind. However, Dana, Fred and Leonard got the cold job of moving the bulletin board on top of the mountain. Hikers have created erosion by cutting from the A.T. down to the board so they could read it. The obvious solution to the problem was to move the bulletin board to a point on the road where it is not visible from the trail. It took the three of them most of the morning, but they got the job done.

Meanwhile, the rest of us worked on steps on a badly eroded section of trail between the first set of rock bridges and the Boy Scout shelter. Most of

our steps were built from landscaping timbers, with a few built from rock. We put in over 30 wooden steps and two or three rock ones. We still have enough work left in this area for a day next month.

We were pleased to have four students from Radford University join us for the day. In addition, we had two students from Roanoke College work with us.

**Sunday, February 24, 2001 - 1:00 PM
Hoop Hole Lower Loop**

Suzanne Osborne (leader), Jim Law, Suzanne Barnett, Betty Mathews, Zetta Campbell, Pat Mankin and guests: Winfred Noell, Karen Beckett, Sylvia Mattison, Michelle & John Mullen (TX), Gary Adams (NY), Don Lawhorn, Donna & HC Crofts, Erin Baratta, Marvin Addison, Carolyn Biuldirk (sp).

It was a beautiful day – good turn out – 18 people. Several new comers to the area – John & Michelle Mullen from Dallas, TX and Gary Adams from NY. A lot of blow downs and with the lack of rain, creeks weren't as spectacular as usual.

**Sunday, February 24, 2002 - 9:30 AM
McAfee's Knob (AT)**

Bobbie Stitcher (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Doug Clary, Bill Cook, Tina Gibson, Gary Hale, Sharon Harrison, Laura Montague, Mark Packett, Cindy & Lowell Reardon, Marianne Russell, Lois Smith

Thirteen hikers met at the Orange Market parking lot on a cool, sunny and cloudless February morning. We traveled to the parking lot on Va. 311 and hiked north on the A.T. to the fire road. We turned left and walked on the fire road and eventually took a side trail to McAfee Knob. We ate lunch at McAfee Knob and enjoyed the views of Roanoke. We hiked south on the A.T. and then took the fire road back to the parking lot. It was a very nice hike on a beautiful February day.

Hike Schedule (Cont.)

**Saturday & Sunday, June 1&2, 2002, 8:00 AM
White Rocks Workhike**

\$3.00 carpool fee
Charles Parry 540-951-1402 & Hal Cantrill 387-2347
Sunday - Mike Ferguson 344-8525

**Sunday, June 2, 2002, 1:00 PM
Rhododendron Hike**

Thunder Ridge to Cornelius Creek Shelter

7 miles, moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee
Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732

**Saturday, June 8, 2002, 9:30 AM
Seven Mile Mtn**

6 miles, moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
Zetta Campbell 366-8165 & Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, June 9, 2002, 8:00 AM
113-mile Hike #11**

Big Horse Gap to Pearisburg (RT 460)

12 miles, strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee
Kenny Garrett 890-8946 & HR Blankenship 776-3468

**Saturday & Sunday, June 15&16, 8:00 AM
Konnarock - Bailey Gap**

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

**Sunday, June 16, 2002, 1:00 PM
Otter Creek Trail**

4 miles, easy/moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee
Jim Lay 721-8964 & Pat Mankin 992-2716

**Sunday, June 23, 2002, 8:30 AM
113-mile Hike #2
Salt Pond Road to RT 220**

10 miles, moderate, \$3.00 carpool fee
Rusty & Laura Schundler 344-4745

**Sunday, June 23, 2002, 1:00 PM
Chessie Nature Trail**

6 miles, easy, \$3.00 carpool fee
Suzanne Barnett 772-4273

**Sunday, June 30, 2002, 8:30 AM
Wind Rock to Rocky Gap**

7.5 miles, moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee
Linda Akers 776-1969 & Bobbie Stitcher 890-2140

**Sunday, June 30, 2002, 1:00 PM
Sawtooth Ridge to Blacksburg Road**

5 miles, moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
Mervin & Blanche 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	<input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$30
Individual Member	<input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$20
Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282				<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500