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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Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Curt & Nicole Kaucker
J. Michael & Louise Maloney

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

Mervin Brower

President’s Message

I am embarrassed to be an issue late. In March, John F. Edwards in Arlington, made a donation in memory of Thomas A. Edwards, one of our members. We regret the loss of Tom, and thank John for this memorial.

The Appalachian Trail Conference 35th Biennial Meeting will be at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN from July 1 to 8. Two web sites are http://www.southernhighlands2005.org/ and http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about/biennial.html

This year there will be a silent auction containing lots of interesting things for folks to bid on. Please consider bringing along a little something for the auction. A T-shirt, book, or trail gear would be ideal. Historically, the club contributions have been highly sought after by our attendees, and the proceeds will help ATC to continue its support of the ATC Biennial Conference.

The items can either be brought to the conference on Friday or early Saturday or mailed to:

The Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club will be hosting the 2005 Multi-Club Meeting for the Southern Region at Sherando Lake - USFS Recreation Area over Labor Day weekend. We have a registration form and a general information sheet for the meeting in this Blazer. All information is available on the NBATC club website, www.nbatc.org.

NBATC is working hard to provide an enjoyable weekend for everyone. We hope to see many of you there.

Bob Peckman

Trail Supervisor’s Report

By the time that you read this we will have only two weeks left to work with the Konnarock Crews. They will be July 14 - 18 on the power-line relocation on Pearis Mountain about 5 miles south of Pearisburg, and August 4 – 8 on Angel’s Rest rehabilitation. Actually, the latter is more of a relocation, as we will be putting in a new switchback. I expect to work all 10 days, so you can come out any of these days you wish to. We have already completed one week in the Angel’s Rest area and one week on the Pearis Mountain relocation. We hope to finish the power-line relocation and should finish the switchback on the Angel’s Rest Trail, but not all the re-hab work that needs to be done. Another two weeks of Konnarock in the future might get us close to finishing it. After the Crews leave we will put our 2 final work-hikes for the summer on Sawtooth Ridge. The trail needs re-blazing for the summer on Sawtooth Ridge. The trail needs re-blazing if Ed and Ralph don’t get it done first. Also, near the south end of the ridge, some steps need to be replaced and some drainage control work including some rock steps would be desirable. As our overseers are always changing I am including an updated list in this issue. We rely on our overseers for most of the routine maintenance and I certainly appreciate all the work that they do.

Charles Parry
2005 MULTI CLUB MEETING
September 2 – 4, 2005
Sherando Lake Recreation Area

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOST - Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club
www.nbatc.org

HOURS OF REGISTRATION – Friday  3:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday  8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Sherando Lake USFS Recreation Area is located on Route 664 on the west side of the Blue Ridge. From Interstate 81 take exit 217 “Stuarts Draft”, left on Rt. 340 “Stuart’s Draft Hwy.”, right on Rt. 608, left on Rt. 610, and right on Rt. 664 to Sherando. From Interstate 64, exit 96 and go south on Rt. 624 that goes into Rt. 664 to Sherando. From the Blue Ridge Parkway near Afton, exit on Rt. 664.

CAMPING FACILITIES:
A rustic walk-in Group Camping site has been reserved for the meeting at no cost. No showers or electricity are available; however, toilets and water are available in the camping area plus showers are available nearby at the main pavilion.
Camp sites with electric hookups but no water are available for $20.00 per night. Potable water and showers are close by. Arrangements must be made at Sherando upon arrival. Campsite rentals are on a first-come first-served basis and are open to the public and usually fill up quickly over the Labor Day weekend.

HIKING: Hikes will be planned for Saturday and Sunday and will range from serious all day hikes to half-day easy hikes on the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway trails with NBATC members as leaders. Sign-up sheets and maps will be available at Registration Table. Information is available for view on the website.

MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT: There will be two catered meals in the group picnic area - Saturday chili dinner ($8.00 per adult, $4.00 for 11 and under) and Sunday catered dinner ($13.00 per adult, $6.00 for 11 and under). Advanced reservations are required. You are on your own for all other meals. There will be free entertainment each evening and the general meeting will be Sunday night after dinner. Bring your own chairs.

MOTELS AND RESTAURANTS: Stuarts Draft, Waynesboro and Staunton are the closest towns to Sherando Lake. There is a list on the website and there will be a list at the registration desk.

RECREATION:
Swim in Sherando Lake and enjoy a sandy beach, bathhouse and concessions pavilion.
Hand-powered boating on the 25-acre Sherando Lake and 7-acre Upper Sherando Lake.
Fishing for brook trout, brown trout, bass, blugill, and catfish. Virginia state license required.
Scenic areas on the Blue Ridge Parkway which are suitable for small children.
Tour the following within a 20-mile radius: Rocky’s Antique Mall, Frontier Culture Museum, Woodrow Wilson Historic Home, Rockbridge Vineyard, Buffalo Spring Herb Farm, Wades Mill, Cyrus McCormick Farm, P. Buckley Moss Art Museum, etc. Additional information will be available at the registration desk.
Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the beach area, parking lots, or picnic areas.
Pets are permitted, but only on leashes and not on the beach or in swimming areas.

PARK GATES CLOSE FRIDAY AT 11:00 P.M. AND SATURDAY AT 10:00 P.M.
### 2005 MULTI CLUB MEETING
September 2 – 4, 2005  
Sherando Lake Recreation Area

HOST - Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club

**REGISTRATION FORM**  
(Deadline: August 1)

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CITY:** __________________________  **STATE:** __________________________  **ZIP:** __________________________

**PHONE:** __________________________  **EMAIL:** __________________________

**CLUB AFFILIATION:** __________________________

**ARRIVAL DAY:**  
- _____ Friday  
- _____ Saturday  
- _____ Sunday

**NUMBER IN YOUR PARTY/FAMILY:**

**PLEASE CHECK FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES YOU WISH**

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**TOTAL ENCLOSED**  

- _____ Group Tent Area  (Free)  x _____ persons  

Recognizing possible dangers to which I may be exposed, I hereby release all claims against the USFS and NBATC for any personal injury, death or property damage arising out of or in any way connected with any activities, including, without limitation, any acts or omissions caused in whole or in part by their negligence.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
- Phone: Chuck Dideon 540-297-4848  
- Laurie Foot 434-384-0013  
- Mike McCormack 434-384-1944

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL REGISTRATION TO:**  
- NBATC Multi Club Registration  
- 1435 Tunbridge Road  
- Lynchburg, VA 24501

**FOR ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFORMATION GO TO** www.nbatc.org
RATC Overseer Assignments Spring 2005

VA 611 (South end): Kenny Garrett
VA 608: John Lynham & Jerry Kyle
VA 606: Mike and Virginia Reilly
Dismal Creek: Bill Floyd & Leslie Kay
Ribble Trail (north end): David Hicks & Greg Still
Powerline: Charles & Gloria Parry
US 460 Bridge: (Break in our section)
Pine Swamp Shelter: Mike Ferguson
Bailey Gap Shelter: Hal Cantrill & Bob Foutz
War Spur Trail: Bob Stimson
Rocky Gap: Brian & Leigh Anne Kelly
Sinking Creek: Chase Davidson
Niday Trail: Red Crone

VA 621: Blanche & Mervin Brower
VA 620: Bob & Kris Peckman
VA 624: Ed Bessel, Ralph Hart, Don Nulph & Maurice Turner
VA 311: Leonard and Laurie Adkins
Campbell Shelter: Ron McCorkle
Brickey's Gap: Bill Gorgie
Ditch Trail: Zetta Campbell & Dick Clark
Angel's Gap: Greg Tinaglia, Hettie & Wes Barnes
US 220: Homer & Therese Witcher
VA 652: Jim & Linda Hutchings
Salt Pond Road: Dana Helsley and Fred Coughlan
Black Horse Gap: (North end)

CORN BOIL

Saturday, August 6, 2005  6-9 PM
Whispering Pines Park

The club will provide BBQ, corn, fixings, beverage
and table service. Members will provide a dish to
pass. We will be feeding the Konnarock Crew so
please bring enough for you plus one. No need to
RSVP for this event.

Directions from Hanging Rock: Route 311 North
for approximately 3 miles. Turn right on Absalom
Smith Road (just past Roanoke Moose Lodge).
Park is ½ mile on right. Questions? Call Carol
McPeak  890-2855

Hike-a-thon for Read Mountain

Sunday, October 2  2:00 PM
Bonsack Elementary School

The 2005 Hike-a-thon is a fund-raising event of the Read Mountain Alliance to raise money to purchase the
upper slopes and ridge line of Read Mountain. The goal is to set aside the mountaintop as a public preserve for
everyone to enjoy. All hikers must have sponsors. Those sponsored for $25 or more will receive a “Take a
Hike-a-thon” T-shirt. Tax-deductible checks should be made out to the Western Virginia Land Trust and
marked for the Read Mountain Alliance.

The hike of approximately 3 miles is moderate difficulty starting with a steep ascent in the first half mile.
Hikers should bring water. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. At registration, hikers will be
asked to sign a release for the private landowners who have given us permission to hike across their property.
All hikers please pre-register by calling 977-4540 or by registering on the web site: www.readmountain.org.
Hike Reports

Sunday, March 6, 2005  8:00AM
Curry Gap (BRP) to Daleville (RT 220)
113-Mile Hike # 2
Laura H. Montague (leader), Lois C. Smith (assistant leader), H.R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett & Shelley Himel

Our original hike was to be from Curry Gap (BRP) to Daleville but the parkway was closed due to snow. We met Sunday morning and decided as a group where to hike. We started the hike on Route 11 and headed north and hiked up to the Fullhardt Knob shelter. I remember thinking at one point how lucky we were to be on the side of the mountain without snow. Then we turned the corner and we were in snow. It was rather deep at times but we all made it and had a good time. We had an early lunch at the shelter and then decided to walk back to 220 (where some cars were) to get in a little extra distance. Total distance approximately 8.5 miles.

Wednesday, March 9, 2005
Indian Branch Work Hike, Session 1
Charles Parry, Red Crone, Maurice Turner, Bill Gordge, Lynn Bryant, Peggy Bryant, David Foster, Jim Lewis, Jim Overholser, Eddie Baldwin

This was my first ever outing with the mid-week crew, made possible by the fact that I was on spring break. Our first job was to recover as much as possible of the bridge that washed out last fall and return the parts to the area of the original bridge site. The stringers had previously been located just upstream from the Blacksburg Road. However, the decking and rails were scattered all over the place amongst debris, with some of it below the road. A large mud hole separated the material from the old road up to the bridge site. Red and Lynn managed to get their vehicles through the mud hole and we transported the remains of the bridge back to the vicinity of the former site in Red’s truck. We also, got a count on the material, so we would know how much new lumber to purchase. After lunch, we moved to John’s Spring Shelter where we dug a new privy hole and moved the privy.

Sunday, March 13, 2005
Stewarts Knob
Lynn Bryant (leader), Dave Sutton (assistant leader), Peggy Bryant, Emory Richardson, Bill Mistele, Marianne Demko, Mike Ferguson, Margaret Ferguson, Billy Ferguson, Natalie Ferguson, Allison Dubenezic, Mary Lou Gaminde, Mary Gilbert, Winfred Noell, Dale Phillips, Charles Musgrove

Due to snow on Saturday, we postponed our workday until Sunday. Unfortunately, we lost workers because of that. With only four people on Sunday morning, we knew we were short handed. Consequently, Dana and I tried unsuccessfully to get our trucks through the mud hole. As we were building a new pier for the bridge this meant a lot of carrying. By lunchtime we had a good part of the material up there and sorted out the pieces for the pier. Also, Mervin came in as a sub for Homer. By mid afternoon, we had our piers ready on both ends and were wondering how the four of us were going to move the stringers. About then Alan, Bob and Bob’s dog came through on a hike. Anyway, they either volunteered or were coerced into helping us move the stringers. Even with them we had barely enough muscle to move them. Once that was done the remainder of the job went quite quickly. By late afternoon the bridge was back in place and cabled to a tree to prevent it from washing so far downstream again.

Sunday, March 13, 2005  1:00PM
Stewarts Knob
Lynn Bryant (leader), Dave Sutton (assistant leader), Peggy Bryant, Emory Richardson, Bill Mistele, Marianne Demko, Mike Ferguson, Margaret Ferguson, Billy Ferguson, Natalie Ferguson, Allison Dubenezic, Mary Lou Gaminde, Mary Gilbert, Winfred Noell, Dale Phillips, Charles Musgrove

14 adults and 2 children did the Stewart’s Knob trail. We couldn’t have asked for a better day, clear skies and 60 degree temperature. From the knob overlook, the greater Roanoke Valley and mountain ranges west of Roanoke were in clear view. Someone commented as to how small Mill Mountain appeared from this perspective. A number of hikers and bikers on the trail today, but no horses. This popular and well used trail is in good shape, although some water bars need to be installed. Started hike at 1:10 PM and finished at 3:15 PM.
Going on a group hike can fulfill a number of worthwhile purposes. These include such things as physical conditioning, social interaction, the enjoyment of nature, and the thrill of reaching a spectacular viewpoint. The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club consistently tries to provide a wide range of hiking opportunities for people of all ages, interests and abilities. Guests are always welcome to join us.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Hike Schedule

#### Sunday, July 10, 2005  1:00 PM
**Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to McAfee Knob**
7.4 miles, Moderate, $0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Located west of Salem in Roanoke County, the hike follows the Appalachian Trail up and back. Extensive cliffs at the top afford unparalleled views of both the Catawba Valley and the city of Roanoke.

**Bobbie Stitcher**  397-2760
**Ed Wallace**  774-0175

#### Saturday, July 16, 2005  8:00 AM
**Pearis Mountain Relocation with Konnarock**
Some miles, Moderate, $5.50 carpool fee
63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossings south of Pearisburg.

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

#### Sunday, July 17, 2005  8:00 AM
**Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to McAfee Knob**
7.4 miles, Moderate, $0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Located west of Salem in Roanoke County, the hike follows the Appalachian Trail up and back. Extensive cliffs at the top afford unparalleled views of both the Catawba Valley and the city of Roanoke.

**Bobbie Stitcher**  397-2760
**Ed Wallace**  774-0175

#### Sunday, July 17, 2005  8:00 AM
**Pearis Mountain Relocation with Konnarock**
Some miles, Moderate, $5.50 carpool fee
63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossings south of Pearisburg.

**Charles Parry**  540-951-1402
**Michael J. Vaughn**  992-1350

#### Sunday, July 17, 2005  1:00 PM
**War Spur; Loop , Connector , Overlook Hike**
4.0 miles, Easy, $4.50 carpool fee
52 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located on Salt Pond Mountain in Giles County and in the Mountain Lake Wilderness. You hike to War Spur overlook and the AT, you return from the overlook through a virgin hemlock, fir, and spruce stand. Buffet at Mountain lake Lodge is an option.

**Mary Lou Gaminde**  344-1637
**Diana Christopulos**  387-0930

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11.0 miles, Strenuous, $2.00 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

The hike is just north of Roanoke, starting in the Catawba Valley and ending in Daleville. The hike is a stiff uphill on the relocated Andy Layne Trail and then a scenic ridge walk overlooking Carvins Cove.

**Kenny Garrett**  537-5347
**Diana Christopulos**  387-0930
**Sunday, July 24, 2005  8:00 AM**  
**Hoop Hole, Upper Loop**

7.3 miles, Strenuous, $2.50 carpool fee  
28 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County between Eagle Rock and Oriskany – some 45 minutes from Roanoke. This hike uses part of the lower loop to get to the upper loop which includes a steep climb to the top of Montgomery Knob in the Jefferson National Forest.  
*Michael J. Vaughn*  992-1350  
*Charlie Scharnberg*  342-3104

**Sunday, July 24, 2005  1:00 PM**  
**Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve**

6.0 miles, Moderate, $2.50 carpool fee  
30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Franklin County, just outside of the town of Rocky Mount at the Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. This hike will traverse Grassy Hill which is a formation composed of ancient volcanic rocks rich in magnesium. Hikers will get to see a mixture of habitats including areas that support rare plants. The hike leader will identify trees and other plants along the hike as well as discuss the site's natural history.  
*Mike Leahy*  989-0224  
*Kris Peckman*  366-7780

**Sunday, July 31, 2005  8:00 AM**  
**Potts Mountain (LA)**

6.0 miles, Easy-Moderate, $3.00 carpool fee  
36 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Craig and Alleghany counties.  
*Charles Musgrove*  345-7969  
*Greg Tinaglia*  989-0374

**Sunday, July 31, 2005  1:00 PM**  
**Roaring Run**

2.0 miles, Easy, $2.50 carpool fee  
27 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County. The hike visits a cascading stream and scenic waterfalls, standing pre-civil war iron ore furnace, used for making iron ingots, stoves, and other iron products for the building of America.  
*Georgia Gallaher*  345-8700  
*Gene Downs*  473-2326

**Saturday, August 6, 2005  8:00 AM**  
**Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew**

Some miles, Moderate, $5.50 carpool fee  
62 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.  
*Charles Parry*  540-951-1402  
*Mervin & Blanche Brower*  387-9732

**Sunday, August 7, 2005  8:00 AM**  
**Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew**

Some miles, Moderate, $5.50 carpool fee  
62 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.  
*Charles Parry*  540-951-1402  
*Donald Nulph*  774-8618

**Sunday, August 7, 2005  1:00 PM**  
**Otter Creek Trail**

3.4 miles, Easy-Moderate, $4.00 carpool fee  
44 miles from Roanoke

Located in Amherst County just off the Blue Ridge Parkway and little way from James River.  
*Kenny Garrett*  537-5347  
*Mary Lou Gaminde*  344-1637
Sunday, August 14, 2005   8:00 AM  
Cove Branch, Potts Arm Loop

5.4 miles, Moderate, $2.50 carpool fee
28 miles from Roanoke

The hike, located in Craig County, will ascend Cove Branch, a beautiful streamside trail, and then cross over to Potts Arm through mature hardwoods in a remote section of the National Forest near Shawvers Run Wilderness. We will have lunch on a grassy bald on the ridge of Potts Arm and then descend Potts Arm trail through woodlands to the forest service road at the bottom.

Greg Tinaglia  989-0374
Carl Cornett  342-3950

Sunday, August 14, 2005   1:00 PM  
James River Foot Bridge to Auto Bridge

5.0 miles, Easy-Moderate, $3.50 carpool fee
39 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Bedford County. It will cross the James River Foot Bridge following the AT to Matts Creek Shelter then come back on the old AT to just south of the AT's old James River crossing on the public highway bridge.

Bobbie Stitcher  397-2760
Gary Bible  977-2954

Sunday, August 21, 2005   8:00 AM  
Black Horse Gap (BRP) to Curry Gap (BRP)  
113-Hike # 1

6.9 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, $1.00 carpool fee
9 miles from Roanoke

This hike is located in Botetourt County.

Mervin & Blanche Brower  387-9732
Carl Cornett  342-3950

Sunday, August 21, 2005   1:00 PM  
Sawtooth Work Hike

Some miles, Moderate, $0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Reblaze the trail if not already done. Replace some steps. Install new steps and drainage controls.

Charles Parry  540-951-1402
Maurice Turner  334-2128

Sunday, August 28, 2005   8:30 AM  
Sawtooth Work Hike

Some miles, Moderate, $0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Reblaze the trail if not already done. Replace some steps. Install new steps and drainage controls.

Charles Parry  540-951-1402
Maurice Turner  334-2128

Sunday, September 4, 2005   8:00 AM  
Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Andy Layne Trail ( Rt. 779 )  
113-Mile Hike #  4

11.5 miles, Strenuous, $1.00 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

This hike offers the opportunity to see two of the prime vistas of the Appalachian trail in one day! The hike first climbs gradually to McAfee's Knob, then follows the AT on the ridgeline to Tinker Cliffs before dropping down to Rt. 779 on the Andy Layne Trail.

Homer Witcher  992-3932
Charlie Scharnberg  342-3104

Sunday, September 11, 2005   8:30 AM  
Sinking Creek(RT 630) to Lee Hollow (RT 621)  
113-Mile Hike # 8

10.4 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, $3.00 carpool fee
18 miles from Roanoke

Joint hike with Natural Bridge AT Club. Located in Craig County, the hike climbs up Sinking Creek Mountain, then follows the ridge where rock piles and old apple trees remain from the days when even the top of the mountain was farms. Several slanted rocks offer views of Craig Creek Valley and the mountains beyond. Side trip down to visit the new Sarver Shelter on the old Sarver homestead site.

Kris Peckman  366-7780
Michael J. Vaughn  992-1350
Sunday, September 11, 2005 1:00 PM
Chessie Nature Trail
7.0 miles, Easy-Moderate, $4.00 carpool fee
42 miles from Roanoke

The hike is along the Maury River between
Lexington and Buena Vista. It has river views,
high cliffs and well-preserved locks of 19th-century
 canal system.
Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

Sunday, September 18, 2005 8:00 AM
Johns Creek (Rt. 632) to Sinking Creek (Rt. 630) 113-Mile Hike # 9
8.3 miles, Strenuous, $4.50 carpool fee
41 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Craig and Giles counties.
Kenny Garrett 537-5347
Don Nulph 774-0648

Sunday, September 18, 2005 1:00 PM
Poverty Creek-Jacob's Ladder-Horse Nettle Trails
6.0 miles, Moderate, $3.50 carpool fee
39 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Montgomery County north
of Blacksburg. It starts at Pandapas and uses some
of the trails in Poverty Creek and Gap Mountain.
David Sutton 774-0648
Gary Bible 977-2954

Sunday, September 25, 2005 8:30 AM
Sawtooth Work Hike
Some miles, Moderate, $0.50 carpool fee
6 miles from Roanoke

Reblaze the trail if not already done. Replace some
steps. Install new steps and drainage controls.
Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Maurice Turner 334-2128

Sunday, September 25, 2005 1:00 PM
Bottom Creek Gorge
5.3 miles, Easy-Moderate, $1.50 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

Hidden away at the corner of Montgomery,
Roanoke, and Floyd counties is the Bottom Creek
Gorge Preserve on top of Bent Mountain. The
Nature Conservancy has developed a network of
trails that pass ponds, streams and meadows and
follow tunnels of rhododendron that lead you
around and down to the Bottom Creek Gorge, then
up to a vantage point to see Bent Mountain Falls
flow from a mountain side.
Bobbie Stitcher 397-2760
Georgia Gallaher 345-8700

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Application
New & Renewal

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, VA 24024-2282

[ ] Life $500
Hike Reports (Continued)

**Spec Mines Trail Circuit via Blackhorse Gap**

Larry Austin (leader), Terri McClure (assistant leader), H. R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Laura Montague, Kris Peckman, Jen Schaeffer, Meg Green & Cocoa, Terri’s beautiful lab

The weather for this hike turned out to be beautiful in spite of the forecast. Temperatures ended up in the low 60's under mostly sunny skies. The hike commenced just above Camp Bethel near Nace at the junction of the gated "Old Fincastle Road" and Forest Service Road 634. From there we ascended the grassy road to Black Horse Gap where we turned north onto the AT. We followed the AT to the Montvale Overlook where we crossed the Parkway and entered the Spec Mines Trail. We had great views from the AT as it crossed Taylor Mountain Overlook and again at the Montvale Overlook. Our side trip to the Spec Mines from Forest Service Road 634 was quite an adventure. The initial climb from FSR 634 was extremely steep but did not last too long. We then followed an old road bed to the mines. These mines are quite interesting to see and raise a lot of questions about the mining operation and those hardy individuals who did the mining. Just below the mines along a creek two small brick buildings were still standing which prompted much conjecture about their purpose. We decided to follow the creek back out to FSR 634 using a somewhat faint old road bed perhaps used by the miners to access the mines. This resulted in numerous creek crossings and some interesting maneuvers to get under, over or around fallen trees and bushes. The creek was beautiful with cascading waterfalls. In places the creek was almost green with algae even though it had a rapid flow. Once out from the mines, we rapidly hiked back on FSR 634 to our point of origin. All seemed to enjoy the hike and especially the side trip to the Spec Mines.

**Trout Creek Work Hike # 2**

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant leader), Dana Helsley, Mike Vaughn, Mike Leahy, Mervin Brower, Blanche Brower, Dan Phlegar

This was our second day of work on a short relocation about 1/2 mile north of Trout Creek. We started with 5 people in the morning and when Mervin and Blanche arrived, we realized that we were short on tools. Consequently, I made a quick run down to the truck for more. It was a good thing I did as Dan arrived a short time later. We made good progress on the relocation and felt that we would be able to finish it in April.

**Cascades**

Kenny Garrett (co-leader), Mary Lou Gaminde (co-leader), Jesse Garrett, Lance Garrett, Renee Garrett, Carl Cornett, Charles Musgrove, Bill Mistele, Mary Gilbert, Brett Collard & Cynthia Chan

This hike fell on the first day of spring and the temperature reflected the date. The partly cloudy afternoon was graced with mild temperature in the mid-60’s. The trail was not as crowded as we had feared. We had a great group of walkers who seemed to really enjoy the afternoon stroll to view the magnificent falls. A little ice was still hanging onto the remnants of winter around the falls. Many chose to take the low trail in and the high trail out from the beautiful Cascades. We exited the park in plenty of time to beat the darkness. PS. the parking fees have increased to $3.00, which is still a great deal considering the great facilities and the well maintained trails.

**Buffalo Mountain**

Hike cancelled due to bad weather. Also, only one call.

**Alleghany Trail to Pine Swamp**

Hike canceled due to high winds. This will be rescheduled at a later date.

**Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop**


This hike is normally just a pleasant walk in the woods. On this particular day, however, Mother Nature spiced things up a bit. Following a week of rain the normally inconsequential stream crossings were a bit dicey. No one fell in which was quite amazing considering the creek had its pick of fifteen potential victims at about half a dozen crossings.

The other amazing thing about this hike was the incredible wind. All day long it was rarely less than 25-30 mph and sometimes gusted to around 45 mph. The forest was in a constant roar and the trees were creaking and moaning. Part of the fun on a club hike is the camaraderie but on this day the wind was so fierce you couldn’t carry on a conversation with anyone further than three feet away.

The trail has not been maintained for years but the route is usually obvious. There are faint yellow blazes...
now and then and good signage at the major intersections. The official club mileage for this hike is 4.5 miles although the signs indicate 5.5. It starts where Virginia secondary route 606 crosses from Botetourt County into Craig County. We hiked the loop in a clockwise direction so we started out with a mile of downhill and finished with a mile of downhill with three miles of uphill in between.

**Sunday, April 10, 2005  8:30AM**  
**Trout Creek Work Hike #3**

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (assistant leader), Dana Helsley, Fred Coughlan, David Jones & Mervin Brower

As the end of the relocation was in sight, we carried a paint bucket in with us. It was another beautiful day and the work progressed well. We were finishing the digging about the time a large group of afternoon club hikers passed through on their way to Pickle Branch. Fred and Kris were given the honor of blazing the new trail, while the rest of us finished up and closed the old trail. This relocation eliminated a badly eroding section of trail and was a big improvement. We still need some water bars on the old trail a bit closer to Trout Creek.

**Sunday, April 10, 2005  1:00PM**  
**Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter**

Linda Akers (leader), Dave Sutton (co-leader), Linda Sutton, Sherry Kessel, Carolyn Baratta, Kenny, Jesse & Lance Garrett, Taylor Moon, Charles Musgrove, Carl Cornett, Lynne & Bill Jacoby & Hooper, Emory Richardson, Alan Perkin, Sheri Pippin, Mary Gilbert, Bobbie Stitcher, Cindy Reardon, Zetta Campbell & Marianne Demkó.

Good turnout on a beautiful, cloudless day. A little slow getting started with this many people to carpool. The group quickly separated into fast and slow hikers. Met up at the shelter where the group split even more -- with several retracing the trail we'd come in on, while the others crossed and followed the creek back to the road. We got fussed at for crossing private property, so that others crossed and followed the creek back to the road. We enjoyed lunch at the falls which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, Met up at the shelter where the group split even more -- with several retracing the trail we'd come in on, while the others crossed and followed the creek back to the road. We got fussed at for crossing private property, so that others crossed and followed the creek back to the road. We enjoyed lunch at the falls which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, we were able to finish this hike around 2:00 p.m. and had time to enjoy lemonade and cookies.

**Sunday, April 17, 2005  1:00PM**  
**Bottom Creek Gorge**

Maurice Turner (leader), Mary Gilbert (co-leader), Malcolm Black (co-leader), Susan Leith, David Bowers & dog Catcher, Margarita Cubas, Amanda Campbell, Valeria Cubas, Amanda Cubas, Mary Lou Gaminde, Paul Blaiklock, Nancy Utz, Connie & Milton Carter, Carolyn Baratta, Marianne Demkó, Sheri Pippin, Stu Israel, C. Miller, Charles Musgrove, Maya Bohler, Lynne & Bill Jacoby, Lorrie Huffman and Jim & Mary Lou Lewis

Sunny weather with temperatures in the 70's brought out the hikers today. We hiked the yellow blaze trail that passed by the pond and along Bottom Creek where we saw many trilliums in full bloom. We took a long snack break at the falls which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, some hikers came back the blue blazed trail while others took the red trail. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hike.

**Sunday, April 24, 2005  7:00AM**  
**Alleghany Trail to Pine Swamp**

Don Hoke (leader), Shelley Himel (co-leader), Charlie Scharnberg, Meg Green & Jen Schaefer

This hike was originally scheduled for April 3rd but was canceled by hurricane-like winds and was rescheduled for better weather.

We left Roanoke at 7am and met Jen in Blacksburg. She followed us in her car and after a long car shuttle we were on the trail at the top of Peters Mountain at 9:30.

The hike started out on the yellow blazed Allegheny Trail in blowing snow and temperatures around freezing. That continued for the rest of the day so the views of the valley through the trees were limited.

After the first mile we came to the Hanging Rock Devil's Marbleyard, we got out on some of the boulders for a nice view of the valley below. We enjoyed lunch at a wonderful overlook just off the AT with a nearly 360 degree view of the surrounding mountains and valleys. It was quite spectacular. The Sulphur Spring Trail was surprisingly in good shape and all down hill too. At a rock outcropping on the Sulphur Spring Trail, there were numerous Bleeding Hearts in full bloom. We also saw several other wild flowers including Toothwort, Great Chickweed, smooth Yellow Violet, Common Blue Violet, Bird-foot Violet, Trailing Arbutus, and Wood Vetch. Elk Creek offered several good pools of waters for the viewing. With a great group of hikers, we were able to enjoy views. With a great group of hikers, we were able to finish this hike around 2:00 p.m. and had time to enjoy lemonade and cookies.

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hawks and eagles can be seen from here. A little ways past the Observatory we hiked through an open field of grass.

The rest of the day we walked mostly on roads of different levels of usage. Some have seen recent use; some have not been driven on in years. The trail was in better shape than I would have thought. Signs of recent tree cutting could be seen but still a fair amount of trees were on the trail. I thought the trail might be hard to follow since this trail does not get the traffic or the maintenance of the AT but the blazes were fairly fresh and in some places, on almost every tree. No chance of getting off the trail.

After a couple of hours of hiking we came to the back side of a house. This was our second viewing spot and the views into West Virginia were impressive. A couple of miles more and we passed by an abandoned cinder block house with the remains of a truck beside it. A little ways farther we got on the old carriage road that was used to move guests from the Mountain Lake resort to Sweet Springs resort in West Virginia during the late 1800's and early 1900's. We also went by the site of the horse livery where they would rest their horses. Nothing is left but the rocks that were used as footers for the stables, and they are now being utilized as a large fire ring.

Carl, Charlie and Meg moved ahead of us at this point and after walking on a muddy road with a little snow on it, the rest of us realized that we hadn't seen any footprints in a good while. After we talked about our options, it was decided that I would back-track to see if I could find where they might have left the trail. I walked about 100 yards when the others yelled that they had found their tracks. They had turned onto the loop trail which circles back to the main trail after about a mile. This trail is also marked with yellow blazes. The loop comes back into the main trail about 10 yards farther up the trail from where we had stopped. So knowing that we haven't lost anyone, we tried to catch up. After about 5 miles we found them at the junction of the Allegheny and AT trail.

We headed down off the mountain on the AT passing by the Pine Swamp shelter which was occupied by the only other person we saw on our hike, a lone thru hiker. He didn't seem too happy being as cold as it was and he was at a shelter with a fireplace with no matches or a lighter. We checked around and none of us had any to give to him.

We got to Jen’s car at around 5, and it was determined that the mileage of around 15 miles was correct. We went by way of Paint Bank and stopped along the way to take some pictures of the buffalo that were near the fence. Meg bought some buffalo patties at the store and we can't wait to hear how they turned out. Everybody said they enjoyed the hike. Thanks to Jen for volunteering with the car shuttling.
Six people gathered for a Mother's Day stroll on this beautiful spring day. There was not a single cloud in the sky, and the temperatures ranged from low 60's in the morning to high 70's in the late afternoon. The walk started off easy with a criss-cross of the Blue Ridge Parkway a couple of times and the passing of Thunder Ridge Shelter. We all made jokes while walking under the Guillotine, which is an amazing rock formation. We stopped to admire the views from the field and rocks behind the radar installation on Apple Orchard Mountain.

We then continued on to Black Rock for another amazing view. By this time, the fog had lifted out of the lower valleys. We stopped at Cornelius Creek Shelter for lunch, then went over Floyd Mountain. We then stopped at Bryant Ridge Shelter, which is a real architectural marvel in a rural setting. After a short break, we made our way over Fork Mountain to finish up our trek at Jennings Creek. We met 15 northbound thru-hikers, most of which started in early March from Springer Mountain. We saw one turkey, one frog, numerous small lizards, chipmunks, and birds. We also observed many flowers, but I didn’t know the names of any of them. Also, hats off to the Natural Bridge Club for keeping this section of trail in excellent shape.

It was a warm sunny day good for hiking. We saw lots of ladyslippers, Blanche had a count of 64. The azaleas were out in full bloom, with a sprinkling of wild Iris, violets, one rhododendron and some others which I could not name. Every one made it to the Cove Mountain trail but could not interest anyone in going farther.

The weather for this hike was mostly cloudy and cool. We only got a few sprinkles at the very end of the hike. We first descended the trail to Falling Water Cascades and then climbed back out to the Parkway to get on the trail to Flat Top. This gave us about a 2,000 foot elevation change since Flat Top's elevation is 4,011 feet. Some of the brave ones made a side trip to Cross Rock (an unusual rock formation) but it required a steep down hill hike for about one-tenth of a mile and of course we had to climb back out. It was foggy in the valleys below Flat Top and we could not see much. We did spot a break in the fog once or twice which was quite nice. We identified 22 wild flowers including some that do not occur with great frequency such as Showy Orchis, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Dutchman's Pipe and Pink Lady Slipper. There were masses of Trillium still in perfect bloom near the summit of Flat Top. We took a lunch break at the Peaks of Otter Picnic Grounds and then walked the Lake Trail around Abbott Lake where a snake was spotted in the water near some cattails. We then hiked to the Johnson Farm and took in the sites there which is always interesting and reflective of earlier times. The climb to the summit of Harkening Hill from the Johnson Farm provided a good workout (as if we need another climb). In fact, Bob said it should be named something other than Harkening "Hill". We ended up at the Peaks of Otter Museum where we enjoyed some post-hike fellowship with Berry Punch and Strawberry Trifle. We were glad to have a first-time hiker with RATC--Beige Jenks. She did quite well as did everyone else.
treated lumber and re-bar. As we had previously had trouble getting stakes in the ground, it was no surprise that we hit rock with the re-bar and had to cut off several pieces with a hacksaw. The Konnarock crew arrived while we were working, but continued on up to the road to their campsite. By lunchtime, we ran out of re-bar, so decided to finish the job on Friday. We ate lunch at the vehicles and then headed up the mountain to begin work on a new switchback. The crew came up right behind us. Neither of us had a chainsaw so we had to work around some blow downs.

On Friday, with a fresh supply of re-bar and more lumber, we finished our steps by mid-morning. Dana arrived before we finished. This time we got up to the relocation by lunchtime. There were several large rocks near the switchback that had to be dug out of the trail. After that was done, we decided to start the switchback corner. There was one huge boulder just above the trail that we decided to use for the fist step. After getting a spot dug out for it, six of us moved it into place with picks and rock-bars. By quitting time we had 3 steps set.

On Saturday, several more steps were installed at the corner and below. Also a couple of check steps were put in. In addition, the digging of the switchback was essentially complete. The crew took a trip to Angel’s Rest, while we finished the second check step. When we got to the vehicles, Suzanne, who had been clipping, was not there. Dana soon found her on the corner near Dairy Queen.

On Sunday, we had a ribbon cutting ceremony complete with champagne. After that, the crew started work on the second switchback while Mike and I did some step work on the old trail between the two switchbacks. We uncovered one rock that was a lot bigger than we expected. After much digging and some crew help, we finally got it in place and made a good step out of it. Again Suzanne was not at the truck when we arrived. We drove down to Bluff City and found her sitting at a corner near Dairy Queen.

No club members were able to work on Monday, but the crew planned to work a couple of hours. The second switchback will be finished when the crew returns to this project in August. I think that we will still need a couple of more crew weeks to get the trail in the condition that I want to see it.

Attention all shutterbugs

Every quarter, we are in need of a picture for the front of the blazer. Please submit interesting pictures to witches4@juno.com.
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CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

Corn Boil
Saturday, August 6 – 6-9 PM

WORK HIKES
July 14-18 - 8:30 AM
Pearis Mountain with Konnarock
August 4-8 - 8:30 AM
Angel’s Rest Rehab with Konnarock
Sunday, August 28 - 8:30 AM
Sawtooth Work Hike
Sunday, September 25 - 8:30 AM
Sawtooth Work Hike

Hike Scheduling
Contact Don Nulph
774-8618 – Nulph-d@cox.net

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

Monday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Charles Parry

Monday, August 29, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Mervin Brower

Monday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Roger Holnback at Southwest Virginia Land Trust Office.

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