

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Winter 2008

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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The Passing of Tillie Wood



MATILDA KING WOOD 1918-2007 Next year Appalachian Trail hikers will miss a twenty-year tradition, hot biscuits at Wood's Hole Hostel at the head of Sugar Run Valley, Virginia, cooked by Tillie Wood. Tillie passed away on Sunday, October 14, 2007. Matilda King was born February 27, 1918 in Adalee, Oklahoma, the first child of Carl Lomas King of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Mary Smith King of Winslow, Arkansas. Her education began in a one-room school for Cherokee Indians. At her mother's insistence, the family, including her younger brother, Ben, and sister, Tinky, moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas for a better education. Tillie worked her way through the University of Arkansas where she met Roy K. Wood of Augusta, Arkansas. After Tillie graduated with a Master's in Biology, she married Roy and moved to Sugar Run, Virginia where her husband was studying an elk herd for his Master's thesis in Wildlife Conservation. They spent the first year of their marriage in a hand-hewn chestnut log cabin, with a fireplace for heat and a creek for water. They later bought the cabin which is now the Wood's Hole Hostel. Roy went to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta, and Tillie moved into an old farm house on Woodstock Road outside of Roswell, Ga. There, Tillie raised her three children, Mary Jo, Ben, and Jere. Tillie taught school; started the first kindergarten in Roswell, which grew to become High Meadows School; organized the first Girl Scout troop; helped organize the

Roswell Historical Society; served as president of the Women's Club; traveled with Jimmy Carter and the "Peanut Brigade" to New Hampshire and other states in his Presidential Campaign; was a real estate agent; knitted and gave hundreds of sweaters and dolls to local hospitals for newborns; operated a hostel on the Appalachian Trail; and was involved in establishing many of the institutions that form the foundation for the City of Roswell. Tillie was most proud of the successes of her children and grandchildren. Tillie's husband, Roy Kellum Wood, and her brother, General Benjamin Hardin King, USAF, predeceased her. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy Mills of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; her children, Dr. Mary Jo Harris Osteen, D.V.M., of Ball Ground, Georgia; Benjamin Travis Wood, AIA, of Shanghai, China; and the Honorable Jere Wood, Mayor of Roswell; and her grandchildren, Jere Harris Metcalf, Neville Harris, Amy Wood, and Roy Travis Wood. Tillie's love will be missed by many. The memorial service for Matilda King Wood will be Wednesday, October 17, at 2:00 PM in the Roswell Presbyterian Church, 755 Mimosa Blvd., followed by a reception in the Courtyard Room of the Church. The Reverend Dr. Lane Alderman, assisted by The Reverend Richard Hill and The Reverend Margaret Turney-Ayer, will preside. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075. - Published in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on 10/16/2007.

Thank You Letter

To all volunteers, trail maintainers, and ridge-runners of the Roanoke AT Club-

I just wanted to extend my deep appreciation for all the hard work that you have done to maintain the AT. As I hiked through the different states, I was in awe at how such a beautiful trail is maintained by all volunteers. Without you, my hike would have been extremely difficult if not impossible.

Your hard work and effort does not go unrecognized. Many hikers discussed their gratitude while in a shelter along the AT in regard to the countless volunteers who make this trail possible.

I had looked forward to visiting McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs and the Dragons Tooth for many years. When

this dream became a reality I could hardly wait. And then the day came when I actually was hiking them and they were magnificent! Words cannot express what I felt while hiking this section!

Again, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for your wonderful effort! I just wanted to let you know that it certainly does not go unrecognized ... even if you do not receive notes stating so!

A happy and content thru hiker of '07-
Boo-Boo - Cleveland, OH
www.trailjournals.com/boo-boo

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Theresa Knox | Jenny Smith | Dru Knox | Ray Kirby |
| Christine & Brian Toevs | Gary & Linda Oberlender | Richard Kurshan | Sandra & Tim Long |
| Christopher David Lynch | Michael "Tabasco" Smith | Robyn Frazier | Taft Martin |
| Mark C. Packett | Patricia (Pat) Traynor | Dena Goldberg | Tanya Sigmon |
| Mike Ellery | Robert & Evelyn Manetta | Allison Griffin | John Smith |

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

We want to thank the following people for donations that they had sent to club to be used in maintaining the trail.

Michael Jones (In memory of Matilda King Wood), Robert & Evelyn Manetta, David L. Cullen & Annamarie S Kresge (In memory of John Haranzo)

Mervin Brower

President's Message

We are "looking for a few good men and women" to volunteer to take an active part in the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club by your participation on the board or by becoming trail maintaining volunteer. The RATC board and our faithful trail maintaining volunteers need some new....younger blood. I was recruited a few years ago cause I was under fifty, AARP membership was a couple of years away and my friends were just starting to plan a wake for my fiftieth birthday. Now at 53 I am an AARP member and still one of the young guys on the board. When I join an occasional maintenance hike with Charles Perry and his helpers, I am all too often still the youngest one out on the trail, loppers, Pulaski and/or rock bar in hand. Will you or someone you know please give serious thought to giving a few hours each month to keep the club and trail functioning. The RATC is 75 years young this year and our section of the AT still receives rave reviews from day, section and through hikers. But we need you! If you have a little time and love the outdoors look in this Blazer for future work days and come on out. We supply the tools, instruction, camaraderie and the promise of a few sore muscles. You wear hiking boots/shoes, clothes that can stand to get dirty and work gloves. Bring a few bottles of



water, your own lunch and maybe a snack in an old day pack or Kroger bag. The work hike leader will take care of the rest. You will surely see that the young ones work harder and faster but like the hare are known to fade, and the older and more experienced maintainers have learned all about pacing and the value of good conversation.

When it comes to the board, we need some new blood there as well. We meet one Monday evening a month at a board member's home, and spend a couple hours discussing the club's business, plans and problems. It is an eclectic group and full of interesting personalities, but we all share a passion for the AT and take pride in its maintenance and we each in our own way take part in its protection. My term as president ends in a little over a year and we need to groom/break in a new VP, and our secretary looks to be leaving town in a few months. We don't need to be awesome, just willing.... after all they asked me to be the president. While the pay is zero, the benefits and friendships are as good as the deserts that always follow the meetings. So, listen to Uncle Roger, and volunteer today!

Roger Holnback

Trail Supervisor's Report

The decision has been made to repair the roof of Pine Swamp Shelter with primitive materials. Actually, the roof will be metal, but the beams and rafters will be made of native materials. First, the Forest Service must get a contractor to do some rock repair to the walls. One job the club can do anytime is some cleanup of the old roof, which was torn off in October.

In the meantime the club will continue to work on the Tinker Ridge relocation south of the Angel's Gap relocation. Unfortunately, we no longer have permission to use the short route to the worksite, so have to walk in from Angel's Gap. I hope that we can complete the first section of the relocation by spring. The relocation crosses the old trail three times, so it can be opened in sections.

We have a chainsaw recertification session scheduled for March 22 & 23 in Blacksburg. Many of us were last certified in 2005, so need to renew next spring. Contact the ATC office in Blacksburg to sign up for the course. The Forest Service and Park Service expect people who use chainsaws on the trail to be certified. I strongly

recommend that anybody who uses a chainsaw be certified. There are also courses at Sherando Lake and Mt. Rogers this spring. I can send you the information by e-mail if you want it.

Each year the Appalachian Trail Park Office gives club member awards on the basis of volunteer hours of service. For 40 hours you get a pin, at 125 hours you get a second pin, at 250 hours you get a patch, at 500 hours you get a hat and at 1000 hours you get a vest and start over again. These are cumulative hours. This year's winners at the 40-hour level are: Charles Musgrove, David Perry, Hal Cantrill, Hugh Hall; at the 125 hour level Carol McPeak, Fred Coughlan, Gary Bible, Greg Bryant, John Miller, Lois Smith, Matt Roberts; at the 250 hour level: Chase Davidson, Dick Clark, Fred Coughlan, Linda King, Mike Vaughn, Roger Holnback, Therese Witcher; at the 500 hour level: Bob Peckman, Frank Haranzo, Larry Austin, Ralph Hart and at 1000 hour level: Charles Parry and Dana Helsley.

Charles Parry

Hikemaster's Report

Many hikers consider winter the best time of the year for hiking. The trails are not crowded and the clear weather provides great visibility at overlooks. Most of the hikes on our winter schedule should provide an abundance of both. Please keep in mind that due to bad weather a particular hike may need to be cancelled or postponed.

We have added two new articles to our web site, www.RATC.org. The first provides guidance for having a safe and enjoyable hike. The other article provides tips for dealing with being lost in the forest.

John Miller and Carl Cornett are the latest members of the "113 Mile Club", completing all 113 miles of the section of the A.T. maintained by our club. Carl has also recently completed section-hiking all of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia. Over 400 miles of the A.T. are located in Virginia.

If you have completed all 113 miles, please let me know and I will send you out a patch, commemorating this accomplishment. Also, if you have had any noteworthy hiking experiences, let me know that too, for inclusion in future editions of the Trailblazer.

In November, long time club members, Leonard and Laurie Adkins completed their through hike of the A.T. This is Leonard's fifth through hike and Laurie's fourth through hike. Leonard also found time this year to publish a book, "West Virginia: An Explorer's Guide". Leonard is the author of over a dozen books, most on hiking and other outdoor activities.

Considering section-hiking or through-hiking the entire A.T? There are several on-line sources for information on planning your hike. Two of the most comprehensive are: whiteblaze.net and appalachiantrail.org. There are also guidebooks available. Probably the best guidebook is "The A.T. Thru-Hike Companion". You can order this at the ATC web site.

We are looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. This is a great way for you to help keep the club going as we move into our 76th year. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out.

Mike Vaughn

2175-Mile Hike

Fred Coughlan, RATC secretary and member since 1998, completed a four-year section hike of the AT when he reached the fog-bound summit of Mt. Katahdin at Maine's Baxter State Park on August 26, 2007. For him it was a day of personal "highs", following "lows" on the previous night. A severe thunderstorm had hit the Katahdin Stream Campground only ¼ mile from the lean-tos in the Birches Campsite he shared with four other hikers. Lightning killed one of the campers in the campground.

Fred's hike began April 14, 2004 on Springer Mountain in Georgia where a friend dropped him off in four inches of wet snow. Although wishing he could "thru hike" the AT all in one summer, he knew a late summer commitment would prevent it and the hike would have to become a "section hike". He didn't know it was going to become a four-year section hike.

The first night on the trail, sleep was interrupted by an Army Ranger night training exercise from nearby Camp Merrill, complete with flares and helicopters. It was a big shock to hikers who had not heard in advance about the night exercises. Thereafter Fred met and hiked with many people from all backgrounds, including a Florida dentist called "Doc"; a software salesman called "Mr. Clean", with his wife; a San Diego surfer; and a retired Marine.

Views from several of the southern "balds" were spectacular when mountains were covered in early morning frost. One day when hiking in the Smokies, the cold rain changed to sleet and then to light snow, but there was an old fireplace in the Russell Field Shelter. Hikers were eventually able to get wet wood burning to help partially dry the wet clothes. A young couple from Florida, totally unprepared for the weather, came into the shelter and perhaps survived only because of the warm fire. He saw many day hikers on the AT who underestimated hiking distances and were not prepared for changing conditions. During 2004 Fred hiked northbound, leap-frogging Virginia sections previously hiked, through the rocks of Pennsylvania, past the bears in New Jersey, and into his original home area of New England, as far as Bennington, Vermont.

In 2005 he started hiking north again near Bennington,

through the Green Mountains of Vermont and into the White Mountains of New Hampshire. He crossed the top of Mount Washington on one of the clearest days of the summer then hiked over the bare, rocky summit of Mount Madison in a sudden thunderstorm. He had reached Mizpah Spring Hut near Mt. Washington when another hiker spotted a "bull's eye" rash on Fred's leg indicating Lyme disease. Required medical treatment ended his 2005 hike at Pinkham Notch.

Fred's 2006 hike went from Pinkham Notch over the Wildcats and through Mahoosic Notch to Stratton, Maine. He agreed with many who regard Mahoosic Notch as the toughest mile of the 2175 miles on the AT, and there was still ice in the notch in July. The 2006 hike stopped due to Giardia sickness and a previously scheduled family trip.

The plan for 2007 was to start hiking north from Stratton, Maine in July, but the start was rescheduled by a Copperhead snakebite while Fred was doing trail maintenance in Virginia. Starting near Stratton on August 8, he hiked through the Bigelow Preserve, crossed the Kennebec River into Carratunk, and reached Monson, Maine by August 16 to pick up the only mail drop he used on the entire trip. In most towns it was easy to re-supply, but that mail drop allowed him to be sure of carrying only the lightest, most compact dehydrated foods for the last stretch through the 100

Mile Wilderness. That last hike through the Wilderness provided ample experience with mountains, ponds, bugs, sun, moose, rocks, roots, mud, and rain in what is perhaps the prettiest section of the whole AT.

As with most AT hikers, Fred's pack weight at the start in Georgia with water and food for 5 days was quite heavy at about 50 pounds. Later in the hike, making use of some helpful advice from Leonard and Laurie Adkins, his full pack weight was below 40 pounds. Many AT hikers he met had even lighter packs.

After earning his patch in 1999 for hiking the 113 miles maintained by RATC, Fred decided he just had to see the entire length of the AT. If there was one thing he learned over and over from the experience it was never give up.



Fred Coughlan

Hike Reports

Sunday, July 22, 2007 1:00PM Crabtree Falls

Kenny Garrett (leader), Lance Garrett, David Bowers, Margarita Cubas, K-9 Catcher, Esther Kargl, ~~~~~^, ==~~~, and ~~~~~^ - Sorry, the dog chewed the sign-up list.

We met at Daleville at 1:00 to begin our long drive to Nelson County. The weather was near perfect, and not too hot despite the July date. We began our beautiful stroll up the trail following the falls along with many other hikers that had the same idea on this Sunday afternoon. We took a photo and lunch break at the top, before exploring some of the trail above the falls. We then again took another break at the top of the falls to admire the beauty, the view, and to enjoy great conversations. Lance caught several newts in the pools above the falls. He let his new friends go before we began our descent. We stopped at the Pink Cadillac just south of Lexington for ice cream and milkshakes on our way back to Roanoke. Great fun was had by all.

Sunday, September 9, 2007 1:00PM Fuller Rocks, Big Rocky Row

Charles Musgrove (leader), Hugh Hall (assistant), John Miller, Peggy Bryant, Pat Guzik, Gary Bible, Carl Cornett

As initially planned this hike was to go up the Appalachian Trail from the Hercules road, and then continue up and over Big Rocky Row and onward to the Saddle Gap Trail on which we would descend back to the hot, dry, and dusty Hercules road, where another 2.5 or 3 miles of road walking awaited us.

But there is nothing special about hiking up to Big Rocky Row except an additional 500 feet of climbing over a rock-strewn trail that is not especially easy on the feet and knees. Moreover hiking 3 miles along parched road did not seem to be a pleasant way to end a hot afternoon hike that would have measured about 10 ½ miles. The RATC data sent to the hike leaders shows the length of this hike to be 7 miles (suspect).

Since the temperature soared into the 90's on this day, the climb of 1600 feet or more along the AT up to Fuller's rocks was more than enough to satisfy the most avid of recreational climbers among our group.

The magnificent views of the James River cutting through the Blue Ridge, along the flanks of a wilderness area, are all from Little Rocky Row and Fuller's rocks. There are three such view points, spaced no more than 40 yards apart, the first of which we reached about 175 yards above the intersection of

the AT with the Little Rocky Row Trail.

After a lengthy pause to take in these views and rest our overheated bodies, we descended the pleasant Little Rocky Row Trail to highway 501, where we had conveniently, on our drive in, dropped off a car.

This completed a partial loop of about 6 miles. The shuttle to pick up a van left at the beginning of the hike was a short one.

Sunday, September 16, 2007 8:30AM Tinker Ridge Relocation

Charles Parry, Kris Peckman, Fred Coughlan, Maurice Turner, Dick Clark, Dana Helsley

It was a nice day to begin a new relocation. The area was pretty clear, so the chainsaw use was minimal. In the morning two thru hikers passed by. They both stopped and talked for a few minutes. The second one didn't have much good to say about the trail just north of Dragon's Tooth. After lunch some of us took a walk to look over what was ahead. When we got back we told Dana we had some good news. We will need several rock steps on the first switchback and rock appeared plentiful. Shortly afterwards Homer showed up bearing bad news. Mr. Ross, whose property we used for access had asked that we no longer go across his land. Homer was looking for other options. We discussed various possibilities, but as of now it appears that access from Angel's Gap is our best option. At least it will get us very familiar with last summer's relocation. By quitting time we had dug about 350 feet of new trail.

Sunday, September 16, 2007 1:00PM Pandapas Pond Trails

David Sutton & Carl Cornett (co-leaders) Linda Sutton, Peggy Bryant, and Zetta Campbell.

The hike began about 2pm after a brief stop for gas. The weather conditions were ideal. Carl offered to co-lead since the other co-leader could not make it. Trails mapped at the kiosk are highlighted according to their difficulty. Green (easiest) blue (intermediate) and black (difficult) We started on the Poverty Creek, (green trail shared with mountain bicyclists) where we ran into club members, the McNeeley's and friends, then up Jacob's (difficult). At the summit you could see the town of Blacksburg. A new communications tower (cell phone) has been installed here in place of the unfinished "cabin". Descending we followed the intermediate Joe Pye trail down to the serene pond. For such a "short" hike we were mostly all worn out, but had a great time.

Sunday, September 23, 2007 9:00AM
Salt Log Gap to Crabtree Meadows
Fish Hatchery Rd to Crabtree Meadows

John Miller (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Fred Meyer, Homer & Therese Witcher

This hike was very much changed from how it appeared in the Trail Blazer. We started from the parking lot on the Fish Hatchery Road and climbed about a mile to the junction of the Appalachian Trail. We headed north and took the side trail to Spy Rock. From this vantage point we had a 360 degree view of the surrounding mountains and although it wasn't the crystal clear fall day we all would have liked, the views were impressive none the less. After descending from the rock we met a couple from Williamsburg who mentioned that they had recently hiked in the Alps and felt the AT was better maintained than the Alpine trails they hiked there. From there we hiked another 3.2 miles to the junction of the AT and Crabtree Meadows Road. From there we descended through Crabtree Meadows to the Crabtree Falls trail. Due to the dry weather the falls were not as spectacular as they could have been but the opportunity to stop and look on the way down was appreciated by all. We made the car switches and then Homer and Therese were off to play bridge and the rest of us returned to our meeting place.

Sunday, September 23, 2007 1:00PM
Flat Top Mountain, Fallingwater Cascades

Gary Bible & Peggy Bryant (co-leaders), Maya Bohler, Carol McPeak, & Zetta Campbell

Gary, Peggy, Maya, and Carol drove to the trail head from 460 Market Square East. We met Zetta at the trail head. The weather was fair with a relatively high humidity. Today's pace was a nice leisurely stroll through the woods to the Summit. Visibility at the summit was a bit obstructed due to the poor air quality but the view was still rewarding. We observed many Ravens riding the thermals above the rocks. We descended back to the trail head, arriving approximately 6:00 p.m. Back at the vehicle, Carol treated us to some nice cool watermelons. What a treat and a very refreshing way to end the day!

Sunday, September 30, 2007 8:00AM
Punchbowl Overlook (BRP) to Long Mountain
Wayside (Route 60)

Kris Peckman (leader), Hugh Hall (assistant), Carl Cornett, Pat Guzik, Mike and Sheila Vaughn

We were all surprised that only six of us came out to hike on the first Sunday of proper fall weather. Bright sunshine and ideal hiking temperatures made a beautiful section of trail even more so. To save gas and the environment we drove two cars, leaving one at

the Long Mountain Wayside on Route 60 and cramming four of us in the back seat of Mike's car for the approximately 10-mile ride to Milepost 51.7 of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

This is a down-up hike, beginning with a descent of Rice Mountain to the Lynchburg Reservoir. Along the way we passed a small stand of really BIG trees that the Forest Service marked many years ago with a big sign. We crossed and admired the new bridge, as well as the fine relocation built a few years ago when this bridge was built to replace the one at the dam in order to keep the Lynchburg water supply safe from AT terrorists. The trail took us around one side of the reservoir, which looked awfully low. Hugh and Carl found a lunch spot above a big rock with a trickle of water flowing over it, and we all clambered up. Brown's Creek was pretty but low (though not too low for Carl to take a dip), and the walk alongside it was pleasant, with dry, pale-yellow leaves underfoot, and stone walls along the creek which were probably built by the community of freed slaves who scratched out a living here until the 1920s. We speculated that the stone walls may have been built to keep high water from reaching fields or homes. There's an interview on nbatc.org with a man who lived here as a child. We came out of the woods about 3:30 and reversed the cozy car shuttle.

Sunday, September 30, 2007 1:00PM
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders) & Peggy Bryant.

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot. At the parking lot we tried to pick up 3 hikers who were going out with the Scouts. Mike Ferguson came along and corrected the other father that ours was not the right hike. We went in one car to the start of the hike, FS road 59. The weather was sunny and about 70 deg F which made it perfect for hiking. We started up the Cornelius creek trail; there was no water in the creeks so there was no trouble with creek crossings. We met several other hikers on the trail, some going from Sunset Field rather than the loop. We stopped for a break at Apple Orchard Falls. It was pleasant resting there. We stopped and took pictures. We were finished hiking by 5 o'clock.

Saturday, October 7, 2007 7:00AM
Catawba Mtn. (Rt 311) to Lee Hollow (Rt 621)

Kenny Garrett, Fred Meyer, Linda King

We began our hike in the rain at 7:00 am. We decided to hike from Rt. 621 to Rt. 311. The rain continued until around noon, when the sun came out and the day turned into a beautiful fall day. We encountered quite a few hikers along the way, especially around the Dragon's Tooth area. This was a great hike, beautiful and challenging. We reached our cars, gasping and

limping, but proud that we had finished!

**Saturday, October 6, 2007 10:00AM
Bennett Springs Loop**

Jean Warren & Dave Miller (leaders), Robyn Frazer, Richard Kurshan, Dean Meador, Zetta Campbell, Chris & Sean Cowan

After meeting at the Orange Market, we drove to my home to shuttle to the Bennett Springs Parking Lot. For your information, Just The Right Gear Bike Shop is no longer open on Sunday to purchase a parking pass. Since I live only one mile from the parking area (and already have a yearly pass), we all piled into my truck. It was fun to have five men fit in the back of my truck, while the women rode in comfort up front. What a beautiful day for a hike to witness the beginning of the Fall leaves. This hike is a pretty loop trail, with a steep climb the first mile, leveling off before the descent. Usually, you cross a watering hole for horses and the creek several times, but due to the drought, it was all dusty dry. The highlight was seeing an older type telephone strapped high to a tree with a sign that said to call "211" in case of an emergency and that a helicopter would meet you at the top in 15 minutes. I couldn't help but look around to see if there was a Candid Camera hidden behind a tree. The only wildlife we saw was a box turtle, one deer, and lots of horse pucky. What a fun group!

**Saturday, October 13, 2007 9:00AM
Black Horse Gap to Curry Gap
1930 hike on Old AT**

Gary Bible, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Chris Callahan, Fred Coughlan, Dana Helsley, Greg Sexton

After gathering all the hikers on a cool and clear morning, the group set out to re-create the trials and tribulations faced by the AT hikers of 75 years ago. Merv Brower graciously offered to read directions from the 1930 version of "Paths in the Blue Ridge" and guide the attendees over a variety of old roads, ridge crests, and trails that formed the pathway of the original Appalachian Trail. The clear weather provided good views from the summits of Blue Knob and Washington Knob, and from several intermediate points along the way. Unfortunately the clear weather did not help the leaders find the five known metal trail markers along this route, as only three were able to be located. Oh well, if you've seen one, you've seen them all. A very pleasant surprise was found on the downhill side of Washington Knob where the fires of two springs ago had removed a considerable amount of the underbrush and blowdown which had previously made this portion of the hike very difficult. However, the descent into Curry Creek ravine did not disappoint the hikers as it still contained all the fallen trees and dense vegetation it has always been known for, and this

segment provided the greatest challenge of the day – thankfully it was all downhill! Very little water was seen in Curry Creek or any of its feeders as the group picked its way through blowdown, pricker bushes, and thick stands of Rhododendron on the way back up into Curry Gap. The only casualty from the hike occurred about twenty feet from the end when Blanche got stung by an ornery yellowjacket. Other than that small problem, a good time was had by all on this unconventional RATC hike.

**Sunday, October 14, 2007 8:00AM
Rock Castle Gorge**

Linda King (leader), Pat Guzik (assistant), Kris & Bob Peckman

The weather couldn't have been more beautiful for our hike. The day was warm and clear. We encountered many folks who were out on this fall day, some hikers on the trail and a number of people at the several overlooks on the parkway. This hike is well worth the drive and well worth the effort to hike 10+ miles. It offers breath-taking views, some challenging climbing, beautiful wooded areas, remnants of old homesteads, and, of course, Rock Castle Creek. Our hike ended with a pleasant, restful 2+ mile walk on the fireroad along Rock Castle Creek. After such a long hike, we felt justified in stopping for ice cream at Hardees' in Floyd.

**Sunday, October 21, 2007 8:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to Andy Layne
Trail (Rt 779) 113-Mile Hike #4**

John Miller (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Kevin Jordan, Pat Guzik and Kris Peckman

While we were parking one vehicle at the Andy Layne parking lot we met a member of the Natural Bridge ATC who said they had a club hike from Route 220, Daleville, to the Andy Layne parking lot that day. We told her we were starting at Route 311 and someone in our group said "the race is on". We began our hike from the Route 311 parking lot. The air had a chill to it and we made good time to McAfee's Knob. We spent time snacking and taking in the views before we descended to the saddle between the heights.

The leader noticed many chipmunks and squirrels moving about gathering food for the winter. The weather had warmed significantly before we took a break for lunch on a rock outcropping with a good view of Carvin's Cove. There was a nice breeze there so we ate a leisurely lunch. We noticed the lower water levels in the Cove but they were not nearly as bad as during the last severe drought. As we began to make our ascent to Tinker Cliffs, the leader saw a large deer run across the trail.

We spent time taking in the views from Tinker Cliffs before descending to Scorched Earth Gap. There we

met up with the members of the NBATC just arriving from Daleville. They mentioned that the recent relocation at Angel's Gap was wonderful. The race was declared a tie. We then proceeded to finish the hike with the trip down Andy Layne Trail to reunite with H.R.

**Sunday, October 21, 2007 1:00PM
Jennings Creek (Rt 614) to Bryant Ridge
Shelter**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders),
Richard Kurshan, Steve Tomaziefski, Patty Tyree,
Karen Coon, Peggy Edwards, Dave Sutton

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot where we carpooled and then drove to our starting location. We arranged to go in two cars and left shortly after one o'clock. The air was very clear on our hike, but we did not have any good views due to the leaves being on the trees still. There was water in a couple of creeks, which appeared to be from a spring; other than that it was very dry. We kept together as a group. We stopped for about 20 minutes at the shelter and then walked out. We finished the hike at 5:00 PM.

**Saturday, October 27, 2007 8:00AM
Pine Swamp Shelter Roof Repair**

Charles Parry, Kenny Garrett, Dana Helsley

We all arrived separately at the trailhead to Pine Swamp Shelter over a period of about 15 minutes. The job for the day was to tear the damaged roof off the shelter. At the time of the work we were not sure if it would be the first step in repairing the shelter or the first step in its demolition. A few weeks later we learned that it would be repaired. The roof was in worse shape than I expected. My foot went through the roof on the side that was not damaged by the tree that fell on it. Our objective was to try to salvage as much from the shelter roof as possible. I knew would not be able to salvage the shingles and it soon became clear that the plywood could not be salvaged. We also had trouble with the rafters breaking at the notch. We were able to salvage some of the beams. As it turns out we probably won't use any of the old lumber as the decision was to use primitive materials to repair the roof. Before the roof can be replaced, the Forest Service plans to get a contractor to repair the damaged stonework. Kenny and his son went back a week later and hauled out some of the trash. The club needs to make a trip back to pull the nails out of old lumber, haul out what can not be burned as well as what we want to salvage for other projects.

**Sunday, October 28, 2007 1:00PM
Sharp Top Mountain**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Ed Wallace (assistant), Pat Cousins, Zetta Campbell & Guests: Patti Tyree, Tom, Cynthia and Allison Hamelman, Marianne Demkó, Rachel Armistead and Pierre (dog)

Some of us met at Towers, others joined us at the Camp Store trailhead. Along the parkway, we saw some hawks circling near an overlook.

It was as nice a day as one could have wished for and the trail felt almost crowded with people. No wonder; after three solid days of much needed rain during the week, we weren't the only ones wanting to get outdoors again.

No particular sightings of wildlife along the trail were reported. Zetta and Sue didn't quite make it to the top, but had a good time anyway. Zetta received bunches of compliments for her hiking prowess on the way up. She arrived (by bus) back at the parking lot about 5 minutes after Sue. Perfect timing.

**Sunday, November 4, 2007 8:00AM
Cove Mountain and Little Cove Mountain
Circuit**

Kris (leader) & Bob Peckman

We had no takers, not even the assistant, so Bob & I decided to do it again for practice to make sure that we would remember. The previous week, Larry Austin had hiked it with us to show us his modification that not only provides a complete circuit without any road walking, but also takes the hiker past a beautiful waterfall. Here are the details, for future leaders or those who may want to try it on their own.

The trailhead is on Route 614, 5.4 miles from the gas station at the Arcadia exit. It is marked by a wooden footbridge and a sign that says "Little Cove Mtn. Trail". About 100 yards in from the trailhead, be sure to take the left fork, or you'll be doing the loop in reverse. In about ½ mile there is an old roadbed to the right. The trail zigzags left and up, then parallels the roadbed. The trail crosses two forest service roads before reaching the A.T. in 2 ¾ miles. Turn right on the A.T. and in about 1 mile you will reach the Cove Mountain shelter down on the right. Just a short distance past the shelter, on the left are some rocks with a nice view. In about 1 ½ miles, you'll pass a sign for the Buchanan Trail, then about 5 minutes later, a tree which has almost finished eating an old sign that was once featured in a photo in the A.T. magazine. The trail switches back here, and somewhere on the left is a tree with a big bunch of mistletoe in it. Soon you'll come to a stile, where you will leave the A.T. and turn right on the Glenwood Horse Trail, which formerly was the A.T., so you may still see a white

blaze or two on this trail, which is normally marked by orange plastic diamonds. Follow the horse trail for about 1 ½ miles, then turn left at a tree with a painted orange blaze on each side. We left a cairn beside this tree, but can't guarantee it'll still be there. It's a wide road for a short distance, though there may be blowdowns across it. At the end of the clearing, you need to stay to the left, and follow the old road down to the creek. From there you just follow the creek back to the trailhead. Near the end of your hike will come the special treat, a very pretty waterfall. In all, the hike is about 8 miles long.

**Sunday, November 4, 2007 1:00PM
Fort Lewis Mountain**

David Sutton (co-leader) Hugh Hall (co-leader) Linda Sutton, David Bowers, Margarita Cubas, Catcher, Patti Tyree, Zetta Campbell, Cris Cowan, Phil Cowan, Sean Cowan, Robyn Frazier, Bethany Frazier

We had a tough time trying to follow the DeLorme map directions, but finally found the trail in the Wildlife Management area. The only moderate portion of the hike was from the car to the trailhead. From this point on the trail ascends rapidly. After crossing the stream, we expected more switchbacks but there were few. On top of Ft. Lewis Mtn. there are great views looking west but the tree cover obscures the view east. Those that made it to the top of Ft. Lewis had a snack and refreshed with drinks. There was some sliding amongst the crisp leaves on our way down, but nothing we could not handle, since we had such great hikers with us.

--- We had met the Ft. Lewis Mtn. challenge! ---

**Saturday, November 10, 2007 10:00AM
Apple Orchard Falls**

Jean Warren & Dave Miller (leaders), Robyn Frazer, Richard Kurshan, Zetta Campbell, Philamena & Chris Cowan

We found the Daleville Commuter Parking Lot rather full, due to the VA Tech/Florida State football game scheduled that day. Driving to our destination, the last five miles were absolutely beautiful with a creek alongside the winding road and the mountain scenery. What a preview for a beautiful hike to come. The weather was very cooperative, rather cloudy and cool, with the fall colors nearing the end. Starting off on the hike, we hadn't walked 50 yards before encountering two returning hunters with their guns (black powder). Luckily, they were the only ones we saw. After lunch at the waterfalls (well, more like "trickle" falls due to the drought), Dave, Zetta, and "moi" returned to the parking lot, while Robyn, Richard, Chris and Philamena continued the loop trail. Richard quickly became anointed Leader #3. After their return, I asked what experience they had, and I

started hearing stories of bear and moose (but I didn't believe them). It was a little tricky for all of us, walking on the rocks covered with leaves. This hike is truly one of my favorites, with its diversity of the waterfall, glimpses of mountain scenery, and the creek following the trail on the descent with smaller waterfalls and pools. To top it off- what a great group! We actually had a group hug before we left!

**Sunday, November 11, 2007 8:00AM
Lee Hollow (Rt 621) To Trout Creek (Rt 620)
Including Audie Murphy Mon. 113 Mile Hike #7**

Kenny Garrett & Pat Guzik (Co-Leaders), Lance Garrett, John Miller, Maya Bohler, & Steve Tomaziefski

As this small group met at 8:00 on this fall morning, there was still a frost settling over the ground. We started our Veteran's Day hike at the trail head adjacent to Upper Craig's Creek on Rt 621. As we climbed Brush Mountain, the group began warming up. The views were spectacular from the ridge line, with the autumn leaves in full color. We took a long break at the Audie Murphy Monument, which was erected on the mountain commemorating his death in 1971 from a plane crash here. Audie Murphy was a native of Texas, and someone had placed a Texas state flag near the monument. We then took a long stroll down the trail to Trout Creek. We finished our hike in the early afternoon feeling very patriotic.

**Sunday, November 18, 2007 8:00AM
Rich Valley (Rt 42) to Great Valley (Rt 11)**

John Miller (leader), Kris Peckman (co-leader), Pat Guzik and Carl Cornett

Kris and I decided that we would do a key switch rather than the thirty plus mile car shuttle since we didn't have a lot of daylight to work with. We also decided that we would have the guys and gals hike separately as was suggested by Carl. Carl got in my truck and we headed to the park and ride in Christiansburg so Kris could pickup Pat. We stopped again at exit 70 on I-81 to find a post hike meeting spot and decided on the Kangaroo station right off the exit. We then headed out to the trail heads, Kris and Pat to Rt. 42 and Carl and I to U.S. 11. We got on the trail about 9:45am. We flushed three deer at the start of the hike but didn't see any other large wild life. We met Pat and Kris as we were ascending Big Walker Mountain and stopped to share lunch with them and exchange car keys. The trail had much variety and beautiful treks through the farmers' fields. We all met back at exit 70 and exchanged vehicles for the trip back to Salem.

**Sunday, November 18, 2007 1:00PM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

Sue Scanlin (leader), Hugh Hall (assistant), Dick Moran, Maya Bohler, Dave Miller, Steve Tomaziefski, Curry Fisher and
Guests: Betty Remington, Shirley & Phil Weaver

We met at the Hanging Rock Orange Market. It couldn't have been a nicer day for hiking. Temps in the high 60's, bright sunshine, and trees in their fall finest. Add to that a congenial group and McAfee Knob as the hike's destination and what do you get? A great experience. Life is good indeed. Some of us were repeat visitors to one of the AT's gems; for others it was the first time. All of us enjoyed the afternoon while "fulfill(-ing) a number of worthwhile purposes"(see hike schedule intro in the Blazer). Plenty of pictures were taken to prove it.

**Sunday, November 25, 2007
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Dana Helsley, Steve Burt, Reid Johnson, Shane Rooksberry, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, Dick Clark, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Peggy Bryant

Since we had to walk in from Angel's Gap, it took us about an hour to get to the work site. At least we got to look over last summer's relocation. Reid is an older student at Bluefield College and needed to do a service project. Shane is a relative of Reid. It was good to have them with us. The day was rather uneventful. We got

about 300 feet of new trail dug and put in one rock step. By the end of the day we were closing in on the first switchback where we will need a set of rock steps. That gives us something to look forward to on the next workhike.

**Sunday, December 2, 2007 1:00PM
Stony Creek to Bailey Gap Shelter**

Kenny Garrett & John Miller (co-leaders), Jeanne Duddy, Dick Moran, Donna Roberts, Cindy Bowles &
Guests: Jane & David Culp

We met at Orange Market on this cool and overcast afternoon. We were lucky to have two guests with us that were in town visiting from Philadelphia. John Miller, being slightly older and much wiser, convinced me to begin the hike at the road crossing on Rt 635 instead of by the trail head at Pine Swamp Branch. We then parked at Cherokee Flats, and began our climb up the trail travelling northbound. The controlled burn on the lower portion was still very visible. We climbed to Bailey Gap Shelter. After a good break at the shelter, with snacks, stories, and many laughs, we decided to begin our descent. We exited the woods shortly before dark, due to the very overcast sky. Although we drove through rain on the way to and from the hike, we stayed dry during our stroll. Everyone enjoyed the quick history lesson at the sign board at Cherokee flats detailing the railroad, Interior, and Glen Alton. I believe fun, sarcasm, laughter, and friendship filled the afternoon. (Ed. Received the day after the hike!)

Hike Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tuesday, January 1, 2007 9:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob
& lunch**

7.4 miles, Moderate
6 miles from Roanoke, \$0.50 carpool fee
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. We will hike from 311 to McAfee's Knob and have a picnic lunch in the Devil's Kitchen. Bring anything devilish you can think of for a potluck picnic. Please call the leaders as early as possible so we can be sure we have enough supplies
Kris Peckman.....366-7780
Mike Vaughn992-1350

**Sunday, January 6, 2008 8:00AM
Ferrier – Lick Branch – Price Mountain**

10 miles, Strenuous
26 miles from Roanoke , \$2.50 carpool fee
Located in Craig County east of New Castle on the border of Botetourt County, the hike will follow the Ferrier Trail to Lick Branch Trail, then follow Lick Branch trail to top of Broad Run Mountain, following the ridge to Rt 606. Since this is a strenuous hike in mid-winter conditions, participants need to be in excellent condition. Carry extra warm clothing in case of emergency or to contend with icy winds on the ridge.
Dave Wickersham.....774-0439
Maya Bohler.....344-6588

**Sunday, January 6, 2008 1:00PM
Roanoke River Greenway, Wasena to 13th St.**

4 miles, Easy
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
We will be hiking along the newly opened segment of Greenway, which starts near Roanoke Memorial Hospital. We will start at the Wasena skate board park and hike to the sewage treatment plant on 13th St. SE.
Dave Sutton774-0648
Maurice Turner 540-334-2128

**Sunday, January 13, 2008 9:00AM
Cove Mountain/Buchanan Trail/Horse Trail Loop**

7.5 miles, Strenuous
22 miles from Roanoke, \$2.00 carpool fee
This hike will begin just off SR 622 at Arcadia on the Cove Mountain Trail (this is not the Little Cove Mountain Trail). It offers views of distant mountains at various places. The hike will return to the starting point on the same Cove Mountain Trail.
Larry Austin254-2092
Lois Smith862-7370

**Sunday, January 13, 2008 1:00PM
Sharp Top Mountain**

3.8 miles, Moderate
30 miles from Roanoke , \$3.00 carpool fee
We will be hiking to the top of Sharp Top, at the Peaks of Otter on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Bedford County. The first half of the hike is a steep ascent with many stone steps. There is a spectacular 360 degree view from the summit.
Linda King342-2411
Hugh Hall725-8874

**Sunday, January 20, 2008 8:30AM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge.
Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402
Kris Peckman.....366-7780

**Sunday, January 20, 2008 1:00PM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge.
Mervin & Blanche Brower387-9732

**Saturday, January 26, 2008 10:00AM
Roaring Run**

2.0 miles, Easy
27 miles from Roanoke, \$2.50 carpool fee
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.
Jean Warren384-6229
Hugh Hall725-8874

**Sunday, January 27, 2008 8:00AM
Salt Log Gap to Montebello Fish Hatchery**

8.8 miles, Strenuous
57 miles from Roanoke, \$5.50 carpool fee
This hike is on the A.T. The hike starts at Salt Log Gap, near the Mount Pleasant Scenic Area in Amherst County. The hike will follow the trail north, passing a scenic overlook along the way. There is little elevation gain during the hike.
John Miller375-3250
Kenny Garrett.....892-5786

**Sunday, February 3, 2008 9:00AM
Lipes Branch Trail**

6.4 miles, Moderate
32 miles from Roanoke, \$2.50 carpool fee

The trail for the hike is located in the Potts Mountain area of Craig County in Barbour's Creek Wilderness. The trail ascends Potts Mountain along Lipes Branch and provides access into the heart of Barbour's Creek Wilderness. The first .5 mile climbs gently up the southeastern lower slope of Potts Mountain, and then it becomes steeper, using switchbacks to reach a partially cleared area at the summit with views into Alleghany County and the George Washington National Forest to the northwest.

Mike Vaughn992-1350

**Sunday, February 3, 2008 1:00PM
Fort Lewis Mountain**

4.2 miles, Moderate
9 miles from Roanoke, \$.50 carpool fee

This out and back hike crosses Mason's Creek before ascending Fort Lewis Mountain. There are limited views from the summit.

Ed Wallace774-0175
Maurice Turner 540-334-2128

**Saturday, February 9, 2008 10:00AM
Wolf Creek Greenway
Beginner Hike**

2.5 miles, Easy
In Roanoke, no carpool fee

An urban paved river walk on one of Roanoke's wonderful greenways. This is the first Beginner Hike. These hikes are for kids and folks who are not yet up to speed or not as fast as we once were. We will smell the roses; no one will be left behind. Bring Lunch. This trail is handicap-accessible. There will be an option for one more mile to Stewart's Knob.

Lynn Bryant.....343-2084

**Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:00AM
Jennings Creek (Rt 614) to Bryant Ridge
Shelter**

5.9 miles, Moderate
23 miles from Roanoke, \$2.00 carpool fee

Located in Botetourt County not far from Arcadia and Buchanan. This will be an out and back hike to the Bryant Ridge Shelter on the A.T. This shelter is located on a scenic part of the creek. The shelter has three levels and is well-worth seeing.

Kenny Garrett.....892-5786
John Miller375-3250

**Sunday, February 17, 2008 8:30AM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

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

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

Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402
Dick Clark989-7053

**Sunday, February 17, 2008 1:00PM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

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

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

Mervin & Blanche Brower387-9732

**Saturday, February 23, 2008 10:00AM
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

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

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

Jean Warren384-6229

**Sunday, February 24, 2008 8:00AM
Curry Creek Loop Trail**

11.5 miles, Strenuous
9 miles from Roanoke, \$1.00 carpool fee

This hike will begin at the terminus of the Old Fincastle Road just east of Camp Bethel. It will follow Forest Service Road 634 for about 2.5 miles before picking up the Curry Creek Trail. It will follow the Curry Creek Trail to the AT where we will head north to Blackhorse Gap and then descend the Old Fincastle Road back to our starting point.

Larry Austin254-2092
Lois Smith862-7370

**Sunday, March 2, 2008 8:00AM
Dickey Gap (Rt 16) to Fox Creek (Rt 603)**

8.5 miles, Strenuous
87 miles from Roanoke, \$7.00 carpool fee

The hike is along the A.T. in Grayson County. Starting near Hurricane Campground, the trail crosses Comers Creek, which has a small waterfall. Heading south, the hike concludes with a 1,400 foot climb up Iron Mountain.

John Miller375-3250
Linda King342-2411

**Sunday, March 2, 2008 1:00PM
Top of Brush Mt to Audie Murphy Memorial
Beginner Hike**

3 miles, level
10 miles from Roanoke, \$1.00 carpool fee
We will drive up the fire road to the top of Brush Mountain and walk to the Audie Murphy Memorial, about 3 miles round trip, pretty much level.
Kenny Garrett.....892-5786

**Sunday, March 9, 2008 8:00AM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Andy Layne Trail (Rt 779)
113-Mile Hike #3**

11.0 miles, Strenuous
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
The hike is just north of Roanoke, starting in Daleville. It begins with an 800 foot climb up Tinker Mountain and then goes along a scenic ridge overlooking Carvins Cove.
Homer and Therese Witcher992-3932
Kris Peckman.....366-7780

**Sunday, March 9, 2008 1:00PM
Tinker Cliffs**

7.2 miles, Moderate
9 miles from Roanoke, \$1.00 carpool fee
Located in Botetourt County, the trailhead for this hike is on Route 779 roughly halfway between Catawba and Daleville. In 2001, this trail was dedicated to Andy Layne – a prominent member of RATC who passed away in 1991. The hike crosses meadows and Catawba Creek and then starts the ascent to Scorched Earth Gap where it continues on the AT to Tinker Cliffs. Many spots along the cliffs offer excellent views of McAfee Knob and the Catawba Valley.
Kenny Garrett.....892-5786
Carl Bagby 540-461-3336

**Sunday, March 16, 2008 8:30AM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge.
Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402
Mike Vaughn992-1350

**Sunday, March 16, 2008 1:30PM
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
We will be working on relocating a short section of worn-out trail on Tinker Ridge.
Mervin & Blanche Brower387-9732

**Friday, March 21, 2008 5:30PM
Moonlight Hike to McAfee Knob**

7.6 miles
6 miles from Roanoke, \$.50 carpool fee
Join us for a moonlight hike up to McAfee Knob, one of the most scenic spots on the entire 2,000 mile length of the Appalachian Trail. There will be a full moon on the 21st. 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. In case of bad weather, Saturday night, March 22 will be the back-up date for this hike.
Maya Bohler344-6588
Linda King.....342-2411

**Sunday, March 23, 2008 1:30PM
Harkening Hill / Johnson Farm
Beginner Hike**

About 3 miles easy.
30 miles from Roanoke, \$3.00 carpool fee
This hike is off the Blue Ridge Parkway. The old farm is interesting. The pace is for kids, beginners, and those not as fast as we once were.
Zetta Campbell366-8165

**Sunday, March 30, 2008 8:00AM
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Trout Creek (Rt. 620)**

12.9 miles, Strenuous
6 miles from Roanoke, \$.50 carpool fee
Located in Roanoke and Craig County, the hike follows the roller coaster Sawtooth Ridge, with views of Fort Lewis Mountain on the left and Cove Mountain and North Mountain on the right. The hike continues over Sandstone Ridge and then you begin the climb to Dragon's Tooth.
Kris Peckman.....366-7780
Linda King342-2411

**Sunday, March 30, 2008 1:00PM
Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

8.0 miles, Moderate
0 miles from Roanoke, \$.00 carpool fee
Located in Botetourt County, north of Roanoke. Except for a short feeder trail, the route follows the Appalachian Trail to Hay Rock and back again. There are several good overlooks along the way, but the best one is Hay Rock. This overhanging chunk of sandstone provides shelter on one side and great views on the other – for those willing to scramble to the top.
Jean Warren384-6229
Hugh Hall725-8874

**Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Annual Banquet and Business Meeting
March 8th, 6:00 PM (Saturday)**

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

Program: Leonard Adkins with Laurie and his 2007 thru-hike of the AT.

Reservation Form (Must be received by March 1st)

Mail to: Carolyn McPeak , 71 Viewmont Trail , Hardy, VA 24101

Please reserve _____ places at the RATC Annual Dinner Meeting - and make nametags as follows:

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ (\$14.00 per person, same low price).
Please make checks **payable to RATC**

**Roanoke Appalachian
Trail Club Application
New & Renewal**

- If accepted for membership, I agree to:
1. Support the objectives of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
 2. Abide by the rules of the National and State Parks and Forests
 3. Respect the interests of the owner when on private property
 4. Keep trails and woodlands free of litter and
 5. Abide by instructions of the leader on group hikes and trips

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Name(s) _____ | New Member Packet fee | \$5.00 _____ |
| Address _____ | Indiv. # of years _____ | x \$10.00 _____ |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ | Family # of years _____ | x \$15.00 _____ |
| Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ | Individual life membership | \$250.00 _____ |
| Email _____ | Family life membership | \$300.00 _____ |
| Year you joined RATC (make a guess!) _____ | Donation | \$ _____ |
| Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282 | Amount Enclosed | \$ _____ |

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556-2919 rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

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ATC Regional Representative, Kerry Wood
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Alternate, Roger Holnback
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**ATC-LT Coordinator - James River to New River and
Director Western Virginia Land Trust, Roger B. Holnback**
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ATC-LT Coord. New River to Damascus, Steve Reisinger
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Roanoke Valley Greenways Liaison, Roger B. Holnback
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Sir Speedy Printer
344-8550 robbiey@rbnet.com

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, March 8, 6:00 PM
Banquet & Annual Meeting**

WORK HIKES

**Sunday, January 20 - 8:30 & 1:00
Tinker Ridge**

**Sunday, February 17 - 8:30 & 1:00
Tinker Ridge**

**Sunday, March 16 - 8:30 & 1:30
Tinker Ridge**

Hike Scheduling

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

BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

**Monday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Judy & Dick Clark***

**Monday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by *Kris & Bob Peckman***

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