

TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Fall 2020

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In February 2020, RATC in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) initiated a fundraising campaign to purchase an 8 acre property immediately adjacent to the McAfee Knob trailhead and parking lot.

Our intention was/is that this property will be included in future planning to improve the visitor experience at McAfee Knob trailhead.

I am pleased to report that our fundraising efforts were successful!

RATC raised a total of \$44,000, including \$26,000 of RATC Members/ Supporters Contributions,

\$8,000 from the Bonfire T-Shirt Sales and \$10,000 of RATC Funds.

Combined with ATC fundraising and funds from the Virginia Conservation Fund, the ATC and RATC have met the \$150,000 purchase price. The Virginia Conservation Fund is handling property acquisition and has the property under contract with an anticipated closing date of December 15, 2020.

Thanks to all who supported this critical AT property acquisition!

I am confident this has the potential to significantly improve the visitor experience at McAfee Knob trailhead going forward.

I am also happy to report that

with the recent addition of three new members, the RATC Board is again at "full strength."

Jill Pennington - Webmaster

- Jill is an active hiker and hike leader. She is retired, but her working career included software development and web design.

Ron Bradbury - Trail Blazer Editor

- Ron is an active hiker and Director of Admissions for Carilion/Virginia Tech School of Medicine with an extensive background in organization communications.

Andrew Bowman - Counselor

- Andrew is an active hiker and trail maintainer; he is a partner with Gentry Locke - Attorneys at Law.

Join me in welcoming Jill, Ron and Andrew to the RATC Board!

- Jim Beeson, President



The adjacent property, now under contract for purchase, is outlined in green. Significant improvements to this popular AT access point and parking lot are planned, including a bridge to carry the trail across above route 311.

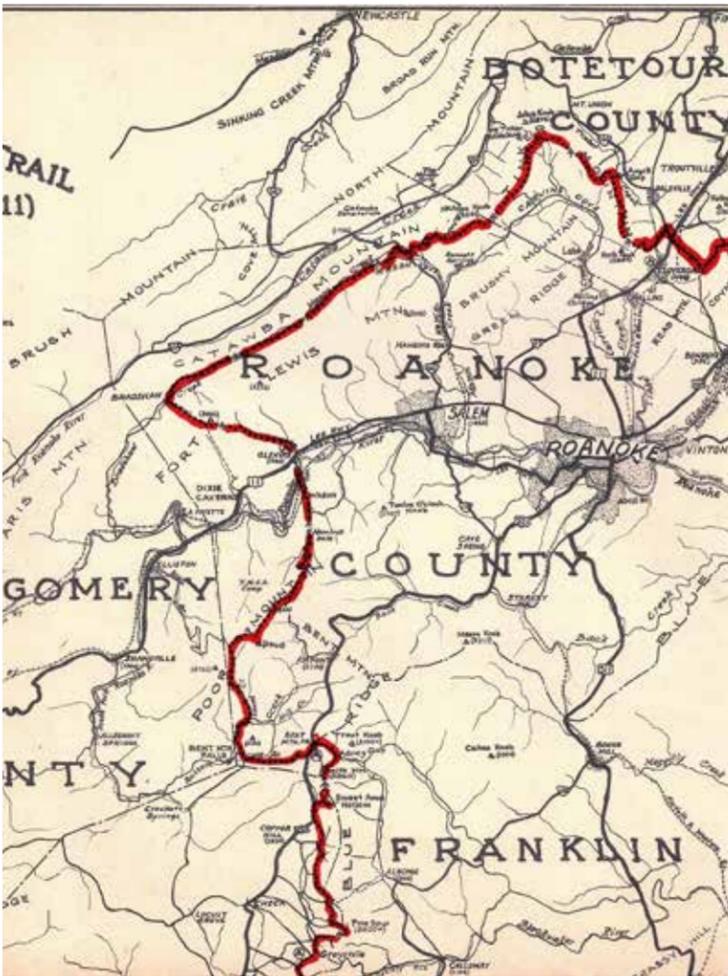
A change in plans: The early AT from Roanoke to Galax and beyond

by Diana Christopulos

Building the AT around Roanoke - Tinker Cliffs and McAfee Knob

The RATC was originally assigned 55 miles between Black Horse Gap and Sweet Annie Hollow, later

near the North Carolina border, was handled by the Mountain Club of Virginia, which included members from RATC, the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, Myron Avery and a resident of Pinnacles of Dan. At the end of 1933,



Trail Committee Chairman David Dick reported that, "our section of the trail is 68.29 miles long, all of which has been measured and the trail data obtained. 8.0 miles have been marked leaving a balance of 60.29 miles to mark." (see 1933 map at left).

Two different sets of Roanoke volunteers actually worked with ATC leader Myron Avery and others to lay out two different routes around Roanoke and beyond. The two versions around

extended about 15 miles south to include Tuggles Gap, near Rocky Knob. The long section between Tuggles Gap and Pinnacles of Dan,

Roanoke were:

- 1930-31. Tom Campbell, the Norfolk Southern accountant who would later become a top

leader in the RATC, helped organize a meeting at the Patrick Henry Hotel where Avery and others touted a route that had been flagged from Black Horse Gap running south and east of Roanoke to Adney Gap. It generally following the route of today's Blue Ridge Parkway. This route was never built, but Campbell and others flew over the route with the City of Roanoke's engineer.

- 1932-33. David Dick and other RATC founders pioneered a route running north and west of Roanoke from Black Horse Gap to Tinker Mountain, Tinker Cliffs, near McAfee Knob, through Mason's Cove, over Ft. Lewis Mountain, up Poor Mountain and down to Adney Gap. At Avery's request, Dick produced the 1933 map shown here, going from U.S 11 near Cloverdale to the New River near Galax and beyond.

Avery approved the new route and helped lay it out, taking the train from Washington, DC for weekend stays in the Roanoke region. He was an exacting overseer. A 1952 RATC history notes that, "Mr. Dick recalled an incident where a member carried the measuring wheel across a stream, but Mr. Avery made him take it back and run it through the water so the measurement would be exact." The few RATC members who owned cars played an important role in the trail's marking.

At the end of 1933, Dick described the RATC strategy and results:

The first problem that confronted us was the general location of the trail. The trail was originally located south of Roanoke - from Villamont along the top of the Blue



David Dick and John McGinnis on Tinker Ridge, December 1932

Ridge, past Mason Knob to Adney Gap on Bent Mountain. This trail had been measured but not very definitely marked, and it would in a good many instances require a complete relocation. Considering this and also that there are few points of outstanding interest on the southern route, it was suggested and approved by the club to locate the trail along the more interesting route north of Roanoke. This has been done with the help of many of the members not on the committee.

... In locating the trail we considered points of interest, viewpoint, accessibility, grade of the trail, and maintenance necessary to keep the trail definitely marked. At very few places we were able to satisfy all the requirements. Some of the trail will be more difficult to follow until it is more suitably marked and cleared; some of it is steep, other portions offer nothing of interest and in such cases generally follow automobile roads and serve only as connecting links. As the trail is now located there are about 25 miles of automobile roads. Some may be changed so as

to cover a more interesting section whenever the other trails are suitably marked and cleared.

Mr. Myron Avery assisted by various members of the committee and the club measured and obtained the trail data for our section of the trail on April 1st, 2nd, 29th and 30th. We also assisted Mr. Avery in measuring, obtaining trail data and marking 33.7 miles of trail from Bent Mountain Post Office to Tuggle Gap in Patrick County. As there is no organization to the care of this section it was routed along existing automobile roads and so requires no maintenance, other than a remarking once a year.

The success of these trips were greatly due to our President who, aside from his other duties, accompanied us on many of the hikes and used his car on most of these occasions. Others whom I believe are due special recognition are Dr. McGinnis who used his car frequently on trips and the Pownalls who accommodated Mr. Avery the two nights he was in Roanoke.

Two short sections of the trail have been marked. 6.80 miles from Black Horse Tavern Site to

the county road and 1.2 mile along the road up Tinker Mountain. This is barely a beginning of the trail marking and making in our section. Mr. Avery has made some good suggestions on what should be done on this line. Our entire section should first be marked so that the blazes can be easily followed from end to end. Care should be taken to see that the trail as marked is exactly as described in the trail data. To do this a copy of the trail data should be used in the field while marking, and a member of the measuring party should be present. Where the trail follows roads passable by automobile the route can be marked by using a car. After the trail is entirely marked it can then be improved, where necessary by clipping the underbrush, etc. It will be clearly seen that the initial marking of the trail must not be delayed long lest we have difficulty following the route described.

The new route was described in detail in a 1952 RATC history:

[The RATC section] began at Black Horse Gap, traversing down the Blue Ridge's eastern slope to a point adjacent to Villamont where it took a country road westward to Daleville. From there it crossed Tinker creek, went upward along the ridges of Tinker Mountain, passing to the left of McAfee's Knob where it descended to Catawba Station. From this place it took a wooded road [probably Va 655] to Bradshaw [Va 622 through Mason's Cove], here it turned sharp left over Fort Lewis Mountain crossing Route 11 in the vicinity of Glenvar (Dixie Caverns). Taking a southwesterly course, the trail went by Hemlock Dell (a resort of the day), up Poor mountain where it then followed Laurel creek to a point near Bent Mountain Falls when it turned towards the location of the old Bent Mountain Post Office. At this junction the trail moved Southward to Sweet Annie Hollow and on to Tuggles

Author's Note: The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club (RATC) has a long and distinguished history, beginning with its founding by hikers from Roanoke College, Hollins College (now University) and a local group called the Nomads, who were mostly women. That story was told in the last issue of the Blazer and now appears on our [website](#). This time we will look at the RATC's role in building the original Appalachian Trail from the Roanoke Valley to the New River near Galax during the 1930s.

If you have minutes, important documents or outstanding photos - especially from pre-2000 - let me know. dianak16@earthlink.net

Gap using the old Ridge Road much of the way. At this time, our Club's jurisdiction extended over 68 miles of the Appalachian Trail, 25 of these were over roads, and about 8 miles of the trail was properly completed.

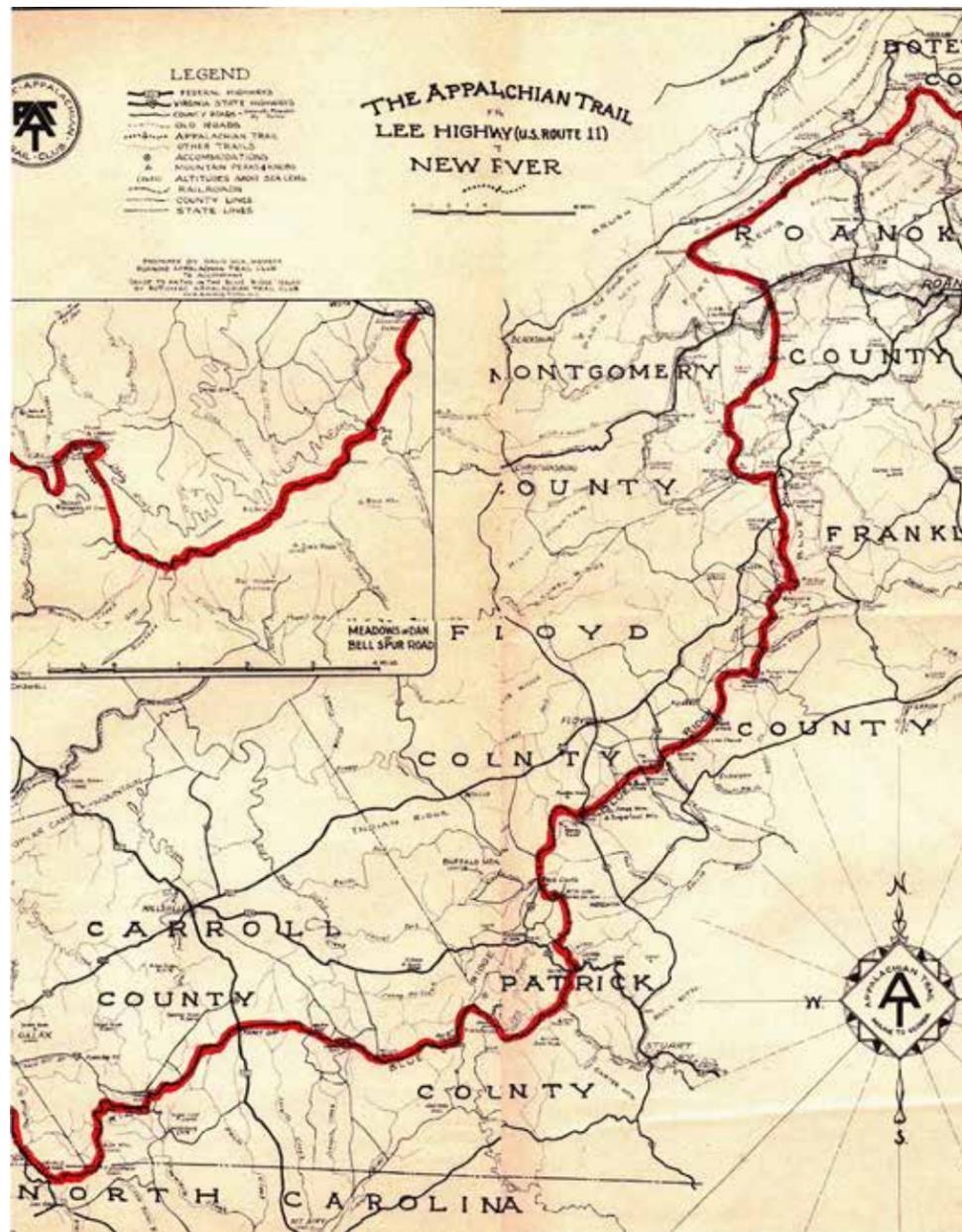
From Roanoke to the New River: David Dick's 1933 map

As part of his 1933 Annual Report of the RATC Trail Committee (November 12, 1933) David Dick included a note about the map he had drawn extending far beyond the RATC section. It was titled "The Appalachian Trail from Lee Highway (U.S. Route 11) to New River." Dick reported that:

At the request of Mr. Avery I made a map of the section of the trail from Lee Highway [US 11] near Cloverdale to New River [near Galax], for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's new Guidebook. The Potomac club has had 900 copies printed at a cost of \$30.00 from which they sent us about 300 copies. I have incurred an expense of \$2.50 in making this map which I feel should be borne by our club. Mr. Avery suggested that these copies sold at 25¢ would bring in considerable revenue for paint, markers, etc.

I was wonderfully surprised to find three copies of this map in the RATC archives in two slightly different versions, and former RATC president Michael Vaughn found another one in his files. The archive also includes a February 1939 article from the Roanoke Times, "Mountain Trails Call Score of Roanokers to Open Each Week End," that features the same map and a detailed discussion of RATC and its section of the trail. Note "Lee Highway" refers to U.S. 11 at Cloverdale and "New River" refers to a section of the old AT near Galax.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, RATC members continued to build and maintain the Trail, lead hikes



1933 David Dick map showing in red the AT from Roanoke to Galax and beyond

and enjoy social outings, though World War II stopped much of the activity. The Trail south of Roanoke had too much road walking and too few views for many hikers, and by 1940 RATC was already talking with the U.S. Forest Service about what would become a 250-mile relocation requiring decades to complete. The next installment of RATC history will look at the 1940s and the changes that accelerated after the war.

References

1933 report of Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club. Transcribed by D. Christopoulos, March 20, 2020. Unsigned. RATC

archives, 1930s. Dick, D. Annual Report of the RATC Trail Committee. November 12, 1933. Transcribed and annotated by Diana Christopoulos, March 20, 2020. RATC archives, 1930s.

Powell, L. H. (1951, January 24). Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club. Transcribed and annotated by D. Christopoulos, March 20, 2020. RATC archives, 1950s.

RATC History, 1932-1945. Unsigned.

RATC archives, 1940s. Email discussions with Prof. Mills Kelly, George Mason University, and Brian King, Publisher, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, 2019-2020.

Trail Supervisor's Report

by Mike Vaughn

It has been a busy period for club, since getting back out and working on the trail again. Many maintainers put in long hours getting their section of the AT back in shape. For those not familiar with the club's maintainer program, here is some background. The 121 miles of the AT that the club maintains is divided up into 33 sections. The average section is about four miles long. The maintainers on each section do such maintenance activities as clipping brush, cutting weeds, clearing small trees across the trail, and blazing. Each section has from two to four maintainers on it. The club also maintains eight side trails. We currently have almost 90 trail maintainers.

The Monday work crew has also

been busy over the past few months too. We rehabbed a bridge south of Mountain Pass Road (see pictures below) in Botetourt County. We also added a railing on the bridge across Catawba Creek on the Andy Layne Trail. We also did three work hikes south of Newport Road in Roanoke County. This project included adding some steps (see pictures) and removing some large rocks from the trail. We also did work hikes on several other sections of our trail, including the trail up to Angel's Rest in Giles County. As of this writing (early October) we are back out on the upper part of the trail up to Dragon's Tooth, completing the work there that was suspended last March due to Covid. We are adding steps there and removing some trail obstacles.

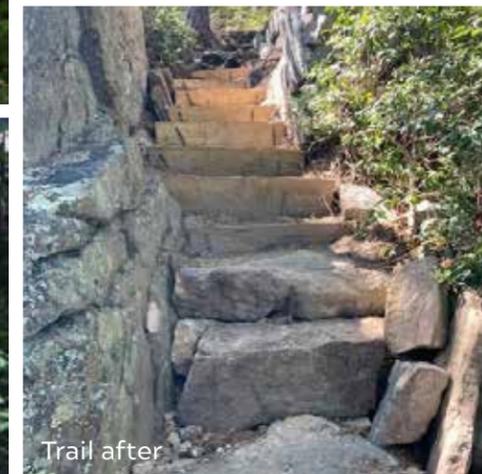
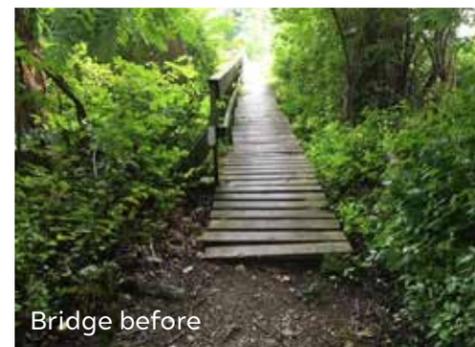
Looking ahead, we will finish our

work up near Dragon's Tooth in November or early December. After that we will be doing several work hikes up on Tinker Mountain, south of route 220 in Botetourt County. We will be adding steps and removing obstacles from the trail along the ridgeline there. After that we will be back out to McAfee Knob, probably in January, to fix a few problems on the lower part of the trail. Please come out and join us. It is a lot of fun and very rewarding work.

Each year we report the number of hours worked on the trail to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Park Service. The reporting period is tied to the federal fiscal year, from October to September. As might be expected, the total hours worked on the trail are down some. This past year we worked 4,800 hours on the trail compared to 5,600 hours the year before. These hours include work done on the 16 shelters on the section of trail maintained by the club. The drop in hours was expected because we lost three months of work on the trail due to Covid. I greatly appreciate all the effort our trail workers put in throughout the year. I truly believe that our section of the trail is one of the best maintained sections of the AT. The AT is maintained by a total of 31 clubs.

Late last year Robbie Kyle, a Boy Scout, approached the club about doing an Eagle Scout project. Luckily, there was great one available. For a couple of years we have had a need for an informational kiosk at the AT crossing on Newport Road in Roanoke County. Newport Road is the dividing line between Forest Service and Park Service lands.

Trail repair is arduous and never-ending, but the RATC's trail sections are very well-maintained. From bridge repair to installing stairs, evidence of members' altruistic volunteerism is easy to spot but not often acknowledged by most trail users.



Of hikes and hikers...

Stories from the trails...

Jennings Creek to Bryant Ridge Shelter (March 2020)

Kris Peckman (leader), Crystal Wright, Ana Anderson and her dog Carlos

This was a beautiful day for a beautiful hike, but I must apologize for incomplete research on this hike leader's part. Instead of the advertised 6 miles, this hike was 7.6 miles long and not exactly moderate since it involved 1000 feet of elevation gain in both



directions. But our whole crew was up to the challenge, including Carlos, who nonetheless slept all the way home in the car.

We started by climbing up the 1000 feet to the ridge top of Fork Mountain, where we could look down steeply to the Middle Creek valley on our right and to the confluence of Jennings Creek and the James River to our left. The 0.3 miles of ridge top walking was followed by a descent of at least 800 feet to a lovely valley containing acres of running cedar. We had set a turnaround time of 3:45 but we didn't want to miss the shelter, so we kept on, arriving

there at precisely 3:45. The shelter was designed by architecture students in memory of one of their fellow students and is indeed an architectural wonder. It was also immaculate, as was the trail we hiked. Recent hemlock clippings indicated maintainers had been there quite recently.

We left the shelter at 4:05 and arrived back at the car at 6:06. Crystal's watch also measured mileage, and it matched the AT guide's mileage exactly. The late-afternoon sun highlighted bright green moss along the trail, as well as a set of cliffs on the descent that we had missed on the way up.

by Kris Peckman

Troutville to Fullhardt Knob Thursday (September 2020)

Kris Peckman (leader), Libby Blankenship, Dave Gloudemans, Dawn Lamb, Fran Nowicki, Christine Yates

We were so happy to have cooler weather for hiking again! Clouds and a few light showers were no deterrent. Posted online only 2 days in advance, we roused five eager and energetic hikers. We first hiked up and down Humbert's Hill and then up to Fullhardt Knob and back, after a rest and snack break at the Fullhardt Knob shelter. The trail and shelter were freshly and immaculately maintained, with even a new bridge. Humbert's Hill was covered in wingstem, which while it had lost its rays, still exhibited plenty of yellow from its centers. We also saw wood asters and goldenrod, mostly in the lower elevations. We passed only a few other hikers.

by Kris Peckman

Cove Mountain Loop (October 2020)

Jill Pennington (leader), Randy Pennington, Ana Anderson, Kris Peckman, Bob Peckman, and Sophie(dog)

The dark and rainy day was not at all the kind of weather one wants to see for a hike, especially one scheduled because it offered some nice views. All the same, five people (and one very happy Spaniel) set out from the Little Cove Mountain Trailhead. The water in Little Cove Creek was low and did not present much of a challenge. As the group began climbing toward Cove Mountain, the fog thickened and visibility was limited to about 75 feet, necessitating several pauses on the way up to keep the entire group in visual contact.

We joined the AT and headed north. This is where the views would have begun, if we hadn't been hiking through a cloud bank!



On a clear day...

Saturday October 19, in breezy ultra-clear skies, I saw Mt. Rogers from Tinker Cliffs, 101 miles away. I took this photo and once home, I checked the sight line on maps (straight over Catawba.) I did math for the curvature of the earth, point-to-point, over the elevation of Blacksburg-Radford. (I am a math teacher at Patrick Henry.) It works out, and there's really nothing else that massive bulge could be in-between. With that visibility and the curvature of the earth, I was looking at the top c.500 feet of Mt. Rogers and White Top (left to right.) In the

Just before reaching Cove Mountain shelter, Jill saw a *Hericium erinaceus* (AKA Lion's Mane) mushroom about the size of a softball. The group stopped briefly at the shelter where we chatted with a NOBO hiker who was hiking by night. We continued on the AT, stopping to take a picture of the group where the last and best view would have been.

When we reached the intersection of the AT and Glenwood Horse Trail, we took the Glenwood south. Jill was alert this time, and found the unnamed trail back to the trailhead without backtracking, though it cannot be called unmarked anymore because someone has finally given it a blue blaze. We also found that someone had thrown together a footbridge for a particularly steep, deep ditch that wasn't there two weeks ago. We stopped to check out the hidden waterfall on Cove Creek, speculate what a bush with unusual bright red petals/



seed pods was, and take pictures. Ana later identified it as *euonymus americanus* (AKA American Strawberry Bush, or Hearts-a-bustin'.)

by Jill Pennington

Legacy hiker

Our daughter, Taylor Peterson, completed the entire 120 miles of the RATC section with her baby, Skye Peterson, by the time she turned 2 months old. Pictures are of Skye's first and last hikes.

by Homer and Therese Witcher



by Jeff Vanke

The 27 miles of trail north of there is Park Service land with different rules for hikers, particularly backpackers, to follow. Included in this trail corridor is the heavily used sections of trail to McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs. Overnight campers in this section are permitted to camp only in designated areas, whereas people can camp in most areas along the trail on Forest Service lands.

Robbie did a fantastic job raising the money for the kiosk, as well as constructing it. We congratulate him on his well-earned Eagle Scout award.



Anyone can join a work crew, but both the hiking and the labor can be demanding.

Toe the line (lest they tow the line)

Cars towed from near McAfee Knob

A recent article published in the Roanoke Times ([here](#)) recounted the police-ordered removal of 18 cars parked on route 864 near the McAfee Knob trail head on October 24th. According to

sources quoted in the Time article, a citizen likely complained about the partial blockage of the road, prompting the police response.

Authorized parking spaces at the trail head lot are often in short

supply, especially on weekends. The expense of a towed-vehicle would no doubt diminish the joy of hiking the iconic AT destination.

A Different Kind of Hike

I am a hiker. I brag all the time about distances and elevation changes and the weight of my back pack. The trails I hike are blazed (marked by a painted rectangle on a tree or rock) and very well maintained.

My daughter lives in Tucson, Arizona and talks (not bragging) about hikes she takes with a group in the South Western mountains of Arizona. I've had good reason to be proud (Dad talking now) of her work as a relief worker in many African countries. She has done some extraordinary things.....wait, I digress. She has her own apartment and has been anxious for us to visit her and see her home and the fantastic city she lives in. So, my wife and I decided to visit for five days in February.

As part of the visit I asked if I could join her and her friends on one of their hikes. She was thrilled to share this part of her life with me so I packed my bag accordingly. If you are a hiker you know that means hiking pants (the kind that are very thin and have zippers at the knees to make them shorts), backpacking shoes, a day pack and a short sleeve shirt. On a day hike my pack usually weighs less than ten pounds.

When we got to her place (a twenty-four-hour travel saga for another story) we did some local hiking in the Saguaro National Forest, seeing Giant Saguaro cactus plants and an almost infinite number of other cacti. We hiked marked trails but I learned that hiking in the desert means you don't wear flimsy pants. Every one of the cacti out there wants to give you a souvenir of your journey. We also learned that just because we were in Tucson, Arizona it doesn't mean that the sun is always out and that the temperature does not

drop below freezing. My flimsy hiking pants and short sleeve shirts remained in the suit case until we put them away when we got home. Instead, my dungarees and flannel shirts were the fashion of the week.

On Tuesday I asked my daughter about our 'special' hike down by the US Mexican border. She said we were set, but first, she, as hike facilitator, would need to give me the four-hour mandated class for what we were about to do. Fortunately, I once held a Commercial Driver License so we were able to skip over the section of driving a four-wheel drive vehicle on severely rutted dirt roads and how to extradite the truck from any

"Written with tears in my eyes. I came for a dream but was left abandoned and alone because I could take it. I continue alone, I hope to find the way. God will help me. Thank you for the water, I was already finishing mine, God bless you, Frank, I'm lost, I hope to come across people with a good heart on my way, I came through here almost."

off-road excursions. We were also able to get through the section on how to act when we encountered a Border Patrol agent pretty quickly because I promised to keep my mouth shut and go along with her group's policies. The rest of the class had to do with the actual hike and what I would be expected to do. Most important was how we were to act if we encountered a migrant. All that she taught was NON-POLITICAL, did not make judgments and did not extend beyond anything that the lawyers said we could do.

Our day began at 6:45AM with the temperature sitting at 28 Fahrenheit. Again, I did say we were in Tucson Arizona. I had to borrow a jacket from my daughter's boyfriend. Our first task was loading the truck with supplies--fifty to sixty, one gallon jugs of water and many boxes of pop-top cans of Mexican beans along with bags of socks and blankets, all essentials

for desperate people. Once loaded, we met with the other two young people that were joining us.

One was young woman had gone to EMT school and learned to speak Spanish just to join this group and to dedicate her time to helping others. The young man moved to Tucson from California also with the sole intent of working with the group. Once we did our pre-trip vehicle inspection and had our "tailgate" meeting about safety and protocol, we set off on a two plus hour drive to the open desert just fifteen miles from the US southern border. As we neared our destination, my first taste of the reality of where we were was a Border Patrol road check. Because

we were heading South, and maybe because the temps were still in the twenties, they simply waved us on, a simple novelty for me but a potential life changing action or others.

We eventually left the paved road and followed a dried-out dirt road with lots of deep ruts and gullies for more than three miles. Suddenly my daughter said "stop here". She got out and played with a hand held GPS unit for a minute or two and then declared that this is where we needed to be. We would begin our hike to one of the two water drop-off sites that we were to visit right at the foot of some radically steep mountains with no discernible trail head in sight. It was time to pack up.

I loaded my back pack with four gallons of water and one four-pound box of beans. The others were doing the same except the young man packed SIX gallons of water in his pack and was going to carry a box of beans. When I went to shoulder my pack, I thought I must have been standing on one of the straps because I couldn't pick it up. I wasn't. To my embarrassment I removed the beans and still struggled to get the pack up on to

the tail gate. The pack was heavy but I was convinced that I could carry four gallons of water in my pack and one in my hand--after all I've carried a chain saw for some miles on the trail here in Roanoke. When we started our hike, I asked, "Where is the trail?" The three of them looked at me like I was from somewhere else and said, "We just follow the GPS."

Here at home on our well-marked and cared for trails, we climb a mountain using trail switchbacks (a series of back and forth cuts that take you up the mountain at a reasonable slope), but there were no switchbacks on this hike. We hiked a straight line up and through thorn bushes. By the time we got to the top my legs were aching and my back felt like it was bending the wrong way. We traveled along the ridge for a distance when someone called out, "There it is," the "it" being a tree with supplies hidden in its shadow. As we approached it was obvious that others had been there before us. The gallon water jugs were empty, there were wrappings from the socks and blankets and many empty pre-cooked bean cans. We each dropped off a gallon of water and

some beans and socks. I was really enjoying this, the air was warming up and I was hiking. After we cleaned up we headed for the next drop site, and because the drop sites must be kept secret, the GPS unit given to us in the morning only had two drop off sites marked.

My pack was still heavy and we had a hard time finding the "oasis" of water, food and comfort items. When we did finally find the drop site it was again obvious that others had been here too. This time as we checked the site we found one of the gallon water jugs had a note attached to it. Of course, it was written in Spanish. Although I neither speak nor read Spanish, my three companions all could read it. Here is what the loosely translated note said: "Written with tears in my eyes. I came for a dream but was left abandoned and alone because I could take it. I continue alone, I hope to find the way. God will help me. Thank you for the water, I was already finishing mine, God bless you, Frank, I'm lost, I hope to come across people with a good heart on my way, I came through here almost."

Upon hearing the letter read, this became a different kind of

hike. Suddenly my backpack didn't feel as heavy, suddenly my very tired legs were ready to hike to the next water site, and suddenly this was a mission of mercy and not a walk in the desert. Someone out there relied on the selflessness of others to simply stay alive, and we were those others. I have never felt as proud as I did then, not of myself, but of the many young people that gave of themselves to be humane to people in need. I was here for the thrill of one hike but they were there to help every day. At the second location, we left our remaining water, cans of pre-cooked beans, socks and blankets, and headed back to the truck, but I will never forget this hike and "Frank's" note will stay with me always.

by Bill Neilan

Want to show your love of iconic McAfee Knob and support the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club?



McAfee Knob shirts are available online in various styles and sizes! Proceeds support the mission of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club to maintain 120 miles, 16 Shelter/Privies and 53 Bridges on the AT from Lickskillet Hollow in Giles County to Black Horse Gap in Botetourt County. This includes Virginia's Triple Crown, i.e., Dragon's Tooth, McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs.

>>> Shop now! <http://www.bonfire.com/store/ratc> <<<

TRAIL BLAZER
Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
PO Box 12282
ROANOKE VA 24024-2282

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club Application New and Renewal

IF ACCEPTED FOR MEMBERSHIP, I AGREE TO:

1. Support the objectives of the RATC
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 the instructions of the leader on group hikes and trips

Name(s)	New Member Packet Fee:	\$5	_____
Address	Individual # of years	x \$15	_____
	Family # of years	x \$20	_____
City	Individual life membership	x \$250	_____
State	Family life membership	x \$300	_____
Zip			_____
Phone	Donation	\$	_____
Email	Total Amount Enclosed	\$	_____

Dues are payable in January of each year. Make checks to "RATC" or use PayPal at ratc.org

Please send dues and any questions about money or membership to:
Treasurer, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, VA 24024

RATC membership includes an annual subscription to Backpacker Magazine, at no cost to you. RATC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Membership dues are tax-deductible minus \$6 for Backpacker Magazine.

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