

RATC Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2016

Mill Mountain Coffee&Tea, Salem, VA

In attendance:

Board members: Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, Roger Holnback, Carina Hughes, David Jones, Butch Kelly, Bob Peckman, Susan Powell, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, Brendle Wolfe, Dave Youmans

Other attendees: Matt Allenbaugh (ATC McAfee Knob Ridge Runner)

Meeting was called to order by Diana at 7:00.

Future meeting dates and locations:

Aug	<i>No meeting in August</i>
Sep 12	Mill Mountain Coffee, Salem, VA
Oct 3	Location TBD
Nov 14	Location TBD

Minutes of previous meeting:

Roger made a motion to approve the May minutes and this motion was seconded by Carina and the motion passed

Susan made a motion to approve the June minutes and this motion was seconded by Jim and the motion passed

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):

Financial activity since last board meeting (full report attached at the end of the minutes):

Total in Checking	\$19,009.95
Total Assets	\$33,515.19
Receipts	\$5,027.73
Expenditures	\$5,058.47

(Included in the total assets are designated funds as follows \$4,905.03 for the Pine Swamp Shelter and \$1,470.48 for the McAfee Task Force)

President's Report (Dianna Christopulos):

- New brochures are completed. Handed out new brochure for those who wanted one. The old brochures were recycled.
- Amendment to RATC's agreement with the USFS allows McAfee Knob Task Force members to also patrol the AT to Dragon's Tooth (Amended agreement attached at end of the minutes).
- MVP: Diana reported on club and ATC activity related to the MVP pipeline crossing of the AT. The approval has been delayed 6 months. The ATC has take a position of opposition to the pipeline crossing the AT. A study of the impacts of running a gas pipeline through Karsts geology has been released. There is going to be another site visit to the proposed AT crossings in two weeks with the MVP, USFS, ATC & RATC.
- There was no report on the Media Task Force.
- Diana requested that the board approve the appointment of Conner McBane as RATC Liaison to Roanoke College. Carina made a motion to approve this appointment, Dave Youmans seconded and the motion passed.
- Diana suggested that the RATC consider asking a local diabetic thru hiker to speak at an RATC event. It was also suggested to ask Jennifer Phar-Davis to speak.

Closure of Lamberts Meadow Shelter and Campsite

Homer and Therese Witcher reported that on Friday, July 8, new bear boxes were installed at Catawba and Campbell Shelters. Monday, July 11, bear boxes were installed at Lamberts Meadow shelter and at Lamberts Meadow campsite. The transporting of the bear boxes was greatly aided by the donated use of David Horst's Kubota. This project demonstrated very good cooperation between trail partners and volunteers. Considering installing additional bear boxes at other shelters. Will pursue grants for funding of additional bear boxes. Matt Allenbaugh has removed the signs at the trail heads indicating that the shelters were closed due to bear activity. The signs at the shelters will be removed in the next few days. It was suggested that the club publicize this project for its interests to the hiking community and the community at large. Dian will put on social media. This is an opportunity to push Leave No Trace ethics.

Removal of Invasive Species—project update

Butch Kelly gave the following report:

- Worked three days removing invasives on the Burrus tract with the Conservation Leadership
- Had a garlic mustard pull from Campbell shelter to Tinker Cliffs. There is a lot of garlic mustard on this section. A garlic mustard pull event on the Andy Layne Trail was rained out.
- There is also a lot of Autumn olive and multiflora rose on the Andy Layne Trail which needs to be removed.
- Tree of heaven near the Boy Scout Trail and AT north of Pickle Branch shelter needs to be addressed
- Connor McBane is looking at study trees for phenology (study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events) analysis. He is recruiting Roanoke College students to assist in this work.
- Conner is studying vernal pools along the RATC section of the AT, specifically the pool near Audie Murphy memorial and near Pickle Branch shelter
- The phenology work and the invasives work is an opportunity to get the local Master Naturalists involved with the RATC

Blazer and e-Blazer

Background information given in the meeting agenda: Should we keep or change the opt-out practice (i.e. you have to say you want the print version)?

Decided to determine specifically when the opt-in practice was started and then determine the effect: who is not getting the Blazer and we do not have an email address for?

Input to ATC on proposed changes to Biennial conference

1. Spokes person will be the club president, Dianna
2. None
3. Voted for AT Crossing as a name
4. The board agreed to request an earlier date for hosting the Biennial meeting

Calendar

Selected the first weekend in December for the Holiday banquet

Meeting place for the board meetings will be at Mill Mountain Coffee, Salem, VA

Trail Supervisor's Report

Sinking Creek relocation work with Konnarock

Worked 3 ½ days with ½ day rained out.

Probably with need six Konnarock weeks to complete

RATC members are digging side hill trail between the bolder areas

Trail inventory with Conner McBane will be completed this summer

Conservation Supervisor's Report

See notes above, "Removal of Invasive species—project update"

Ridgerunner report

Things have been quiet—spring peak has passed

McAfee Knob Task Force

10 new members

Expanded coverage area to include Dragon's Tooth

Preparing a handbook for nature interpretation along the trail

Requested any feedback for what the RATC needs

Membership Report

As of 6/29/2016

New members 25

Renewals 36

Total members 418

Life members 57

Shelter Supervisor's Report

New roof installed on Pickle Branch shelter

New roof will be installed on Bailey Gap shelter 8/20/2016

Hikemaster's Report

Suggested that the club provide training for hike leaders

Susan Powell volunteered to lead/help with developing and conducting a training session

Backcounty Ski and Sport offered a meeting room for training

There was a discussion about leader requirements, no action was taken

Bob Peckman is developing a hike list of all of the hikes the RATC leads

Trail Blazer Editor's Report

See "Blazer and e-Blazer" above

Digital Media Report

Erin was out of town; no report

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

RATC
Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
7/11/16

Balance in Checking as of :	7/11/16	\$19,009.95
Bequest from Robert L. Trimpi Trust//Pine Swamp Shelter***	7/11/16	\$4,905.03
McAfee Task Force Fund !!!	7/11/16	\$1,470.48
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace****	7/11/16	\$4,000.00
Total Assets as of:	7/11/16	\$33,515.19
Total Equity as of:	7/11/16	\$33,515.19

**** Amounts are included in balance in checking**
!!!Amount included in checking for McAfee Task Force Only

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income During Period: \$5027.73

Significant Items

Dues	\$1,295.00
Donations (Bear boxes)	\$3,690.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fund Raiser	
Receipts Donation Box McAfee ()/Tinker (0)	
Stickers(\$2.50 each)	\$2.50
Patches RATC (\$5)	
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	
T-Shirt (\$20)	\$40.00
Hat (\$10)	
Amazon Smile	
Interest Income - Savings	\$0.08
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.15
Refund Service Charge	
Interest Income-CD -Yearly Int. 2015	
Extra from PayPal	

Total Expense During Period: \$5,058.47

Lowes, Jim Webb (Tinker Creek & Dragon's Tooth)	\$36.22
Mark McClain (25 brochures)	\$39.99
Postmaster (Postage for Blazers Permit #509)	\$250.00
Handy John Handy Rentals (2 Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob)	\$130.00
Sir Speedy (321 Blazers)	\$294.08
Bear Saver (4 bear boxes and freight)	\$4,085.00
BB&T (Credit card charge for 500 brochures)	\$172.99
Brendle Wolfe (Address labels & postage for new mem. packets)	\$18.35

Brendle Wolfe (New Member packets postage 22)

\$29.92

PayPal

\$1.37

Square

\$0.55

Attachment A

Sponsored Volunteer Tasks and Responsibilities – Appalachian Trail Clubs Volunteer Services Agreement for Natural Resource Agencies (OF301a)

Volunteer duties for members of the **Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club** include responsibilities and tasks as necessary to include, but not limited to:

- a) coordination and consultation on trail reconstruction, maintenance, and relocation projects and associated facility maintenance and replacement;
- b) trail maintenance and management practices as outlined in the current "Local Management Plan" for the Appalachian Trail;
- c) use of hand tools and power tools as necessary for trail maintenance projects. Chainsaw operation to be done only by club members issued a current Forest Service Chainsaw Operator Card Holder and crosscut saw operation only to be done by club members issued a current Forest Service Crosscut Saw Operator Card Holder. Must hold valid CPR and First Aid certification in order to chainsaw and crosscut saw cards to maintain currency;
- d) and other duties as coordinated with the District Ranger or the delegated acting.

The **Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club** has the assigned trail maintenance responsibilities for the following sections of the Appalachian National Recreation Trail on the Eastern Divide Ranger District:

- From SR 624 travelling south to Pine Swamp Shelter
- From the New River Bridge on US 460 to SR 611

Recognize that private ownerships and other public ownerships are intermingled with National Forest ownership on the Eastern Divide Ranger Districts and that it is not the intent of this volunteer agreement to modify or interfere with the use of such lands nor to authorize in any way the use of such private and other public land except as the United States, through the Forest Service, may have ingress and egress rights over such lands. Portions of this section of trail include lands managed by the National Park Service and are covered under separate agreements with the trail club.

Annually, on or about January 1, the club will send an updated membership and officer roster to be attached to and made a part of this sponsored volunteer agreement to the Volunteer Coordinator on the Eastern Divide Ranger District at 110 Southpark Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Trail club volunteers will be considered "on-duty" when performing tasks in the area of assigned responsibility and "off-duty" in all other instances.

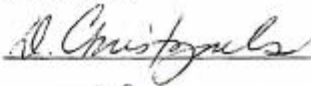
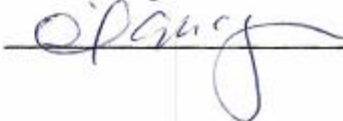
If individual volunteers within the club are authorized to operate a government vehicle for official business, they must hold a valid state driver's license, take a defensive driving course every three (3) years, and complete all the necessary forms provided by the USFS. This agreement can be modified at any time with the written consent of each party.

Perform outreach activities - As defined here, *outreach* refers to a project or activity which takes place within a national forest and is conducted by a NFS partner organization. Outreach activities are designed to accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- Provide education about the forests and their role in our history, culture, and quality of life.
- Promote responsible stewardship of forest resources (including education in Leave No Trace ethics).
- Promote public understanding, recognition, and responsible enjoyment of the AT on National Forest System Lands.
- Encourage familiarity with and appreciation for the natural world.
- Provide opportunities for specific groups of people to experience the outdoors. These groups include, but are not limited to, students in grades K-12, college students, youth groups, and civic and service organizations.

RATC will adhere to its organizational policy regarding outreach activities involving minors and will continue to provide youth outreach opportunities through reliable partner organizations that have liability insurance and proven records as youth outreach leaders.

This agreement will expire 12/31/2018.

Initials (Both Parties)		Date	<u>6/28/16</u>
		Date	<u>6/29/16</u>