

RATC Board Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2018

Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Jim Beeson, Diana Christopulos, Jonathan Eagle, Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, Josiah Leonard, Terri McClure, Chris Means, Julio Stephens, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, Dave Youmans

Others: Andrew Downs, Steve Urbaniak

Meeting was called to order by Jim Beeson at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of February 5 (Board) and March 3 (Annual Meeting) Minutes (Susan Terwilliger):

Corrections: None

Approved: Dave Youmans moved to approve the minutes, Chris Means seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Terri McClure):

Terri, as the new club treasurer, has created a new format for RATC's financial data. She explained how different types of memberships are calculated and displayed assets and expenditures for RATC activities on a spreadsheet. Terri and Bob Peckman are also updating the club membership list.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 4/2/2018):

Total in Checking:	\$53,078.13
Total Assets:	\$68,670.18
Receipts:	\$3,240.40
Expenditures:	\$1,018.59

See RATC website <https://www.ratc.org/financial-reports/> for full financial reports.

Membership Report (Chris Means):

RATC currently has around 600 members, with 1,450 people in the club Meetup group.

PROGRAM: Orientation of New RATC Board of Directors (Andrew Downs):

- ATC overview: Andrew Downs is director of ATC's Central and Southwest Virginia Regional Office (VARO). He described the NPS/ATC/RATC partnership and the roles of the five ATC VARO staff members. ATC staffers ensure that the regional office is an effective resource for eight Virginia trail clubs. ATC arranges for workshops, rockwork, and other technical assistance and coordinates resources with state and federal groups, including land management agencies. Andrew also does fundraising and administers LL Bean grants and other benefits to clubs. "Help club capacity" is the justification for the use of benefit money.

Updates and Action Items

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Jim Beeson, Diana Christopulos):

- Updates
 - Job descriptions: Jim Beeson pointed out that job descriptions and other document resources are on the RATC website. He noted that board members' job descriptions are in the bylaws; many jobs have changed, and descriptions may need to be updated. All board members should review their job descriptions and report any changes to Jim or Diana. Jonathan Eagle, RATC webmaster, will handle other website updates.
 - Digital media tools: Diana Christopulos described digital media tools now in use. The website continues to use WordPress, the world's most popular website format, which allows nonexperts to create blogs

and edit content. Diana welcomes guest blogs from members. According to web analytics tools, the most visited page on our site is McAfee Knob and the Triple Crown. The RATC Facebook page is another valuable resource. Most posts average over 300 views with some posts commanding 8,000 to 10,000 views. Facebook typically reaches a younger demographic than the RATC membership. Only RATC board members can post onto Google group list, which is used to communicate with club members.

- MVP update: Diana Christopulos summarized current developments in the fight against the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Sinking Creek and Brush Mountain (Peters Mountain area) are of particular concern to RATC. Diana described where the tree sitter and pole sitter protesters are located and explained their legal status. The town of Newport will likely suffer great harm if the pipeline project goes through. Hearings are still in progress to weigh MVP's cultural, environmental, and historical impact. Mountain Valley Watch is a newly formed group of trained citizen volunteers who plan to monitor the environmental impacts of the pipeline. RATC is working with ATC and the U.S. Forest Service to monitor the pipeline's visual impacts on the trail at over 20 locations selected with major input from ATC and RATC. We will be asking RATC volunteers to help with this process.
- Dates for June, July, and September board meetings: Not discussed at meeting. Next three board meeting dates previously set for May 7, June 4, and July 9 (2018).
- Corn Boil: Set for July 21. Scott Karns, new social chairman, will handle details.
- Roanoke Times RATC board listing: Names and pictures will appear in April 8 edition, Business section.
- ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting: August 10 -12, 2018. Two individuals can attend.
- NPS Wayfinding Report update: Examines designated high-use areas, such as McAfee Knob trail. Recommends suggesting that hikers use fire road to take some pressure off AT.
- Roanoke Valley Gives: Thanks to Brendle Wolfe's efforts, \$2,125 was raised for RATC.
- Pig Farm bear box: An extra bear box is available (but needs to be moved). Put it at Pig Farm campsites? A discussion ensued as to where to place the box, but no decision was made.
- Starlight Bikes donation: This Roanoke cycling business has given RATC \$225 in T-shirt sales to date.
- AT Film Festival – Go Fest: This AT-inspired collection of short films will be screened at the Grandin Theatre in conjunction with Roanoke's Go Outside Festival (Go Fest) in October. Board members discussed how RATC could contribute and decided to table a decision until a later date.
- Shuttle list – hostel list: Not discussed at meeting.
- RATC board email addresses: Jonathan Eagle has synchronized personal email addresses with function titles for board members (e.g., secretary@ratc.org). This will allow the club to maintain consistent email addresses through personnel changes on the board of directors.
- Virginia's Blue Ridge – Trail Mix: Not discussed at meeting.
- Action Items
 - Status of RATC store and Press Press Merch: Press Press will handle the sale of club merchandise, remitting sales proceeds back to RATC. Jim Beeson suggested closing RATC's online store during the transition to Press Press. The board decided to temporarily close the store and reopen it later this month (April 2018). Current orders will be fulfilled. Jonathan Eagle said a link from the RATC website to Press Press will be in place within one month.
 - Shelter fire rings budget request: Nine shelters need new fire rings (old ones have rusted). Cost is \$116 each (may use Malcolm & Jimmie Black fund). Larger orders reduce shipping costs. Jim Webb moved to approve the purchase of nine rings from Jamestown Advanced Products for \$1,240 (sales and shipping). Bruce Agnew seconded, and the motion passed. USFS may furnish two more rings.

2. RECONSIDER REQUIREMENTS FOR RATC MEETUP PROFILE (Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, Chris Means):

RATC currently requires a full name and personal photo to join our RATC Meetup group, but this requirement may change. Currently, when someone wants to join the RATC Meetup group, he or she sees the following: "On your profile, provide a picture that is a recognizable photo of your face. Also provide your first and last names, for security and social reasons....We cannot accept you to this Meetup unless you provide these."

Action requested: Change the RATC Meetup acceptance requirements to read (changes in red): "On your profile, provide a picture that is a recognizable photo of your face. Also provide your first name and **at least the first initial of your last name**, for security and social reasons....We cannot accept you to this Meetup unless you provide these." The board will discuss and act on this request at a future meeting.

3. SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP MEETING AT HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK (Jim Beeson, Jim Webb, Dave Youmans):

Held March 9-11. Jim Beeson, Jim Webb, and Dave Youmans attended.

Regular Reports

Trail Supervisor's Report (Jim Webb):

Trail crews have been working at Stony Gap. Jim wants to redeck the bridge over VA 620 (estimated cost of \$775). Will work with Andrew Downs (ATC) to this end. Bridges 1 and 6 (in Blanche Brower's section) need to be replaced. Some fencing on the McAfee Knob trail (near fire road intersection) needs to be replaced (estimated cost of \$450). Jonathan Eagle has a connection at Home Depot and offered to ask the store for a discount in fencing material. Fencing at Dragon's Tooth also needs replacement. Chris Means noted that free accommodations at the Hikers Haven hostel (Angel's Rest) may be available in exchange for trail work or shelter work.

Hikemaster's Report (Susan Herndon-Powell):

Susan presented information on RATC liability insurance for hike leaders. She has received a quote from Pachner & Associates for two policies: one that covers general liability (for hike leaders) and one that covers directors and officers (for RATC board members). Yearly premium is \$1,871 for both. Board members will review these policies and decide whether to approve them (and bind coverage) at the May 7 meeting.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

No report (Butch was absent).

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer & Therese Witcher):

Campbell shelter will receive a new roof on April 8.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Brian Boggs):

Brian was absent but submitted the following information: A planning meeting for MKTF was held February 21. Brian Boggs, Diana Christopoulos, Kathryn Herndon-Powell, Scott Karns, Anne Kohinke, Bill Neilan, Jim Webb, and Dave Youmans attended. Ridgerunner training was held March 3 at Roanoke County Fire & Rescue; three new Ridgerunners were trained. The next training will be on May 5. Upcoming orientation hikes: McAfee Knob, April 6; Dragon's Tooth, April 7. The 2018 Ridgerunner Kick-off will be held at the ATC regional office in Roanoke on April 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (David Youmans):

Not discussed at meeting.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Bob Peckman):

No report (Bob was absent).

Calendar:

April 5, 2018	Virginia's Triple Crown Managers Meeting – Greenfield Center
April 13-15, 2018	Wilderness First Aid and CPR, MRNRA Work Center, 609 Flat Ridge Rd., Sugar Grove, VA
April 23-25, 2018	VA Land Conservation & Greenways Conference – Hotel Roanoke
May 7, 2018	RATC Board of Directors (program: Eric Giebelstein, SAWS)
August 10-12, 2018	ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting – ATC Membership Meeting

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.