

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

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**Fall 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.*

## **Pat Mankin**

On June 24<sup>th</sup> we lost a true friend of the RATC, the Trail, and of nature. Pat did not hike much in the last several years, but before that was a strong hiker for longer than many of us can remember. She shared with us her beautiful photographs, her love of the outdoors, and her canine hiking buddy, Razor. We miss her.

## **Glenn "Red" Crone**

Red Crone passed away July 26 after succumbing to a courageous battle with cancer. Many RATC members and volunteers were fortunate enough to meet and work with Red; he maintained the trails along Sinking Creek Mountain where he lived, as well as the local shelters.

The volunteers who spent many hours building the Sarver Hollow shelter a few years ago will fondly remember Red and his mule Toby. Red led Toby up and down the steep blue-blaze trail to Sarver Hollow countless times loaded with heavy packs of tools and building materials. Toby didn't smile much during those strenuous trips, but Red always had a big grin and a good word for everyone. *Continued p.2*

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### Red Crone Continued

Without a doubt Red Crone was one of the feistiest, toughest, no-nonsense, good-humored men you could have the pleasure to meet. Generosity was in his nature. Red hosted the RATC party at his cabin after the dedication of the Sarver Hollow Shelter, complete with his own fresh venison, pork and other abundant good food. He loved a good party with his friends and he was an excellent host, making everyone feel welcome.

Just a few weeks before Red passed away he hosted one last party at his cabin for his friends and loved ones. Great food and drink, live bluegrass music, and lovely fellowship made the occasion a bittersweet memory for all who attended.

A special "thank-you" is in order for Thea Pilkington, Red's dear friend and care-giver during his last three years. Thea summed it perfectly saying "When God made Red Crone He broke the mold. Red was such a wonderful, caring and unique man; we all will miss him so very much".

***Jonathan Reed***



**We lost a secretary.  
Janet gained a husband.  
The winner is Fred!**

### Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

***James Black***  
***Robert Blankenbaker***  
***Karen Callahan***  
***Mia Copeland***  
***Jeff Eadens***

***Andrea K. Flora***  
***David A. Keith***  
***Gayle Lovern***  
***Marcia Murphy***  
***Jay & Amy Nichols***

***Lynne M. Overstreet***  
***Samuel Peterson***  
***Rebecca Reiff***  
***Ronald T. Sloan***  
***Fred & Connie Walters***

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

***Mervin Brower***

Leonard Adkins is working on a pictorial history book of the AT in VA and could use any of your photos of the AT (and surrounding area) dating from the early 1900s to about the 1980s. The AT Conservancy has granted him access to their picture archive, but he needs many more. Photos (and even old post cards) do not have to be in color or the best of quality. Leonard is looking for scenes, people hiking or working on the trail, trail

structures or buildings off the AT that have significance to the trail, trail or club personalities (like Tom Campbell), etc. He doesn't even need the picture from you if you can scan it; if not he promises to return it to you in good condition. Let's help him out, and get a good representation of RATC's section of trail in the book. Contact him as soon as possible at 540-966-2811 or [habitualhiker.va@netzero.net](mailto:habitualhiker.va@netzero.net).

## Trail Supervisor's Report

### Help Wanted Oct. 4 & 5

April 16, 2007 is better known for much more tragic events in this area. This may have caused us to forget that it was very windy that morning and those winds blew a large oak tree down on the roof of Pine Swamp Shelter. Now almost a year and a half later we are about to write the final chapter on the story of the shelter roof. To date only a handful (probably fewer than 20) people have been involved in the repair work of the shelter roof. If the story is going to be finished during the first weekend of October, this needs to change and we need your help, and I mean you. We expect the rafters will all be on the roof before Oct. 4. Here is what needs to be done on that weekend. The first job will be to haul 1x4 boards to the site. These boards will be nailed to the rafters about 1 foot apart. These will need to be leveled, so that will take some time. The metal roofing will be fastened to these boards. The next job will be to haul the metal in for the roof. Also, we have some salvage lumber that needs to be hauled out, so this can be done on the return trips. Remember this is in a Wilderness area, so only handcarts can be used for hauling, i.e. no motorized equipment is allowed. The final job is

to get metal on the roof. This can all be done in a weekend, but not with only 5 or 6 people.

We basically finished the relocations that we wanted to do in the Pine Swamp area this summer with the Konnarock Crews. We had 20 people work with the crews, but only Ron McCorkle and I earned T-shirts. Ron deserves our thanks.

In another event in this area a new contractor has begun working on the Stony Creek Bridge. The two-mile trail section along the creek has been closed during the construction and the trail temporarily diverted to the road.

Hal Cantrill has agreed to replace the late Red Crone as the club sign maker. We have several overseer changes. Mike Ferguson has replaced Greg Tinaglia on the Angel's Gap to US 220 section. David Jones has replaced Mike Ferguson on the section from Pine Swamp Shelter to Bailey Gap Shelter. Jonathan McGlumphy has replaced Kenny Garrett on the section from VA 611 to VA 608. Thanks to everyone mentioned above for their service. Without our overseers, we would never get the trail maintained.

*Charles Parry*

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## Hikemaster's Report

Recently I was reading an article about a through-hiker on the Continental Divide Trail. (Editors note: When Teresa Martinez left the AT for bigger challenges, she went to work on the CDT.) The CDT is a 3,300-mile trail, which follows the continental divide from New Mexico to Montana. This particular hiker did not see another backpacker on the trail for nearly the first 2,000 miles of his trip. I found this very surprising and a little saddening.

As the members of our club know, we have many great hiking trails in our area. The mountains and the trails in our area was one of the major reasons why I relocated here from the Virginia Beach area. While we don't have the beaches or the cultural attractions of the large cities in the eastern part of the state, we do have natural wonders in

abundance here. Just within a 50-mile radius of Roanoke there are well over 100 hiking trails going to a variety of mountain summits and waterfalls. Let me know if there is a particular hike you would like to see on a future quarterly hike schedule.

Have you had a particularly noteworthy hike or hiking experience recently? Send me an email at [mikeva999@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeva999@yahoo.com) and we will include it in a future edition of the Trailblazer.

We have added an article to our web site, [www.ratc.org](http://www.ratc.org), about what to do if you encounter potentially dangerous animals, such as bears or snakes, on the trail. In the past few years several RATC members have been bitten by poisonous snakes while out hiking. Poisonous and

nonpoisonous snakes are widespread along the Trail in warm weather, but they are generally passive. Please don't kill them! Watch where you step and where you put your hands. Snakes are active at night in hot weather, so use a flashlight and wear shoes. Here are a few tips on what to do if you have been bitten:

- Very few people die from snakebites in the U.S. If a snake you believe to be venomous bites you, try to remain calm.
- Call 911 and seek medical treatment as quickly as possible. In the backcountry, this may mean

walking out to a trailhead instead of waiting for emergency personnel to reach you.

- Wash the wound with soap and water.
- Do not apply ice.
- Do not apply a tourniquet; remove rings or other jewelry that could function as a tourniquet if swelling occurs.
- Do not use a "cut and suck" method to try and remove venom.

*Mike Vaughn*

## Hike Reports

**Saturday, June 14, 2008 8:00AM**  
**Mount Rogers**

Dan & Kathy Phlegar (Trip Leader), Mike & Sheila Vaughn, Sue Scanlin, Merv & Blanche Brower, Carl Cornett, Maya Bohler, Carol McPeak, Peggy Bryant, Sally Sizer, and Fred Meyer

At 7:15 on Saturday, June 14, we met at the Hanging Rock Orange Market for our trip to Mt. Rogers. After Dan finding the lucky 4-leaf clover, we began our adventure. Our first stop was at McDonald's at Rural Retreat where Fred Meyer from Charleston, WV joined us. We took the scenic route via Rural Retreat through Sugar Grove to Grayson Highlands State Park. We began the hike from Massie's Gap at 10:30 a.m., and continued until we intersected the AT. From there, we did a counterclockwise loop across Wilson Creek, where we stopped for a snack break. Then we departed the AT following a horse trail toward the Scales, bushwhacked through a field, racing to the woods to beat out up-coming thunderheads. Most of us made it without getting wet and all had lunch on Pine Mountain under some protective trees and a tarp until the rain stopped. We continued on the trail, winding through beautiful blooming rhododendron thickets on our way to Rhododendron Gap. We met many other hikers enjoying the beautiful display of rhododendron, mountain laurel, flame azalea, as well as many wild ponies, too numerous to count. At Rhododendron Gap, the group split. Dan hiked back to Massie's Gap with the group that had come for the day hike, while those who had opted

to backpack quickly set up their tents before the rains set in. Later Dan rejoined the backpackers, having walked back in a torrential downpour as the day hikers began their ride back to Roanoke.



Highlights for those staying overnight included a



spectacular rainbow/sunset, ponies traipsing through the campsites, an early morning round-trip hike to the top of Mount Rogers (the highest point in Virginia). We began that section of the hike in fog, which quickly lifted to provide beautiful scenic vistas. We hiked out leisurely, enjoying every moment with lots of side trips on the rocks to enjoy the view from a different angle off the trail. As we parted ways to head back to Roanoke, we agreed that it had been a nice overnighter/ day-hike combination that we hoped to try again.



**Sunday, June 22, 2008 7:00AM**  
**Garden Mountain (Rt 623) - Rich Valley (Rt 42)**

John Miller (leader), Carl Cornett, Kristin Peckman, Sally Sizer, and Carol Broderson

Carol asked to meet us at the end point of the hike, as she lives in Independence and graciously offered to drive the other half of the car shuttle. We got an early start but it was still 9:30am before we started hiking. On the way to the beginning of the hike we had a deer run parallel to the road for several hundred yards on the other side of the fence before I slowed down. The deer then jumped over the fence and crossed the road.

The temperature was in the sixties for the start of the hike. The first part of the hike was uphill which made the hikers question the advertisement for the hike that said it was generally downhill.

We had several other parts of the hike that put that description to test also. We got some peeks at Burkes Garden early on and it began to warm up as we made our way to the Chestnut Knob shelter. We paused for lunch there and took in the views of the valley and the stands of Flame Azalea. The Flame Azalea was a little past peak but all three colors were represented.

We descended into Walker Gap and began the ascent of Brushy Mountain. It began to thunderstorm about that time. This cooled us off and made the Rose Bay Rhododendron seem to stand out in the forest. The Rhododendron was at its peak. The climb up to Knot Maul shelter was difficult after having covered fifteen miles already. We all finished the hike between 5:00 and 5:45pm and got back to Salem before dark.

**Sunday, June 22, 2008 1:00PM**  
**Sharp Top Mountain**

Maurice Turner & Gary Bible (co-leaders), John Bible, Sue Sumpter, and Kathy Ruble.

The chance of inclement weather did not stop today's hike; we managed to complete the hike with only a light shower at the summit and then when we were protected by the shelter. The main storm was to the south and southwest. Another attempt will have to be made to locate the B-25 bomber, as there was too much undergrowth that obscured what little trail there was plus the chance of rattlesnakes in the area.

On the night of Feb. 2, 1943 at 9:20 p.m., the B-25 bomber hit Sharp Top Mtn. The crew was to fly a triangular path from Columbia, SC to Raleigh, NC to Lynchburg, VA and then back. It was 25 miles off course when the plane crashed into the mountain. The crew: Paul M. Pitts, pilot, 2nd Lt., 21 yrs. old from Poteau, OK; Wm. C. McClure, co-pilot, 2nd Lt., 22 yrs. old from Indianapolis, IN; Geo. R. Beninga, bombardier-navigator, 2nd Lt., 22 yrs. old from Marietta, MN; Hilary S. Blackwell, navigator, 2nd Lt., 22 yrs old from Santa Monica, CA and Peter J Biscan, flight engineer, Cpl. 29 yrs. old from Mt. Olive, IL. More details of the wreck can be found by googling "B-25 Peaks of Otter crash site under <http://www.usmilitariaforum.com/>.

**Saturday, June 28  
Pine Swamp Shelter Repairs**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Kerry Wood, Ron Sloan, Parrish Royston

Between the rains we got one beam cut and fitted and ready to go into place.

**Sunday, June 29 1:30 PM  
Around Mill Mountain via Star Trail  
Beginner Hike**

Jeannie Duddy (leader), Rod Liebl and Sherry Harrill.

Ron McCorkle, the leader, had to cancel due to a stomach virus. The group went to the top of the mountain, stopped at the visitor center, and came down. Jeannie and Sherry decided to take the road, while Rod came down the trail. It was a nice hike.

**Sunday, June 29, 2008 1:00PM Apple  
Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders)

Nobody showed up for the hike. So we went and climbed Tinker Mountain instead of driving to Apple Orchard falls.

**Sunday, July 6, 2008 1:00PM  
Daleville (Rt 220) to  
Mountain Pass Road (Rt 652)**

No Report

**Saturday, July 12  
Pine Swamp Shelter Repairs**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Ron Sloan, Marsha Murphy

We got the first beam in place. Then we fitted the center beam and got that in place. Finally we fitted the front beam.

**Sunday, July 13, 2008 1:00PM  
Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop**

David Wickersham (leader), Betty Wickersham, Sally Dodson, Carl Nave, Joan Ramsey, Bud Swiger, Paul McAnnally, Don Cavendish, Susan Sperduta, Mary Gilbert, Zetta Campbell, Reinhard O'Neill and Gary Bible.

We had a very personable and enjoyable group of

participants representing an interesting mix of RATC members, non-members and members on their first-ever hike with the club.

It was a hot and steamy day, but as soon as we hit the trail thunder boomed and shortly the rain started. It didn't last long though and hardly anyone broke out their rain gear. In fact we all agreed it felt good and cooled things off.

The hike starts on the north side of the road where Virginia secondary route 606 crosses from Botetourt County into Craig County. We hiked the loop in a clockwise direction so we started out with a mile of downhill and finished with a mile of downhill with three miles of steady climbing in between. The climb separated the hares from the tortoises with the hares proving once again that Aesop was out of touch with reality.

**Sunday, July 20, 2008 8:00AM  
Hoop Hole, Upper Loop**

Homer & Therese Witcher (Leaders), Bob & Kris Peckman

Since only the Peckmans showed for the hike, we changed plans. Instead of Hoop Hole, we decided to hike from 779 to 220 via the Andy Layne trail. As usual, we solved mankind's social and environmental problems as we hiked. If only there were more people like us.

It was somewhat hot, but we did have breezes sporadically which helped. After resting on Tinker Cliffs, we decided to go to the base of the cliffs and explore. I have to say Kris is not really a klutz, just a little cautious, so the exploration went well and gave her and Bob a new perspective of the cliffs.

The rest of our hike was interrupted by two events. First, Therese and I knew of a yellow jackets nest south of Lamberts meadow shelter, so we had brought a canister of gas to take care of them. The second, Kris and Therese saw a young bear, which is always a neat experience. The hike finished, we decided to end it by going out to dinner, making it a good day all in all. (We also watched a doe from close range camped under the cliffs. We were so fascinated we didn't think to photograph her. Ed.)

**Saturday, July 26  
Pine Swamp Shelter Repairs**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Ron Sloan, Marsha Murphy, Fred Meyer

With Hal's great rope skills, the front beam easily went into place. After, that we fitted the back two half-length beams and got them in place. The next task was to split rafters and start getting them in place. They did not split very straight. However, we got all the front rafters in place and got a start on the back ones.

**Sunday, July 27, 2008 8:00AM  
Devil's Marbleyard/Gunter Ridge Trail  
Circuit**

John Miller & Maya Bohler (co-leaders), H. R. Blankenship, Fred Meyer, Kris & Bob Peckman, John Merkwan, Carl Cornett, and Pat Guzik

The morning was relatively cool but the sun was out and warmed things up quickly. We felt it more while we were making the two-mile climb up Gunter's Ridge. Most of the hikers enjoyed the numerous patches of blueberries along the side of the trail. One particular pair of hikers found a spot where they could sit in the shade and pick berries without having to move.

Several hikers complained that they did not see the Devil's Marble Yard. I had planned to eat lunch either on the rocks or in the shade but was left behind by those same hikers that complained. While passing the Marble Yard and checking several times for my group, I heard the bleating of a goat. After passing the planned destination for lunch by at least a quarter of a mile, we came upon the rest of the group having lunch beside a stream. While we were there a group of hikers came down the hill toward us and following them were two female goats. Some of our group started to feed the goats and I told the other group they should make their escape while the goats were occupied. We started back toward the trailhead and the goats followed. Several of our hikers then stopped to feed the goats some more and take pictures. After we got back to the vehicles and shared some refreshments, the residents across the road came over and gathered up the goats. They must have belonged to them or they knew to whom they belonged.



Goat sneaks up



And grabs Bob's Lunch



Bob Shoots goat

*Photos by Carl Cornett*

Some of us on the way back to the meeting area saw a black bear on the side of the road. We made it back to the parking area in the early afternoon. There were plans made during the hike for some shopping afterward but I headed on home as I had in-laws coming in later in the day.

**Sunday, July 27, 2008 1:00PM  
Roaring Run**

No one called expressing interest in the hike, so the hike was cancelled.



**July 31 - August 3, 2008**

**Work Hike: Pine Swamp Trail Relocation  
with the Konnarock Crew**

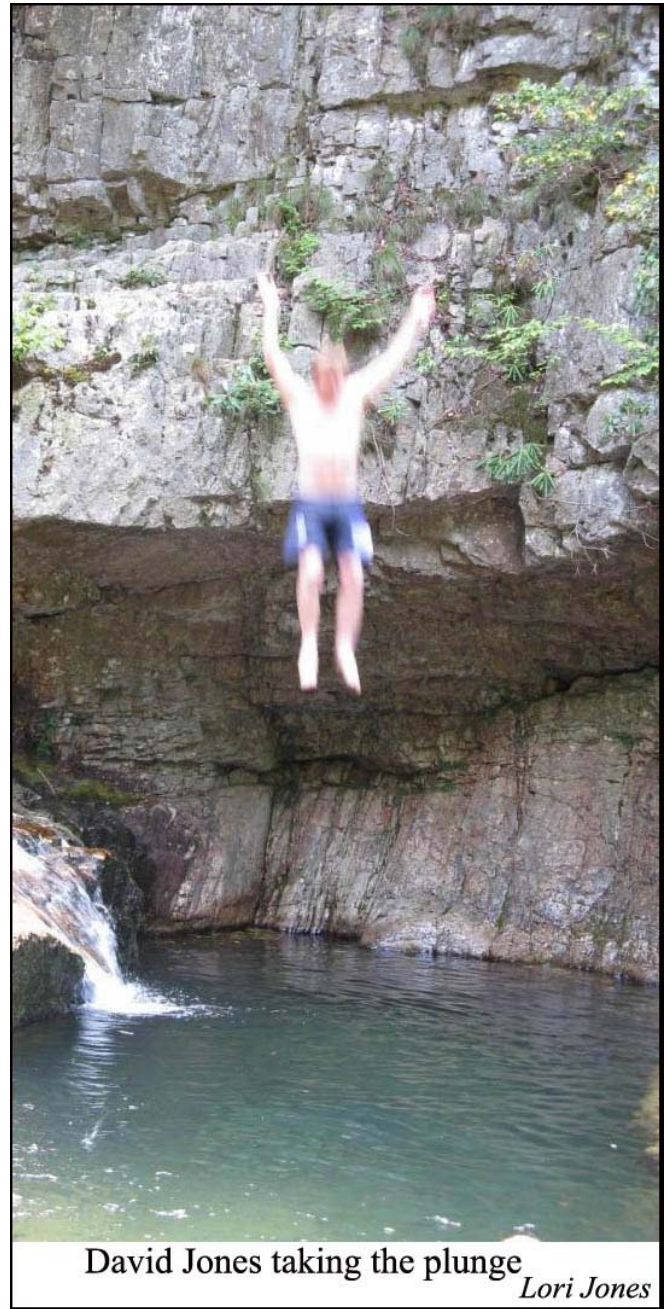
Charles Parry, Maurice Turner, Eddie Baldwin, Bill Gordge, Roger Holnback, Peggy Bryant, Jim Lewis, Jim Roberson, Dana Helsley, Jim Walke, Ron Sloan, Ron McCorkle, Joe Kelley, Fred Meyer, Dick Clark, Steve Burt, Jerry Kyle, Konnarock Crew: Christine Hoyer, John Tartara, Sue Gleason, Linda Gerskin, Joe Sheals, Dannon McKinnon

On Thursday, we finished the relocation started in June and began the second one. On Friday, we came close to finishing the second one. Saturday morning we were greeted with a thundershower when we arrived at the parking area. As it continued to thunder, the crew went back to camp. The rest of us worked on a small relocation near the parking area. On Sunday, Maurice and Peggy reblazed from the Stony Creek crossing to Pine Swamp Shelter. The crew finished the relocation we worked on Friday and I worked on the Saturday relocation.

**Sunday, August 10, 2008 8:00AM  
St. Mary's River**

Mike Vaughn (Leader), H.R. Blankenship, Maya Bohler, David Jones, Lori Jones, Bob Peckman, Kris Peckman, Sheila Vaughn

The forecast was unusual for August in Virginia, high of 84 degrees with low humidity. It was cool, around 60 degrees, when we started on the trail. The first part of the trail goes along the river. The water was not running high, but it was very clear. After about a mile and a half the trail starts up along Sugar Tree Branch, a scenic creek. At the top was an old iron ore mine site, with ruins still visible. We then followed the trail for a couple more miles to the center of the wilderness area, at the intersection with the Mine Bank trail. We saw several people hiking down from the Blue Ridge Parkway. We then followed the trail back to the river and took the half-mile long spur trail along the river. This is the most scenic section of trail. There are many pools of water that offer good swimming opportunities. We stopped for lunch at one particularly scenic pool. It was about seven feet deep. The water was crystal clear. Several of us jumped in to cool off. It was very refreshing after a long hike.



**David Jones taking the plunge**  
*Lori Jones*

We then continued on along the river to the 15-foot high St Mary's Falls. At this point the river is at the bottom of a steep gorge, lined with mountain laurel and rhododendron. There were already some other hikers there, swimming at the base of the falls and taking the 15-foot jump into the pool at the base of the falls. David was the only one in our group brave enough to make the jump. We then retraced our steps back along the river to our cars for the drive back to Roanoke.



**Sunday, August 10, 2008 1:30PM  
Smart View Loop Trail (BRP) Beginner  
Hike**

Zetta M. Campbell (Leader), Pat Cousins, Kathy R. Ruble, Sherry Kessel, Dena Goldberg, Cammye Obenchain Yankey

It was a pleasant surprise to meet new member Cammye at Smart View. She managed to time it just right. So she joined the rest of us girls for this hike. Yes, it was an all-girl affair.

When you look from the parking area, you see the log cabin built in the 1890's and, beyond that, you have a beautiful view of the mountains, blue in the distance. Some thought we were seeing into North Carolina. It indeed is a "smart view". A couple other places on the trail we had similar views.

On this lovely summer day, under blue skies afloat with white clouds, we started on the trail to the left of the cabin. This is the easier way to go because the trail descended down and down, which meant it had to ascend up and up back to the top, which meant we had to climb it. At the top, though, it leveled off and, as it looped around the other side, there were only minor ups and downs until we arrived at our starting point, passing in front of the cabin.

This is a most pleasant place for a picnic also because there is a picnic area with picnic tables and comfort stations.

**Sunday, August 17, 2008 8:00AM  
Cascade's/Barney's Wall**

Gary Bible (leader), Jim Walke (assistant), Carl Cornett, Kristy Bizitterio, Karen Callahan, H R Blankenship, Kathy Keiter, and John Merkwan.

Five of us departed from the Orange Market and met up with the others at the trailhead at approximately 9:00 a.m. Due to our early departure we saw few fellow hikers on the way up. The weather was very nice, perhaps a bit cool for mid-August. We stopped at the Falls for a short break and pictures. The flow of water was reduced due to the recent lack of rain but the Falls were still very picturesque. We also took a short break at the second set of falls.

We continued on to the top of Barney's Wall. Views were outstanding as the air was very clear and the location made for a very nice lunch stop. Carl provided entertainment by letting us watch him rappel down the side of the Wall. We eventually decided it was time to head back down the mountain. Our pace was moderate and we returned to the parking lot at approximately 2:00. On the way out of the forest, we decided to treat ourselves to ice cream at the little "outfitters" store close by. It was an excellent reward enjoyed by all! I believe all would agree that we had a very pleasant hike this day.

**Sunday, August 17, 2008 1:00PM  
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth**

Dick Moran (leader), Ed Wallace (assistant), Mia Copeland, Fred Walters

Four intrepid hikers made the trip to Dragon's Tooth including one new member, Fred Walters, and a prospective member from Pulaski, Mia Copeland. The hike went well even though the temperature and humidity were uncomfortable. We encountered many others taking advantage of the great views from Dragon's Tooth.

**Sunday, August 24, 2008 8:00AM  
Pearis Mountain Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Dick Clark, Ivy Lidstone, Jonathan McGlumphy, David Jones

We had great weather for reblazing with no chance of rain. David, Jonathan and I worked from Va 611 to Va 608. We left my truck at 611 and Dick gave us a lift to 611. Then Dick and Ivy drove to the south end of the Ribble Trail, which they used to access the AT. They reblazed the AT to Wapiti Shelter. In our crew David blazed, I scraped and Jonathan clipped. I also carried a chainsaw in the pack and had many occasions to use it. Actually, we could have had the whole crew work on this section, as it needed a lot of clipping.

**Sunday, August 24, 2008 1:00PM  
Mill Mountain Star Trail**

Maurice Turner (leader), Gayle Lovern, Ann Martyn, Zetta Campbell, Hugh Hall, Sherry Kessel, Kathy Ruble, David Bowers, Margarita Cubas plus Catcher.

Just a nice day hike to the Mill Mountain Star, down the Watchtower Trail, along the old road and then onto the Monument Trail back to intersect with the Star Trail and to the cars.

**Sunday, September 14, 2008 1:00PM  
Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

Mervin & Blanche Brower (leaders) &  
Mia Copeland

The hike started from Daleville commuter parking lot. We went in one car to the start of the hike on FS road 59. The weather was sunny, humid and about 90 deg F, which made it warm for hiking. But we did not have trouble with creek crossings. We meet several other hikers on the trail, some going from Sunset Field rather than doing the loop. We stopped for a break at Apple Orchard falls where there was a small stream going over the falls. It was pleasant resting there. We stopped and took pictures. We were finished hiking by 5 o'clock.

## 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 that 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.**

**The club is always looking for experienced hikers to help lead club hikes. If you know of someone that you think would be a good hike leader, or wish to nominate yourself, please contact Mike Vaughn at 540-992-1350 or email [mikeva999@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeva999@yahoo.com).**

**Saturday, October 4, 2008 8:00AM  
Pine Swamp Shelter Roof Repair**

.5 miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

We will be repairing damage to the shelter's roof caused by a fallen tree from a windstorm in April 2007. The shelter is located in Giles County.

**Charles Parry .....540-951-1402**  
**Hal Cantrill .....387-2387**

**Sunday, October 5, 2008 8:00AM**  
**Pine Swamp Shelter Roof Repair**

.5 miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee  
 60 miles from Roanoke

We will be repairing damage to the shelter's roof caused by a fallen tree from a windstorm in April 2007. The shelter is located in Giles County.

**Charles Parry.....540-951-1402**  
**Kenny Garrett.....293-7967**

**Sunday, October 12, 2008 8:00AM**  
**A.T., Petites Gap to James River**

9.9 miles, Strenuous, \$4.50 carpool fee  
 39 miles from Roanoke

The hike is in the James River Face Wilderness located in Bedford and Rockbridge County. It roughly parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway. After a stiff climb to Highcock Knob (3073') it's a pleasant downward trending hike to James River (678') with occasional views to the west and grand finale on the James River Foot Bridge, longest foot-travel-only bridge on the AT.

**Kris Peckman.....366-7780**  
**Linda King .....342-2411**

**Sunday, October 12, 2008 1:00PM**  
**Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

7.4 miles, Moderate, \$0.50 carpool fee  
 6 miles from Roanoke

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

**Sue Scanlin .....989-0497**

**Sunday, October 19, 2008 7:00AM**  
**Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Dragon's Tooth parking lot via Andy Layne and North Mountain trails**

22 miles, Strenuous, 1.00 carpool fee  
 6 miles from Roanoke

This should be a truly epic hike! It offers the opportunity to see two of the prime vistas of the Appalachian trail in one day. The hike first climbs

gradually to McAfee's Knob, then follows the AT on the ridgeline to Tinker Cliffs before dropping down to Rt. 779 on the Andy Layne Trail. It will then climb to the top of North Mountain and head south. The rest of the hike is an up-and-down ridge walk, with occasional views on both sides.

**Kenny Garrett.....293-7967**  
**Linda King.....342-2411**

**Sunday, October 19, 2008 10:00AM**  
**Flat Top Mountain**

4.6 miles, Moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee  
 30 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County at the Peaks of Otter, this scenic hike climbs to the summit of Flat Top mountain on a series of switchbacks. At one point a side trail descends a short distance to an unusual formation known as Cross Rock. At the summit of Flat Top, nice views may be obtained by easy scrambles onto projecting rocks.

**Jean Warren.....384-6229**

**Sunday, October 26, 2008 8:00AM**  
**Flat Top/Sharp Top/Harkening Hill**

11.9 miles, Strenuous, \$3.50 carpool fee  
 30 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County at the Peaks of Otter, this hike will climb to the summit of Flat Top mountain on a series of switchbacks, then traverse the mountain and descend to the base of Sharp Top Mountain. The hike will then climb to the 4,000-foot pinnacle of Sharp Top, one of the Peaks of Otter in Bedford. There is a spectacular 360 view from the rocky summit. We will then finish the hike with the short climb up to the top of Harkening Hill, completing the climb of all three peaks at the Peaks of Otter.

**Gary Bible .....977-2954**

**Sunday, October 26, 2008 1:30PM**  
**Lee Hollow (Rt 621) to Niday Shelter Beginner Hike**

2.6 miles, Easy, \$1.75 carpool fee  
 16 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County, this out and back hike goes to the Niday shelter on the AT. There is little elevation gain on this hike.

**Zetta Campbell .....366-8165**



**Sunday, November 2, 2008 8:00AM**  
**Sprouts Run Loop**

8.1 miles, Strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee

24 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County, at Solitude near Arcadia. Sprouts Run Trail offers creekside walking with little elevation gain until the last 3/4 mile in its approach to Hoop Pole Gap. This is a beautiful trail that offers several nice cascading waterfalls, pools of water and some cliffs and huge trees of various species. There will be multiple stream crossings on this hike.

**Carl Cornett.....342-3950**

**Dan Phlegar.....389-1783**

**Sunday, November 2, 2008 1:00PM**  
**Fort Lewis Mountain**

4.2 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee

9 miles from Roanoke

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

**Dave Sutton .....774-0648**

**Sue Scanlin .....989-0497**

**Sunday, November 9, 2008 8:00AM**  
**Work Hike: Pine Swamp Trail Relocation**

.5 miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee

60 miles from Roanoke

We will be working on the relocation of an eroded section of the trail near Pine Swamp in Giles County

**Charles Parry.....540-951-1402**

**Kris Peckman.....366-7780**

**Sunday, November 9, 2008 1:00PM**  
**Grassy Hill Nature Preserve**

6 miles, Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee

30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Franklin County, just outside the town of Rocky Mount at the Grassy Hill Natural Area Preserve, owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation. This hike will traverse Grassy Hill which is a formation composed of ancient volcanic rocks rich in magnesium. Hikers will get to see a mixture of habitats including areas that support rare plants.

**Maurice Turner .....334-2128**

**Sunday, November 16, 2008 8:30AM**  
**Bearwallow Gap Loop**

10.2 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee

19 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start at the Bearwallow Gap, Glenwood Horse Trail Parking near Buchanan and follow the horse trail south for about 6 miles. Along the way, you will have good views of the valley below along with numerous old mining sites along the trail where iron ore was mined in the late 1800's and early 1900's by the Pulaski Iron Company. We will then veer off the Horse Trail onto the AT heading north for about 2.6 miles. About 1/2 mile prior to reaching Bearwallow Gap, the hike will go off trail for about 1/2 mile to a rock outcropping offering great views and then proceed in a bushwhack mode for about 1/4 mile to reach the Horse Trail again to return to our original start point.

**Larry Austin.....254-2092**

**Lois Smith.....863-7370**

**Sunday, November 16, 2008 11:00AM**  
**Bennett Springs Loop Hike**

6.0 miles, Moderate, \$.50 carpool fee

3 miles from Roanoke

This hike begins at Carvins Cove Parking Lot (off Rt. 311, Not Williamson Rd.) The one mile ascent to the top of Brushy Mountain is quite steep, while the rest is moderate. Good views of McAfee's Knob and the valley are beautiful, while on the descent we will cross a stream several times. It's a pretty loop trail.

**Jean Warren.....384-6229**

**Saturday, November 22, 2008 10:00AM**  
**Seven Mile Mountain Beginner Hike**

5.1 miles, Moderate, \$3.50 carpool fee

34 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County on Forest Service land, this hike is a nice ridge walk.

**Zetta Campbell .....366-8165**

**Sunday, November 23, 2008 8:00AM**  
**Hoop Hole, Upper Loop**

7.3 miles, Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee  
 28 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County between Eagle Rock and Oriskany – some 45 minutes from Roanoke. This hike uses part of the lower loop to get to the upper loop which includes a steep climb to the top of Montgomery Knob in the Jefferson National Forest.

**Kris Peckman.....366-7780**

**Linda King .....342-2411**

**Saturday, December 6, 6:00 PM**  
**Holiday Potluck Dinner**

**The holiday Potluck dinner will be at Christ Lutheran Church on the corner of Brandon and Grandin Avenues at 6:00 PM. The Club will provide beverages and table service. Club members will provide a dish to share.**

**This is one of the few social events we have in the year. Come see what your friends look like without a pack and boots!**

**We will have a box at the door if you wish to bring a nonperishable food item to be donated to RAM House.**

**There is always a great program - TBA.**

**Sunday, December 7, 2008 8:30AM**  
**Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

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

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

**Charles Parry.....540-951-1402**

**Dick Clark .....989-7053**

**Sunday, December 7, 2008 10:00AM**  
**A.T., Lee Hollow (Rt 621) to Audie Murphy Monument**

5.6 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee  
 15 miles from Roanoke

Join us for a AT hike to the Audie Murphy Monument on Brush Mountain Craig County. The monument is a tribute to the most decorated soldier of WWII, who died in a plane crash on the mountain in the 1960s.

**Jean Warren.....384-6229**

**Sunday, December 14, 2008 8:00AM**  
**A.T., Elk Garden (Rt 600) to Rt 58**

6.9 miles, Moderate, \$11.00 carpool fee  
 122 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start at the Elk Garden A.T. crossing in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area and head south on the A.T. The hike will climb 800 feet to near the summit of Whitetop Mountain, the second highest peak in Virginia at over 5,500 feet. From there it will pass through a scenic mountain bald to Buzzard Rock, with magnificent views of southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee. The hike will then descend some 2,100 feet to route 58, near Damascus.

**John Miller .....375-3250**

**Sunday, December 14, 2008 1:00PM**  
**Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter**

2.4 miles, Easy, \$1.50 carpool fee  
 15 miles from Roanoke

Located in Millers Cove in Craig County, this short hike goes north on the AT to the Pickle Branch Shelter.

**Kenny Garrett.....293-7967**

**Sunday, December 21, 2008 8:30AM  
War Spur Trail/A.T. Loop**

7.4 miles, Moderate, \$6.50 carpool fee  
62 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in the Mountain Lake Wilderness area in Giles County. The hike starts on the Chestnut Trail, reaching the War Spur Branch Trail after one mile. The trail follows the stream, passing beneath old-growth hemlocks. It then connects with the A.T., passing several fern-ringed upland bogs. Near the end of the hike, the trail passes Wind Rock, which offers sweeping views across to Fork Mountain and West Virginia.

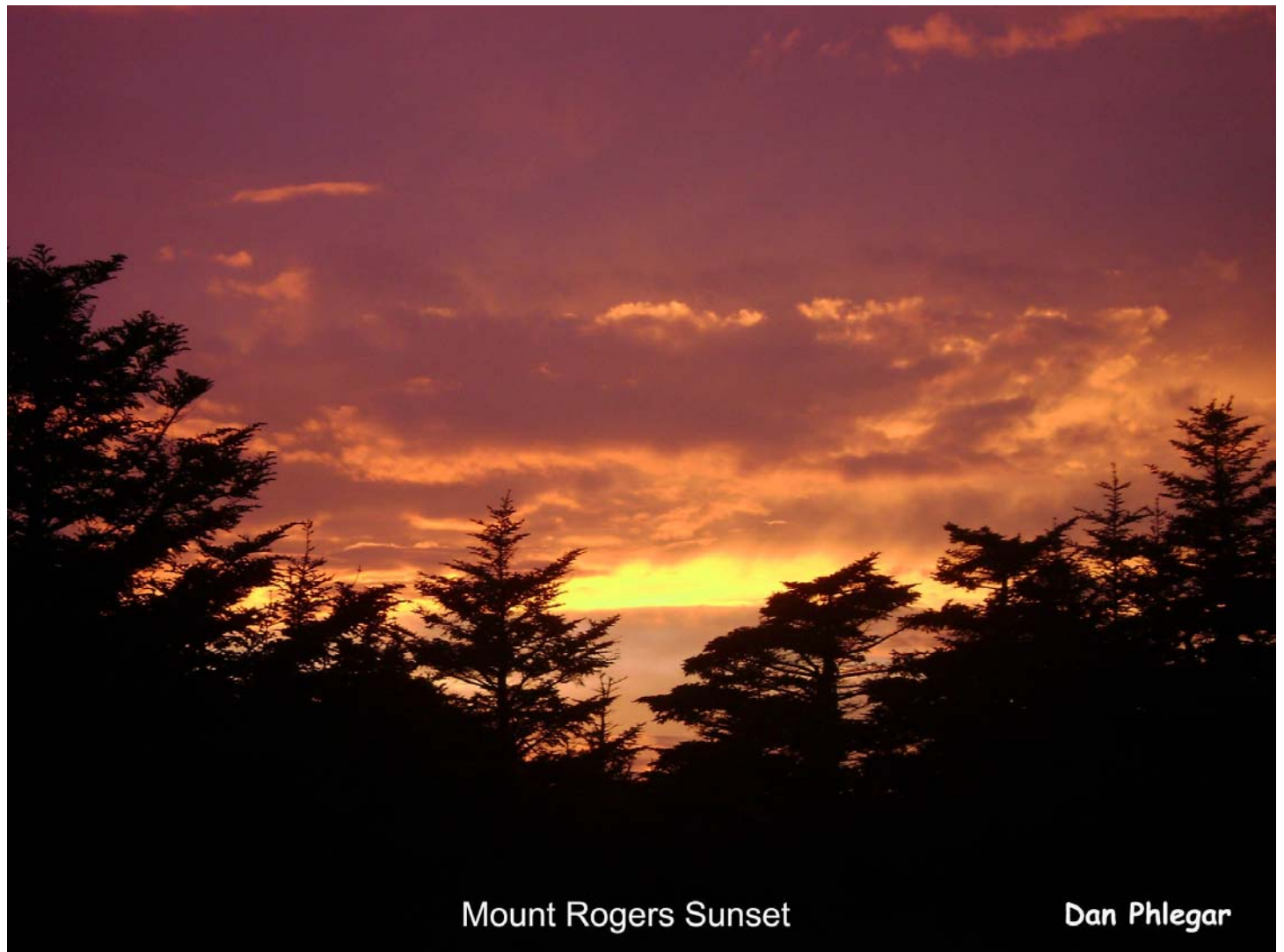
**Mike Vaughn .....992-1350**

**Sunday, December 21, 2008 1:00PM  
Tinker Cliffs via Andy Layne Trail**

7.2 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee  
9 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, the trailhead for this hike is on Route 779, roughly halfway between Catawba and Daleville. 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.

**Sue Scanlin .....989-0497**



Mount Rogers Sunset

Dan Phlegar



## 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 _____	OR 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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## From the Editor

**A few years back we had serious data problems where several members paid their dues but we did not update the mailing list with the information. That caused us to use extreme caution in terminating members for lack of dues. It made us truly humble and to this day, if you have a dispute with our records, we will correct them in your favor. But the problems have been corrected and tested for some time now and it is time for us to get back to the old routine of dropping folks from the list when they stop paying their dues. The year after your last name on the label shows the year for which you are paid. It should be 2008 or**

**higher. (A very large number indicates that no dues are required.) Your 2008 dues were due on January 1, 2008. If your 2008 dues are not paid by the end of the year, you will be dropped. In the future, please pay your dues in the first quarter for continued Blazer delivery. If the paid-thru year is incorrect, please call me and I will fix it. But our dues are very inexpensive. We are very frugal with your money and use it to buy tools, materials, and to print the Blazer. So please keep your membership in good standing. (I have printed this so boldly because I do not want anyone dropped in error!)**

*Bob Peckman*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Counselor, Dick Clark

**989-7053** ..... [jandrclark@cox.net](mailto:jandrclark@cox.net)**ANCILLARIES**

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Phone Tree Chairman, Liz Lamson

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Webmaster, David Perry

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Roanoke Valley Greenways Liaison, Roger B. Holnback

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Sir Speedy Printer

**344-8550** ..... [sirspeedy@rbnet.com](mailto:sirspeedy@rbnet.com)**CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES****Holiday Potluck****Saturday, December 6 – 6:00PM****WORK HIKES****Saturday & Sunday, October 4 & 5 - 8:00 AM****Pine Swamp Shelter roof repair**

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**Sunday, November 9 - 8:00 AM****Pine Swamp trail relocation**

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**Sunday, December 7 - 8:30 AM****Tinker Ridge****Hike Scheduling****Contact Mike Vaughn****992-1350 – [mikeva999@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeva999@yahoo.com)****BOARD MEETINGS****(All members are always welcome.****Please let the host know you plan to attend.)****Monday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.****Hosted by Bob & Kris Peckman****Monday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.****Hosted by Laurie & Leonard Adkins**

**The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of  
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
and a member of The Nature Conservancy and the Western Virginia Land Trust**