

# GUIDELINES FOR THE *RATC* OVERSEER SYSTEM

*Note: This document was copied almost directly from Bill Gorge's management plan.*

The volunteer maintenance system of the Appalachian Trail is one of the truly remarkable features which contributes to the greatness of the Trail. Within the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club there are two important components of our voluntary maintenance system, namely club work hikes and the overseer system. The two components complement each other and combine to produce a well maintained trail.

It is the desire of the club to give as much responsibility to the overseers as they wish to assume, while recognizing that the whole club needs to assume responsibility for some of the large tasks. Since some overseers may wish to assume more responsibility than others, all guidelines need to be flexible.

In the following, an attempt is made to define a division of responsibilities between the overseers and the club with certain duties being shared.

## Division of Responsibilities

<b>Overseer</b>	<b>Shared</b>	<b>Club</b>
Clipping & clearing	Blazing	Shelter construction
Checking & reporting trail conditions	Blowdown removal	Waterbar Installation
Reporting illegal trail uses	Litter removal	Step Installation
Co-leading work hikes	Grass and weed cutting	Sign construction
Sign Condition	Sign installation	Bridge construction
Work hour recording/reporting	Structure repairs	Relocations
Corridor monitoring—NPS lands	Tread repairs	
Blowdown reporting	Campsite/Fire-ring rehab	
Drainage Structure Cleaning		

## Overseer's Duties

It is recommended that overseers visit all of their trail section at least four times a year. More frequent visits may be needed for spring trail clearing and in certain problem areas. After each visit to the section, send a report with an adequate narrative to the Trail Supervisor with any relevant information (with pictures), like: graffiti, ongoing erosion or drainage issues, critical tread rehab areas, horse/mt. bike use on A.T., blowdowns not cleared by overseer and will need certified sawyer, sign/post replacement needs, etc. Overseers need to log and record all volunteer hours spent throughout the year, these are reported to ATC, USFS, and NPS.

Additionally, overseers are asked to serve as workhike co-leaders for club trips in their section.

The overseers will be asked to fill out a written trail report due at the annual spring overseers meeting (Typically held in late April). A proposed form is attached. The overseers will also be asked to give a brief oral summary of problems and proposed work on their trail at the meeting.

The overseers should be consulted in the planning of relocations on their trail section and their views should be given serious consideration.