

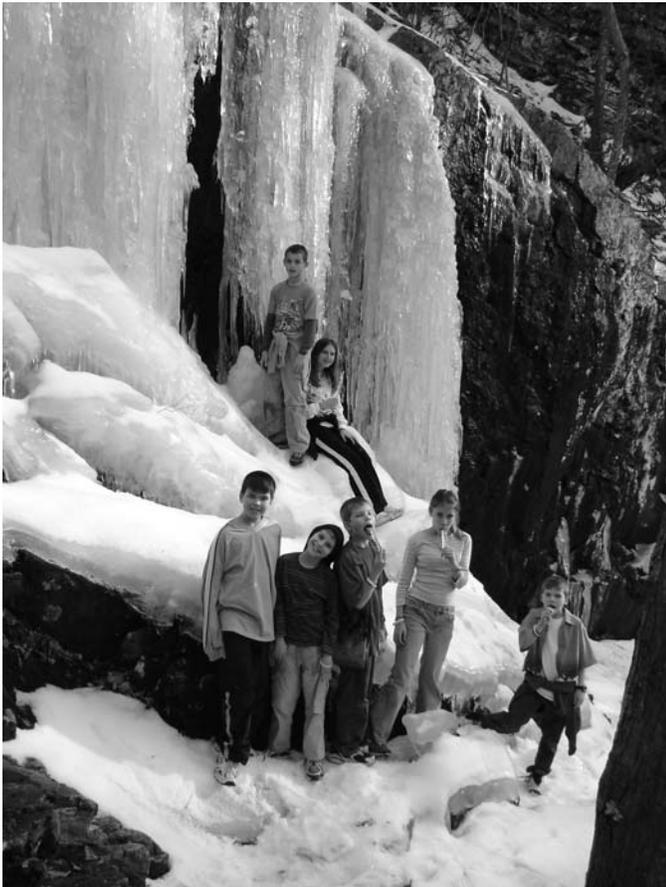
TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB



Spring 2005

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.



Waterfall near Devil's Marblyard

What's Inside...

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| New Members | 2 |
| President's Message | 2 |
| Hikemaster's Report..... | 2 |
| Trail Supervisor's Report..... | 3 |
| Hike Reports | 4-6 |
| Hike Schedule | 7-10 |
| Hike Reports (con't) | 11-13 |
| ATC Archeology Crew..... | 14 |
| Membership Renewal | 14 |
| Biannual conference info..... | 15 |
| Club Activities | 16 |
| Contacting the RATC | 16 |

TRAIL BLAZER

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

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROANOKE, VA
PERMIT 509



Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

Reid & Catherine Clontz

Jerry Kidd

Dan & Kathy Phlegar

Mark C. Packett

Jen Schaeffer

Joan Ramsey

George T. Winston

Wes Bracken

Steven Feeny

Rebecca Harriett

Rob Lamar

Janet Lorek

Clint Moses

Paul Murphy

Philip & Kerry Hanline

Rita Krasnow

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

Mervin Brower

President's Message

Occasionally, I am still hearing hiking-horror stories. In the last story, the group was spread out over miles. There were two hikers in the rear that had not been seen in a long while. The group was starting to think that the two had turned and gone a different way, when the two walked out of the woods. This is a near miss! We do not want stories like this about RATC.

It was not long ago when we wrote new guidelines for hike leaders. There is some wiggle room with the rules. For example, if you have a few rabbits, you can permit them to go ahead and leave a note on your car. But you are the leader! You have to be confident that they are capable and that they know they are now on their own. And, if you think their presence would improve the safety of the group then you have to say "No, let's stay together". And never ever use a slow

person for the sweep. That slow person needs the sweep! The sweep needs to be able to catch the group if there is a problem. You may need one of those rabbits to be the sweep.

You are the leader. If you think a person is not qualified or equipped for the trip, you need to say so before the hike begins. Only if they are purposefully not trying to be part of the group, can you tell them that they are on their own. When someone is hiking with us, neither you nor the group can leave them! If you make a bad enough call, you may have to delegate a new leader and take the non-hiker out yourself.

It actually is fun to be a leader. Ask Don to make you an assistant leader a few times and then lead a hike that you like. You will find it adds a new dimension to this great experience called hiking.

Bob Peckman

Hikemaster's Report

113-Mile Patch: Lois C. Smith has joined the prestigious group of members who have hiked the entire section of the AT maintained by RATC and was awarded 113-Mile Patch. The RATC maintains two sections. The first starts at VA 611 about 4 or 5 miles south of Licksillet hollow and ends at the 460 Bridge on the new River (skip Peters Mountain). The second starts at Pine Swamp Shelter and ends at Blackhorse Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway. To get the patch, inform the Hike Master of your accomplishment.

Service Awards:

For hike leaders, for the fiscal year Oct 2003 to Sept 2004, leading more than 4 hikes and less than 7 (Larry Austin, Blanche Brower, Mervin Brower, Georgia Gallaher, Bobbie Stitcher, Don Hoke, Laura Montague) get a hat; leading 7 hikes and less than 9 (Kris Peckman, Sue Scanlin, and David Sutton) get a T-shirt, 9 or more hikes (Maurice Turner, Ken Garrett) get a T-shirt.

Don Nulph

Trail Supervisor's Report

Our first week with the Konnarock Crew has been moved up a week. The new schedule will be May 19 – 23, August 4 – 8 on Angel's Rest rehabilitation and June 9 – 13, July 14 - 18 on the power-line relocation south of Pearisburg. As two of these are on the spring schedule, there will be only two other work hikes. On the first one we hope to finish a minor relocation about 0.3 miles north of Trout Creek. The second one will be devoted to spring maintenance between the War Spur Trail and Pine Swamp Shelter. In case you have not heard, the Stony Creek Bridge was washed out last October by Hurricane Jeanne. The Forest Service hopes to come up with funds for replacing the bridge in the next budget year. For now the choices are ford the stream or walk the road. Signs have been placed at

both ends advising hikers of their options. On the Angel's Rest rehab work, we plan to put in three or four new switchbacks and do some rock step-work. This is in the area between the final road crossing and Angel's Rest when going south on the trail. The power-line is about four miles south of Pearisburg where the AT crosses two power-lines. The relocation will be about 1/2 mile long and will eliminate the very steep section of trail between the two lines. Quite candidly, due to the distance from Roanoke I expect club participation with the crews to be lower than last year. I will be happy to see 10 people win T-shirts and 25 people overall. I will be very happy if these numbers are both too low.

Charles Parry

The Hiker

(poem provided courtesy of Greg Foster)

I take the shady trail ahead of me
By the cold and deep bed of the river,
Looking up to the mountain
Where clouds wreath its crest
And eagles circle free

A land of beauty and still so pure,
Mine to behold,
And watch amazed
The sun's timeless dance
Through lush, green branches

I let its light enfold me,
Hiking in the thickest woods of ancient trees
With nameless flowers and
Ferns with hazel leaves,
In awe I look ahead of me...

Nature is sacred, these trees are a temple
And the forest a cathedral
Granting me the wisdom of understanding
And learning the language of earth
Carried through time, the gift of life and truth

This is a place where I go to be myself,
To be alone and think things through,
It encompasses the essence
Of what I am and
What I want to be

I climb to find
All my emotions stored here,
My mind, body and spirit need
Wind and rain, moonlight and sunrises,
Mists and music of wind among trees

I gain wisdom and beauty
By resting on the grass, watch the clouds drift and
Listening to the water's song,
I reach serenity and
Learn the truth about myself

Here, at the top of the world
I am never alone, for Mother Nature
Is holding my hand while we listen
To music of the earth, and I reach
A place where clouds and sky reflect my heart

I relax and know my path is before me,
The earth guiding my senses,
Water nourishes me and
Wind embraces me,
I am conquered
By Nature

Hike Reports

Sunday, December 12, 2004 8:30AM

Catawba Mountain Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (co-leader), Jen Schaeffer, Mike Vaughn, H.R. Blankenship, Jerry Kyle, Dick Clark, Dana Hensley, Homer Witcher, Fred Coughlan, Wes Barnes, Mervin & Blanche Brower

Today was planned to be opening day for the final section of the McAfee Knob relocation. The only concern was that it might not be warm enough for blazing. While the weather forecast called for considerable sunshine, we saw precious little of it. By lunchtime we were zeroing in on the lower end of the relocation. After lunch, a few of us went up to finish the trail at the road crossing. We decided that we needed rock steps below the road crossing and had to import some rocks from the upper side of the road for this purpose. Around 2 o'clock, I decided it wouldn't get much warmer, but with temperatures in the 40's, we would try blazing. I took the paint down to the lower end where our best two blazers, Fred and Kris, were working. I also had another crew mark out the old trail with black paint. By 4 o'clock everything was pretty much done, so we packed our tools and headed home.

Sunday, December 12, 2004 1:00PM

Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to Tinker Cliffs

Therese Witcher (co-leader), Bob Simpson (co-leader), Blake Mitnick, Mark Packett, Stephanie Noel, David Godlove & Maya Bohler

The original leaders, Kenny Garrett and Carl Cornett, were unable to make this hike. At the start of the hike the temperature was in the upper 30's and we saw some snow flurries. We made our way up to Scorched Earth Gap and while resting, we were joined by Mark Catron and his two dogs, Kodiak and Bear. We enjoyed the view from Tinker Cliffs, but due to time constraints, we did not stay long. The hike down was rushed so that we could get out before dark. The hike was enjoyed by all.

Sunday, December 19, 2004 8:00AM

Tar Jacket Ridge, Cole Mountain - Old Hotel Trail loop

Dick Clark (leader), Charlie Scharnberg (co-leader), Carl Cornett, Don Hoke & Jen Schaeffer

I had to rely on Charlie to help me out on this one. Due to an urgent social obligation, I needed to be back in Roanoke by early afternoon. Charlie was gracious enough to pick up the leadership after I bowed out about four miles into the hike.

From Salt Log Gap we followed the Forest Service Road that skirts the base of Tar Jacket Ridge. Near the Mount Pleasant-Pompey Mountain trailhead, we picked up The Old Hotel Trail which winds through largely open country to the beautiful park-like area that rests at the foot of Cole Mountain.

It was here that I took my leave. I retraced my steps to the road and then followed the Appalachian Trail north over Tar Jacket Ridge back to my car at Salt Log Gap.

Meanwhile, under Charlie's able guidance, the rest of the group continued past the shelter to Cow Camp Gap. Here they picked up the A.T. and climbed north to the open summit of Cole Mountain. All day it had been cold, cloudy and blustery with the distinct threat of snow in the air. And as Charlie later reported to me, they did run into some snow squalls during the last few miles. There were no real problems, however, and everyone apparently enjoyed the outing. Thanks again, Charlie.

Sunday, December 19, 2004 1:00PM

Troutville (Rt. 11) to Fullhart Knob Shelter

Dave Sutton (leader), Jeanne Huffman (co-leader), Maya Bohler, Mark Packett, Lynne and Bill Jacoby and Hooper, Mary Gilbert, Mark Catron and his 2 dogs.

Eight hikers and 3 dogs showed for the hike on this cold day. We crossed the railroad tracks that parallel US 11 and headed up the hill. After climbing over the stile, we were in pasture land that rolled towards woodland, through cedar trees and hardwoods. It snowed for three minutes and the temperature dropped as the hours went on.

Upon reaching the shelter, the rain water filtration was checked out and okayed. The view of the surrounding valleys was incredible on top. We headed down the hill and were at the parking area by 5pm. A great hike!

Sunday, January 9, 2005 8:00AM

Ferrier - Lick Branch - Price Mtn. Exploratory

Dave Wickersham (leader), Gary Bible (co-leader), Peggy Bryant, Maya Bohler, Carl Cornett, Don Hoke & Kirk McGuire

I had been looking forward to leading a RATC hike tying these trail segments together for several years. The last two times I attempted to do so, our itinerary was altered by snow. This time the weather could not have been more cooperative.

We met at the Daleville Park 'n Ride. It was a half hour drive to the ending trailhead on Price Mountain and another half hour shuttle ride to the Ferrier trailhead near New Castle. We hit the trail at 8:45. It was chilly when we started but soon warmed up to near spring-like conditions.

The orange blazed Ferrier Trail was in great shape. It has been maintained in recent years by the mid-week work group, which included our own Peggy. The Ferrier Trail was a pleasant but not spectacular or strenuous walk to the junction with the Lick Branch Trail.

At the junction, most hiking parties turn right to do the popular Ferrier / Lick Branch loop. We, on the other hand, turned left. The Lick Branch Trail in this section has not been maintained in quite some time. It follows the branch upstream. At times the trail is barely discernable and blazes are faint and difficult to spot. This section includes the longest sustained climb on the hike of about 700 feet to the top of Broad Run Mountain.

After reaching the top of the mountain, the trail continues northeast along the ridge to the junction with the Price Mountain Trail. At this point, the Lick Branch Trail drops off the other side of the mountain down to Stonecoal Gap where it meets the northern end of the North Mountain Trail. We stayed on top of the ridge on the Price Mountain Trail. It was about 11:45 when we regrouped after our climb and continued on from the junction.

The Price Mountain Trail is like the previous section of the Lick Branch trail in that it has not been maintained in years. There are remnants of

blazes here and there, places where the trail disappears, no switchbacks, and only a couple of trail sections that skirt around instead of crossing over the 22 humps on the ridgeline. Some of us found it to be rather refreshing to not hike on a perfectly manicured trail for a change.

On the ridge, the weather was chilly due to a constant breeze. It was interesting how you could drop down only 6-10 feet off the ridge line and it made a major difference in the chill factor. We found some small rock outcrops in the sun off out of the breeze for a relaxing lunch break.

Price Mountain is especially nice in the winter when there are views. The many rocky outcrops add interest too. The humps...well they seem to go on forever. Don't ever say, "I think this is the last one." That guarantees that it is not.

We had kept the whole group together all day by maintaining a moderately slow pace. We reached the ending trailhead at 4:30, including the half-hour lunch break.

Sunday, January 9, 2005 1:00PM

Fort Lewis Mountain from Bradshaw Rd.

Ed Wallace (leader), Dana Helsley, Billy, Lynne & Mary Jacoby, Bill Mistele, Geanna Cheong Mistele, Cynthia Chan, Dave Sutton, Linda Sutton, Diana Christopulos, Mark McClain, John Miller, Nancy Utz, Maurice Turner, Rob Campbell, Mary Gilbert, Bill Lamson, Mark Packett, Mike Ferguson, Billy Ferguson, Lorrie Huffman, Suzanne Osborne, Meg Green, Marla Harris, Zetta Campbell, Charles Musgrove & Doug Clary

Everybody must have gotten cabin fever over the holidays. Twenty seven hikers showed up. We were spread out all over the mountain, but more on that later.

Two of us fell into the creek. We got pretty good scores for degree of difficulty, but the Salem judge and the French judge only gave me 6's for artistic interpretation - something about a big splash on entry.

On a more serious note, and the hike master may want to address this later (or he may not) - when there are a lot of different hiking abilities represented there will have to be some give and take between the faster and slower hikers. Please don't think I'm picking on the slower hikers. I'm one of them, and I don't want to hurt anybody's

feelings. Therefore I'm going to explain the "Wallace too many hikers spread out on an up and back hike with short days 15 minutes = 1 hour and 15 minutes." Now Charles, Dick and Bobbie would say this is poor math, not to mention a cumbersome title. It works like this: when one is still hiking up the mountain and meets the others coming down, they tell you that you are 15 minutes from the top. What they are really telling you is that you are at that point already 45 minutes behind them (15 minutes up, 15 minutes snacking until they are cold and can't wait any longer and 15 minutes back down to where you are now.) If one now continues to the top, doesn't stop to snack and comes back to the point where you are now, this will make you 1 hour and 15 minutes behind.

This can be avoided if one will just fall in behind the driver and passengers of the car you came in when they pass going down. That failing, the driver should explain how long a walk it is back to the Orange Market and wave good-bye using all five fingers (be nice.) This part was my fault because, as hike leader, I wasn't firm enough.

I apologize to the drivers and passengers who had to wait until after the sun went down for 1 1/4 - 1 1/2 hours.

Let's all do better and show consideration to the drivers and passengers next time.

Sunday, January 16, 2005 8:30AM Catawba Mountain Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Laurie Adkins (co-leader), Jen Schaeffer, Jerry Kyle, Dana Helsley, Homer Witcher, Fred Coughlan, Wes Barnes, Sue Norwood, Meg Green, Suzanne Barnett, Bill Floyd, Mervin & Blanche Brower

The job for the day was to repair the steps on the rock-bridges. My wife's dog, Zack, and I had been out to scout the job on New Years Day. I took some measurements and tried to estimate the amount of lumber needed. We began work on the farther set of bridges. The first job was to get lumber down to the bridges, but not more than we needed. We began work on 4 different sets of steps with two or three in each group. One group only had to replace a few boards and was done quite soon. About the same time we had two new arrivals, so I put a group doing rockwork at the north end of the third bridge. By lunchtime, the

steps were nearing completion, but we realized that we needed one more 2x6. Meg volunteered to go up and bring it down. Around 1:30, we were pretty much done, so packed up our tools and headed down the road for the other set of bridges. Laurie was missing and after we got to the new location, I realized a pulaski was also missing. About that time Laurie appeared with the pulaski. The lumber slid, most of the way to the bridges. We immediately replaced a couple of kiddy rails and began to realize that we did have enough lumber to do everything we needed to do. We decided to work on two sets of steps, which we were able to complete using only a few of the old boards. While we were working on the steps, Laurie, Blanche and Jen regraded a few sections of trail that were sliding down the hill. We had great weather for January and it was a nice day to be outside. Although we need to go back with more lumber, we did a good day's work, making some real improvements to the trail.

Sunday, January 16, 2005 1:00PM Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob as a Circuit Hike

Linda Akers (leader), Sue Scanlin (co-leader), H.R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Bill & Lynne Jacoby, Charles Musgrove, Tom Sowers, Mark Packett, Bobbie Stitche, Nancy Utz, John Miller, Mary Gilbert, Emory Richardson, Gene Downs & Grandson.

It was a great turnout for this sunny but cool hike. We followed the beautiful new trail (thanks, guys & gals who worked on it) to the knob, where the "leader" finally caught up, then descended via the Johnson Farm and fire-road. Met Carolyn McPeak and a neighbor at the knob. They took the trail back down and arrived at the parking lot as the last of our group returned. A great day for an invigorating hike with clear views in all directions.

Sunday, January 23, 2005 8:00AM Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to North Mountain (Rt. 311)

Hike cancelled – bad weather.

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 which 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.

Sunday, April 3, 2005 6:00AM

Alleghany Trail to Pine Swamp

15.5 miles, Strenuous, \$6.00 carpool fee
62 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Monroe County, West Virginia and Giles County, Virginia. It starts on WV CR15 at the parking lot for the Hanging Rock Raptor Migration Observatory. The trail follows the crest of Peters Mountain mostly on old logging and forest service roads. The first 12.5 miles are on the Alleghany Trail and the last 3 miles on the AT ending at RT 635. Remember to bring a flashlight!!

Don Hoke 563-2902

Greg Foster 400-4273

Sunday, April 3, 2005 1:00PM

Price Mountain, Sulphur Ridge Loop

4.5 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County, and uses Price Mountain and Sulphur Ridge trails providing good views of surrounding area, including Patterson, Bald, Richpatch and Potts Mountains. Mixed forest, easy creek crossings, generally well graded trail.

David Wickersham 774-0439

Mary Gilbert 774-0338

Sunday, April 10, 2005 8:30AM

Trout Creek Work Hike

Short miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
15 miles from Roanoke

Trout Creek Area: Work on a new switchback around a badly eroded section of trail about 0.3 miles north of Trout Creek.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402

Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, April 10, 2005 1:00PM
Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter

2.4 miles, Easy, \$1.00 carpool fee
 15 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County in the Jefferson National Forest just south on AT from Dragons Tooth in Millers cove.

Linda Akers 776-1969
David Sutton 774-0648

Sunday, April 17, 2005 8:30AM
Belfast Trail, AT, Sulphur Spring Trail Circuit

9.7 miles, Moderate-Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee
 35 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Rockbridge County. It will begin at the trailhead of the Belfast Trail and will take one by the Devil's Marbleyard on to the AT where you turn South and follow it until the junction with the Sulphur Spring Trail. Will follow the Sulphur Spring Trail back down the mountain until it reaches Forest Service Road 35. Will then follow USFS 35 to where it intersects the Glenwood Horse Trail. Will proceed on the Glenwood Horse Trail back to the Belfast Trail and then to the parking area. This hikes offers great views from Devil's Marbleyard, the AT, and some walking along the beautiful Elk Creek.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, April 17, 2005 1:00PM
Bottom Creek Gorge

5.3 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee
 15 miles from Roanoke

Hidden away at the corner of Montgomery, Roanoke, and Floyd counties is the Bottom Creek Gorge Preserve on top of Bent Mountain. The Nature Conservancy has developed a network of trails that pass ponds, streams and meadows and follow tunnels of rhododendron that lead you around and down to the Bottom Creek George, then up to a vantage point to see Bent Mountain Falls flow from a mountain side.

Maurice Turner 334-2128
Mary Gilbert 774-0338

Sunday, April 24, 2005 1:00PM
Flat Top Mountain, Trillium Hike

4.0 miles, Moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
 27 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, this hike is scheduled to optimize the chances of catching the many trilliums along the trail at their peak. 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.

Kenny Garrett 890-8946
Ed Wallace 774-0175

Saturday, April 30, 2005 8:00AM
White Rocks Work Hike

A few miles, Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee
 51 miles from Roanoke

We will do routine annual maintenance between War Spur Trail and Pine Swamp Shelter.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Hal Cantrill 387-2347

Sunday, May 1, 2005 8:00AM
White Rocks Work Hike

A few miles, Moderate, \$4.00 carpool fee
 51 miles from Roanoke

We will do routine annual maintenance between War Spur Trail and Pine Swamp Shelter.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Hal Cantrill 387-2347

Sunday, May 1, 2005 1:00PM
Falls Ridge

5.0 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
 20 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Montgomery County, southeast of Blacksburg in Falls Ridge Preserve. Part of a steep, rugged ridge that rises from the valley of the North Fork of the Roanoke River, Falls Ridge Preserve boasts a spring-fed travertine waterfall approximately 80 feet in height. Salem Fault runs through the preserve, dividing it into two different rock types: Precambrian limestone and shale/sandstone. The corresponding difference in soil types generates a diversity of vegetation, particularly wildflowers and smaller flora.

Maurice Turner 334-2128
David Sutton 774-0648

Sunday, May 8, 2005 8:00AM

Thunder Ridge Overlook to Jennings Creek

15.0 miles, Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee
23 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt County.

Kenny Garrett 890-8946
Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, May 8, 2005 1:00PM

Bearwallow Gap to Little Cove Mtn loop -Lady Slipper Hike

3.3 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$1.50 carpool fee
21 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, the hike climbs steeply to the top of the mountain, about 500 feet in 1.4 miles, then follows the ridge to Little Cove Mountain trail. The climb makes this a moderately difficult hike.

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117

Sunday, May 15, 2005 8:00AM

Falling Water Cascades, Flat Top Mountain, Harkening Hills Trails

9.8 miles, Strenuous, \$2.50 carpool fee
30 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Botetourt and Bedford Counties. It will start at Falling Water Cascades parking just off the Blue Ridge Parkway and will descend down to the Falling Water Cascades waterfalls and ascend back up to the parkway to the trailhead of Flat Top Mountain. It will follow Flat Top Mountain Trail to the Peaks of Otter picnic area, the road to Abbott Lake, then go around the lake past the lodge and under the BRPW to the trail to Harkening Hill. It will go by the Johnson Farm continuing to the summit of Harkening Hill and end up at the parking area of the Country Store and Museum. This hike offers a waterfall, a side trip to Cross Rock (an unusual rock formation near the top of Flat Top Mountain), beautiful views from the summit of Flat Top Mountain, Abbott Lake, the historical Johnson Farm and views from the summit of Harkening Hill.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Kris Peckman 366-7780

Sunday, May 15, 2005 1:00PM

New River (Rt. 460) to Angel's Rest

5.0 miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
62 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County.

David Sutton 774-0648
Linda R. King 342-2411

Saturday, May 21, 2005 8:00AM

Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
62 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Dana Helsley 977-4154

Sunday, May 22, 2005 8:00AM

Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
62 miles from Roanoke

We will add some new switch backs and rock work on the trail between Pearisburg and Angel's Rest.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Jimmy Whitney 344-4117

Sunday, May 22, 2005 1:00PM

Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to McAfee Knob

7.0 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.

Mary Gilbert 774-0338
Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637

Sunday, June 5, 2005 8:00AM
Cornelius Creek Trail, AT, Glenwood Horse Trail, Apple Orchard Falls Trail

12.5 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee
 25 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County, the hike will start at the trailhead of the Cornelius Creek Trail on the upper end of North Creek. We will follow Cornelius Creek Trail to where it intersects the AT. We will then follow the AT South to the junction of the blue blaze Trail to the Cornelius Creek Shelter. We will take the blue blaze trail past the shelter to the Glenwood Horse Trail where we will head north on the horse trail until it reaches the site of the former Camp Kewanee. We will then follow an old gated forest service road to the BRPW to Sunset Field. We will take the Apple Orchard Falls Trail back to the starting point. This hike offers three stunning creeks, two waterfalls, scenic views from Black Rock Overlook and Sunset Field.

Larry Austin 254-2092
Lois C. Smith 992-3701

Sunday, June 5, 2005 1:00PM
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth

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

Located on Cove Mountain near the Craig and Roanoke County line, the hike to Dragon's Tooth ascends steep, rugged outcrops of quartzite which form the spine of Cove Mountain. A difficult hike, Dragon's Tooth summit offers magnificent views of nearby and distant peaks year-round.

Linda Akers 776-1969
Mike Ferguson 344-8525

Saturday, June 11, 2005 8:00AM
Pearis Mountain relocations with Konnarock

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
 63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossings south of Pearisburg.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Homer Witcher 992-3932

Sunday, June 12, 2005 8:00AM
Pearis Mountain relocations with Konnarock

Some miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee
 63 miles from Roanoke

We will relocate about 1/2 mile of trail near the powerline crossings south of Pearisburg.

Charles Parry 540-951-1402
Homer Witcher 992-3932

Sunday, June 19, 2005 1:00PM
Ribble Trail(South End) to Kimberling Creek (Rt. 606)

6.3 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$5.50 carpool fee
 66 miles from Roanoke

The hike is located in Giles and Bland County.

Kenny Garrett 890-8946
Linda R. King 342-2411

Sunday, June 26, 2005 8:00AM
Petites Gap to James River (Rt.501)

9.9 miles, Moderate, \$4.00 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. Some steep, rough and rocky trail.

Diana Christopulos 387-0930
Maurice Turner 334-2128

Sunday, June 26, 2005 1:00PM
Sunset Field to Apple Orchard Falls

2.8 miles, Easy-Moderate, \$2.50 carpool fee
 32 miles from Roanoke

Located on the Blue Ridge Parkway North of the Peaks of Otter near milepost 78. Enter the national forest at 0.1 miles, cross the AT at 0.2 miles, a logging road at 0.8 and at 1.4 miles look back on a beautiful 200-foot waterfall. The hike down is relative easy, but getting back up is another thing. It is a steep climb back.

Mervin & Blanche Brower 387-9732
Mary Lou Gaminde 344-1637

Hike Reports (Continued)

Sunday, January 23, 2005 1:00PM
Wolf Creek Greenway

Hike cancelled – bad weather.

Sunday, January 30, 2005 8:00AM
Lee Hollow (RT 621) to Trout Creek (RT 620)
113-Mile Hike # 7

Laura Montague (co-leader), Lois Smith (co-leader),

Lois and I planned winter hikes away from the parkway to avoid having to cancel due to ice and snow. Unfortunately the ice and snow were not only on the parkway but in Catawba and the whole Roanoke Valley this Sunday morning. The roads were still treacherous at our hike meeting time so we cancelled. Several accidents occurred in town that morning so I know we made the right decision. The snow quickly melted in town so the latter part of the day was a great improvement. There will be many more great hikes in our future.

Sunday, January 30, 2005 1:00PM
Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter

Hike was cancelled due to snow and ice conditions.

Sunday, February 6, 2005 8:00AM
Crabtree Falls

Gary Bible (leader), Carl Cornett (drafted co-leader), Janie Bible, Trent Bible & John Bible

A cool but nice sunny day for a hike. I expected to have a larger turnout but we ended up with just my clan and Carl. We met at 8:30, piled into one car and made the drive to Crab Tree Falls. We met the club's own Leonard Adkins at the trailhead. He had just finished measuring the distance from the parking lot to the first overlook with his measuring wheel. We greeted one another and then began our ascent.

The hike was treacherous as the trail and steps were covered with ice. The Falls were still partially frozen-over and the flow was strong due to the melting snow. It was slow hiking to get to the top of the falls due to the slippery conditions, but we were rewarded with abundant sunshine at the top and a nice spot to enjoy lunch.

After lunch, Carl let the boys follow him for a rather strong descent on the trail while Janie and myself enjoyed a more leisurely pace. While waiting for us in the parking lot, Carl helped the boys fashion a sled from a garbage can lid for a little added bonus fun. A good time was had by all!

Sunday, February 6, 2005 1:00PM
Andy Layne Trail (Rt. 779) to Stone Coal Gap

Don Hoke (leader), Maurice Turner (co-leader), Bill Mistele, Cynthia Chan, Linda Akers, Emory Richardson, Bobbie Stitche, Lorrie Huffman, Caryl Connolly, Meg Green, Lynne and Bill Jacoby and trail dog Hooper, Charles Musgrove, Larry Austin, HR Blankenship, Chet Chandler, Sue Scanlin & Mary Gilbert.

We started at Stone Coal Gap and hiked back to the Andy Layne parking lot.

About half of the hikers met up at the Daleville Park and Ride and the others at the Andy Layne parking lot. After the car shuttle logistics were worked out, we drove three vehicles to the trail head at Stone Coal Gap (Thanks to Bill Mistele and Bill Jacoby for volunteering the use of their van and jeep). We started hiking at around 1:45. The first mile or so was uphill in the snow, I thought we would get out of the snow once on top of the ridge but we were in snow almost the whole way.

We all stopped for a breather after we reached the ridge line. After that we lost contact with the front runners. We had about three good little climbs going across the ridge.

At around 4:30 we had made it to the power lines and the only good view. The four of us sat down here for a little break while admiring the views into New Castle and beyond.

It was starting to get late and this being Super Bowl Sunday, we decided to take the fast way down on the old AT trail. After a little searching we found the old trail. Towards the bottom, just before we crossed a creek, Caryl gave me a scare when she stumbled and fell on a rock with her knee. She shook it off and we continued on to the parking lot. Those Syracuse gals are tough.

Maurice reported that they got to the parking lot at around 5. He said the trail sign at the

junction on the ridge read 3.3 miles to Stone Coal Gap and 2.2 to the Andy Layne parking lot. He also said they had to chase down one hiker who hiked past this sign.

Hooper the trail dog did about 10 miles.

This was a beautiful day with temps in the 50's along with sunny skies and just a slight breeze. No blow downs were encountered on the ridge line. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Sunday, February 13, 2005 8:30AM
Trout Creek Work Hike

Charles Parry (leader), Kris Peckman (co-leader), Bob Peckman, Jerry Kyle, Larry Austin, Suzanne Barnett, Mike Leahy, Dana Helsley, Bob Stimson, Mervin Brower, Blanche Brower

The day was cloudy and cool, but no rain, so it was good digging weather. The job for the day was to begin work on a switchback, around a badly eroded section of trail. There were about 100 feet on level ground where we didn't dig. Suzanne did an excellent job of clearing out the brush there. The work went somewhat faster than expected and we got about 600 feet of new trail dug. We have two more work-hikes scheduled for the area and hope to finish the project in April.

Sunday, February 13, 2005 1:00PM
Mill Mountain Loop

Georgia Gallaher (leader), Sue Scanlin (co-leader), Carl Cornett, H.R. Blankenship, John Miller, Chet Chandler, Clint Moses, George Nunez, Allison Dubenezie, Mark Packett, Linda Akers, Mary Lou Gaminde, Bill Bowman, Dick Moran, Mary Gilbert & Meg Green.

We had a good turnout for this hike. I think a lot of people were glad to get out again after a couple of weekends of bad weather. The temperatures were mild and the sun was shining. The only problem was that this time of year there is not much to look at. Everything is very brown and very dead looking. Otherwise the hike went well and we covered the distance in record time since we were not stopping to admire the scenery.

Sunday, February 20, 2005 8:00AM
Ribble Trail, AT Loop

Kenny Garrett (leader), Kris Peckman (co-leader), Larry Austin, Carl Cornett, Shelly Himmel, Meg Green, John Lynham & Jen Schaeffer

The day started out a little overcast with the weather reports of snow and freezing rain in the forecast. Eight people who knew the weather reports are often wrong took off for the base of the Ribble Trail on Forest Service Road above Dismal Falls. A few snow flurries greeted us, but didn't last long. The initial climb to the old cabin at Big Horse Gap was enough to get everyone's heart rate pumping. The Ribble Trail climbs nearly 2,000 feet without the benefits of any switchbacks. A few of us were lucky enough to see a half a dozen wild turkeys on the climb up. Once at the top, the AT follows a beautiful ridge walk for a couple of miles. We all enjoyed lunch on the rocks of a scenic overlook of Wilburn Valley. We then began our descent down Sugar Run Mountain with a stop at Wapiti Shelter. The AT then leveled out for a relaxing stroll by the pond and across several streams before turning back on the south end of the Ribble Trail. As we returned to our vehicles, we felt the first rain of the day. We did experience some sleet after lunch, but it didn't amount to much. Overall, it was a great hike with Mother Nature being kind to a friendly group of hikers.

Sunday, February 20, 2005 1:00PM
Chestnut Ridge Trail

Linda Akers (leader), Lynn Bryant (co-leader), Peggy Bryant, Gene Downs, Maurice Turner, Jeanne Duddy, Laura Montague, Beverly Williamson & Chet Chandler

Uneventful stroll around this loop trail on Roanoke Mountain. Trailwork done recently greatly improved the trail. Weather was threatening (sleet), but we only had to hike about 15 minutes in the rain before we got back to our cars.

Sunday, February 27, 2005 8:00AM
Sandstone Ridge (Rt 624) to Trout Creek (RT 620) (113-Mile Hike # 6 Plus)

Kris Peckman (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Maya Bohler, Chet Chandler, Meg Green, Bob Peckman

Good hiking weather: temperatures in the upper 30's with not too much wind. The views were on the hazy side, so our first-timers to Dragon's Tooth will need to come back. On the way up from 624 to Dragon's Tooth, we were pretty spread out, with the shuttle drivers starting half an hour later than the others. So there was some lingering and socializing. We very much enjoyed a father/daughter team from Blacksburg we met on the way up. We had lunch just below the Tooth even though it was only 11:00, and most of the group climbed at least partway up the Tooth, with Chet going all the way to the top. For the rest of the hike, along the ridgetop that encircles Miller's Cove, we stayed pretty much together (except for H.R., whom nobody else saw until the end of the hike), continuing conversations on topics from population control to how much harder life was in the days when the stone walls we saw were dug from the fields by hand. It was a great way to spend the day, out in the woods with a spirited group of hikers.

Sunday, February 27, 2005 1:00PM
Hoop Hole Lower Loop

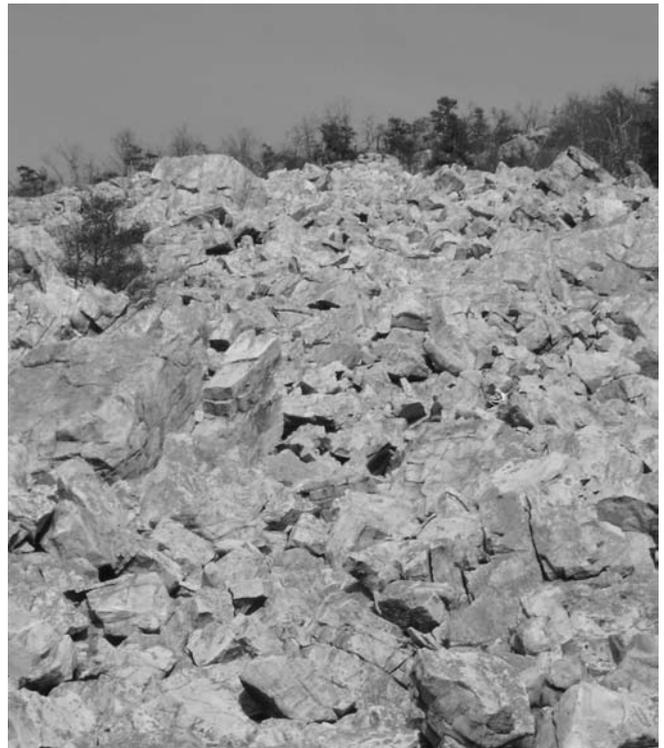
Blanche Brower (leader), Dave Sutton (assistant leader), Nancy Utz, and Linda Sutton.

We met for the hike at the Daleville commuter parking lot. The weather was slightly cloudy and in about the mid 40's which made it ideal for hiking in the woods. We had a good congenial group who kept together going around the trail. The water was high in the creeks. There are 14 creek crossings.

Sunday, March 6, 2005 1:00PM
Falls Ridge

Linda Akers (leader), Sue Scanlin (assistant leader), Mark Packett, Jean Warren, Bobbie Sticher, Marianne Demkó, Mary Lou Gaminde, Mervin Brower, Charles Musgrove, Lynne & Bill Jacoby, Diana Christopulos, Emory Richardson, Mark Taylor, Jen Schaeffer, Alex Buer & Blake Mitnick

This seems to be a really popular hike, and no wonder! We had a warm, sunny beautiful day. The road in and the beginning of the trail nearest the waterfall was muddy, but otherwise the trail was in great shape. We enjoyed a close look at the limestone cave openings near the end of the trail. Mark Taylor, outdoor writer for Roanoke Times, hiked with us for the first time. Marianne finally found the Skunk Cabbage she'd been looking for. I think everyone had a great time.



Devil's Marbleyard

ATC Archaeology Crew

The ATC will have an archeology crew in the Brown Mountain Creek area June 6-30. Here is what I have for the description for each weekend (June 11-12, 18-19. 25-26):

Sat. & Sun. June 11-12 Hike #46 (EM)
 Brown Mountain Creek Archeology
 Contact: Jodi Barnes, 240-994-6887
 Email: jbarnes@atahp.org

ATC is doing a historical investigation of the Brown Mountain Creek community. During the week they will be training college students, excavating small test units, and mapping surface features. On Saturdays and Sundays, along with continuation of the weekly work, a noon-time talk by an expert is planned. To participate, please contact Jodi Barnes by phone or email before going on site. For more up to date information, see the website – www.atahp.org.

Jodi came to our annual meeting in February. She hopes to have the atahp.org website up by the end of March. Jodi will meet people who have preregistered at 9 am at Long Mountain Wayside.

If you do not know, the Brown Mountain Creek area was settled by a free Black community, which was relocated when the FS bought the land in about 1920.

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

Names(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Family Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$30 |
| Individual Member | <input type="checkbox"/> New 1 year \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> New 2 year \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 1 year \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew 2 year \$20 |
| Make checks payable to RATC, PO Box 12282, Roanoke, 24024-2282 | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500 |

Southern Highlands 2005

Submitted by Steve Perri



What: The 35th meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC)

When: July 1-8, 2005

Where: East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

Who: Southern Highlands 2005 will be hosted by the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and the maintaining clubs of the southern region: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club (Knoxville), Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club (Kingsport), Carolina Mountain Club (Asheville), Nantahala Hiking Club (Franklin NC) and Georgia A.T. Club (Atlanta). The ATC is a federation of 31 A.T. maintaining clubs with responsibility for managing the AT through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service.

Attendance: Approximately 1,200 hikers, volunteer trail maintainers, ATC staff, and others interested in outdoor recreation, conservation, and the A.T. Most participants come from the 14 Trail states between Georgia and Maine; others come from all over the country. The meeting is one of the largest gatherings of conservation-minded citizens in the country.

Events: Workshops, exhibits, A.T. membership meeting, entertainment, excursions, and organized hikes within 100 miles of Johnson City.

Purpose:

- Conduct the official business of the ATC
- Educate, inspire, and inform the membership and the public about the A.T. and Trail-related issues.
- Provide camaraderie.
- Encourage sharing of ideas and techniques among trail maintainers.
- Organize hikes, workshops, excursions, and other recreational events in upper Northeast East Tennessee and southwest Virginia.
- Celebrate ATC's 80th Anniversary and the USFS's 125th Anniversary.
- See how ATC is changing to prepare to build a conservation plan and educational focus.

Background: The 2100-mile A.T., completed in the 1930s, runs from Springer Mountain, near Dahlonega, GA, to Mount Katahdin, ME. A few hundred backpackers complete the entire Trail each year, and hundreds of thousands of people enjoy dayhikes and camping trips. The Trail is a unit of the National Park Service with headquarters in Harpers Ferry, WV.

For more information visit: southernhighlands2005.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Bob Peckman
 366-7780 bob@peckmanjazz.com

Vice President, Roger B. Holnback
 556-2919 rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

Secretary, Hetti Barnes
 992-2716 wbwoodcraft@aol.com

Treasurer, Blanche Brower
 387-9732 blanche@brower.cc

Land Management Supervisor, Jim Hutchings
 427-4536 JimHutchings@worldnet.att.net

Conservation Supervisor, Liz Belcher
 989-7559 lbelcher@co.roanoke.va.us

Trail Supervisor, Charles Parry
 (540)951-1402 parrycj@math.vt.edu

Shelter Supervisor, Kenny Garrett
 890-8946 ken.garrett@mindspring.com

Hikemaster, Don Nulph
 774-8618 nulph-d@cox.net

Newsletter Editors, Homer & Therese Witcher
 992-3932 witchers4@juno.com

Membership Coordinator, Mervin Brower
 387-9732 mervin@brower.cc

Counselor, Leonard Adkins
 966-2811 habitualhiker.va@netzero.net

Counselor, Dick Clark
 989-7053 jandrclark@cox.net

ANCILLARIES

Social Chairman, Carolyn McPeak
 (540)890-2855 McPeakCR@aol.com

Phone Tree Chairman, Liz Lamson
 774-8981 blueridge23@cox.net

Newsletter Distribution, Bobbie Stitche
 397-2760 rb_bobbie@rbnet.com

Webmaster, David A. Cheslow
 dcheslow@rev.net

Roanoke College Rep., Brian Chisom
 389-7393 (H), 375-7393 (W)..... chisom@roanoke.edu

Mid-week Workhikes, Bill Gordge
 774-3016 bgordge@cox.net

OTHER

ATC Board of Managers – Mac (McKinney) Taylor
 (804)264-1255.....jant1@comcast.net

**ATC-LT Coordinator - James River to New River and
 Director Western Virginia Land Trust, Roger B. Holnback**
 556-2919 rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

ATC Trail & Land Management Committee-Hal Cantrill
 387-2347.....hacantrill@worldnet.att.net

ATC Regional Rep., Teresa Martinez
 540-961-5551 tmartinez@atconf.org

ATC-LT Coord. New River to Damascus, Steve Reisinger
 504-951-7580 srei38@hotmail.com

Roanoke Valley Greenways Liaison, Dick Clark
 989-7053 jandrclark@cox.net

Sir Speedy Printer
 344-8550 robbiey@rbnet.com

**Regional Partnership Committee
 Representative, Charles Parry**
 (540)951-1402 parrycj@math.vt.edu

Alternate, Roger Holnback
 556-2919 rholnback@westernvirginialandtrust.org

CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

WORK HIKES

Sunday, April 10- 8:30 AM
Trout Creek

Sat & Sunday, April 30 - May 1 - 8:30 AM
White Rocks

Saturday & Sunday, May 21-22- 8:30 AM
Angel's Rest Rehab with Konnarock Crew

Saturday & Sunday, June 11-12- 8:30 AM
**Pearis Mountain Relocations with
 Konnarock Crew**

Hike Scheduling

Contact Don Nulph
774-8618 – Nulph-d@cox.net

BOARD MEETINGS

(All members are always welcome.
 Please let the host know you plan to attend.)

Monday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Bill & Liz Lamson

Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Roger Holnback

Monday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by Charles & Gloria Parry

**The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of
 The Appalachian Trail Conference
 and a member of The Nature Conservancy**