

# TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Summer 2009

*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.*

## CALENDAR OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Annual Cornboil**  
**Saturday August 8, 6 to 9 PM**  
**Green Hill Park, Salem**

### WORK HIKES

**Sunday, July 19 - 8:30 AM**  
**Andy Layne Trail**

**Saturday & Sunday, August 8&9 - 8:00 AM**  
**Bluff City Relocation**

**Sunday, September 20 - 8:00 AM**  
**Big Horse Gap**

### 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, July 13, 7:30 p.m.**  
Hosted by *Mervin & Blanche Brower*

**Monday, August 31, 7:30 p.m.**  
Hosted by *Mike & Sheila Vaughn*

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We lost two members during the last quarter, Charles Musgrove and Vernon Lorish. Many of you know Charlie as the guy who received a heart transplant and then added marathon running to his activity list. He was an extremely active member and a past president but became inactive before his heart transplant. Charles Parry has more to say about Charlie in the Trail Supervisor's Report. Vernon's health had prevented him from hiking with the Club for several years. We have received quite a few donations in their honor. The Club has been diminished by their passing.

## Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

<b>Michael &amp; Wynette Dalsey</b>	<b>Judy Knistern</b>	<b>Joan Shorter</b>
<b>Lisa &amp; Mikey Forster</b>	<b>Rita Krasnow</b>	<b>Alan Simpson</b>
<b>Tim &amp; Vicki Gillow</b>	<b>Kraig Neidigh</b>	<b>Dallas St. Clair</b>
<b>Jennifer Holman</b>	<b>Rhonda North</b>	<b>Steve, Melissa &amp; Lauren Stiles</b>

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

And we thank **Kraig Neidigh, Reinhard O'Neill, Jen Schaeffer & Albert Stewart** for their donations and all the following who gave in honor of **Charles Musgrove**:

<b>R. H. &amp; M. K. Coles</b>	<b>Siegfried &amp; Ursula Kolmstetter</b>	<b>Stafford M. Query, Jr.</b>
<b>Carl Cornett</b>	<b>Eberle Smith &amp; Laura Koontz</b>	<b>A. K. &amp; Carol Runyon</b>
<b>Chas Houston PHD</b>	<b>Diane &amp; Lance Lewis</b>	

And the following who gave in honor of **Vernon Lorish**:

<b>Annie Laurie Olsen</b>	<b>Jennifer Persinger</b>	<b>Naomi, Keith &amp; Paul Weinwurm</b>
<b>Richard &amp; Joyce Wicks</b>		

***Bob Blankenbaker***

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## Trail Supervisor's Report

The Tinker Ridge relocation is now completely open. This relocation, which consists of 5 switchbacks that criss-cross the old trail, was begun in the fall of 2007 and completed this spring. It lengthens the AT by about 0.4 mile. A particular thanks goes to Homer and Therese Witcher for their individual work on this project.

This summer we will be doing 3 different things on our work-hikes. In July we will do some routine maintenance, including reblazing of the Andy Layne Trail. Lance Clark of the Roanoke Cement Company has contacted us and they plan to work with us. I cannot overemphasize the importance of good relations with the Cement Company. We have had a trail on their land since 1978. At first it was the AT and then a side trail maintained by Andy Layne. After his death, it became the Andy Layne Trail. The Company has made a very valuable contribution to the hiking community by allowing this trail to be on their land.

From August 6-10, we will again be working on the Bluff City relocation with the Konnarock Crew. In

September, we will be working near Big Horse Gap in Giles County, to finish a rock project that was begun in March.

Hal Cantrill received the VARO (Virginia Regional Office (of ATC)) outstanding trail worker of the year award. Mervin and Blanche Brower accepted the award for Hal at the Southern Regional Meeting in Asheville in early April. Hal received the award at our April board meeting. Hal is the first member of RATC to receive this award. Hal, who has been a club member for about 25 years, has served the club in many capacities. First, he served as chair of the Mountain Lake Wilderness Planning Committee. As a result of that, he became a trail maintainer for a trail section that includes trail in the Mountain Lake Wilderness Area, a position he still holds. Later, he served as vice-president, president and land management supervisor on the club board. He also served as a member of the ATC land management committee for a number of years. Last year, he served as one of the key players in replacing the roof on Pine Swamp Shelter. It was this contribution that made this

year the right time to nominate him for the award. Finally, he has taken on the job of sign shop manager for the club. Congratulations to Hal for winning this award.

Finally, I want to pay my respects to Charlie Musgrove who died in April. Charlie was club president when I joined the club in 1976. He had previously been trail supervisor and later served as counselor on the club board. He was a math professor at VWCC for many

years, so we had a common professional interest. Around 1980, he served as club editor for the ATC guidebook. I spent a few days driving him around to various recent relocations, so he could wheel them. More recently, he served as hike leader or assistant for many afternoon hikes. People like Charlie and Hal have made and will continue to make RATC a great club.

*Charles Parry*




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## Hikemaster's Report

One of our club members, Charles Davidson, is hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) this summer. His trail name is Chase. Zigzagging its way from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington, the PCT is almost 2,700 miles long (500 miles longer than the A.T.). It passes through six out of seven of North America's ecozones, including high and low desert, old-growth forest and alpine country. Some of the scenic areas the trail passes through or by include the Mojave Desert, the Sierra Nevada and Mt. Whitney, Yosemite National Park, the volcanoes of the Cascades including Mt. Shasta and Mt. Hood, Crater Lake, Mt. Rainier, and the remote Northern Cascades. You can find out more about the PCT at the Pacific Crest Trail Association's web site, [pcta.org](http://pcta.org).

Approximately 300 hikers attempt to thru-hike the PCT each year. Roughly 60% make it the entire way. You can follow Chase's hike on his trail journal at <http://postholer.com/chaseat99>.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy reports that 505 thru-hikers and section hikers completed the A.T. in 2008. This number includes RATC member Diana Christopulos, who completed her last portions of the Trail last Fall. In 2008, more than 40 couples completed the Trail as a team. Ten parent and child teams also completed the trail in 2008. A recent study of thru-hikers revealed that, on average, men complete the trail 10 days faster than women. Every five years of age leads to one additional day on the trail for thru-hikers.

Many A.T. thru-hikers pass through the Roanoke area this time of year. If you are interested in helping long distance hikers, one service you can provide is shuttle rides to the trail from the airport or other locations. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy maintains a list of shuttle providers on their web site. You can find a link to the list on our club's web site, RATC.org. Please email or call me if you are interested in providing

shuttles for A.T. hikers and I will have your name added to the list.

Haven't seen a hike that you are interested in hiking on the schedule lately? Email me at mikeva999@yahoo.com and I'll try to get it on the Fall schedule.

*Mike Vaughn*

## Hike Reports

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

Jean Warren (leader), Carl Cornett, Rod Liebl, Dave Socky, Fred Walters with Cujo, Mary Gilbert with Son.

Blustery winds up to 40 mph, 35 degrees, scattered snow flurries, and partly sunny skies. Yep! It was a perfect day for hiking! As you can see from those who came, the group left "the leader" in the dust (with my blessing). In the blink of an eye, they were "dun gone" up the mountain. After reaching the monument, Mary departed and met me coming up and we went back down. The men stayed a little longer and continued their conversation about caving. Though we all enjoyed the day, I don't believe we could match the joy that the two dogs had in running together. This is a pretty hike with the well built bridges crossing Craig Creek and of course the monument in honor of Audie Murphy.

### **Sunday, March 15, 2009 8:00AM A.T., Petites Gap to James River**

Cancelled

### **Sunday, March 22, 2009 8:00AM Pearis Mountain Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Kris Peckman, Dana Helsley, Wes Barnes, Matt Gentry, Steve Burt, Brian Burt

I took Kris and Matt up to the access point for Doc's Knob Shelter and their job was to reblaze the trail south to Big Horse Gap, where the rest of us were doing some rockwork. The weather was perfect for the jobs that we had to do. In the spring of 1979 the trail from Sugar Run Gap to Big Horse Gap was moved off the road. About 200 yards north of Big Horse Gap, the "new" AT crosses a very rocky drainage, with very poor footing. For 30 years I had wanted to do something about this, but never found the time. Finally, on this day, we had both the time and 5 people to work on it. The work involved was to first clear out the jumble of rocks and stones that was the "so-called" footpath. Next we would lay in some big rocks and level them to create a good walkway. After

that we used crush and fill and small rocks to fill in the holes and stabilize the big rocks. Around 3PM everybody but Dana and I had to leave. I told Dana that we needed to get the footpath in usable condition before we left and we would need to come back for another day to finish the job. I guess we got at least 50 feet completed. About 4PM the trailblazers had not yet come through, so I got some paint and started blazing toward them. I got about a quarter of a mile before I met them. I felt that we had a productive day.

### **Sunday, March 22, 2009 11:00AM Apple Orchard Falls, Cornelius Creek Loop**

Jean Warren and Sue Scanlin (leaders), Lisa de Vries, Sharon Probst, Bruce Sellars, James Black, Sally Black, Mary Gilbert with Son

Ahhh...absolute perfection! What a heavenly day with clear skies, 64 degrees with a slight breeze, and hiking with wonderful people. The rains from the previous week gave the falls and creek an abundance of beauty. In particular, the creek was lush with green moss that contrasted with the thick white froth from the mini-falls. "Just don't get no better than that!"

It was insightful of James to ask if there were any creek crossings (in which I said "no"), so it was a little perplexing when we had two crossings which actually took a bit of maneuvering. Oops! At the falls, Sue took a group shot, while Son enjoyed splashing in the water and tried to bite it coming off the rocks. Total entertainment!

### **Sunday, March 29, 2009 8:00AM Patterson and Price Mountains**

Carl Cornett & Don Hoke (co-leaders), Fred Meyer, John Moody, Kris Peckman and Sally Sizer

The sun had come out by the time our group started around 9:00 AM and the temperatures were edging upwards. As we looked at the Craig Creek Valley from Patterson Mountain, Don reminisced of a canoe trip of some 28 miles down the beautiful Craig Creek years

ago. Passing the Tucker and Helms trail turn-offs, we turned onto the Elmore Trail since it was well marked and a better trail overall. Descending to Patterson Creek, everyone ended up sloshing across due to the high water level. We enjoyed lunch among the trout lilies on the creek bank and then proceeded up Price Mountain, walked the ridgeline and descended to the Patterson Creek by way of the Kelly Trail. On the way up, the first snake of year, a small garter snake, was spotted. Reaching Patterson Creek Road, we opted to return via the road as rain clouds were again forming and some wanted to get home early. Our return on the road proved interesting as there were many crossings of Patterson Creek as it meandered back and forth across the road. Wet feet were the order of the day!

**Sunday, March 29, 2009 1:00PM  
Dragon's Tooth Parking to Dragon's Tooth**

Kenny Garrett & Maya Bohler (leaders), Lance Garrett, Steve Tomaziefski, Gary Connolly, Mary Gilbert with Son, David & Matt Sutton, Brad, Vicki, Luke, and Mark McClean & Zetta Campbell plus guests: Dabney & Abbey Moon and Chad, Odyssey, & Orion Houk

What a wonderful spring afternoon for a hike to the summit of Cove Mountain. We had a large group of happy hikers along for this stroll. Several had evening engagements, and could only hike as far as Lost Spectacles Gap before returning. The beginning section of the trail was a little muddy, due to recent rains. The wind was blowing fairly strong when we stopped to regroup at Lost Spectacles Gap. The wind was really whipping once we reached the summit at Dragon's Tooth. The sky was clear and the views were magnificent. Several hikers had brought their cameras along and were happily snapping pictures of the surrounding views. Even K-9 Son made it to the top over the rock scrambles without any problems.

**Sunday, April 5, 2009 1:00PM  
Sharp Top**

Sue Scanlin (leader), H.R. Blankenship, Karen Coon, David Sutton, Linda Sutton, Mary Gilbert with Son, Steve Tomaziefski, Lisa Forster, Mikey Forster, Blake Mitnick and guests: Marianne Demkó, Lisa de Vries

A gorgeous spring day to hike this was! Couldn't have wished for any better. We carpoled from Market Square East. After a pitstop at the Peaks of Otter Lodge – the visitor center was still locked up – we joined the throng going in both directions. It seemed like everybody wanted to be outdoors before the next cold spell on Tuesday.

Visibility from the top was very good and, of course, the

360° view remains spectacular. As seems to be the new pattern these days, some of our group were on their way back down before the tail end had arrived at the top. In hindsight, maybe I should have taken a group picture in the parking lot because – as it turned out – that was the last time the group was together. So much for 'group spirit'.

Some of us saw a garter snake crossing the trail on the way down and I assume most of us saw the six (or was it seven?) deer grazing near the parking lot before we headed back to the Roanoke Valley.

**Sunday, April 12, 2009 8:00AM  
Garden Mountain (Rt 623) to Chestnut Knob Shelter**

Jim Walke & Pat Guzik (leaders), Kris Peckman, Neil McKinney, Jean Warren, Mia Copeland, Kristy DiVittorio, Eric Collins

Burke's Garden is a long drive from Roanoke (and Christiansburg, Dublin, and pretty much everywhere), but a perfect spring day and a superb trail made all the road miles worthwhile. We started in forty-degree temperatures, although the early steep jump-up to the ridge-top and the persistent sunshine made it feel warmer. This hike followed the top of the ridge that encloses Burke's Garden, and all day the view from the top of the scarp slowly revolved as we made our way around the edge of this quiet, rural valley. Up on the ridge-top the air was still, without so much as a dog bark or the sound of a motor carrying up to us.

The group stayed fairly close together for the first five miles, only spreading out on the final 1000' climb to the Chestnut Knob shelter. With the trees still bare we had hints of the great view to come, but topping out at 4400' was still breath-taking (in more ways than one). The foundation of the old fire tower is visible in the meadow on top, next to the fully enclosed shelter. A lengthwise view of Burke's Garden spread out to the east, the Beartown Wilderness was to our north, and to the south we could see the rolling waves of Walker Mountain, and, far behind it, the beginnings of the Iron Mountains. Even the privy up there had a great view. Jim dropped off a new shelter register (fulfilling a promise to a couple of PATH members he'd met while on his scouting trip), and we ate lunch and the remainder of the Easter candy. Eventually we decided, reluctantly, to return to reality, and Pat led us back down the trail to muddy Walker Gap, where Eric, Kristy and Jim had stashed a shuttle vehicle that was large enough for eight hikers (Eric's Suburban, also known as The Trail Bus), which took us down into and through the Garden and up the ridge again, back to where we'd started.

**Sunday, April 19, 2009 8:00AM  
Sinking Creek (Rt 42) to John's Creek (Rt 632)**

John Miller and Dick Moran (co-leaders), Carl Cornett, Steve Stiles, Sheila Vaughn, and Mike Vaughn

There was a threat of rain all day but we stayed dry. We didn't see many animals on the hike itself but did see deer, geese and a red tail hawk on the way to the trail heads. With the recent rains, Laurel Creek was running well. We stopped at the Laurel Creek shelter to rest and eat snacks. The shelter and privy are in good shape. We ate our lunch on the rocks at White Rock. The view was somewhat overcast but good nonetheless. We saw a large crop of May Apples after crossing the gravel road on the final descent to the parking area. The group had snacks and then we headed back to the other car and returned to Salem.

**Sunday, April 19, 2009 1:00PM  
Chestnut Ridge/ Mill Mountain**

Maurice Turner (leader), Mervin Brower, Blanche Brower, H.R. Blankenship, Bob Blankenbaker, Pat Cousins and Zetta Campbell.

Pat and Zetta decided to hike on their own, and the rest of us started our hike on the Chestnut Ridge Trail at the far end of the camping area and took it to the Fern Trail. We did a short bushwack to Yellow Mtn and then onto the Ridgeline Trail that led to the Riser. After the Riser, we took the Sun Trail to the old road that led us to the Watchtower Trail below the star. Just before the star, we heard music that sounded like a festival; we found out later it was a Russian wedding party. We took time for a short break and snacks while watching the party perform their ritual including the dancing. Some of the party had been chauffeured in a stretch black limo that looked to hold a dozen people.

After the party, we hiked through the park past the Discovery Center onto the Ridgeline Trail back to Chestnut Ridge loop and back to our vehicles. Pat and Zetta were just leaving as we finished.

**Sunday, April 26, 2009 8:30AM & 1:00PM  
Tinker Ridge Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Dick Clark, Wes Barnes, Paul Cocceran, Kevin Jordan, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, Joshua (hiker), Mervin Brower, Blanche Brower

Our job for the day was to work on the final leg (bottom) of the Tinker Ridge relocation. It was no surprise that Homer and Therese were already working up there when we arrived. It was a hot day and since there were no leaves out, so it was perhaps hotter than summer.

Unfortunately, I did not take enough water, but Kevin had a partly frozen container of water that he gave me. The work was routine trail construction, with a few rock steps thrown in. By quitting time the new trail was essentially done. Homer, Therese and Dick were going to come back, put the finishing touches on it and blaze it. Do to the warmth of the day, the cold soft drinks in my truck were popular.

**Sunday, April 26, 2009 1:00PM  
Brushy Mountain**

Jean Warren (leader), H.R. Blankenship and Dave Sutton (on-the-spot assistants), Dave Miller, Fred Walters, Matt Sutton, Sheila Vaughn, and Joanne Derryberry

Wow! A record breaker of 92 degrees on this day in April! We all met at Orange Market and, to my delight, no one had been on this hike before. It's only a short distance from the meeting place, traveling to the end of Timberview Road. It's beautiful scenery along the way with one home in particular that's a "must see" -- it looks similar to a Russian czar's mansion. Really impressive! Since I wasn't feeling well, I gave directions at the trail head on how to do the 6 mile loop. I walked the first flat mile with the group, where we were immersed in bluets (small, delicate blue flowers). It was also the first time in many years where the Carvins Cove Reservoir had enough water in it to be this far out. We briefly stopped and talked with a kayaker who was taking a break. The others continued on the two mile trek up to the fire road (a climb not for sissies) that offered numerous false summits. Dave Miller returned a little early since he had other obligations at home. The lush lime green foliage was in stark contrast to the fire road, with remnants of the fire from last February. The trail down "The Trough" showed signs of road bikers having fun with man made dirt piled up so they can "bank" off the sides. Reports were that the fast hikers waited for others at every intersection and Joanne saw some crested dwarf iris. While they hiked, I sat near a creek with my feet in the cool stream, a wet bandanna around my neck, and enjoyed the silence of the forest. We ALL had a WONDERFUL day!!!

**Sunday, May 3, 2009 8:30AM  
Sprouts Run/Wilson Mountain Loop**

Larry Austin, Kris Peckman (leaders), Carl Cornett, Paul Jones, Fred Meyer, Pat Guzik, Jim Lewis, Jen Schaeffer, Cindy Bowles, Madeleine Taylor, and Lois Smith

Eleven turned out on this rainy day. We traveled to Arcadia in rain and it continued for about 15 minutes following and then stopped until after lunch. The temperature was in the upper 50's, so it was nice hiking.

# Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club

## July 2009

First Name	Last Name	Phone	First Name	Last Name	Phone
Leonard & Laurie	Adkins	804-275-1208	Deborah	Carroll	521-7590
Linda	Akers	540-382-1644	Susan & Steve	Carter	342-0099
Todd	Athey	434-685-7762	Milton & Connie	Carter	774-2829
Cindy & Family	Aubuchon	540-263-1024	Clyde	Carter	591-2463
A. Larry	Austin	254-2092	Jason & Lisa	Cash	757-630-6718
Carl	Bagby	461-3336	Joyce	Castelli	342-6198
Harry	Ballard	721-5263	Don & Nikole	Cavendish	400-6135
Michelle L.	Banning	412-901-1975	Rhonda	Chewning	798-9680
Carolyn L.	Baratta	774-5651	Brian	Chisom	375-2084
Wesley & Hettie	Barnes	966-4170	Diana	Christopulos	387-0930
Suzanne	Barnett	772-4273	Joe	Ciezkowski	387-2420
Liz	Belcher	384-6772	Dick & Judy	Clark	989-7053
Judy	Bergloff	540-387-1153	Kay	Clatterbuck	989-8275
Ed	Bessell	362-2274	Judith & Clark R.	Cobble MD	434-791-4612
Gary	Bible	977-2954	Bill & Katherine	Cochran	384-7188
Malcolm & Jimmie	Black	929-4369	Katrina Yost	Cometa	540-639-6541
Kevin	Black	312-4322	Caryl	Connolly	981-0886
Karl	Black	334-2125	Karen	Coon	989-2041
James	Black	540-483-8513	Mia	Copeland	540-674-4407
Robert	Blankenbaker	558-9752	Carl	Cornett	342-3950
H. R.	Blankenship	344-0313	Sandra	Cothran	776-3864
Maya	Bohler	344-6588	Fred	Coughlan	781-749-9130
Harry L.	Boone, Jr	387-2641	Pat	Cousins	389-1342
David	Bowers	427-4150	Cris & Philamena	Cowan	334-5604
Cynthia A.	Bowles	345-6586	Martha	Cox	540-674-8456
Berlie & Patsy	Bowman	977-6082	Ted & Linda	Creighton	540-449-1600
Wes (Ollie)	Bracken	540-951-1180	Rob	Crittenden	992-5359
Denise	Brandt	970-270-9966	Rupert	Cutler	345-7653
Barbara	Bricks	344-3005	Michael & Wynette	Dalsey	540-344-0023
Carol	Broderson	540-773-3513	David	Danco	725-9658
Kenneth & Jo	Brooks	772-4877	A. Chris	Daniel	540-576-2348
Mervin & Blanche	Brower	387-9732	Theresa	Dasseretti	420-8385
Les & Kathy	Brown	387-3575	Larry & Janice	Davidson	580-7905
Peggy	Bryant	343-2084	Chase	Davidson	276-650-5035
Lynn G.	Bryant	343-2084	Shelby & Bonnie	Dickerson	774-1870
Doug	Buchanan	798-2550	Frank	Dieter	580-8002
Michael & Monica	Burgoon	343-6636	Frank & Pam	DiRamio	521-1966
John S.	Busher 3RD	540-473-1277	Mark & Kimberly	Dominesey	982-3990
Karen	Callahan	540-961-0640	Charlie & Debi	Dorsey	345-4476
Al	Campbell	992-4113	Jeanne	Duddy	344-4803
Zetta	Campbell	366-8165	Gary & Barbara	Duerk	343-1616
Harold (Hal)	Cantrill	387-2347			

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First Name	Last Name	Phone	First Name	Last Name	Phone
Jeff	Eadens	540-597-9707	Roger	Harris	540-951-3389
JoAnn	Edmunds	982-5760	Mary & Jimbo	Harshfield	344-4341
Greg,JoAnn & Haile	Edwards	580-1541	Ralph W.	Hart	366-8129
Mike	Ellery	301-910-0005	Michael G.	Haynie	989-9456
John C.	Everett Jr	603-667-5898	Dana & Marion	Helsley	977-4154
Beth	Falwell	434-942-2200	Jim	Hendricks	525-4116
Marty	Farris	761-3523	Vicky Sawyer	Herrala	540-382-4234
Mike	Ferguson	344-8525	Juanita	Hill	336-994-1053
Kim S.	Ferguson	400-7482	Charles & Naomi	Hillon	703-754-7388
Betty	Field	344-7809	Shelley	Himel	342-3104
Matt	Fitzgerald	314-6296	Robin	Hinrichs	989-6679
Andrea K.	Flora	989-3171	Yvonne	Hodgkins	745-4477
Bill	Floyd	540-951-7744	Don	Hoke	563-2902
Lisa & Mikey	Forster	540-966-1157	Jennifer	Holman	540-808-4444
Bob	Foutz	540-951-3570	Roger	Holnback	556-2919
Dan & Mei Li	Foy	265-0927	Paul	Howell	774-2619
Ed & Linda	Francisco	342-4915	Jim & Linda	Hutchings	427-4536
Robyn	Frazier	562-3389	Beckie	Johnson	977-3833
Nate	Galbreath	491-9507	Dianne Ford/Neal	Jones	336-675-844
Georgia	Gallaher	345-8700	David & Lori	Jones	540-552-3058
Mary Lou	Gaminde	344-1637	Paul W.	Jones III	774-2286
Kenny,Jesse,Lance & Britany	Garrett	293-7967	Kevin	Jordan	317-446-9193
Matthew & Colleen	Gentry	540-552-1698	Jennifer	Juul	540-674-0851
Billy	Gibson	362-3156	Leslie	Kay	540-951-7744
Baron & Tina	Gibson	268-5958	George	Kegley	366-4607
Mary	Gilbert	774-0330	David A.	Keith	890-1415
Tim & Vicky	Gillow	540-557-7910	Brian & Leigh Anne	Kelley	344-7757
Watts	Gills	776-2251	Marcia	Kelly	387-1956
Sharon	Gilpin	977-3077	Walter	Kephart	366-7051
Dena	Goldberg	366-3186	Sherry	Kessel	366-9167
Bill & Buz	Gordge	774-3016	Linda	King	342-2411
Connie	Grant	989-6131	Ray	Kirby	400-0588
Eva & John	Gray	904-7827	Tom,Denise,Sam & Brooke	Knisely	904-7312
Linda Sage	Greene	345-2291	Judy	Kniskern	890-2148
Marjorie	Griffith	819-7878	Dru	Knox	366-6681
Robert	Grubbs	992-3303	Richard & Becky	Koffman	540-473-3985
Patricia	Guzik	540-381-9697	Ursula & Siegfried	Kolmstetter	703-237-4386
William H.	Hackworth	857-8998	Rita	Krasnow	776-7654
Gary	Hale	268-5283	Don & Ruth	Kreh	977-4637
Hugh	Hall	725-8874	Richard	Krieg	400-6759
Anne	Hanna	540-965-3521	Karl	Kunkel	336-882-8711
Frank	Haranzo, Jr	362-2766			



# Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club

## July 2009

First Name	Last Name	Phone	First Name	Last Name	Phone
Richard	Kurshan	982-8400	John R.	Miller	375-3250
Jerry & Debbie	Kyle	304-558-3956	Dave	Miller	977-3142
Martha	Lacy	345-3414	Blake	Mitnick	540-745-8733
William, Rob & Rebecca	Lamar	489-4893	Melanie	Montgomery	540-489-5131
Bill & Liz	Lamson	774-8981	Margaret & Dick	Moran	389-3744
Judith	Langenhorst	384-7340	Timothy	Murphy	366-1002
Adrian & Michael	Langford	540-850-7773	Marcia	Murphy	540-552-1151
Jon & Annie	Lawrence	540-320-7822	Charles & Mary Ellen	Musgrove	345-7969
Ray	Lawson	982-2150	Kraig	Neidigh	977-4783
David	Leaman	345-5345	Bonnie	Nelson	982-2265
Billy	Leaman, Jr.	774-3905	Kathryn	Newman	588-4610
Adam	LeRoy	400-4690	Jay & Amy	Nichols	540-998-7762
Jim & Mary Lou	Lewis	977-2356	Marguerite & Tom	Noga	384-6702
B. Ivy	Lidstone	204-3304	Jack	Noll	540-381-4606
Donna	Logan	375-2792	Rhinda	North	556-6833
Charlotte	Lomax	427-2849	Don	Nulph	774-8618
Sandra & Tim	Long	904-2211	Ron	Nush	206-5100
Frank	Longaker	563-0480	Sam, Mitzi & Sammy	Oakey	342-9124
Mike & Susan	Loveman	725-8821	Cammye Lynn	Obenchain	521-8557
Gayle	Lovern	312-5970	Gary & Linda	Oberlender	774-1244
Christopher David	Lynch	540-493-4401	Reinhard	O'Neill	977-3311
John	Lynham	336-292-7637	Suzanne	Osborne	982-2936
Louise	Maloney	540-721-5602	Jim & Kathy	Overholser	343-1928
Robert & Evelyn	Manetta	345-1700	Mark C.	Packett	389-6568
Mike	Marinos	804-754-8512	Joe & Angela	Parrish	540-953-2622
Tony & Lynnette	Martin	989-4218	Charles & Gloria	Parry	540-951-1402
Taft	Martin	540-721-9956	Terry	Parsell	342-2272
Ann	Martyn	798-6824	Sara	Patterson	540-552-4731
Paul	McAnnally	774-4553	Bob & Kris	Peckman	366-7780
Mark	McClain	387-0930	David & Kelly	Perry	443-614-9059
Terri & Reid	McClure	375-2650	Samuel	Peterson	387-6114
Ron	McCorkle	982-8289	Marjorie & Dan	Petry	929-5111
Mac	McDaniel	389-1529	Jennifer	Pfister	989-1977
Jonathan	McGlumphly	540-552-8891	Dan & Kathy	Phlegar	389-1783
Mary 'Penny'	Mclver	977-2709	Rhonda	Prillaman	598-4585
Jim & Khadija	McNeeley	540-381-8836	Bonnie	Pulliam	343-5526
Carolyn R.	McPeak	890-2855	R. Lee & Inge	Pyle	540-961-5015
Diane	McVaney	540-297-5974	Stafford	Query	989-5582
Teruyo & Scott	Mercer	540-362-4690	Nancy Bower & Lindsey	Quesenberry	520-299-6599
John & Kathy	Merkwan	904-2299	Cindy & Lowell	Reardon	540-951-0246
Fred	Meyer	304-744-9219	Jonathan	Reed	265-4782

# Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club

# July 2009

First Name	Last Name	Phone	First Name	Last Name	Phone
Ron & Edith	Reese	342-1233	Bob & Polly	Stimson	540-552-0580
Rebecca	Reiff	589-0712	Bobbie	Stitcher	397-2760
Mike & Jennie	Reilly	540-382-0645	Christy	Straight	354-3396
Robert E.	Rich	513-522-2160	Sue Ann	Sumpter	904-7777
Mike	Rieley	540-587-5817	Maria	Surat	343-4982
Sharon	Rippee	387-3495	David & Linda	Sutton	774-0648
Debbie	Robbins	540-731-0078	Barbara	Swenson	540-589-9413
Pete & Donna	Roberts	540-576-5065	Ellen & Gabriel	Szego	725-8692
Andy	Robinson	309-4072	Denise & Stuart	Talbert	540-943-3589
Kathy Reiff	Ruble	380-3070	Madeleine	Taylor	556-6895
Michael	Santoroski	989-1977	Rick & Sue	Terrell	776-0705
Vada	Sarsfield	981-2428	Norman	Therrien	387-3424
Rob, Kay & April	Saul	384-6510	Greg & Cathy	Tinaglia	989-0374
Sue	Scanlin	989-0497	Ryan & Gretchen	Tipps	890-4754
Jen	Schaeffer	540-382-3497	Christine & Brian	Toevs	206-2465
Charlie	Scharnberg	342-3104	Steven	Tomaziefski	537-5360
Bruce	Sellars	774-7068	Pat	Traynor	540-552-5374
Greg	Sexton	977-4065	W. Peter	Trower	540-953-2249
Timothy C.	Shank	563-4784	Christine & Ezra	Trumbull	986-0210
Joan	Shorter	540-552-2040	Maurice	Turner	334-2128
Paul	Simms	365-2353	Mike & Sheila	Vaughn	992-1350
Robert	Simpson	774-6438	Durant	Vick	772-2555
Alan	Simpson	540-808-4444	M. Elizabeth	Vogel	617-5959
Sally	Sizer	397-3931	Jim	Walke	540-674-0851
Tom & Dolores	Skelly	342-8124	Ed	Wallace	774-0175
Nancy	Slaughter	773-2691	Robert C.	Wallenborn	982-2678
Ronald T.	Sloan	540-544-6818	Fred & Connie	Walters	977-1430
Michael "Tabasco"	Smith	540-864-6336	Chuck	Walz	774-3596
Lois C.	Smith	387-5109	Jean	Warren	384-6229
John	Smith	540-725-5779	Norvell	Wellford	343-7750
Jenny	Smith	206-3337	Jeffrey L.	Werchowski	344-7979
Debbie	Smith	529-0990	Jimmy & Kelly	Whitney	344-4117
Dave & Marianne	Snebold	776-9665	David	Wickersham	774-0439
Maurice P.	Sneller	434-392-3828	Liz	Wicks	776-1777
Mike & Carol	Sowder	540-651-6902	Beverly Day	Williamson, Jr	344-3989
Laurie & Scott	Spangler	977-1881	David C.	Wilson	521-6355
Dallas B.	St. Clair	871-7727	George Turner	Winston	989-6991
Julio, Amanda & Noah	Stephens	357-1902	Homer & Therese	Witcher	992-3932
Al	Stewart	989-0483	Jenny	Wright	774-6679
Steve, Melissa, Matthew & Lauren	Stiles	540-819-3140	Michael	Young	345-1406
Greg	Still	540-639-0168	Betty M.	Young	774-8924

The rain dripping off the trees and the wet woods made for some unique sounds and smells. Occasional fog added a mystic touch to it all. The creek crossings were quite a challenge because the rocks were very slick. We saw a number of different blooming plants, including May-apple, Fire Pink, Rue Anemone, Pink Ladyslipper, Paw-Paw Tree, White-haired Leather Flower, Phlox, Showy Orchis, Bird-on-the-Wing, Trillium, Heartleaf, Robin's Plantain, Wild Geranium, Pinkster, Bleeding Heart, Rattlesnake Weed, Bishop's Cap and others. Paul scared a turkey which flew. We heard some songbirds and an owl making itself known on this dark, cloudy day (it probably thought it was night). We missed views of the valley and river below Wilson Mountain due to fog but enjoyed the ridge walk on that trail anyway. We completed the hike around 2:00 when it began to rain once again.

**Sunday, May 3, 2009 1:00PM  
Bottom Creek Gorge**

Sue Scanlin and Bob Blankenbaker

Prior to Sunday, the outlook wasn't too good: the assistant had to bow out, only two people called, and the weather forecast didn't sound conducive to a pleasant hiking experience. However, intrepidity can indeed be rewarded: it turned out to be a very nice hike and the two of us even stayed dry.

Soon after passing the kiosk, we saw a deer that hadn't quite managed to clear the wire fence to the right while getting away from us intruders. Luckily it was able to free itself from the entanglement and off it ran. We took the Knight Trail along Bottom Creek towards the falls overlook and returned via the Duval Trail. Along the way, we saw several more deer, lots of mayapples, one spectacular huge, two-tiered, orange-colored fungus attached to a tree trunk, and even a morel (if I'm not mistaken).

After the recent rains, the falls carried a lot of water and looked particularly nice with all the new foliage in various shades of green surrounding them. Too bad that I had forgotten to bring my camera! After our snack stop at the falls, we crossed paths with a family of three, the only other visitors that afternoon. Lucky for them and us that the weather forecast hadn't been correct and this afternoon turned into a very pleasant one after all.

**Friday, May 8, 2009 6:00PM  
Moonlight Hike to McAfee Knob**

Hugh Hall (leader), Mike and Sheila Vaughn, Gary and Janie Bible, Kathy and Lauren Lockhart, Bethany Frazier, Tobie McPhail, Madison Darby with Rascal

We hiked the trail on the way up. The sky was too cloudy for us to be able to see the full moon. We encountered other hikers at the top. Darkness quickly descended upon us while we were at the top. Also, it began to rain with thunder and lightning. The rain did not last too long on the hike down. We took the fire road down. Bethany took pictures of a small frog! We all got off the mountain safely!

**Sunday, May 10, 2009 1:00PM  
Flat Top Mountain, Trillium Hike**

Dave Sutton and Dick Moran (co-leaders), Carl Cornett, Rita Krasnow with Lola, Ivy Lidstone, Mervin Brower, Mary Gilbert with Son, Fred Walters, Carol Via, Suzanne Osbourne.

It was a great day to be out-doors as was evidenced by the crowds gathered at the Peaks of the Otter picnic areas. We squeezed in a narrow parking space on a grassy shoulder off the road. We identified Wild Geranium, May Apple, Spiderwort (magenta and blue) and Iris. The view atop Flat Top Mtn (4001 ft) is awesome. Visibility we guessed was 70 miles or more. A few trees had fallen over the trail recently, yet moving over them was easy. All were pretty tired in a good way when we reached the parking area. The Trillium hike lived up to its name.

**Sunday, May 17, 2009 8:00AM  
Rock Castle Gorge**

Cancelled due to heavy rains.

**Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24, 2009 8:00AM  
Mountain Lake, Stony Creek Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Hal Cantrill, Bob Foutz, Theresa Knox, David Jones, Lori Jones, Denise Brandt, Mary Halling

This was our usual spring maintenance trip into this area. On Saturday, Hal, David and Lori worked along Big Stony Creek, while the remainder of us drove to the Wind Rock parking and worked our way down to Stony Creek. I carried a chainsaw in the club saw pack and had to use it several times. However, I only filled up with gas once, so there were not a lot of big logs to be cut. During the day, we met several thru hikers, including a couple at Bailey Gap Shelter who had seen Taylor Witcher several times. We had some clipping to do, but overall it was in quite good shape. We did hit one major blowdown about half a mile from our finish. Shortly after that we met Hal coming in from the other direction. One thing we took note of was the area of the controlled burn of two years ago. It is starting to green up along the bottom and looks better than it did each of the last two years. However, there is still a lot of dead

brush along that side of the trail and it will still be a few years before it looks as good as it did before the burn. After getting down to Stony Creek, Hal drove us back up the mountain where Bob's car and my truck were parked.

On Sunday we had just four people, which was enough. The job was to go through the AT in the Mountain Lake Wilderness area from the Wind Rock parking area to War Spur Trail. Again we found only small blow-downs and not too much clipping. Also several thru hikers passed us during the day. Actually, we removed more large blow-downs from the War Spur Trail than we did on the AT. We felt we had a successful weekend getting 10 to 11 miles of the AT back into good condition.

**Sunday, May 31, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Curry Gap ( BRP) to Fullhardt Knob**  
**Beginner's Hike**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Fred Walters, Mary Gilbert, Steve Tomazieski with his dog

Only four humans and one dog went on this hike (never did get the dog's name down). We might have had two dogs, but Mary's dog Son preferred the couch to the trail this time. After thunderstorms the night before, it was a real treat to wake up to blue skies, a sunlit world and clear air. All along the route of this hike were lots and lots of mountain laurel in full bloom—a plethora of them, you might say, and I do! The leader led from the rear and let the young'uns scamper up the trail. We met several through hikers along the way, on their way from Springer Mountain to Katahdin. It's that time of the year. Fred wondered how 2,000 hikers starting at about the same time managed, especially at the beginning, so he asked one of them. He admitted it was "a mess". As for this hike, one of our number opined this was not a beginner's hike. I would agree, but I had asked for it. It was beautiful, though.

**Sunday, June 7, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Spesard Knob Loop**

Dave Wickersham (leader), Mary Gilbert with Son, Hugh Hall with Rascal, Carl Nave and Dave Socky

This was a unique RATC outing to say the least. We started out by driving through four fords of Broad Run, still somewhat swollen from recent rains. We had two high clearance vehicles and the water was over the front bumper at times.

The southern end of Broad Run Mountain splits into two ridges. This was basically a circuit tour of both. The entire hike was not on any trail. We navigated by topo map, compass and sight, when we could see through the forest canopy that is.

We started out climbing straight up Broad Run Mountain on an old firebreak. We turned west and followed the gradually descending ridgeline down to a couple of saddles and then back up to the peak of Spesard Knob. We had one short period of confusion in the area of the saddles. We soon figured out we were right where we were supposed to be. This was the only navigation vacillation of the day.

We followed a major ridgeline north down to a beautiful glade where we crossed a stream with some gurgling cascades. The dogs drank their fill while the rest of us cooled off by splashing the cold water on our faces.

We hiked up another ridge line heading north up onto the other major ridge passing through some burn areas from a fire a few years ago. This ridge kept climbing to a knob where a turn to the southeast led us down to a saddle and back up to the ridge we started on. We cruised along that ridge for about a mile in a southwesterly direction and back to the point where we initially topped out on the ridge. Down the steep fire break we went and we were soon back to the vehicles.

Everyone enjoyed the unique test of a cross-country off-trail hike and the aerobic challenge of the many ups and downs.

## 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.**

**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.**

**Sunday, July 5, 2009 1:00PM  
Read Mountain Trail**

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

Join us for a hike up the trail to the summit of Read Mountain. The trail was built by the mid-week work crew and was opened last year. There are good views of McAfee Knob from the summit of the mountain.

**John Miller** ..... 375-3250  
**Dave Sutton** ..... 774-0648

**Sunday, July 19, 2009 8:30AM  
Andy Layne Trail Work Hike**

4 miles, Moderate, \$0.50 carpool fee  
7 miles from Roanoke

We will be doing general trail maintenance, including clipping and blow-down removal, on the Andy Layne Trail. We are expecting some people from the Roanoke Cement Company to join us on this work hike.

**Charles Parry** ..... 540-951-1402  
**Kris Peckman** ..... 366-7780

**Sunday, July 12, 2009 8:00AM  
Catawba Mountain ( Rt. 311 ) to Andy Layne Trail ( Rt. 779 ) 113-Mile Hike #4**

11.5 miles, Srenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee  
10 miles from Roanoke

This hike 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.

**Dick Moran** ..... 389-3744  
**Chuck Walz**..... 774-3596

**Sunday, July 26, 2009 8:00AM  
Rock Castle Gorge**

11.0 miles, Strenuous, \$5.00 carpool fee  
57 miles from Roanoke

This is a make-up hike for one that was rained out in May. Located in Patrick County, on Blue Ridge Parkway land. After a steep 2,000-foot ascent, the hike parallels the Parkway – passing alternately through woods and open fields with extraordinary views. On the descent down the other side of the gorge, the hike passes some old cabin sites and a series of interesting rock formations. The last few miles are along Rock Castle Creek – a wild stream with many cataracts.

**Mike & Sheila Vaughn** .....992-1350  
**Fred Meyer** ..... 304-744-9219

**Sunday, July 12, 2009 1:00PM  
Roaring Run**

2.0 miles, Easy, \$2.75 carpool fee  
27 miles from Roanoke

Located in Botetourt County. The hike visits a cascading stream and scenic waterfalls, standing pre-civil war iron ore furnace, used for making iron ingots, stoves, and other iron products for the building of America.

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

**Sunday, July 26, 2009 1:00PM  
Otter Creek Trail**

3.4 miles, Easy, \$4.00 carpool fee  
44 miles from Roanoke

Located in Amherst County just off the Blue Ridge Parkway and a little way from James River. The trail follows Otter Creek from the Otter Creek campground to the James River

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

**Sunday, August 2, 2009 8:00AM  
Cove Mountain/Little Cove Mountain Loop**

12.7 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
23 miles from Roanoke

This hike will be a loop hike utilizing the Cove Mountain Trail, AT and Little Cove Mountain Trail. We will begin on the Cove Mountain Trail and follow it to the AT. We will then hike south on the AT past Little Cove Mountain Shelter to the junction of the Little Cove Mountain Trail. We will descend the Little Cove Mountain Trail 2.8 miles to Jennings Creek and walk 0.7 mile on the road to its intersection with the AT. We will then follow the AT back south to its junction with the Buchanan and Cove Mountain Trails and then return to the starting point on the same Cove Mountain Trail. This hike will have a good bit of climbing, so be prepared for that and possible hot weather.

**Larry Austin** ..... 254-2092  
**Lois Smith** ..... 387-5109

**Sunday, August 2, 2009 1:00PM  
Falls Ridge**

5.0 miles, Moderate, \$2.00 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. The 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** ..... 540-334-2128

**Saturday & Sunday, August 8 & 9, 2009 8:00AM  
Bluff City Relocation Work Hike**

0.5 miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee  
60 miles from Roanoke

We will be working with the Konnarock Crew on relocating a section of trail near Pearisburg in Bland County.

**Charles Parry** ..... 540-951-1402  
**Dick Clark** ..... 989-7053

**Saturday, August 8, 2009 6 to 9 PM  
Annual Cornboil – Green Hill Park**

The Club will provide pork BBQ, Corn, fixings, beverage and table service. Members bring a covered dish (big enough for the Konnarock Crew)

Directions from I-81 Exit 137:  
Turn Right (West) onto US-11/460/W Main  
Pass Old Virginia Brick –  
Left at next light on Diuguids Lane.  
2501 Parkside Rd, Salem, VA 24153  
Park is on right; Shelter No.2 in back.

**Sunday, August 16, 2009 1:00PM  
Black Horse Gap to Bobblet’s Gap  
Beginner’s Hike**

4.9 miles, Moderate, \$1.00 carpool fee  
13 miles from Roanoke

The hike starts at Black Horse Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This is the northern terminus of the section of the AT maintained by the RATC. The hike will go north on the AT to Bobblet’s Gap. There are limited views along the trail of the valley below.

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

**Sunday, August 23, 2009 8:00AM  
St. Mary’s River**

8.0 miles, Strenuous, \$6.00 carpool fee  
63 miles from Roanoke

This hike will be along the St. Mary River in the St. Mary’s Wilderness Area in Augusta County, north of Roanoke. We will be passing several swimming holes, so bring your bathing suit and a towel so you can take a dip in the river.

**Kris Peckman** ..... 366-7780  
**John Merkwan** ..... 904-2299

**Sunday, August 30, 2009 8:00AM  
Montebello Fish Hatchery to Crabtree Falls**

8.1 miles, Strenuous, \$6.00 carpool fee  
64 miles from Roanoke

This hike starts at the Montebello Fish hatchery in Nelson County. The hike starts with a steady climb up an old fire road. At 1.0 miles it intersects the A.T. The hike will then head north on the A.T. After a half mile we will reach Spy Rock. Spy Rock is a granite dome with great, 360 degree, views of the Priest Wilderness

area and other surrounding mountains. It requires some rock scrambling to get to the top. The hike will continue on the A.T. for another three miles to the intersection with the Crab Tree Falls trail. At 1,200 feet this falls is the highest east of the Mississippi. We will descend along the falls trail back to the parking lot.

Gary Bible ..... 977-2954
John Merkwan ..... 904-2299

Sunday, September 13, 2009 8:00AM
North Mountain Trail

10.4 miles, Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee
9 miles from Roanoke

The hike starts in Botetourt County and follows the border of Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke counties; it climbs North Mountain on the gently graded Catawba Valley Trail, which begins just opposite the Andy Layne Trail on Route 779. The rest of the hike is an up-and-down ridge walk, with views on both sides visible through the trees in winter.

Fred Walters ..... 977-1430
Linda King ..... 342-2411

Sunday, September 13, 2009 1:00PM
Grassy Hill Nature Preserve

6.0 miles, Moderate, \$3.00 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 ..... 540-334-2128

Sunday, September 20, 2009 8:00AM
Big Horse Gap Work Hike

Some miles, Moderate, \$6.00 carpool fee
66 miles from Roanoke

We will continue leveling a rocky area of the trail that was begun in March in the Big Horse Gap Area, south of Pearisburg.

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

Sunday, September 27, 2009 1:00PM
Mill Mountain Star Trail

3.4 miles, Easy, \$.00 carpool fee
0 miles from Roanoke

This hike starts off Riverland Road just below the water tower. Passing mostly through woods, it climbs over 800 feet from just above the Roanoke River to the top of Mill Mountain, once crossing the J.B. Fishburn Parkway. The return to the Star Trail parking lot follows the same route.

Dave Sutton ..... 774-0648
John Miller ..... 375-3250

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 \_\_\_\_\_
OR
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club is an affiliate of  
The Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
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