

# TRAIL BLAZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROANOKE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

Winter 2010

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 Potluck Banquet  
& Business Meeting  
Saturday March 13**

### WORK HIKES

**Sunday, January 17 - 8:00 AM  
Bluff City Relocation**

**Sunday, February 21 - 8:00 AM  
Bluff City Relocation**

**Sunday, March 21 - 8:00 AM  
Big Horse Gap Rock Work**

### 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, January 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Hosted by Roger Holnback**

**Monday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Hosted by Mervin & Blanche Brower**

**Monday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Hosted by Bob Blankenbaker**

### Lost Camera

An OLYMPUS Camedia model D-540 Zoom was lost on October 14<sup>th</sup>. It dropped out of the case either at the parking lot on 311 or along the fire road near 311. Call Frank Haranzo at 540-362-2766.

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**Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club  
Annual Potluck and Business  
Meeting  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM (Saturday)**

**Christ Lutheran Church, Corner of  
Grandin and Brandon  
Dinner served promptly at 6:30 PM**

**Program: To Be Announced**

**No reservation Necessary**

### Want to Help?

**Call Carolyn McPeak, 890-2855**

## Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club welcomes the following new members:

*Bruce Davidson*

*Sally Shugart*

*Ray & Gay Wilson*

*Scott Morris*

*Laura Wickstead*

And we thank **David Cullen, Matt & Colleen Gentry, Marguerite & Tom Noga, and Rebecca Terrill** for donating to the support and maintenance of the trail.

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

*Bob Blankenbaker*

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## Park Service Awards

Each year the club gets to give out National Park Service Awards for cumulative service. This includes all types of service: trail maintenance, hike leading, helping with the social events, and work as a club officer. We give a pin for 40 hours and 125 hours, a patch for 250 hours, a hat for 500 hours and a vest for 1000 hours. This year's winners for a pin are Carl Cornett, Dallas St. Clair, David Jones, Hal Cantrill, Jean Warren, Joe Kelley, Jonathan

McGlumphy, Matt Gentry, Merv Brower, Ron Sloan, Theresa Knox, Wes Barnes, and Zetta Campbell. Those getting a patch are Bill Floyd, Blanche Brower, Carol McPeak, John Miller, and Kenny Garrett. No one got a hat this year. Bob Peckman and Homer Witcher both earned their second vest. Several of the pin and patch winners are also on the second time around.

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## Trail Supervisor's Report

As many of you know, Kerry Wood left the Blacksburg AT office last August. He has been replaced by Joe Parrish. I have not yet met Joe, but have received some email from him including the Konnarock schedule for next year. The crews will be working with RATC next year July 1-5 and August 5-9 on the Bluff City relocation. We hope

to finish that project next year. We will be doing some related work this winter, constructing a short connector trail between the old and new AT which will become a blue blaze trail taking hikers into town.

*Charles Parry*

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Cantos Booksellers has for sale "*Trails in Southwest Virginia, James River to New River*" by the Outing Club of Virginia Tech and the Appalachian Trail Conference. Cantos is at 18 Campbell Ave near the Roanoke Farmer's Market, 540-342-0100.

## Hikemaster's Report

The next ATC Biennial Conference will be held on July 8 -11, 2011 at Emory and Henry College, near Abingdon, Virginia. The conference will be hosted by several ATC clubs in Virginia, including the RATC. Our club is responsible for planning and scheduling all of the non-hike excursions for the conference. These include activities such as whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and biking. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the excursion planning committee. If you are interested, please contact the committee chairman, John Miller, at 375-3250.

"The forests of America, however slighted by man, must have been a great delight to God, for they were the best he ever planted."

*John Muir*

I greatly enjoyed watching the national parks special that was shown on PBS in September. The program was directed by Ken Burns. It was fascinating to see the history of how the individual parks came to be created. In many cases, it was the work of one person or a small group of people that was critical in getting the early parks founded. These included Crater Lake, Mesa Verde, and Yosemite National Parks. John Muir, in particular, worked tirelessly for many years for the creation of Yosemite NP and the addition of the incomparable Yosemite Valley to the park. Back East, both Arcadia and Smoky Mountains National Parks were created through the work of two groups of local citizens, who saw how logging and development were destroying the forests in their area.

The Appalachian Trail is also in the National Park system. The Trail was founded by Benton MacKaye.

In 1921, he published an article "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning", that outlined his ideas about the creation of a trail that would run along the spine of the Appalachians. He envisioned a trail that would go from Mt. Washington, the highest point in New England to Mt. Mitchell, the highest point in the southern Appalachians. MacKaye, and a small group of other outdoor enthusiasts, most notably Myron Avery, spent years turning the original concept into the trail we enjoy today.

MacKaye's original article stated "the trail should be divided into sections... each section should be in the immediate charge of a local group of people". Eighty years later this is still the case; some 30 clubs maintain sections of trail. The RATC maintains 120 miles of the AT. All who use and enjoy the trail reap the benefits of the work of this early band of hard-working nature lovers.

As current members, the stewardship of the trail has been passed on to us. Having a well-maintained trail is essential, so that everyone who wants to can get out into the mountains and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors. I strongly encourage every club member to get involved in some way, no matter how small. There are ample opportunities for everyone, whether participating in work hikes, leading recreational hikes, maintaining a section of trail, or helping put on the club social events. Several current RATC members have put in well over a thousand hours each helping to maintain the Trail. The creation and continued existence of the Appalachian Trail is truly one of the greatest volunteer-led endeavors in our nation's history.

*Mike Vaughn*

## Hike Reports

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

Maurice Turner (leader), H.R. Blankenship, David and Susan Roquemore, Mary Gilbert and Sonny, Zetta Campbell, David Bowers and Catcher, Margarita Cubas, Bob Blankenbaker.

This was a "hike your own hike" since everyone drove to the trailhead and some did part of the 6.5 miles while others did the entire trail system. The DCR folks advise we hikers should keep dogs on a leash. We encountered some other hikers who had lost their

dog on Saturday. The lady had given me their phone number in case we saw their dog but we didn't see it on the trail. Concerned, I called her later in the week; and fortunately, they found their dog on Tuesday at a nearby home.

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

Rained out.

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

David Sutton & John Miller (co-leaders), H.R. Blankenship, Zetta Campbell, Bob Blankenbaker.

Five of us weekend hikers met at the gravel parking area just off Riverland Rd, around 1PM. It was a great day for hiking, considering the day before was a drencher. The Star Trail and the Monument Trail are both in good condition. There is some erosion on the road leading to the water tower (Thrush Trail junction). We were met on top of Mill Mt. by three additional hikers (Linda Sutton, Sherry Kessel and her friend Linda), who opted to walk a smoother route (the paved road via "Rockledge Mansion"). It was a good hike and an enjoyable day.

**Sunday, October 4, 2009 8:00AM  
A.T., Petites Gap to James River**

John Miller & Karen Callahan (co-leaders), Carl Cornett, H. R. Blankenship, Pat Guzik, Sarah Cuthbertson, Diana Christopoulos, Mark McClain, and Mike and Sheila Vaughn

The hike started with windy conditions and temperatures in the lower 50s. We warmed up fast as we made our way up Highcock Knob. The most prominent flowers were asters. They were mostly white and lavender. Some of the leaves on some of the trees had started to turn so there were patches of yellow and red but still mostly green in the forest canopy. A deer posed for several pictures by different hikers. She had found a spot about ten feet off the trail and was not inclined to move. We were all treated to expansive views of the wilderness area that held no evidence of human activity except the trail. We also got peeks of the James River through the trees on our way down to the shore of the river. We ended our hike after crossing the foot bridge with sunny weather and temperatures in the lower 70s.

**Sunday, October 4, 2009 1:00PM  
Fallingwater Cascades Beginner Hike**

Zetta Campbell (leader), Sherri Kessel, Laura Wickstead

Many people were out on the Parkway on this beautiful sunny day. Several were on this trail.

This was only a two-miler, scarcely a hike, some might say, and only three showed up for it but, don't be influenced by low numbers. The trail was excellent and so was the companionship. This short trail was not a "piece of cake". This loop trail goes down, down, down and up, up, up back to the parking lot. We all agreed the best way is to start by taking the trail to the right as you face away from the Parkway. It is rocky in places and has many steps. It is also the prettiest part

of the trail as it parallels the descending cascades, sparkling in the sun, and today the foliage had the beginnings of fall color. We crossed the second bridge across the stream and began the ascent back to the parking lot. Here there is much less rock work and hence is easier from that standpoint. The trail then leaves the stream. Before you reach the parking lot, you make a final ascent and end by descending to it. This is certainly worth a return visit.

**Saturday, October 17, 2009 9:00AM  
A.T., Black Horse Gap to Troutville (Route 11),  
113 Mile Hikes #1 & 2  
Joint hike with Natural Bridge Trail Club**

RATC: Kenny Garrett & Steve Tomaziefski (co-leaders), Maya Bohler, and Jim Walke  
NBTC: Steve Tanner (leader), Shruthi Srivatsan, Francly Rubin, and Robert Owen

What a beautiful early fall day. This was a great day for a joint hike between RATC and NBTC. The morning started off a little chilly, but we began with a brisk pace from Black Horse Gap to Wilson Creek Shelter. Once at the shelter, everyone was warming up. The new friendships were forged as we walked and talked. We hit the ups and downs next as we strolled from Wilson Creek Shelter to our lunch stop at Salt Pond Road. I believe the signs are deceiving as we passed one stating .5 mile to Salt Pond Road. It was a very long half mile climb. As we stood at Salt Pond Road looking back, the sign there read .8 mile back to the Curry Creek Trail intersection. After lunch, we headed to our next rest break at Fullhardt Knob Shelter. As a group, we began the descent towards Mountain Pass Road. On the way down the mountain, we met a hardcore northbound hiker trekking towards Maine. He stated he enjoyed hiking in the cold weather. We wished him well. We crossed our last little hill across the pasture and ended at the trailhead at Rt. 11. Jim Walke carried on to the Daleville Parking Lot which completed his hike of the RATC section. I believe we should coordinate more joint hikes with our sister club.

**Sunday, October 18, 2009 11:00AM  
Brushy Mountain**

Jean Warren, Sue Scanlin, H.R. Blankenship (leaders)

Yes, I consider that we were ALL leaders on this day. I was the official, Sue the co-leader, and H.R. who knew the way. Since I wasn't feeling that well, H.R. and Sue completed the 6-mile loop. It's a hike that not many people use, it's close by, a great leg stretcher with a steep climb, and pretty terrain. Other highlights were the remnants of the charred trees from the fire almost two years ago, as well as the castle home on the drive to the hiking parking lot. Great ingredients for a good

hike! The morning rain might have deterred some hikers, but the day was actually very pleasant.

**Sunday, October 25, 2009 8:00AM**  
**Sinking Creek Mountain Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Chase Davidson, David Jones, Lori Jones, Ron Sloan, Tim Gillow

It was a beautiful day, but a long climb up the Sarver Trail to the Shelter. We stopped briefly at the shelter before going on to the top of the mountain. It only took us a little while to flag the short relocation. It took several hours of clearing, raking and digging before the trail was ready to blaze. The old trail, which crossed some slanted rocks on the east side of the ridge, was always sliding down the mountain. The new trail on the west side of the ridge should not have that problem. Before we got ready to leave, some hikers came through and initiated the new trail.

**Sunday, October 25, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Sharp Top Mountain**

Gary Bible and Mary Gilbert (co-leaders), Carl Cornett, Melanie Montgomery, Matt Fitzgerald, and 2 trail dogs

We met at 8:00 in Daleville and soon departed for Sharp Top. The weather was beautiful, just perfect for a fine day in the woods. It appeared many others thought the same, as we had many other hikers and plenty of other trail dogs to keep us company. We had a brisk hike up the mountain. Even with the crowds, we were able to find a spot at the summit to enjoy the views, eat a snack, and enjoy fellowship with one another. On the descent, we escaped a bit of the crowd by walking the side trail to Buzzard's Roost. We finished our descent and drove back to Daleville. A good time was had by all.

**Sunday, November 1, 2009 8:00AM**  
**Ferrier – Lick Branch – North Mountain Trails**

John Merkwon and Dick Moran (leaders), H.R. Blankenship, Steve Tomaziefski

It was "Touch and Go" as we watched a slow moving front move through the area on Saturday night through Sunday morning depositing up to 2 inches of rain. Rain was still heavy that morning and sprinkles continued as four hardy (or fool hardy) souls gathered at the meeting point. I had changed the start point for the hike so we had a quick 20 minute drive and by that time the sprinkles had stopped and although the sun did not come out that day we stayed dry from the ankles up. Only ankles up since the 2 inches of rain was still flowing down the mountain streams and the Lick Branch piece of this hike seemed determined to cross back and forth just for the heck of it at times. I had

advertised this hike at 7.6 miles but made a rookie mistake in not counting for all the switchbacks when I measured the distance off of the map and it hiked at 10+ miles. (5 3/4hrs) This hike also included a minor hill (Lick Mountain) and two ascents of Broad Run Mountain the longer being on our return. Although challenged on this hike, all hikers enjoyed the experience and looked forward to a well earned beverage of choice in the comfort of their recliners upon return to their homes.

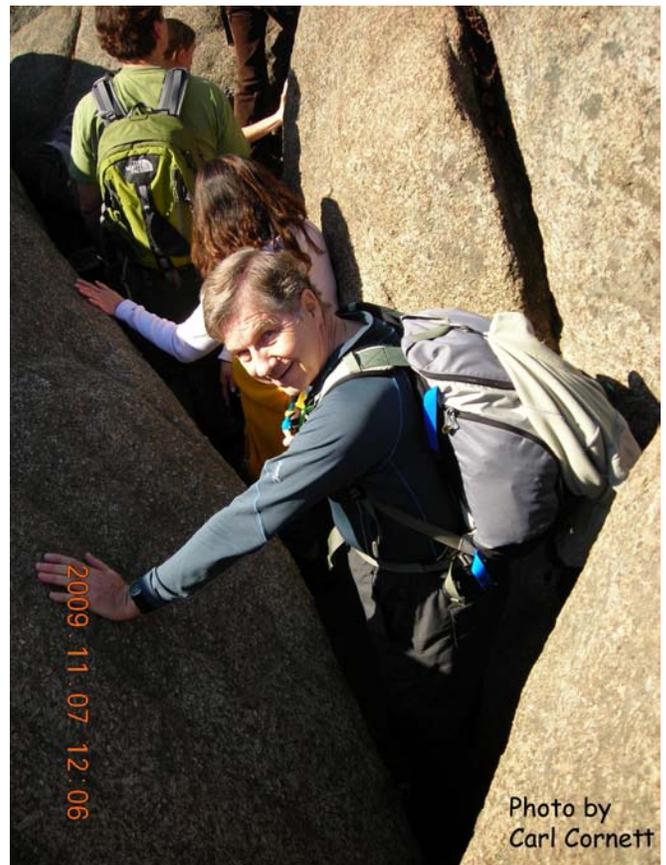
**Sunday, November 1, 2009 1:00PM**  
**Read Mountain Trail**

Dave Sutton & Karen Callahan (co-leaders) and Linda Sutton

It is believed, overcast and drizzle conditions caused a low hiker turn out (very low). The mid-week crew did a fantastic job in creating this hike to the top of Read Mountain (elev. 2346 ft). The view from Buzzard's Roost is phenomenal. Other designated "view points" have been created to give us a good look at the Roanoke Valley. On our way down the mountain, we identified red oak, black jack oak, mountain pine, and pipsissewa (wintergreen--herb). We had a good hike and a fun trek.

**Saturday, November 7, 2009 7:00AM**  
**Old Rag Mountain**

Mike (leader) & Sheila Vaughn, Carl Cornett (assistant), H.R. Blankenship



Old Rag Mountain is located in Shenandoah National Park. At 1.2 billion years old, it is much older than the Appalachians. It stands by itself separate from the Blue Ridge chain through the rest of the park. Its bare granite peak has a very distinctive profile that can be seen for miles around. The 7.6-mile loop trail over the mountain is extremely popular. The day of our hike was no exception. The large parking lot was nearly full when we arrived. The beautiful, sunny fall weather had helped make this a particularly busy day on the trail.

The climb to the summit is one of the steepest in Virginia. The trail gains 2,500 feet in altitude in less than three miles. It is steep and rocky in the last half mile, with several places that require some rock climbing. The 360-degree view from the top makes the climb well worth it. The large round boulders perched improbably at the top of the mountain are always interesting to see. The descent down the trail and fire road on the back of the mountain was uneventful. Several park emergency vehicles passed us on the way down. Back at the base of the mountain, we found at the ranger station that a climber had fallen and sustained internal injuries.

We made it back to Roanoke by about 7:00.

**Sunday, November 15, 2009 1:00PM  
Troutville (Rt 11) to Fullhardt Knob**

Maurice Turner & Blanche Brower (co-leaders), Mervin Brower, Kathy & Les Brown, Bruce Sellars and Dave Sutton.

This was a beautiful sunny day with warm temperatures for our afternoon hike. We met some hikers on the way to the Knob and one person at the shelter who belonged to the club several years ago. In talking with him, we learned he had section hiked the entire Appalachian Trail. We also learned from him while hiking the old trail back down that Peggy Childress had been camping in the area recently. After hiking out the old trail and a mile road walk, we were back on the present AT and then a short hike back to our vehicles. We only saw one deer hiking to the Knob but the views were beautiful. Five of us decided to eat at Cracker Barrel on the way back.

**Sunday, November 22, 2009 8:00AM  
Andy Layne Trail Work Hike**

Charles Parry, Dick Clark, Fred Meyer, Susan Sperduto, Steve Burt, Will Conyers

It was supposed to rain that day, but did not. It was cloudy with the sun breaking through at times. The purpose of the work hike was to replace some steps that had come loose on the upper part of the trail. Fortunately, we had permission to drive up across cement company property to get to the trail. In fact, they even provided us with an escort. We left 2 cars in their parking lot and drove up in Steve's and my trucks. As I remembered, the steps were still close by and all we needed to do was cut some new stakes and dig a place to reset the steps. On the way up, I took note of a few spots where the trail needed regrading. On the way down we did regrading in three separate locations. We finished around 3:30, but felt we had done a good day's work.

**Sunday, November 22, 2009 1:00PM  
Flat Top Mountain**

Cancelled, no takers.

**Sunday, November 29, 2009 8:00AM  
Douthat State Park**

RATC: Kris Peckman (leader), Maya Bohler (assistant), Larry Austin, H.R. Blankenship, Carl Cornett, Pat Guzik, Anne Hanna, Jimbo Harshfield, Carol McPeak, and Bob Peckman  
Roanoke Outdoor & Social Club: Sarah Cuthbertson (leader), Charles Allen, Steve Roberts, and Ileana Serra

Maybe it was the need to work off some turkey, or maybe the lovely warm weather (some of us were down to T-shirts at times), but whatever it was, it brought out fourteen of us for a hike on the trails on the east side of Douthat State Park. We were joined by four Roanoke Outdoor and Social Club members for what we hope will be one of many joint hikes. The vistas all around us were magnificent, from the Cowpasture River valley to the east, to the lake below us and Middle Mountain across the lake to the west. After traveling the length of the eastern ridge of the park, we descended the Beards Gap trail along a lovely creek. Most of the group then crossed the road and climbed partway up the west side on the Beards Gap Hollow trail, took the Locust Gap trail over to the Stony Run trail on which they returned to the road, while the rest walked along the creek to return to the cars. One participant, having lived only on flat land, met the challenge of hills for the first time and conquered! Thanks to Maya and Carol for their invaluable assistance, and to Sarah for bringing the ROSC to join us. To Anne Hanna, welcome back and we hope to see you soon again.

**Sunday, November 29, 2009 11:00AM**  
**Dragon's Tooth Parking Lot to Trout Creek,**  
**McAfee's Knob Parking Lot to Route 785**  
**113 Mile Hike #6**

Jean Warren (leader), Steven Tomaziefski, Donna Mitchell, Alan Matsumoto, Mary Gilbert (and canine "Son"), and Fred Walters

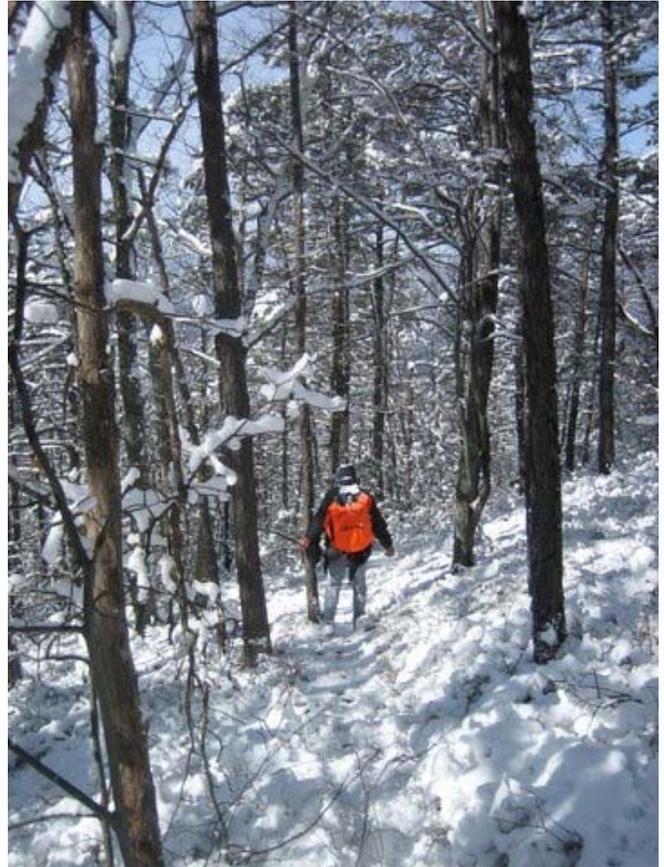
What a beautiful day to walk off Thanksgiving dinner with sunny skies and 64-degree temperature! We made the car switch at the beginning, which made a wonderful one-way hike. We started hiking at the top of Catawba Mountain parking lot and met a man who had recently completed the A.T., but was repeating certain sections (quite a testament for him to select this area). Since he had just replenished his food supply, he was carrying well over 60 lbs. On the other hand, our group stopped about 50 yards into the hike and took a break for pictures. Such a gorgeous view with clear skies, watching a hawk soar, as well as some unusual clouds that looked like UFOs. The fallen leaves made the up-and-down climb of the well deserved name of sawtooth rather tricky. The end of the hike with the opening pasture and stream is always a treat. It's always fun to have a car waiting at the end to take us back to the parking lot.

**Sunday, December 6, 2009 8:00AM**  
**Wilson Mountain/Sprouts Run Loop**  
**Price Mountain/Sulphur Ridge Plus**

John Merkwon (leader), Carl Cornett, and H.R. Blankenship

Sprouts Run was very high and it had four crossings before getting to high ground so I changed it to a ridge top hike on Price Mountain. You could call it Price Mountain/Sulphur Ridge-Plus since we stretched the five miles into ten by doing an extended out and back on Price Mountain. I had two hearty souls join me in this winter wonderland hike. Sunday was dry and cold with temperatures in the mid twenties when we started and warmed up to about 35 when we finished 4 1/2 hours later. Carl was sporting a blaze orange vest he recently acquired in Pennsylvania which had "Don't shoot me, I'm a hiker!" emblazoned on the back. Wildlife report includes one squirrel and a few deer tracks in the snow. We did notice one itty bitty bird track in the snow that continued for about 10 yards in the snow - I thought birds had wings. The snow was abundant with a 4" base and drifts to 12".

Surprisingly the going was not that bad because we were oblivious to what was underfoot since it was covered with snow.



**Sunday, December 6, 2009 11:00AM**  
**Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

Sheila (leader) & Mike Vaughn, Neil Fitzpatrick, Dan & Kathy Phlegar

It was cold and sunny when we started out from the parking lot on Catawba Mountain. Luckily there was no wind. It had snowed the day before. The trees and forest floor looked great with the covering of fresh, powdery snow. We took the fire road up to the AT crossing. The snow got gradually deeper as we climbed. We saw a couple of hikers heading back down and no one else at the cliffs. It was partly cloudy and colder at the knob. The views were still great. There was about six inches of snow at the top of the mountain. On our way back down we ran into Zetta Campbell, who was out for an afternoon hike. She was moving along great for someone even much younger.

## 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, January 3, 2010 8:30AM  
Cove Mountain/Cove Creek Basin**

10 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
22 miles from Roanoke

This hike will begin on the Cove Mountain Trail at Arcadia, VA, and will take in portions of the Buchanan Trail, Glenwood Horse Trail, and Little Cove Mountain Trail. Good views of surrounding mountains, along with a waterfall, are visible on this hike.

**Larry Austin .....254-2092**  
**Lois Smith .....862-7370**

top of the mountain was farms. Several slanted rocks offer views of Craig Creek Valley and the mountains beyond.

**Linda King .....342-2411**  
**Chase Davidson..... 276-650-5035**

**Sunday, January 10, 2010 1:00PM  
Brushy Mountain**

6.0 miles, Moderate, \$.50 carpool fee  
5 miles from Roanoke

This is a 6-mile loop hike near Hanging Rock, at the end of Timberview Road. The two-mile ascent to Brushy Mountain is rather steep but the reward comes on the return. The hike offers glimpses of Carvin's Cove Reservoir, McAfee's Knob, and is just something a little different.

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

**Sunday, January 3, 2010 1:00PM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt 311) to McAfee Knob**

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

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

**Dick Moran .....389-3744**  
**Rushdat Hale.....309-7263**

**Sunday, January 17, 2010 8:00AM  
Bluff City Relocation Work Hike**

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

We will work in the Bluff City area on a short connector trail between the old and new ATs. This trail and part of the old AT will provide a route into town once the AT relocation is completed.

**Charles Parry..... 540-951-1402**  
**Maurice Turner .....334-2128**

**Sunday, January 10, 2010 8:00AM  
Sinking Creek to Lee Hollow, 113 Mile Hike #8**

10.4 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
18 miles from Roanoke

Located in Craig County, the hike climbs up Sinking Creek Mountain, then follows the ridge where rock piles and old apple trees remain from the days when even the

**Sunday, January 17, 2010 1:00PM  
Troutville (Rt 11) to Fullhardt Knob**

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

The hike is located in Botetourt County. This up-and-back Appalachian Trail hike begins at a small parking lot on Route 11 at the Troutville town limits. After crossing railroad tracks, hikers ascend a grassy hill with excellent views. The trail then crosses a road and begins the climb to Fullhardt Knob. We will use part of the old A.T. on the hike back down.

**Dave Sutton** .....774-0648  
**Sue Scanlin** .....989-0497

**Sunday, January 24, 2010 8:00AM  
Broad Run Mountain – Lick Branch Loop**

8.8 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
26 miles from Roanoke

The hike will start at the Lick Branch Trailhead, (the one on the New Castle side of Broad Run Mountain -- near the Ferrier Trailhead). We will bushwhack up one of the main side ridges till we reach the top of Broad Run Mountain. The hike will then follow the ridgeline to the intersection with the Lick Branch Trail. We will turn onto the Lick Branch Trail, which will lead us back down the mountain, down Lick Branch and back to the trailhead. Although the first half of the hike is off-trail there is limited undergrowth so the footing is easy; however there is considerable elevation gain.

**Dave Wickersham**.....774-0439  
**Carl Cornett**.....342-3950

**Sunday, January 24, 2010 1:00PM  
Trout Creek (Rt. 620) to Pickle Branch Shelter**

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

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

**Kenny Garrett**.....293-7967  
**John Miller** .....375-3250

**Sunday, January 31, 2010 8:00AM  
Cascades/Barney’s Wall**

7.9 miles, Moderate, \$5.00 carpool fee  
54 miles from Roanoke

Located in Giles County near Pembroke, the hike will first go along Little Stony Creek, to the Cascades – an impressive waterfall. It will then go up the nature Conservancy Trail to Barney’s Wall, a cliff that features

a 700 foot drop. There is a great view of the New River Valley from Barney’s Wall. The Forest Service charges a nominal fee (\$3.00) to park at the trailhead.

**Kris Peckman**.....366-7780  
**Karen Callahan**..... 540-961-0640

**Sunday, February 7, 2010 8:00AM  
Lee Hollow (Rt 621) To Trout Creek (Rt 620)  
113 Mile Hike #7**

8.8 miles, Strenuous, \$1.50 carpool fee  
15 miles from Roanoke

This hike will begin with a steady climb up Brush Mountain in Craig County. We will then walk along the ridgeline with a stop at the Audie Murphy Monument. There are great views along the ridge. At the end of the hike we will make the steep descent down to scenic Trout Creek.

**Mike Vaughn**.....992-1350  
**Maya Bohler**.....344-6588

**Sunday, February 7, 2010 1:00PM  
Dragon’s Tooth Parking to Dragon’s Tooth**

5.2 miles, Moderate, \$1.50 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.

**Sue Scanlin** .....989-0497  
**Rushdat Hale**.....309-7263

**Sunday, February 14, 2010 9:00AM  
Andy Layne Trail to Daleville, 113 Mile Hike #3**

11.2 miles, Strenuous, \$1.00 carpool fee  
8 miles from Roanoke

The hike is just north of Roanoke, starting in the Catawba Valley and ending in Daleville. The hike is a stiff uphill on the relocated Andy Layne Trail and then a scenic ridge walk overlooking Carvins Cove, before descending Tinker Mountain.

**John Merkwan**.....904-2299  
**John Miller** .....375-3250

**Sunday, February 14, 2010 1:00PM  
Daleville (Rt 220) to Hay Rock**

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

Located in Botetourt County, north of Roanoke. Except for a short feeder trail, the route follows the Appalachian Trail to Hay Rock and back again. There are several good overlooks along the way, but the best one is Hay Rock. This overhanging chunk of sandstone provides shelter on one side and great views on the other – for those willing to scramble to the top.

**Merv and Blanche Brower.....387-9732**

**Sunday, February 21, 2010 8:00AM  
Bluff City Relocation Work Hike**

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

We will work in the Bluff City area on a short connector trail between the old and new ATs. This trail and part of the old AT will provide a route into town once the AT relocation is completed.

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

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

**Sunday, February 28, 2010 9:00AM  
Patterson/Price Mtn Trails**

10 -12 miles, Strenuous, \$2.00 carpool fee  
19 miles from Roanoke

The hike will start on the Patterson Mountain Trail with a steep ascent followed by a few saw teeth. It will then take a right down the Tucker trail to Patterson Creek Road where we will pick up the Kelly trail up to the Price Mountain Trail, followed by a right turn back to where it crosses Route 606. If we have any juice left we can take the Sulphur Ridge Trail back to Route 606 for a slightly longer version. This will be about 10-12 miles of poorly marked rugged trail - what an adventure!

**John Merkwan.....904-2299**

**Fred Walters .....977-1430**

**Sunday, February 28, 2010 12:00PM  
Chestnut Ridge/ Mill Mountain**

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

The hike is located 4 miles from Roanoke and 1 mile from the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is a 5.4-mile figure-eight course around the Roanoke Campground behind Mill Mountain. The trail is well graded and surrounded by woods.

**Chuck Walz.....774-3596**

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

**Sunday, March 7, 2010 8:00AM  
Trout Creek (RT 620) to Dragon's Tooth  
Parking, 113 Mile Hike #6**

7.2 miles, Strenuous, \$1.50 carpool fee including shuttle  
11 miles from Roanoke

The hike is in Craig and Roanoke County west of Salem. After crossing Trout Creek, we will ascend through a fire recovery area, pass by the Pickle Branch shelter, then ascend to the ridge, which we will follow around the crescent-shaped top of Cove Mountain to Dragon's Tooth with its great views and rock-scrambling opportunities. We will descend on the A.T. over Rawie's Rest (more rocks and great views) to the intersection with the blue-blazed Boy Scout Trail which will take us to the Dragon's Tooth parking lot.

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

**Fred Walters .....977-1430**

**Sunday, March 7, 2010 1:00PM  
Bennett Springs Loop**

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

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

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

**Ed Wallace .....774-0175**

**Saturday, March 13, 6:00 PM  
Annual Meeting and  
Potluck Banquet (See page 1)**

**Sunday, March 14, 2010 8:30AM  
Apple Orchard Mtn to Flat Top/Falling Water  
Cascades**

9.5 miles, Strenuous, \$3.00 carpool fee  
33 miles from Roanoke

This hike will begin where the AT crosses the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Apple Orchard Mountain. It will take in 5 miles of the AT to the Cornelius Creek Shelter. To see how the balance of this hike will be accomplished without using the Blue Ridge Parkway, you need to come along. The hike will take in the Guillotine (pack an extra head just in case), the summit of Apple Orchard Mountain, Black Rock Overlook, and other great views along with a trip to Falling Water Cascades near the end.

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

**Lois Smith .....862-7370**

**Sunday, March 14, 2010 1:00PM  
Andy Layne Trail to Tinker Cliffs**

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

Located in Botetourt County, the trailhead for this hike is on Route 779 roughly halfway between Catawba and Daleville. The hike crosses meadows and Catawba Creek and then starts the ascent to Scorched Earth Gap where it continues on the AT to Tinker Cliffs. Many spots along the cliffs offer excellent views of McAfee Knob and the Catawba Valley.

**Merv and Blanche Brower.....387-9732**

**Sunday, March 21, 2010 8:00AM  
Big Horse Gap Work Hike**

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

We will work in the Big Horse Gap area where we will complete rock work begun last spring.

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

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

**Sunday, March 21, 2010 1:00PM  
A.T., Harveys Knob to Bobletts Gap  
Beginners Hike**

3.0 miles, Easy, \$1.00 carpool fee  
12 miles from Roanoke

This hike will start at an A.T. crossing on the Blue Ridge Parkway a few miles north of Roanoke. The trail parallels the Parkway and has some good views. We will pass Bobletts Gap shelter along the way.

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

**Sunday, March 28, 2010 8:00AM  
Catawba Mountain (Rt. 311) to Trout Creek (Rt. 620)**

12.9 miles,Strenuous, \$1.50 carpool fee including shuttle  
6 miles from Roanoke

Located in Roanoke and Craig Counties, the hike follows the roller coaster Sawtooth Ridge, with views of Fort Lewis Mountain on the left and Cove Mountain and North Mountain on the right. The hike continues over Sandstone Ridge and then begins the strenuous climb to Dragon's Tooth, which offers great, near 360-degree views. The hike will then descend Cove Mountain to Trout Creek.

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

**Chase Davidson..... 276-650-5035**

**Sunday, March 28, 2010 1:00PM  
Belfast Trail to the Devil's Marbleyard**

3.0 miles, Easy, \$3.00 carpool fee  
35 miles from Roanoke

Located a few miles beyond Natural Bridge Station, this popular hike starts about an hour's drive from Roanoke. The route follows the Belfast Trail in the Jefferson National Forest and heads steeply uphill for a little over two miles. At this point the Devil's Marbleyard appears just to the left of the trail. This is an eight-acre field of quartzite boulders which affords endless scrambling opportunities (watch out for snakes, though) and great views. The return is along the same route.

**Kenny Garrett.....892-5786**

**Rushdat Hale.....309-7263**

**Roanoke Appalachian  
Trail Club Application  
New & Renewal**

If accepted for membership, I agree to:

1. Support the objectives of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
2. Abide by the rules of the National and State Parks and Forests
3. Respect the interests of the owner when on private property
4. Keep trails and woodlands free of litter and
5. Abide by instructions of the leader on group hikes and trips

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ New Member Packet fee \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Indiv. # of years \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Family # of years \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 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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and a member of The Nature Conservancy and the Western Virginia Land Trust