



The Potomac Appalachian

The Newsletter of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180-4609

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Welcome to a New Year



ATC 2001 NEEDS YOUR HELP

The 33rd biannual meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference will be held in July of 2001 at Shippensburg College, Shippensburg, Pa. Shippensburg is located approximately 8 miles northwest of the section of the Appalachian Trail that runs between Caledonia and Pine Grove Furnace State Parks in southern Pa. This section of the AT is maintained by PATC's North Chapter, which will be the point of contact for PATC's involvement in the conference. The conference is being hosted by the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club (<http://www.libertynet.org/susqatc/>), whose headquarters

is in Harrisburg, Pa. SATC is not a large club, so there will be an opportunity for each Pennsylvania AT maintaining club, including PATC, to be represented on the steering committee and be involved in the planning process. There are 22 conference committees that need chairpersons. As of the end of November, commitments have already been made to chair the Registration, Hiking, Housing, Entertainment, Camping, Panels, Signs, Workshops, and Hospitality committees. Other committees that still need chairs are Financial, Food, Excursions, Youth Activities, Campus Arrangements, Audio/Visual, Exhib-

its, Sales/Souvenirs, Transportation, Volunteer Recruitment, Publications, Publicity, and Medical Emergency Plan. Please think about any activities that you could help with and let me know as soon as possible. Even if PATC does not chair a committee, we would still like to help out however we can since SATC could use the volunteers. We will definitely be involved in leading hikes since no one knows the trails in this area as well as the North Chapter. You can contact me by e-mail at patcnorth@mail.com or by phone at 410/756-2916. □

—Steve Koeppen,
North Chapter President

PATC'S NEW ONLINE STORE ACTIVE

We're pleased to announce that PATC's new online store is now active and ready to receive your order. Months in the making, the store provides an easy means to place orders directly over the Internet using a personal credit card. Information is encrypted for security and forwarded to the Club, where your order is processed quickly and efficiently. No more frustration finding your local outdoor shop "out of stock" on a popular item like PATC Map 10. Visit our store, and quickly order your copy. It will arrive in your mailbox shortly.

So what, besides convenience, is the greatest benefit of using our online store? Actually, there are many. For instance, for the first time ever you can read book reviews of all our publications and peruse one-page excerpts. There are also books included that you can't typically find in your local outdoor shop, such as Jack Reeder's *Shenandoah Secrets*, which is no longer carried in Shenandoah National Park. Thought about buying a PATC cap or coffee mug? They're available

in our store. And why spend time and gasoline to deal with the frustration of fighting traffic to your local outdoor shop, without even knowing if they'll have what you want in stock? You don't need to do that anymore! It's all here in our online store and available for purchase from the convenience of your computer keyboard.

As an added benefit, the proceeds from the sales of our maps, guide, and publications are rolled back into the Club to support our ongoing trail, shelter, cabin, and land acquisition efforts. So the money you spend actually works twice as hard. Order from PATC, and reinvest in the Club.

Stop by the PATC store today, and, while you're at it, order a copy of Tom Culverwell historic 1964 map of the Stony Man region of Shenandoah National Park—a steal at \$1.60 a copy for members. Find our new digital storefront at: <http://patc.net/store> □

—Andy Hiltz

PATC website URL
(www.patc.net)

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CELEBRATING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

There was excitement and apprehension in the air all day Friday, November 5 as we prepared for PATC's big party, the 1999 Annual Meeting and Celebration. So many things were new this year including the venue, the caterers, the entertainment, and the first Volunteer of the Year Award. We dashed around with fingers crossed hoping nothing had been overlooked. Fortunately, everything fell into place. If you didn't make it, you really missed one of the most memorable celebrations the Club has seen in many years.

The weather was perfect for the evening's events; another new aspect of the Annual Meeting (if you can remember meetings of the past inevitably held in snow, sleet, high winds, or freezing rain). Over 135 Club members enjoyed the unique century-old setting of the Old Town Hall in Fairfax City. The hall provided the opportunity to set displays on the second floor and a buffet dinner layout on the first floor. Each member attending was given a ticket at the entrance for the drawing of any one of the many door prizes. The prizes were donations from outfitters Eastern Mountain Sports and Hudson Trail Outfitters. Many delighted members won gift certificates, tickets, first aid kits, day packs, and other neat stuff.

On the second floor, displays created by different departments of the Club surrounded the outside area of the room. They gave attendees an understanding of what those departments have been up to with ongoing projects throughout the year as well as future ones. The open bar refreshed members as they mingled around the large hall observing displays and greeting old and new friends during the social hour. There were so many smiles and hugs you would have thought it was a family reunion. Well, maybe our annual meetings could be considered as such since a lot of us only see each other at the annual meetings.

Many compliments were received for the delicious dinner provided by Helga's Caterers, Inc. of McLean, Virginia. And while everyone was seated and finishing their meal, we prepared for the night's most important event: the recognition of the most esteemed volunteers who have dedicated long hours and service to

the Club in 1999. President Walt Smith opened the awards presentation. Walt gave the attendees an overview on the Club's most recent achievements and his vision of where the Club is headed as we enter the new millennium. Vice President of Operations Tom Johnson followed with a short review of the Club's accomplishments, changes, and future developments in the Trails, Shelters, and Cabins programs as well as other aspects of the Club that keep us all busy. To introduce the recipients of the many achievement awards, Vice President of Volunteerism, Mickey McDermott took a deep breath. He then proceeded to name recipients of all 86 Service Awards, one Special Commendation, two 50-year Member Life Certificates, three Honorary Life Memberships, and the newly created first Volunteer of the Year Award.

Mickey, a newcomer to his position as well, was excited to present the awards. After reading the list of Service Awards recipients, he then introduced the two 50-year Members, Mr. Robert L. Hendricks of Phoenix, Arizona, and Mr. Myron W. Klein of Fort Myers, Florida. Unfortunately, neither one were able to attend. We were lucky, however, to have all three new Honorary Life Members in attendance. Each one was called to personally receive their award. In the Club's history, only 44 members have been recognized for their contributions with an Honorary Life Membership.

Marguerite Schneeberger was totally surprised and delighted to have been chosen. She has been a long-time promoter of the Club and has for more than 20 years coordinated the



Marguerite Schneeberger receiving her Honorary Life Member certificate from Vice President Mickey McDermott as Terry Cummings, Membership Secretary looks on in the background.

Photo by Pat Fankhauser

Annual Meeting continued

scheduling of volunteers who devote their time on the evening Information and Sales Desks at the Club Headquarters. Believe me, this is no small task.

Next, Mickey called up George Walters. George also has an extensive record of service to the Club including his work as Councillor to the PATC Executive Committee, advisor to the redesign of Club Headquarters in 1991, contributor of various articles and the popular "Tales of the Woods" cartoon in the Potomac Appalachian newsletter, Range View Cabin overseer, Indian Run

Maintenance Hut overseer, District Manager, SNP Appalachian Trail and blue-blazed north districts, organizer and leader of the PATC North District SNP Hoodlums trail crew—well, you get the picture.

Last, but certainly not least, Mickey asked Andy Hiltz to the podium. A member for over 15 years, Andy has held many positions in the Club as well. In addition to his trail overseership, he moved up the ladder from Assistant District Manager to District Manager to Regional Trail Manager to Deputy Supervisor of Trails to become Supervisor of Trails on two separate occasions. And he didn't stop there;

Andy became the Chief Editor of the *Potomac Appalachian* newsletter and while he was doing that, he researched, created, implemented and maintained the Club's award winning web site, patc.net.

Each Honorary Life Member received a framed Honorary Life Certificate, a personalized engraved stainless steel drinking cup commemorating the date they were inducted, a Life Member card, an Honorary Life rocker bar to be placed above the PATC Patch, and a round of applause.

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George Walters receiving his Honorary Life Member certificate from Vice President Mickey McDermott.



Andy Hiltz receiving his Honorary Life Member certificate from Vice President Mickey McDermott.



Photos by Pat Fankhauser

WALT'S NOTES

Why Do We Have Vacant Overseer Positions?

Members indicated in the 1999 PATC Membership Survey that the most important Club activity is trail work. However, I am puzzled as to why, with 7,000 members, we are not maintaining a trail overseer waiting list instead of publishing a Trail Overseers Wanted list (on the back page of each *PA*)? As a parent who used to spend weeknights and weekends fully occupied with children's activities after working more than a full-time work-week, I can understand why some members with children are not able to do much more than pay their dues. In fact, some members, who used to have free time have indicated that they are looking forward to the day when they will once again be able to participate fully in Club activities! But what about members without an active family life? Is there some concern that we are not addressing that may inhibit some members from being a trail overseer or co-overseer?

Getting Use to Overseer Duties

I must admit that I once felt a little intimidated at the prospect of being a trail overseer. I really didn't know much about what was involved except that I knew what I thought a good trail should look like. However, I proceeded to volunteer with hope that all would work out right. Initially, I took on a short trail, the Snead Farm Loop Trail, which is only seven tenths of a mile long, in order to get used to the new duties without feeling pressured.

Following guidance contained in the overseers manual and using PATC tools found in a local tool cache, I soon found out that cutting the small blowdowns wasn't all that bad and that I could always get help from the district manager or the park rangers for the big ones. I also learned where the weeds were that needed attention as spring moved into summer and how often I needed to return to keep the growth in check. I gradually discovered that I thoroughly enjoyed my own piece of "wilderness" where I could note the seasonal changes,

where the deer crossed my trail, and where the unusual flowers bloomed or the birds built their nests. It was not long before I knew that seven-tenths of a mile as well as I knew my own backyard. I began to feel that my time spent there was really fun.

After I had been an overseer about a year, I went to a PATC overseer workshop in order to find out which skills I may have been lacking. I did learn some tips that were useful, and, to this day, I can still hear Warren Sharp, the workshop leader, say "a stick thrown downhill doesn't come back to you!"

After a while I accumulated some more free time, so I took on additional miles of trails, expanding my own personal wilderness area by including the Half Moon Mountain trails in West Virginia. Now I was able to compare the seasonal differences between the Blue Ridge and the Great North Mountain ridges and also increase the number of places where

See Walt's Notes, page 15

Annual Meeting, from page 3

Mickey continued his comments on the importance of volunteering and dedication to the Club's purpose and then asked Charlie Graf to step forward and receive PATC's newest award: Volunteer of the Year. Truly surprised and delighted, Charlie was presented with this distinguished title on an engraved walnut encased clock. The clock is a handsome mantle piece that will be a reminder of the many contributions Charlie has made to the Cub in the past year. Charlie continued to serve as PATC's representative on the Maryland AT Management Committee, Chairman of the Shelters and Cabins Construction Committees, Construction Chief of the Tulip Tree Cabin project, member of the Shelters, Cabins, and Cabin Lands Fund

advising committee, as well as member of other ad hoc committees. Charlie, along with each subsequent recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award, will have his name engraved on a specially made wall plaque to be hung in the entrance foyer of the Club Headquarters for all to see.

The evening ended with whimsical entertainment by Jim Neib and "The Five Neibinskis," an improvisational comedy act. Jim got the audience involved in his acts, which sparked a lot of laughs as well as lighthearted groans from his slapstick humor.



Photo by Pat Fankhauser

PATC's 1999 Volunteer of the Year, Charlie Graf expresses his appreciation for being chosen as the first recipient of this prestigious award.

Congratulations to the following Service Award recipients:

Esther Aulhouse and Family
Richard Barrick
Adelia (Dede) Bauer
Bruce Berberick
Pete Brown
Chris Brunton
Rick Canter
Bruce Clendaniel
Liles Creighton
John Dami
Keith (Charles) Denson
Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Dove
Ruth Durloo
Larry Eads
Maureen Estes
Dave Fellers
Michael Fleming
Heidi Forrest
Dianne and Chuck Gagliano
Ray Galles

Joe Gareri
Charles Graf
Thurston Griggs
Frank Haas
Hal Hallett
Larry Hatakeyama
Cindy Huebner
Bob Hueston
Charles Hillon
Andy Hiltz
David Holton
Charles Irvin
Kumait Jawdat
Bill Jones
Michael Karpie
Fran Keenan
Frieda Kintner
Wil Kohlbrenner
Ron Kutz
Larry and Lauren Lang

Alexandra Lampros
Larry Linebrink
Fred (Hop) Long
Lloyd MacAskill
John McCrea
Bianca Menendez
Anniell Miller
Mark Mitchell
Eric Nasar
Joe O'Neill
Matthew Ogorzalek
Steve Paull
Lloyd Parriot
David Pierce
Karen and David Pugh
Ty Rathje
Rick Rhoades
Jon Rindt
Wilson Riley
Al Rogers

Lee Shaeffer
Warren Sharp
Kerry Snow
Tyler Somerville
Bernie Stalman
Richard Stickley
Marilyn Stone
Paula Strain
Jane Thompson
Trudy Thompson
David Trone and Family
Fred Tubman
Frank Turk
Richard Vetland
George Walters
Holly Wheeler
John and Valerie Wheeler
Cliff Willey
Tim Young

Special Commendation Award was given to Frank Webert. This award is for non- PATC members who have volunteered exemplary service to the Club. The Annual Meeting and Celebration for 1999 concluded as a great success in itself and served as a fitting celebration of the many wonderful and important achievements of the members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. We've come a long way on this trail. We've done a lot. Give yourselves a hand. See you in the start of the next millennium. Happy New Year everybody!!! ☐

—Patricia Fankhauser
Membership Coordinator



Photo by Pat Fankhauser

REI Trail Symposium

Recreation Equipment Incorporated (REI) representative, Mark Nelson (also a PATC member), addresses a group of interested attendees at the October 30, 1999 REI Appalachian Trail Through Hiker's Symposium in the Bailey's Crossroads store.

ENS PHILLIP COWALL MEMORIAL SHELTER— A PROJECT LEADER'S PERSPECTIVE

The shelter dedication held on Sunday, October 3rd was indeed a special occasion. First of all, the weather couldn't have been better. Attendees included the Cowall family, relatives and friends, PATC members, MSSD, Gallaudet and Western Maryland College students and staff, Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (Sierra Club) members, Boy Scouts of America members, and many others adding up to approximately 50-55 people.

A Unique Opportunity

A biased opinion of course, but I'd say the shelter looks very nice and something that PATC can be proud of. If you haven't seen the shelter yet, it will be worth it to make plans for a visit. Just drop me a line for directions should you need them, FrankTurk@aol.com You can also check out the Website: www.gallaudet.edu/~pcnmpcoc/weekend/log-shelter.

The project gave ample opportunity and room for young and old alike to learn, develop, and hone skills. The logs were delivered on January 23rd, and work began and continued weekly, and often during the week, until the shelter was completed in mid-September.

Being project leader of course had its many challenges and was a unique opportunity for me to grow personally in many ways as well as develop rustic construction techniques. I had an interesting perspective as I witnessed the wonderful spirit of volunteerism unfold with the teamwork, commitment, camarade-

rie, and dedication of over 200 different workers and supporters, who in their own ways contributed to the successful completion of the project.

Personally, my enjoyment of the project centered on 1) love of our Appalachian Trail, 2) belief in Volunteerism and being outdoors, and 3) seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I especially enjoyed the fact that, while in most respects this was your typical PATC project, for me it was the merging of my two worlds—deaf and hearing. Having deaf parents, thus growing up experiencing two languages and cultures, made it especially rewarding to have 50% involvement from the deaf community. Knowing that the doors were open to people who may not otherwise choose to spend time on such a project was special.

Trail Magic

Throughout the project, I as well as others, was in one way or the other touched by how the Cowall family chose to remember the life of their departed loved one, Phillip. It is safe to say that their generous gesture will go a long way towards enhancing the trail experience on this section of AT.

During the dedication, Charlie Graf delivered a wonderful description of "Trail magic," which was especially meaningful



Photo by Frank Turk

Donald and Agnes Padden in front of the newly dedicated ENS Phillip Cowall Memorial Shelter.

since he has through-hiked the AT. Right from the start there was plenty of Trail Magic. First of all, the log donation was made by Wallace Johnson Logging Company out of Southern Maryland. In the course of conversation with Mr. Wallace it was quite interesting when it surfaced that in fact his parents are deaf also!

The magic continued with a series of events such as the log construction of the shelter being done off-site near Bowie, Maryland. While enroute to scouting this potential worksite one drives by a "Deaf Child Area" sign. Further, on the 4th of July weekend on a particularly hot, humid day we were about ready to call it a day when two through-hikers appeared, dropped their packs, and announced that they have carpentry experience—two hours later we had the metal roofing material installed!

See Shelter, page 14

BOOK REVIEW

Riordan, Robert M., ed. *Uncommon Wealth: Essays on Virginia's Wild Places*. Introduction by Jennifer Ackerman. Illustrations by Megan Grey Rollins. The Nature Conservancy, November 1999. 203p. illus.

The Barrier Islands. Mason Neck. Laurel Fork. Goshen Pass. Shenandoah National Park. The gorges of North River and Bullpasture River in George Washington National Forest. The Blackwater River, the North Landing River, and False Cape under the salt breezes of the Atlantic. These and other bits of wilderness are the subject of essays by twenty writers, at least two of them members of PATC.

Some of these places are owned, or protected, by the Nature Conservancy; more of them belong to the state or the federal government. Some, such as Boigiano's Cross Mountain, the pools of the Moorman River, or Walter Nicklin's Rappahannock River, are merely used by the public. Over the years, PATC has had hikes or excursions to at least half of them. All can be visited by any one willing to make the effort.

Each essay explains why a particular place is important to that writer. Some pieces are prosaic, others lyrical, and many just report personal experiences. None of the writers is

known widely as a nature writer, with the exception of Pastor Richard Cartwright Austin, who developed his environmental theology while both preaching and farming on the Clinch River. All are writers who have not yet reached the peak of their careers. These essays may be more important in the future than they seem at present, useful though they may be as today's conservation message.

This is a book I will be buying. □

—Paula M. Strain

CUSTER'S PREVIOUS STAND— HOW TO PROTECT THE TUSCARORA TRAIL'S HISTORY

Nearly everyone has heard of Custer's last stand, which took place on June 25, 1876, when Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and 267 U.S. Army cavalrymen under his command perished at Little Big Horn, Mt. while under attack by a confederation of Plains Indians. What is not nearly so well known is that Custer was also very active during the Civil War, advancing in rank during that time from second lieutenant to brevet major general, in spite of having graduated at the bottom of his class from West Point in 1861!

From PATC's perspective, the most interesting part of Custer's Civil War campaigns took place on October 9, 1864, along what is now part of the Tuscarora Trail. At that time, Custer was in command of a Union cavalry division that had made its encampment a couple of miles west of what is now the Toms Brook exit from I-81. Interest was added by the fact that Custer was squared off against a Confederate cavalry division that was commanded by his old West Point roommate, Tom Rosser!

Rosser's division had taken up a defensive position on Spiker's Hill, a little to the south and across the Toms Brook valley from Custer's forces. Spiker's Hill was then and still is neatly bisected by the old Back Road, which at that point is now the route of the Tuscarora Trail. But back in 1864, two other cavalry divisions were facing each other in similar fashion a couple of miles to the east, along the Valley Pike, better known today as US 11.

Because of their superior numbers, the Union cavalry division on the Valley Pike was able to detach two brigades, one of which advanced southward along the Middle Road and then attacked the flanks of both of the Confederate positions. While modern day hikers might begrudge the road walk across the Shenandoah Valley from US 11 to the Little North Mountain, nearly all of the Tuscarora Trail route there is along veritable battle roads that were used by elements of this advancing Union cavalry brigade.

Although Maurertown, which is just south of Toms Brook and straddles the Tuscarora Trail as it crosses US 11, was already an established community at the time of the Civil War, the prosperity of the 1990s has resulted in a new wave of home construction there. The area where the Union cavalry's flanking attack on the Confederates most likely occurred is particularly affected. When last visited in mid-November, there was a huge pit that had been dug where the trail used to be. Its purpose was to allow tunneling under the adjacent railroad tracks, thus providing access to public utilities for the new subdivision.

The good news is that the pit will be filled back up once the tunneling has been completed. There will still be concerns about how continued development will affect the route of the Tuscarora Trail across the Shenandoah Valley. With some difficulty, the trail could still be kept open in or near its present position.

These concerns have already attracted interest from the National Park Service. Recognizing the historic significance of the Toms Brook battlefield and the desirability of maintaining a scenic hiking route across the valley, the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service is providing some staff time to assist PATC in its efforts to conserve undeveloped land and provide a protected route for the trail across the valley.

These efforts are expected to involve a coalition of local, state, and national groups, both public and private, as well as individual landowners in the community. The initial meeting of the steering committee was held on November 18 in the Woodstock, Va. Town Hall. A second meeting with expanded participation is planned for this month.

At this point, the future of the project cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty. Much will depend upon the interests and concerns of local landowners and their willingness to participate in these land conservation efforts. Anyone who has further questions or would like to become involved with this project is invited to contact PATC President Walt Smith at the PATC office or via e-mail at wsmith@visuallink.com. □

—Lloyd MacAskill,
Chair, Tuscarora Trail
Land Management Committee

MORE ON BEAR ENCOUNTERS

Hop Long, the District Manager for PATC's Great North Mountain District, was hiking alone on the reopened Old Mailpath Trail on Paddy Mountain in the West Virginia portion of the National Forest a while back. Hop came around a turn in the trail and noticed a bear with cubs near the trail below him.

Hop called on all his knowledge of woods lore, stood as tall as possible, started waving his hands in the air, and shouting. Bears in this part of the world are hunted every fall, so they are not as "friendly" as the protected bears in

Shenandoah National Park. Momma took note and immediately turned off the trail, with all three cubs following her into open brush. The leaves were down at the time, so Hop was able to watch their progress...

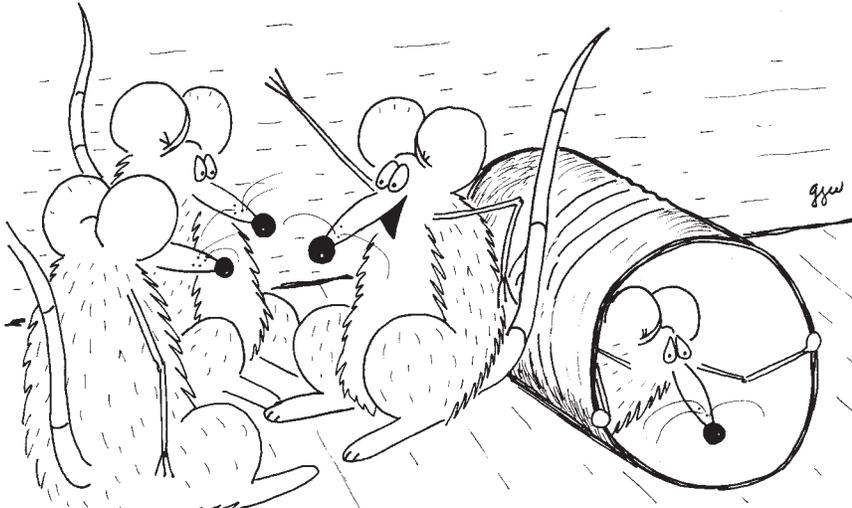
Momma went over a ridge of rock, and one of the cubs, noticeably smaller than the other two, fell back trying to cross the rocks. After two or three attempts, the lagging cub gave up, sat down, and started bawling.

The other cubs turned and came back to see what was holding up their noisy sibling. They

descended from the rocks and sat down with the little guy to add their own voices to the din. Three little cubs singing the bear cub blues...

Hop says momma also returned, and he swears she looked very annoyed. She boosted the cubs over the rocks, and they all went off together. By this point, Hop had his camera out of his pack, and he has some photos to show one large black blob and three smaller black blobs disappearing into the brush. □

—Wil Kohlbrenner



"OK, HERE'S THE PLAN!... FIRST WE ROLL THE CAN ACROSS THE FLOOR... THEN ERNIE JUMPS OUT AND CREATES THE DIVERSION...."

Dorothy Walker Still Remembers PATC

Egbert Walker passed away March 10, 1991. Dorothy is still with us, residing at the Friends Home in Sandy Spring, Maryland, where she has been for the last several years. Those who see her say she still speaks with fondness of the PATC.

—Dave Bates

For more information about the Walkers, see Dave Bates' article in the November *PA*.

MT. RAINIER TRIP REPORT

Excerpted from the Trails Forum on PATC's website (www.patc.net), September 6, 1999.

Finally, after reading and dreaming about glaciers for years I was going to get to be on one. My son, Caleb, and I signed up for a guided climb of Mt. Rainier with MRAG (Mt. Rainier Alpine Guides). This outfit is run by Eric Simonson, the same person who led the expedition to Everest this past May and found Mallory's body at 27,000 feet. I knew we would be in capable hands.

We were scheduled to do a four-day climb using the less popular, more strenuous, Emmons glacier route on the northeast side of the mountain. Sunday morning dawned overcast as we drove into the park and found a spot at the White River campground inside the park at 4,000 feet elevation. We managed to pitch our tent before the rain started and spent the rest of the day hiking on the numerous trails of the area. Glorious Douglas fir forests hanging with old man's beard moss made this area exceptionally beautiful.

The Group Sets Out

The next day, still in a drizzle, we met the rest of the climbing group at 9 am in the parking lot of White River campgrounds. Including us there were five men, three ladies, and

one no-show. The three guides were men in their 30s with 10-15 years guiding experience under their belts. None of these guides were with Simonson on Everest during the Mallory expedition, so I was somewhat disappointed that I would not get a chance to get a first hand account of that fascinating experience.

My heart would beat extra fast as we crossed the snowbridges over deep crevasses, but we finally reached our camp without incident.

We started hiking from the parking lot with one of the guides setting a slow pace. I was pleasantly surprised at the slow pace, as I was expecting a quick march up to tree line. Three miles later we were at 6,000 feet and approaching Glacier Basin, a back country camp site just inside the tree line. I was feeling relieved, realizing that I could handle the load (approximately 60 pounds) and the pace, even though I wasn't in the best shape of my life, as a sum-

mer hiking injury to my tailbone curtailed some of my training for this climb.

Fighting the Wind

The drizzle had changed over to snow, and the wind was picking up. The terminal moraine was a muddy sticky mess that we scrambled up. The nice gradual climb through the trees was replaced by a very steep, exposed ridgeline with sticky marine clay mixed with loose volcanic rock underfoot. At this point two of the women decided to turn around, and a guide went back with them all the way to the start.

We didn't have on crampons at this time, and it started getting sketchy the higher we climbed due to the wind gusts. Not only did the gusts threaten to blow us down hill, but they were blowing all the snow off the slope, leaving hard ice behind. We were also climbing unroped, so we were spread out all over the slope. Every time a gust would hit me, I would bury the ice axe and hang on.

Eventually we came to the only flat area in the entire slope near some rocks off to the side. We were 1/2 way up the slope, at 7,500 feet, and I was exhausted. It was time to set up camp. It took all of us to help rig the tents

See Mt. Rainier, page 16

FORECAST

CHAPTERS

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday, summer, winter, and in between. Hikes are about 8 miles. Trail maintenance is usually done on the last Saturday of the month. Meet at Sprint parking lot, 2307 Hydraulic Road at 9 a.m. with food and water for the day. We hike trails in the Southern, Central, and occasionally Northern Districts of Shenandoah National Park, and in George Washington National Forest. INFO: Jere Bidwell 804/295-2143, John Shannon 804/293-2953 or Lois Mansfield 804/973-7184.

North Chapter

The North Chapter of PATC conducts monthly trail work trips on the Maryland and Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and on the Pennsylvania sections of the Tuscarora Trail. We also lead hikes on these and other trails. Maryland AT work trips are generally held on the first and third Saturdays—contact Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com), 301/461-7048 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday—contact Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848 or Pete Brown (peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net) 410/343-1140. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Spring cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris Firme (bncfirme@innernet.net) 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@mail.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/north_ch.html).

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter sponsors hikes in national and state parks and forests in the Shenandoah Valley vicinity, open to the public, on a monthly basis except during the winter. Hikes are posted in the **Forecast**. Other activities are in the NSV Chapter Newsletter. For further information contact Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See **Forecast** for work trips and hiking events sponsored by the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter. Most trips meet in Harrisonburg at the Cloverleaf Shopping Center at 8:00 a.m. Hikers from the DC area should allow about 3 hours to get to our region. INFO: in Harrisonburg, call Suzanne 540/269-4341; in Staunton or Waynesboro, call Vernon 703/886-9218, or Doris 540/885-4526.

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre on the first Wednesday of the month; see **Forecast** for up-coming activities. For further information on chapter activities or to receive the chapter newsletter contact Jane Thompson 301/865-5399.

Ski Touring Section

The Ski Touring Section has served since 1974 to introduce Washington area residents to cross-country skiing and to provide cross-country skiing opportunities to experienced skiers. The Section sponsors winter weekend ski trips for all levels of skiers to nearby mountains in Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as periodic social events year round. INFO: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249.

Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and arm-chair types — we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interest in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those who want to learn the basics — we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Ozana Halik (mrkayak2@AOL) 703/242-0177.

PATC Midweek Hikes

PATC's **Vigorous Group** hikes 8-10 miles at a fast pace; and the **Easy Hikers** hike 5-8 miles on trails with little elevation change. See below for scheduled trips; check the weekly tape (703/242-0965) on Thursday or Friday for any changes or additions.

Other Clubs' Hikes

Capital and Wanderbirds hike on Sundays, traveling by bus and leaving from downtown, with suburban stops as well. Center Club, Northern Virginia Hiking Club and Sierra Clubs hike on both Saturdays and Sundays using carpools, which often leave from a suburban Metro stop. Schedules are available at PATC Headquarters and are published in area newspapers on Fridays.

KEY to Forecast Activities

All events are marked for easy identification. Late changes or cancellations are listed on the weekly information tape (703/242-0965), which is updated on Sunday evening for the following seven days. The **Forecast** can also be found on PATC's Web site at <http://www.patc.net>

-  **Hiking Trips**
-  **Backpacking Trips**
-  **Trail Work Trips**
-  **Cabin/Shelter Work Trips**
-  **Special Events**
-  **Meetings**
-  **Cross-Country Skiing**

Note to all hike leaders: Please ask nonmembers on your hike if they would like to join PATC, then get names and addresses so a Club volunteer can send them information packets. Thanks!

MEETINGS

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (New Members meeting) - Second Monday
7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: SMRG Operations 703/255-5034, then press #5.

PATC Council - Second Tuesday
7:00 p.m. sharp. The PATC Council meets the second Tuesday of every month to conduct business of the Club. All members are welcome. INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday
8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Ozana Halik 703/242-0177 or see PATC's website (http://www.patc.net/mtn_sect/).

The Futures Group - Third Tuesday
7:00 p.m. Meets to research, develop, and recommend to membership changes to PATC organization, constitution, and bylaws in order to meet challenges of the next century. PATC members welcomed. INFO: Gerhard Salinger (evger@erols.com) or Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com), Co-Chairs.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting) - Last Tuesday
7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpinhq.com) 703/255-5034 then press #5.

JANUARY

1 (Saturday)

DEADLINE - February Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to jnsbianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

4 (Tuesday)

MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

4 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Circuit hike in central SNP. A vigorous hike including two of the most outstanding attractions of the SNP — rock scrambling on the exposed summit of Old Rag Mountain and the beautiful (ice covered?) waterfalls of Whiteoak Canyon. 16 miles. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

4 - 11 (Tuesday - Tuesday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Responder Syria, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this 72 hour class conducted by Wilderness Medical Associates includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a three-year certification. The cost of \$700 includes accommodations and meals. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net/wfr.html>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

5 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

National Arboretum, DC

Four to five easy miles around the National Arboretum. Drive or take bus (B-2, B-4, or B-5) out Bladensburg Rd., NE. Turn right on R St. to Arboretum. Meet in parking lot near Administration Building at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch. INFO: Henry Shryock 202/479-4130 or Pauline LeMarie 202/484-2966.

7 - 9 (Friday - Sunday)

SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley Wknd #1 Canaan Valley, WV

Join our small group staying at a well-appointed cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. Take advantage of parks resort amenities, such as indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, and ice skate rink. Ski trails in the park, or nearby in Blackwater Falls State Park, Whitegrass STC, and the Dolly Sods Wilderness area. Cost is \$60/65 for two night's stay. INFO: Myrna Aavedal 301/794-7532.

8 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA

Start the new century with an invigorating day on a trail on Massanutten Mountain, north half. We'll probably be hiking 5 miles along a ridge and cutting up blowdowns with a chainsaw. We need a good sized crew to haul equipment, move cut logs, and laugh at the sawyer's lame attempts to be humorous. Nice views of the North Fork of the Shenandoah, when you aren't bent over pushing a log. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

8 (Saturday)

HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter C & O Canal Towpath, MD

Come join some hardy souls of the NSVC as they continue some progressive hikes along the Potomac River. We will be starting in Harper's Ferry and hiking east for approximately nine miles on a flat, hard-packed surface. If weather is inclement, the hike will be postponed until the next Saturday. Leader/INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visuallink.com) 540/665-2101.

8 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Old Forge Area to High Rock. 10.3 miles with an elevation change of 600 feet. We will cross the newly renovated Falls Creek bridge and have some fabulous views of the Cumberland Valley from Pen Mar Park and High Rock. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:30 p.m.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Firestone/Weaver Cabins, Elkton, VA

Aren't you simply aching to get out of the house and try all that new outdoor gear you received over the holidays? Join the crew for a worktrip to the Firestone and Weaver Cabins where we'll clear some (undesirable) trees and open the view. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

10 (Monday)

MEETING - New members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.

11 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Circuit hike in central SNPA 15-mile vigorous circuit hike along the streams of Mill Prong and Laurel Prong, a visit to Hoover Camp, lunch on Bear Church Rock, a climb over Cat Knob and Hazeltop (3812 feet) and back to trailhead at Milam Gap. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

11 (Tuesday)

MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m. sharp.

12 (Wednesday)

MEETING - Mountaineering Section, 8:00 p.m.

12 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Leesylvania State Park, Woodbridge, VA

Come join us for a short hike on the beach and on Lee's Woods Historical Trail. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the store's parking lot. After the hike, we will have lunch nearby at a Cracker Barrel restaurant. INFO: David Whitmire 703/494-2682.

14 (Friday)

HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Old Rag Mountain, VA

In the Jeffersonian tradition I will once again attempt to summit Old Rag on my birthday. And like last year, I would invite you to join me on this quest. This hike will be run only if the weather permits us to do so, and if it does, there are no better views and no better accomplishment than an Old Rag summit on a frosty clear January day. INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/662-1524.

14 - 17 (Friday - Monday)

SKI TRIP - Tug Hill Ski Mini-Week #2 Tug Hill, Upstate NY

Join a dozen or so XC skiers enjoy the likely heavy lake effect snowfall endemic to this area, as we stay at the All Season's Lodge in Sandy Creek (next to Lake Ontario). Options include: participating in a local ski race; and just touring the many trails in nearby Winona State Forest; or the commercial trails of Salmon Hills and Osceola STCs. INFO: Rob Sweenes 703/532-6101.

14 - 17 (Friday - Monday)

SKI TRIP - Min. Retreat Lodge Wknd #1 Canaan Valley, WV

Join our group staying at a cozy cabin in Harmon area south of Canaan Valley WV. Ski trails after a short drive in nearby Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls State Park, Whitegrass STC, or Dolly Sods Wilderness area. Likely cost is \$78/83 for three night's stay. INFO: Darleen Wall 703/978-6398.

14 - 17 (Friday - Monday)

SKI TRIP - New Germany State Park Wknd #1 Grantsville, MD

Stay at the quiet, comfortable Mennonite-run Casselman Inn in Grantsville MD, a few miles from the well-maintained ski trails in New Germany State Park. This location is close to other skiing areas in Allegheny Front of Western MD, PA and WV. For estimated cost and INFO: Jack Wise 410/256-3963.

15 (Saturday)

CLASS - AT Through-hiker Preparation Course (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Learn what's necessary as we help you prepare for long-distance backpacking. This four part course (1/15, 1/29, 2/12 and 2/26) will cover Planning and Preparation, Gear Selection and Fitting, Boot Selection, Fitting and Footcare, Final Preparation and trail tips. The course is taught by AT through-hiker Jim Ammons. The course fee is: \$80 for REI members; \$100 for non-members. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

15 or 22 depending on weather (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA

For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

Even though the weather may be frigid the Tulip Tree Cabin Crew will be hard at work trying to get the final 30-foot log in place and get some rafters up. The summer kitchen is enclosed and we have a big pile of firewood ready so we can stay warm while we eat and socialize in the evening. Join this outstanding crew in completing a beautiful hand hewn log cabin in the woods. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

FORECAST

18 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - Lands Management Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA**
6:00 p.m. INFO: Anita C Canovas 703/848-0343.
18 (Tuesday) MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.

18 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Circuit hike in central SNP. A 17-mile circuit up the steep Buck Ridge Trail into Hazel Country. We'll descend Sam's Ridge to the Hazel River and then climb it with several river crossings to White Rocks and back to trailhead on RT 211. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

19 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**
Winter City Walk
Federal Triangle Metro Station, DC
4 to 6 miles (depending on the weather) on the mall, past the monuments and around the Tidal Basin. If the weather is good we'll go up to Capitol Hill for an optional lunch. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the top of the Federal Triangle Metro Station escalator. In case of doubtful weather, please call Tuesday evening or before 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday to confirm that we are going. INFO: Renee Schick (RS530@AOL.COM) 301/493-9525.

19 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Winter Backpacking II: Stove Operation and Maintenance (REI)
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA
7:30 p.m. Winter's short days and long, cold nights require more of both you and your gear. Your stove becomes a source of warm liquid and pure water as well as hot food. A stove that won't run or that flares uncontrollably is more than an annoyance; it's an unacceptable risk. REI's stove and gear repair specialist, John Redington, will demonstrate operation skills, field repair procedures, and routine maintenance that help prevent unwelcome surprises. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

20 (Thursday)

CLASS - Winter Backpacking II: Stove Operation and Maintenance (REI)
REI, College Park, MD
Same as above except in College Park. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

21 - 23 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley Wknd #2**
Canaan Valley, WV
Join our small group staying at a well-appointed cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. Take advantage of park's resort amenities, such as indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, and ice skate rink. Ski trails in the park, or nearby trails at Blackwater Falls State Park, Whitegrass STC, and the Dolly Sods Wilderness area. Cost is \$60/65 for two nights stay. INFO: Judy Stiak 703/553-5898.

21 - 23 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP/CLASS - Learn to Cross-Country Ski Wknd #1**
Laurel Highlands, PA
Catch XC ski fever with 20 or so other students learning how with the help of expert volunteer instructors. Stay at the Econolodge-like Bowersox Conference Center at the foothill of Laurel Mountain in Jennerstown, PA. Cost of \$75/80 covers lodgings, breakfasts and free instruction. INFO: Greg Westernik (gwesternik@attglobal.net) 301/839-1762.

22 (Saturday)

CLASS - AT Through-Hikers Preparation Course (REI)
REI, College Park, MD
Same as 1/15, except in College Park, MD on 1/22, 2/5, 2/19 and 3/4. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

22 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Natural History Hike**
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Join Bob Pickett on a 10.6-mile hike along Thornton Hollow, as described in the *Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park* PATC publication. This will feature a moderately paced hike, ascending 1100 feet to the ridgetop and returning along Fork Mountain Trail to our starting point. If we're lucky enough to have some snow cover, we'll identify as many tracks of our active winter mammal (and birds) as possible. Some history of the former residents will be discussed. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP/CLASS - NATO Downhill Nordic Clinic**
Canaan Valley, WV
Two days of training in downhill Nordic skiing techniques (mainly telemark and parallel turn skiing) offered by professional ski instructors, both local and from North American Telemark Organization. Clinic uses natural snow at White Grass STC, or man-made at downhill resort if necessary. Cost for instruction is at least \$116/person (\$121 non-member) if we get at least 8 persons confirmed. Lodging, meals, rental equipment and area use fees extra. Lodging to be arranged later at local motels. Reservations/INFO: Mitch Hyman (MitchHyman@compuserve.com) 202/244-0148.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**
Shockeysville, VA
Come on out and help prepare for a new trail work season at Shockeys Knob! We'll be hiking the property and scouting the new trail routes for springtime digging. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. We'll be sitting around a really warm woodstove listening to tales true and not so true. INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

25 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.**

25 (Tuesday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP/HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**
North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Work trip on the Dickey Ridge Trail in northern SNP south of the Visitor Center. This will be mostly a trail inspection and throwing loose deadfalls off the trail. If trail is in reasonable condition, we'll also have time for a short hike in the area. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

26 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Backpacking to the End of The Rainbow (REI)
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA
7:30 p.m. If you seek remote places, look no further. Arizona's Rainbow Plateau is remote and difficult to reach. Bordered on the north by Lake Powell, and on the south by Navajo Canyon, no roads penetrate the area, and no paved road even comes close. If your dreams include waking up in the middle of nowhere, there is no better place. Join Sierra Club trip leader Richard Fite for an evening's photo tour

through the labyrinth of twisting canyons, sandstone domes and high buttes that form the trail-less scenic splendor of the Rainbow Plateau. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

26 (Wednesday)

 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**
Silver Spring, MD
Come out for about a 4 mile hike along Sligo Creek Parkway in Silver Spring (hardtop), with favorable weather. Bring lunch and a drink. From the Beltway take Georgia Ave North for about 2 miles to a right on Arcola Ave (traffic light, red library building). Stay on Arcola for about 2 miles to the Kemp Mill Shipping Center on your right. (If you reach University Blvd you've gone too far.) Park at the back of the lot near the Giant store. INFO: John Giblin 301/585-5172.

27 (Thursday)

CLASS - Backpacking to the End of The Rainbow (REI)
REI, College Park, MD
7:30 p.m. Same as above except at College Park. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

28 - 30 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - Blackwater Falls Wknd #1**
Davis, WV
Stay at the Blackwater Falls Lodge adjacent to the Blackwater River and Gorge, complete with its own dining facility, indoor pool and exercise room. Ski right outside the Lodge on the trails within Blackwater Falls State Park, or try skiing down to White Grass in Canaan Valley, or drive to adjacent ski touring centers and trails in nearby Canaan Valley and Cabin Mountain. Cost per person for 2 nights of lodging is \$75/80. INFO: Erma Cameron 703/273-4578.

28 - 30 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - New Germany State Park Wknd #2**
New Germany State Park, MD
Stay at the cozy Martin House as we ski well-maintained trails right outside the door for a lodging cost of \$24/person (\$29 non-member). This location is close to other skiing areas in Allegheny Front of Western MD, PA and WV. INFO: Steve Brickel (sbrickel@erols.com) 301/946-2520.

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin**
Shaver Hollow, VA
The prospect of wintery weather doesn't deter this hardy crew. We will be in the woods raising logs and putting up rafters and working on the stairway to the loft as well as laying subfloor on the loft. We don't sacrifice all the creature comforts though. There is an enclosed and heated summer kitchen for eating and socializing in. Bring your tent and warm sleeping bag and spend the weekend with us working on this hand hewn log cabin that we are constructing with primitive hand tools. INFO: Charlie Graf: 410/757-6053.

FEBRUARY

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - March Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA
5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the PATC newsletter must be submitted on disk if possible to headquarters, or via e-mail or e-mail attachment to jnsbianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.**

1 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**
Fairfax County, VA

Fast 19-mile end-to-end hike along Bull Run in southern Fairfax County. Trail is mostly wooded with relatively gentle hills, following along Bull Run to Fountainhead Park. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

2 (Wednesday)

 **MEETING - New Members (PATC), 7:30 p.m.**

3 (Thursday)

CLASS - The Last Great Wilderness (REI)
REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Perched on the northern rim of the continent, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the arctic coastal plain form the last great wilderness, perhaps the largest untouched area left on the planet. It is the home of the most spectacular and awe-inspiring gathering of wildlife anywhere. Join renowned wildlife photographer and activist Lenny Kohm for a presentation that will put you squarely on the tundra of far northeastern Alaska with caribou, musk oxen, Dall's sheep, polar bears, grizzlies, millions of migratory birds and Native American cultures, and the oil development that threatens their survival. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

4 - 6 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley Wknd #3**
Canaan Valley, WV

Join a dozen or so STS'ers staying at suites in the Village Inn Chalet. For additional cost, leader will arrange for XC ski instruction from instructors at White Grass STC. Close to ski trails in the backcountry, or nearby trails in Whitegrass STC. Cost is \$77 (\$82 non-member) for two night's stay. INFO: Mitch Hyman (MitchHyman@compuserve.com) 202/244-0148.

4 - 6 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - Crystal Lake Ski Wknd #1**
Endless Mtns. of North Central PA

Stay at the cozy White Pine Cabin in the Crystal Lake STC, some 200 miles north of downtown DC. Facility has over 30 miles of groomed trails, rents skis and snowshoes, and has other backcountry trails nearby. Cost of \$90/person (\$95 non-member) covers lodging, breakfasts, Saturday night dinner, and the trail use fees. INFO: Greg Westernik (gwesternik@attglobal.net) 301/839-1762.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter**
Appalachian Trail, PA

Meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

5 - 6 (Saturday-Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid
Arlington, VA

A program of the Wilderness Safety Council, this eighteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$140. Registration is limited to 25 people. More information and registration at: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

8 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m. sharp.**

8 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**
Tuscarora Trail, WV

Brisk out and back hike of about 5 hours on the Tuscarora Trail in West Virginia north of Hawk Campground. The hike traverses mostly abandoned farm land through the woods up and over hilly terrain. It's a pretty hike. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

9 (Wednesday)

 **MEETING - Mountaineering Section, 8:00 p.m.**

11 - 13 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - Laurel Highlands Ski Wknd #1**
Jennerstown, PA

Join us as we ski the Laurel Mountain area near Jennerstown, PA, a site known to have one of the most reliable snow conditions in the Mid-Atlantic hills. Also close to Hidden Valley and Laurel Ridge STCs. We stay at local motels near Laurel Mtn. INFO: Dave Holton 202/364-7055.

11 - 13 (Friday - Sunday)

 **SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley Wknd #4**
Canaan Valley, WV

Join our small group staying at a well-appointed cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. Take advantage of park's Resort amenities, such as indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, and ice skate rink. Ski trails in the park, or nearby trails at Blackwater Falls State Park and Whitegrass STC. Cost is \$60 (\$65 non-members) for two night's stay. INFO: Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3246.

12 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - North Chapter**
Appalachian Trail, PA

Arendtsville-Shippensburg Road to Caledonia State Park (Rte 30). 11.4 miles with an elevation change of 1000 feet. We will pass by the Taj Mahal of shelters in the southern Pennsylvania area—the Quarry Gap Shelter overseen by Jim Stauch. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:30 p.m.

12 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Furnace to Furnace**
Michaux State Forest, PA

This is a fast-paced 20-mile Lincoln's Birthday hike from Pine Grove Furnace State Park to Boiling Springs on the Appalachian Trail, with a side trip to the view at Pole Steeple designed to cure cabin fever. There is some rocky terrain and there are some decent winter views. Pennsylvania AT sections 11 and 12, PATC maps 1 and 2-3. INFO: Rob Shaw (rshaw@coltplumbing.com) 717/697-4618 x233.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin**
Shaver Hollow, VA

Join our pioneering crew in completing the first hand hewn log cabin that the PATC has ever built. Oh yes, we have built round log cabins, and framed cabins, and we have restored hand hewn log cabins, but this is the first time we have tried to build an entire hand hewn cabin from the ground up. And just to be specific about it, we are doing it the same way it was done by our ancestors, with primitive hand tools. No chain saws, no generators wreaking havoc with the peace and quiet of the Virginia mountains. Learn the contentment and satisfaction of creating something beautiful and useful with your own two hands and a primitive tool. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757 - 6053.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**
Firestone/Weaver Cabins, Elkton, VA

Join the crew for a worktrip to the Firestone and Weaver Cabins where we'll finish our January "To Do" list for the cabin grounds. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

14 (Monday)

 **MEETING - New members (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group), 7:30 p.m.**

15 (Tuesday)

 **MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.**

15 (Tuesday)

 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

13-mile out and back hike in central SNP along the ridge line from Stony Man to Hawksbill (with a slightly different return route). Expansive views to the west across the valley to Massanutten Mountain. We'll cross two of the highest peaks in the SNP. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

18 - 21 (Friday - Monday)

 **SKI TRIP - Ski Dance**
Weekend at Camp Soles Laurel Highlands, PA

Joint trip with the Folklore Society of DC, Sierra Club and STS. Participants will XC ski during the day (hiking and dance workshops are also available), and folk dance at night (English country and contra) to live bands inside the camp's lodge hall. Fee includes free XC ski instruction by volunteer STS instructors; lodging in dormitory-style, "heated" cabins; all meals; and live band for dances. Cost approx. \$145 for adults, and \$55 for children. Add \$5 if non-member. Full children's program also available. INFO: Bob Mathis 301/589-7539.

18 - 21 (Friday - Monday)

 **SKI TRIP - Mtn. Retreat Lodge Wknd #2**
Canaan Valley, WV

Join our group staying at both the Main Lodge (dormitory style) and the more spacious cabin, with estimated costs of \$53 and \$78 respectively (add \$5 if non-member) for a 3-night's stay, in the Harmon area south of Canaan Valley, WV. Ski trails available after a short drive in nearby Canaan Valley, Blackwater Falls State Park, Whitegrass STC, and Dolly Sods Wilderness area. INFO: Julie Nash 703/471-0854 or Diane Weil 301/656-4347.

19 (Saturday)

 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter**
Tuscarora Trail, PA

For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

19 (Saturday)

 **HIKE - Mason-Dixon Trail Series #1**
NW York, PA

For the Millennium hike the entire length of the 187 mile Mason-Dixon trail from the AT in the west to the Brandywine trail near Wilmington, Delaware in the east. The first hike will be 17 miles from Whisky Springs to Gifford Pinchot State Park. A car shuttle is required. These are good training hikes for the 100K in May. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

FORECAST

22 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

Prince William Forest Park, VA

19-mile brisk circuit hike in Prince William Forest just 20 miles south of beltway. Rolling, wooded terrain along nice streams. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181 before 9:30 p.m.

23 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Black Hill Regional Park, MD

We will hike about 5 easy miles in this park north of Gaithersburg. Meet at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Directions: I-270 to Exit 18. Left on Rt. 121 (Clarksburg Road) for 1.5 mi. Left on Old Baltimore Road for 1 mi. to Park entrance on right (Lake Ridge Road). Go 1.7 mi. to the Visitor Center. Park in lot to the left of the Visitor Center under trees. INFO: Carol Niedzialek 301/439-1654.

25 - 27 (Friday - Sunday)

👤 **SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley State Park Wknd #4**
Canaan Valley State Park, WV

Join our group staying at a well-appointed cabin in Canaan Valley State Park. Take advantage of park's Resort amenities, such as indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, and ice skate rink. You can ski trails in the park, or at trails in nearby Blackwater Falls State Park, Whitegrass STC, and the Dolly Sods Wilderness area. Cost is \$60 (add \$5 if non-member) for two night's stay. INFO: Myrna Aavedal 301/794-7532.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin**
Shaver Hollow, VA

What kind of people travel 200 miles round trip in the middle of the winter to work like yeomen outdoors in the weather, for no pay? Doctors, lawyers, physicists, architects, geologists, engineers, librarians, teachers, carpenters; that's who. Just plain folks that are inter-

ested in resurrecting ancient skills and creating something beautiful and useful with nothing but primitive hand tools and their own skill. They are all wonderful people and interesting to get to know. If you would like to join this interesting and congenial crew call Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew**

Shockeysville, VA

Shockeys Knob. We'll complete clearing and blazing the proposed trail and entire Tuscarora relocation (except the very ends!). Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

29 (Tuesday)

👤 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Business meeting), 7:30 p.m.**

HEADQUARTERS HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH US FOR CABIN RESERVATIONS, MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, AND SALES

Address: 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
and Thursday and Friday 12 Noon to 2 p.m.

Phone #: 703/242-0315

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

To leave a message for the Club President Walt Smith: Extension 40

24-hr. Activities Tape #: 703/242-0965

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

Club E-mail #: Wriley1226@aol.com

World Wide Web URL: <http://www.patc.net>

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) Email: Wriley1226@aol.com

Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) Email: heidif@erols.com

Business Manager: Regina Garnett (Ext. 15) Email: rgarnett@erols.com

Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) Email: pfankh@erols.com

Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) Email: patcsales@erols.com



BACKPACKING 202 TRIP REPORT

I recently participated in the PATC Trail Patrol's Backpacking 202 course. The course was billed as a way to learn about planning a group backpacking trip under possibly difficult conditions. The curriculum consisted of the students actually planning a trip, with the instructors' guidance.

Our trip preparation included several meetings. First, all the participants met to discuss our expectations of the trip. We then divided ourselves into groups based on which weekend we had available. Our instructors gave guidance on equipment, but the route planning, menus, and other details were left entirely up to the students. Each group

member had certain responsibilities for stoves, food, maps, and other equipment. Our instructors gave us advice on areas they were familiar with, especially concerning weather and suitable water sources. Once our destination and menus were decided on, the group members prepared their gear, and we were ready to go.

Our group chose the Veteran's Day Weekend for a trip to the Otter Creek Wilderness in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest. A Wilderness Area is quite different from a National Park. Congress designates Wilderness Areas as places of exceptional beauty, which have the appearance of being influenced

primarily by the forces of nature. In keeping with the Wilderness Act, trails in these areas typically receive less maintenance than, for example, Shenandoah Park with its PATC trail work crews and overseers. The trails in the Otter Creek Wilderness are not blazed. Only the trail junctions are marked with small rock cairns. Good map reading skills and attention to the lay of the land are definite requirements for travel in this area. Most trails have an obvious path, but sometimes routes around huge blowdowns must be found.

After a scenic drive of three and a half hours, we unloaded the trucks at the end of FR303

See Backpacking 202, page 17

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

OVERSEER WANTED for Cowall Memorial Shelter. Contact Charlie Graf at cagraf@aol.com for further information.

OVERSEER WANTED for Boones Run Shelter. Contact Charlie Graf at cagraf@aol.com for further information.

IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO CLEAN OUT YOUR LINEN CLOSET, DON'T THROW AWAY THAT OLD BATH TOWEL that you're tired of looking at. Bears Den Hostel (owned and operated by ATC) will be happy to take it off your hands. The hostel provides bath towels for through-hikers, and after a hot summer, and a lot of sweaty hikers, our towels have more holes than towel. We are also in need of "loaner clothes" (t-shirts and shorts) that we also provide for the hikers while they are laundering their hiking duds. Please notify us if you have any of these items you would like to donate. On behalf of the Class of 2000 hikers, Thank You. INFO: Melody Blaney and Patti Landovek, Bears Den hostel, 18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, Va. 20135, 540/554-8708, bearden@crosslink.net

I AM IN SEARCH OF PROPERTY, PREFERABLY IN VIRGINIA, in close proximity to the Appalachian Trail to be used as a retreat/hiker hostel. Existing buildings, barns, outbuildings, etc. are a plus, but not a necessity. If you know of property that meets these criteria, please contact me. INFO: Melody "Midnit" Blaney, 18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, Va. 20135, 540/554-8708, e-mail bearden@crosslink.net

DISCOVER THE LAKE DISTRICT IN ENGLAND. An invitation to fellow PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing holiday in this beautiful corner of England. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty-land of Wordsworth, lakes, and mountains. INFO: Derek Teasdale at Dteasdale1@aol.com or John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference.

DISCOVER THE NORTHUMBRIAN HERITAGE IN ENGLAND. An invitation to PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing tour and explore the rich heritage of England's Border Country - from the Hills to the Sea, Romans and Christians, Castles and Battles, Stately Homes and the Great Outdoors. INFO: Derek Teasdale at Dteasdale1@aol.com or John Mason at 703/450-5009 for local reference.

WANTED: PA CONTRIBUTOR IS LOOKING FOR CAMERA EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE WORN OUT GEAR. If you have Canon or Nikon 35mm SLR camera bodies or lenses (non-auto focus is fine) gathering dust in your closet, give me a call. John (703) 938-6505 or luckj@juno.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NEEDED: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR—a Club member to coordinate volunteer opportunities and place volunteers in jobs. There is currently no placement system to match volunteers with open tasks; you can devise and implement one. No experience needed, just a general understanding of Club activities and a willingness to work. Most work will take place at the headquarters in Vienna. Call Tom Johnson, vice president for volunteerism, at 410/647-8554, or e-mail him at johnts@erols.com.

DISCOUNTS FOR HIKE LEADERS. The PATC hikes committee will offer a \$60 discount (or 50% of the tuition, whichever is smaller) on Club-approved wilderness first aid or other applicable training courses to any leader who agrees to lead at least three official Club hikes in the 12 months that follow the training course. So if you have heard about a really terrific training course that might be of benefit to a hike leader, but hesitated to take it because of the cost, this offer might be right down your alley. For details, contact Tom Johnson at 410/647-8554, johnts@erols.com.

THE SALES OFFICE is looking for volunteers interested in working as little or as long as you can manage it—Monday through Friday between 9 and 5 p.m. If interested, please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242/0693, ext. 19, or by e-mail at patcsales@erols.com.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING OUTDOORS? PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks — from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 11.

PATC OVERSEERS get BIG discounts from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: -Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville/ Tidewater)-20% -Hudson Trail Outfitters (DC Metro Region) 15% -The Trailhouse (Frederick, MD) 15% -Casual Adventures (Arlington, VA) 10% -Campmor (Mail Order via PATC HQ) 10%. Check the back page of the PA for the latest trail, cabin, and shelter overseer opportunities. And all PATC members receive a 10% discount from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports. Be sure to have your membership ID or overseer ID ready when you shop.

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP (SMRG) is seeking people interested in wilderness search and rescue. New member orientation meetings are held every month at PATC headquarters. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. INFO: SMRG Operations 703/255-5034, then press #5.

TOOL ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help sharpen and maintain tools at PATC Headquarters. INFO: Pete Gatje 703/242-0693 x13.

HIKING VACATIONS

COSTA RICA? PATC members Tom and Steve Johnson (Los Dos Hermanos) will be leading another trip to the fabled land of jungles and volcanoes in February 2000 (the Y2K Trip). A few spots still remain for this limited-edition boutique tour, but call soon for info/reservations - locally, Tom at 410/647-8554 (johnts@erols.com) and distantly Steve at SJohnson151@compuserve.com or johnsos@clemson.edu.

HIKE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES of Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean Coastline with AMC group April 23-May 11, 2000. For prospectus, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to trip leader and long-time PATC member, Donald Erbe, 129 Main St (B-11), Cornwall, NY, 12518 (fax 914-534-2368).

MISCELLANEOUS

CONSERVATION BUYERS WANTED: PATC's Trail Lands Committee has a need for individuals interested in acquiring wilderness land to help insure the permanent protection of the trails in the PATC system. These private properties would be set aside for either the trail path itself or buffer land naturally preserving the trail environment. The buyer would have the option of placing a cabin on the land for the buyer's use and enjoyment, but the cabin would be sufficiently distant from the trail to insure privacy for both the cabin owner and the trail hiker. Donating a conservation easement over the property would result in the conservation buyer being entitled to take a significant tax deduction, while gaining the satisfaction of contributing to the perpetual preservation of a PATC trail. Inquires should be addressed to Phil Paschall, PATC Trail Lands Committee, 118 Park St, SE, Vienna, VA 22180.

THE HOSTEL KNOWN AS "THE PLACE" needs your help. The hostel is owned and operated by the Damascus United Methodist Church and is in its twenty-fourth consecutive year serving hikers and bikers on the Appalachian Trail, the National Transcontinental Bike Trail, and the Creeper Trail. Until now, donations by the people who stay at "the Place" have been sufficient to pay the operating expenses and for maintenance projects, but permanent repairs to the structure are now crucial, including installation of new vinyl siding at an estimated cost of \$10,000. We are asking for donations for the first time in order to make these necessary repairs. To make a donation to "The Place," make checks payable to the Damascus UMC Hostel, Damascus United Methodist Church, P.O. 348, Damascus, VA 24236-0358.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST WATCH AT DOYLE'S RIVER CABIN. While staying at the Doyle's River Cabin in mid-October I lost a woman's silver watch with turquoise stones in the band. I've had the watch for 20 years, and it has great sentimental value. It's possible the watch slipped under the mattress in the lower bunk or along the trail to the cabin from the parking lot, the trail to the outhouse, or the trail down to the falls. Please contact me if you've found the watch. Thank you. Andrea C. Bassoff, 301/699-0250.

LOOKING FOR A MISSING BOOK FROM HIGHACRE: Highacre House possessed a picture book of Harpers Ferry and the pictures went as far back as the late 1700s. It was a hard cover book, published in 1988, with only a small number printed. The size was around 10x12. It was a private printing, but the name of the lady author or the title of the book escapes us. It was a picture story covering the early and later floods and pictures of the town as it was back in its early founding. There were lots of pictures throughout the 1800s and early 1900s. Whoever took this book away from the cabin is asked to return it, no questions asked. This is a collector's item and is the property of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. We ask for your cooperation in this matter.

FOUND. Flashlight found at Fowler Hollow Shelter on Tuscarora. INFO: Keith Daly, 304/229-0110.

Notices are published free of charge for PATC members only. PATC cannot vouch for any of the advertised items. No commercial advertisement or personal notices unrelated to hiking will be accepted. Deadline for inclusion is the first day of the month preceding issuance of the newsletter. Notices will be run for 3 months unless we are oth-

Shelter, from page 5

It didn't stop there—Ridgerunner Chad met a Boy Scout leader looking for a volunteer project for his troop—perfect timing, since we were ready to complete the digging and pouring of concrete footings for the stone wall.

The following weekend, Mike Anderson—an instructor at the California School for the Deaf—paid a visit and so happened to have prior experience working with stone. His visit resulted in the wonderful stone bench built into the retaining wall. He arrived early on Saturday afternoon and decided to stay overnight with only a borrowed tent fly for a blanket and rolled up shirt for a pillow so he could stay the next day and help complete the stone wall. These are only a few highlights of the many stories one experiences on a typical PATC project.

Thanks to all who Helped

As you might know, this shelter is replacing the Hemlock Hill Shelter, which has been on private land for many years. I'd like to acknowledge and thank the landowners—the Hennenbergers—who not only extended use of their land, but who years ago had a hand in building the Hemlock Hills shelter as a Scout project! (The Hemlock Hill Shelter is slated to be relocated to a spot on the Tuscarora Trail.)

I'd like to highlight people who worked between 7 - 24 worktrips. Without their commitment we could very well still be working on the shelter as this article goes to press! One danger in naming names is the possibility of leaving someone out, but I'll give it a go anyway.

Jim Skinner was part of the project from the beginning and was key in many ways to the smooth project. Lori Lutz was also there from the beginning, and now that the project is complete maybe in her doctoral studies she'll begin to receive A-plus rather than A-minus grades. Judy Coryell and her two young daughters, Vela and Lily, discovered the project in early summer and were a fixture thereafter. Vela and Lily were more than cute, little girls—they actually contributed positively in many ways including painting, caulking, nailing, and more. Stan and Yvette Turk (unrelated to Frank), along with their sons Robert and Daniel Turk were also early participants and later "adopted" the privy project as their main focus. John Mihall also discovered the project in early summer and remained a dedicated, quality worker in many ways—especially the landscaping of the shelter. "Hop" Long somehow managed plenty of worktrips in addition to his other PATC responsibilities. Newlyweds Roberto Reyes and Maggie Chan were frequent attendees. Dennis Smith often put his graduate school

studies on the backshelf and helped carry the project through the hot summer months. John Akerley immediately connected with the project and bounced back and forth between it and the Tulip Tree cabin project. Bro' Mike Turk was especially helpful with the log construction and finishing touch phases. Stephen Springer doesn't know how to quit when you put a pick and shovel in his hands. And MSSD student James Addison would have made it every weekend if we had had transportation available for him.

I'd like to give special thanks to Charlie Graf for his endless support and sharing his rustic construction expertise through many phone calls and e-mail. He also coordinated and participated in the privy construction.

To have had this opportunity to contribute to the AT in this special way is something I'll never forget. To know that through-hikers, section hikers, Scouts, and others will all find a nice place to rest is especially rewarding. As the shelter neared completion, it seemed I spent as much time looking at the shelter as actually working on it. It's been a fun, rewarding project...so much fun in fact that preparation has now begun for constructing the much needed shelter for Weverton! Stay tuned, more fun is just around the corner, and you are cordially invited to be part of it. □

—Frank Turk

- **Logs donated, felled & delivered to worksite—Wallace Johnson, Robert & Kayla**
- **Bowie Shelter construction site made available by MNCPPC, Greg Lewis**
- **Completed Shelter transported to AT from construction site, stumps removed, road access improved by K.W. Miller, Inc**
- **T-Shirt designed by Nick Nau, MSSD Student**
- **All funds for construction donated by David & Cynthia Cowall**
- **T-Shirts silk screened—MSSD students/tchr Reggie King, & Kathleen Leidecker**
- **2 trees felled onsite and roof lumber delivery to AT worksite by Bobby Lowry**
- **Rough lumber for scaffolding donated by Bill Everfield**
- **Native Maryland Plants—John Mihal, the Cowall's & their family friends**
- **Use of tractor and private property used for material delivery spot by Bob Orndorf**
- **Material hauled 4WD from delivery landing area to shelter worksite by Jim Skinner**
- **Photo Album for Cowall Family—Letizia Dominquez**
- **Signs, California School for the Deaf Instructor Mike Anderson and his students**
- **Endless on/off site technical advice and guidance, mason tools by Charlie Graf**
- **Metal roofing material ordered and delivered by Bruce Clendaniel**
- **Privy built and assembled by Boy Scouts, Stan Turk Family & Charlie Graf**
- **Cement Mixer and 50 gallon water containers lent by Gallaudet's Physical Plant**
- **Scribe and log dogs made by Steven Doleac & MSSD Students**
- **Transportation to worksite for MSSD students by ATC Grants in Outreach**
- **Tripod/Block and Tackle provided by Jim Skinner & Bill Wanger**

Thanks

Mt. Rainier, from page 7

in that wind. Most of it was holding the tents down while the poles were set up and the guy lines rigged.

Dinner, pasta with beef stew, hot chocolate, and three cookies for dessert, tasted like a five-star restaurant meal. The noisy flapping of the tent fabric was not a deterrent to a good night's sleep.

A Day on the Glacier

The second day dawned quiet. The wind was calm, but we were in a cloud with visibility of about 50 yards. We had a lazy morning, sleeping in to around 8 am. After a warm breakfast of granola, oatmeal, and hot chocolate, we assembled for a review and practice of ice axe self-arrest and cramponing techniques, as well as walking roped up.

Walking with the crampons was much easier than the day before, and we made steady progress to our destination, Camp Scherman at 9,500 feet. This camp is a permanent camp with a small manned ranger's hut and privy. There are many flat places around the hut to pitch tents. The camp sits between two glaciers, the Emmons and the Winthrop, at the head of a large rocky ridge, Steamboat Prow separating the two glaciers.

Once we finished climbing the snowfield (called the Interglacier), we again climbed on a rocky ridge for a 100 yards to access the Emmons Glacier proper. The climb on the ridge wasn't much fun with the crampons, but it was a short stretch. Once down on the Emmons glacier, we began seeing all the crevasses, and the guides wound a careful way

around them and sometimes over them on narrow snowbridges. My heart would beat extra fast as we crossed over them, but we finally reached our camp without incident.

We pulled into Camp Scherman around 3 pm, the weather still overcast but without precipitation, temperatures in the high 20s. After setting up camp we rested up for the morning's summit attempt. Right around dinnertime the pregnant skies finally opened up, and a snowstorm hit us. The guides hinted at not trying for the summit unless the weather improved. We slept fitfully that night, excited and anxious about what lay in store for us in the morning.

Summit Attempt

Wake up call was at 1:30 am. I popped my head out of the tent to find a half-moon night sky with sparkling stars. Seattle was visible 60 miles away. Not a breath of wind was in the air. A perfect summit day.

We geared up after a hot breakfast, put on our harnesses, helmets, crampons, and headlamps, and, with a much lighter pack (around 20 pounds), tied in to the rope. We started hiking at 3 am. Again the pace was nice and slow, although the steepness and lack of air were such that I was getting out of breath. We stopped for a short 5-10 minute rest every hour or so.

Up to this point the altitude had had no effect on me, but as we climbed higher I began to feel nausea, and a mild headache started around 11,000 feet. I hung in there until 12,000 feet where we had another rest. I tried to eat a bite of a candy bar, but it came back up. Caleb was also feeling the same if not

worse, so we asked the guides what our options were. We could wait a bit to see if the altitude symptoms would pass, hang out in a sleeping bag and wait for the rest of the party to return from the summit, or go back down with one of the guides.

After a few minutes of rest we felt no better, so we opted to bail and descend back to Camp Scherman. We made it back down to 9,500 feet without incident by 7:30 am, changed into dry clothes, and went back to bed. I would continue to have a headache the rest of the day, but my stomach felt better.

The rest of the party summited successfully, signed the register on the Columbia Crest, and were back down at 1 pm.

Glissading down the Mountain The next morning was our last day, and the plan was to descend all the way to the parking lot at White River campgrounds. We looked forward to the descent, as conditions were ripe for glissading, something I had never tried before. Once we were past Emmons Glacier and its crevasses we came to the long, steep snowfield called the Interglacier. Here we took off our crampons, and, using the ice axe as a rudder/brake, we sat on the snow and slid down about 1/2 a mile. What a hoot it was. Once off the snow we stripped down to shorts and a thin top in the warm, sunny day and were soon back to our cars.

Preparing for Next Year

I still feel elated about the experience. Being on that mountain got under my skin in a big way, and I'm already planning a return trip

See Mt. Rainier, page 17

PHOTO TIPS COMPOSITION, PART THREE: THE RULE OF THIRDS

Here are some arrangement guidelines that will help add visual impact to your photographs.

Imagine a series of lines dividing your scene into thirds, vertically and horizontally. They should resemble the “#” character, with the ends of the lines extending to the edges of your camera's viewfinder.

When composing your scene try to position the camera so important elements within the scene fall along these lines. For example, the horizon line should be placed one-third of

the distance from the top or bottom of the photo. Placing it near the top would emphasize the foreground, while placing it near the bottom would emphasize the sky.

When photographing a sunrise or sunset it is usually a good idea to place the horizon at the bottom third because the foreground will tend to be silhouetted anyway. Aiming the camera higher will provide better exposure with most automatic cameras, enhancing the colors in the sky.

The Rule of Thirds can also be used effectively

when you are including people in your scene. Your subject should be placed about one-third of the distance from either side and facing slightly inward, toward the center of the scene.

This article and all of the previous articles are posted at the following web address along with links to illustrative photos: <http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/tips.html> □

—Michael Karpie

Next month: Size Relationships



Mt Rainier, from page 16

for next year. I learned new skills and, more important, learned what my body does at altitude.

A few thoughts on training. Train slow and long. Yes, it's important to be aerobically fit, but your body has to be ready to walk 10-12 hours on summit day, slowly but steadily, after having been used hard in getting to base camp. Also walking on a glacier makes for a constantly uneven tread and sometimes to the point where my ankle got flexed beyond tolerable in every direction imaginable. I'm not quite sure how I could train for this, but it does bear consideration.

So how about joining me on Rainier next year? □

—Aurelio Roca

PATC website URL
(www.patc.net)



Patrons

Capital Hiking Club
Center Hiking Club
Potomac Backpackers Association
Sierra Club, MWROP
Wanderbirds Hiking Club

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Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
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Casual Adventures
Duron
Hewlett-Packard
Hudson Trail Outfitters
Outdoor Adventure
REI
The Outfitter at Harpers Ferry
The Trail House
Wilderness Voyagers

Backpacking 202, from page 12

near Alpena Gap. We divided the group gear and weighed our packs, (mine was a hair under 40 pounds), signed the trail register, and started our three-day adventure.

The Otter Creek Trail descends gently through a green tunnel of rhododendron, often only backpack wide. The trail is quite muddy in places, and most of the area is covered in moss and ferns. In other parts of the forest there is very little understory, and the feeling is very open and park-like. The trail follows an old railroad bed and crosses the creek, several times staying on a fairly flat grade. There are few signs of camping, but we did have to remove a fire ring from the middle of the trail.

After about six miles and a couple of rock hops across Otter Creek, we reached our first night's campsite situated within earshot of the creek on a wide bench. We were surrounded by walls of rhododendron, and rising above them were the ridges of McGowan Mountain to the west and Shaver's Mountain to the east.

We set up a cooking area, tent area, bear hang area, and designated a latrine area at the far end of the bench. Night came along very quickly in the valley. We were all in our bags a little after 6:30! We had a crescent moon, so there were plenty of stars to watch. After a quiet night, we were up near first light to heat our breakfast and tend to all the chores.

The trail continues along the creek, sometimes climbing high above it along a narrow hillside tread. We passed a beautiful waterfall that looked like a great water slide. We stopped to fill our water bottles, and Kumait, one of our instructors, took the opportunity to wash his hair. He, of course, demonstrated the Leave-No-Trace method for us.

We proceeded on, as the saying goes, to our next creek crossing. Most of the crossings were rock hops at this time of the year, but on this last crossing three of our group, Larry, Harvey, and I, decided to trade boots for sandals and wade across. The water was cold but definitely bearable; those dry boots and socks really felt great! Now on the East Side of the creek for good, we started a very steep climb up the Green Mountain Trail. At the top we stopped for a well-deserved lunch, after Kumait, Martin, Hal, Harvey, and Michael removed a blowdown from the trail.

Our route continued to climb gently up the mountain, passing through some beautiful open areas, with moss-covered logs and more

rhododendron thickets. We reached the Shaver's Mountain Shelter around 3:30 p.m. after covering about eight miles and settled in to our routine of setting up camp. The shelter is located on a knob with million dollar views of Mt. Porte Crayon to the North, Middle Mountain directly ahead, and far to the South, Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia. We watched the resident deer browse around the camp. They seemed tame, even though this area is open to hunting.

After a slightly breezy night, we rose again at first light. We had grandstand seats for a beautiful sunrise. We ate a hot breakfast, and, after a quick repair to Hal's pack strap, which had been nibbled on by a nighttime visitor, we hit the trail again. Our route, the Shaver's Mountain Trail, started across a saddle, then followed the ridge top of Shaver's Mountain for several miles. We did another short, less steep climb over a knob and stopped for our first break amidst some hemlocks. We were making excellent time, with perfect hiking weather. The trail started a long descent following a few steep switchbacks. We reached our last trail junction and stopped to eat. After lunch we continued along a creek, passing more rhododendrons and then walking along the trunk of a large hemlock that had fallen the length of the trail. We reached the trucks around 1 p.m., after covering eight miles.

I really enjoyed myself on this trip. I met some great people and learned a lot from the instructors and my fellow students.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the instructors, especially Hal, Larry, and Kumait for their efforts. With their shared knowledge and experience our trip went very smoothly. I would heartily recommend this course to anyone with an interest in improving his or her backpacking skills.

Trip participants:

Instructors: Hal Hallet, Larry Eads, and Kumait Jawdat.

Students: Randy Tompkins, Harvey Prendeville, R. Michael Smith, Martin Haberland, and John Bridges. □

—John Bridges

TRAILHEAD

Under the pretense of clearing blowdowns and adding erosion control devices, trail crews were active in early November enjoying the mild weather and clear, beautiful days. As usual, the absence of leaves presents views and openness obscured during the summer. Each season provides a distinctly different character to trails, therefore you must hike year-round to experience the many ambiances.

Leaves have fallen and by now have found their final resting-place—in your drains. Now is a good time to clear the drains before the leaves become a frozen mass. Crew leaders and overseers are encouraged to use the winter period to inventory and sharpen tools in preparation for next year. Liles Creighton will be glad to help sharpen and repair your tools if you will leave the tagged tools in the PATC tool room.

Hoodlums Active in November

George Walters reports that all is well along the North District AT and wishes all PATC district managers, crew leaders, and trail overseers a Happy Y2K New Year! On their last worktrip of the 20th century, the North District Hoodlums built/rebuilt three dozen rock and earthen waterbars in November along the AT on South Marshall in SNP. The crew took it easy on Walters and Bernie Stalman who lingered behind the pack, building the “consummate” rock waterbar and handing out PATC brochures to pass-

ing hikers. Afterwards, the Hoodlums joined the Blue and White team at Graves Mountain Lodge for a hearty dinner, and both crews retired to Meadows Cabin for an evening of fun, carousing, and swapping trail stories. Come Sunday, a country breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage was followed by a day hike of Doubletop Mountain by some of the folks. The combined crew get-together was planned by Kerry Snow and George and proved to be a successful event, hopefully the first of a new annual tradition!

Also in November, the Hoodlums crew was presented with new Trail Crew T-shirts that were made in Nepal and brought back from that side of the world by overseer Tex Herbel. The jet black shirts feature the Hoodlums logo from their web page (www.patc.net/ndhoods.html), as designed by Mike Ritoli, complete with red embroidered lettering and the little green lizard. Pretty sharp! Want one? Join the crew this coming year!

Congratulations to George Walters for receiving the Honorary Life Membership award at the PATC Annual Meeting.

Fire Update for the Trails Community

Shawn Green, Park Trails Coordinator, reports that about noon on Tuesday, Nov. 16 it is believed that an arsonist ignited a fire inside Shenandoah NP along the lower Conway River Fire Road in Madison County. The

Bootens Gap Fire grew to 1,578 acres (1,080 acres in park, 498 acres on State Game Lands) before it was contained on Nov. 21.

Although, the fire grew rapidly, driven by strong winds and steep terrain, it primarily burned leaf litter and did not burn the ice storm ('98) and Fran ('96) debris on the forest floor.

As in past fires, fire fighters took advantage of the park's trail system to establish fire lines. In this fire, the trail impacts were generally minimal. Along the Appalachian Trail leaf blowers and fire rakes cleared leaves off approximately 2 miles of AT from Hazeltop Mountain south to Bearfence Mountain. No doubt the leaves will blow back into the waterbars in time for spring cleaning in April. The AT was closed temporarily and has since been reopened.

The northern flank of the fire included portions of Laurel Prong, Cat Knob, and Jones Mountain Trails. Impacts to these trails are minimal with the exception of Jones Mountain Trail. A state fire dozer was used to establish fire line in the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area lands outside the park. The dozer line impacted approximately 300 yards of Jones Mountain Trail. A fire crew will attempt to rehab the dozer line.

This fire is an obvious reminder that this has been a relatively dry fall in spite of September's rains. If we don't get a real winter, forest fires can continue to pop up at anytime.

Checkdams Galore

Beautiful days and mild temperature made for a great November work trip for the Cadillac Crew in the SNP North District. Heavy rains from hurricanes in September caused erosion on the AT south of Gravel Springs Gap. Sixteen dedicated volunteers, including four new crewmembers, quickly went through Park Service-provided locust logs, installing over fifty check dams. A troublesome lateral drain was reworked (thanks to Don White), and two serious rock drains were added on a steep section of trail.

Saturday evening at Indian Run Hut featured John Oscanyan's (aka “Lemon Drops”) wet bar and Katherine Rindt's London Broil. After dinner, discussions around the fire

Continued on page 19

Potomac Appalachian

Several Members of the North District Hoodlums Show off their new trail crew t-shirts. (L to R, Front: Tex Herbel, Maureen Harris. Back: Stephanie Bill, John McCrea, Dick Dugan.)



Photo by George Walters

Trailhead, from page 18

ranged from politics to star constellations. The effect of the wet bar on unnamed crewmembers was quite noticeable.

Bear Den Mountain Revisited

With 34 locust logs delivered by the National Park Service and sunny weather in the forecast, the scene was set for an early November assault on Bear Den Mountain. The Appalachian Trail descends steeply down the north slope of the mountain with the potential of creating serious erosion problems.

The SNP South Crew, consisting of seven PATC volunteers, ascended the mountain to the summit where most of the logs awaited. By lunchtime the logs were stripped of their bark and in place, ready to be dug in. By the end of the afternoon most of the waterbars were finished except for pinning.

Sunday the crew returned to finish the job. By early afternoon 28 waterbars were installed and the six remaining logs stashed until after the next good rain. Special thanks to Larry Linebrink for his "impromptu" workshop on log waterbar installation and to Lois Mansfield who took time off from her duties as District Side Trails Manager to help with this project. There was at least one case of sunburn reported.

Blue and White Mutton Top Tradition

The Blue and White Crew continued their tradition of visiting the Mutton Top Cabin and the Staunton River Trail on Halloween weekend. The Crew spent Saturday and Sunday rebuilding the tread and installing erosion control devices on the middle section of the trail. The weather was a carbon copy of last year's trip (beautiful!). Crew founder and spiritual leader, Anneliese Ring, took two days out of a busy week in the area to join her friends on the trail. The Staunton River Trail, reopened in 1997 largely through the hard work of its current overseers, Mr. and Mrs. S.V. Dove, continues to improve under their stewardship. The Blue and White Crew thanks the Cadillacs for their excellent work on the Mutton Top view improvement (it made the Saturday evening pot-luck even more enjoyable).

Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Trailhead, c/o Jon Rindt, 621 Skyline Forest Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630 or to jkrindt@erols.com. □

PATC'S FIRST PAID EMPLOYEE REMINISCES

Dave Bates' reminiscence of Egbert and Dorothy Walker in the November issue of the PA brought back memories of my friend Dr. Walker bent over the map table at PATC's old headquarters on N Street. We shared many lunches. Dr. Walker, an old Asia hand, brought his lunch wrapped Japanese style in a kerchief; mine was in a brown bag.

PATC Decides to Hire Office Workers

In 1970, as PATC membership was growing, running the office was demanding more and more volunteer hours. Instead of getting out on the trail, the volunteers were tied to the indoors doing the work that many did at their day jobs. So they decided to recommend that PATC hire an office manager.

Because of PATC's tradition, many on the Council were reluctant to pay someone to do the work volunteers had done for decades. It would set bad precedent, they thought. However, the opponents lost.

PATC member Mildred Keddy recommended me for the job. I was interviewed by Ruth Blackburn and approved by the Council with the understanding that I would work only three days a week and be allowed to take my dog Creech to work with me.

I was PATC's first paid employee, often alone in the brownstone townhouse with only my faithful poodle on guard at the top of a long flight of stairs. PATC got two for the price

of one, because Creech was the best watchdog on N Street.

Later, as PATC's membership surged, another employee, Eve Simon, was hired to also work three days a week. Finally, the office was manned six days each week.

Better Reward than a Paycheck

My 12 years at PATC were rewarding, if not monetarily, but by the privilege of working with such stalwarts as Paula Strain, Rita Cloutier, Jack Reeder, Dorothy and Egbert Walker, Ed Garvey, Bill Amtmann, David Bates, Glen Moore, Sam Moore, Ruth and Fred Blackburn, Blondie Worrell, John and Virginia Oliphant, Marguerite Schneeberger, and Shirley Strong, among others.

Using what I learned from PATC about protection and preservation of natural resources, I went on to form a group in Fairfax County that has had a number of environmental successes.

Creech and Norma Retire

At my retirement party, December 13, 1982, Creech was made an honorary lifetime member and was awarded a trail marker with an enormous dog chew bone attached, as well as an inscription that read, "To Creech Hoffman, who could deliver a terrifying bark or torn pant leg with the best of them, for 12 years of faithful watchdog service...respectfully presented by your PATC friends and associates." □

—Norma Hoffman

ARE YOU MOVING?!!

Did you know that the Post Office charges PATC 50 cents every time they let us know a member has moved? You can help save money and get information to you faster just by telling us yourself.

Please fill out the following form and mail it to 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna VA 22180-4609. You can also call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693 or e-mail her at pfankh@erols.com.

Name: _____

Effective date of New Address: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings November 7, 1999. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

NO VIRGINIA SOUTH AT& BB (Maps #8 & 9)
[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004
or Email: emcknew@aol.com]

AT - Davenport Meadow Parking to Dick's Dome Shelter Rd.
[1.30 miles]

AT - Co-overseer

Powerline to south end of the Waterline [2.40 miles]

SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZE (Map #9)
[CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876 or
E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com]

Pass Mountain Trail (upper)

Pass Mountain Hut to "break point" [1.48 miles]

Big Devil Stairs Trail (co-overseer)

Bluff Trail to Harris Hollow Trail [2.30 miles]

SHENANDOAH CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZE (Map #10)
[CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388
or E-mail: hillon@erols.com]

Buck Hollow Trail (upper)

Buck Hollow Stream to Skyline Drive [1.70 miles]

Cat Knob Trail

Laurel Prong Trail to Jones Mountain Trail [.50 mile]

Corbin Mountain Trail (co-overseer)

Nicholson Hollow Trail to Old Rag Fire Road [4.40 miles]

Hot Mt.-Short Mt.

Hazel Mountain Trail to Nicholson Hollow Trail [2.10 miles]

Laurel Prong Trail

AT to Fork Mountain Trail [2.20 miles]

Jones Mountain Trail

Fork Mountain Fire Road to Cat Knob Trail [.80 mile]

Pocosin Hollow Trail

Pocosin Fire Road to East Park Boundary [2.80 miles]

TUSCARORA [BBNO] (Map # L)
[CALL LLOYD MACASKILL at 703/978-4070
or E-mail: LloydM3160@aol.com]

Tuscarora Trail

Pinnacle Powerline to Larrick Overlook [1.40 miles]

Tuscarora Trail

Larrick Overlook to Lucas Woods [2.30 miles]

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN (Map # F)
[CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177
or E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com]

White Rock Trail

Tuscarora Trail to White Rock Cliff [0.20 mile]

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Gerhard Shelter [0.10 miles]

MASSANUTTEN NORTH (Map # G)
[CALL WIL KOHLBRENNER at 540/477-2971
or E-mail: wmaxk@shentel.net]

Massanutten Mt. East Trail

Milford Gap to Indian Grave Ridge Trail [1.40]

Massanutten Mt. East Trail

Habron Gap to Kennedy Peak Trail [3.60 miles]

Massanutten Mt. East Trail

Scothurn Gap Trail to Waterfall Mountain Trail [2.0 mile]

Massanutten Mt. East Trail

Waterfall Mountain Trail to US Rte. 211 [1.8 mile]

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)
[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477
or E-mail: weschem@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu]

Massanutten Mountain South Trail

TV Tower Road (FR375) to Pitt Spring [3.4 miles]

Massanutten Mountain South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]

Morgan Run Trail

Cub Run Rd. to Massanutten Mt. South Trail [1.4 miles]

SHELTER OVERSEERS NEEDED

[CALL CHARLIE GRAF AT 410/757-6053]



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