



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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Anaphylaxis—A Clear and Present Danger

Anaphylaxis and insect stings

Anaphylaxis is a potentially life threatening, immediate response triggered by the body's own defense mechanism: an exaggerated response by the immune system. The most common cause is penicillin and the contrast media used for x-ray studies. There are as many as 800 deaths per year due to these causes. About 50 deaths per year are due to insect stings.

In sensitive people, the first sting does not cause the response but sensitizes the individual so that the next contact can be life threatening. Usually the person knows that they are sensitive due to a previous bad experience in childhood. My only experience with this outside the hospital was in North Carolina when a friend informed me that he was stung by a wasp and that the last time that happened he went unconscious and was taken to the hospital "where he almost died." Frantic, I found a policeman who raced us to the nearest town and called the owner of the local drugstore who raced over to open the place and get epinephrine. My friend collapsed on the floor of the store, but he immediately responded to the medication. I told him about the chance of a relapse and that we should go to a hospital so he could be observed for about

8 hours. He refused but we bought him another Epipen, and I ended up watching him all night.

This was a very dangerous situation but I think it scared me a lot more than it did the patient because I was not in the hospital where we have all the medications and a team to deal with emergencies. However, the key to dealing with the situation was getting my friend help fast. Thank goodness for that cell phone in North Carolina! Some patients require more than just a shot of epinephrine.

What do you do if you have a reaction?

Anaphylaxis is not always predictable and sometimes does not automatically occur when a known allergic person is exposed. Hence extreme caution is the key. Usually the person stung feels an aura of impending doom—as with my friend. The initial bad sign is swelling around the sting site. So get rid of that stinger, to prevent more toxins from entering the body. Usually you can flick it out with your credit card, which is what I used in North Carolina. Next (and quickly), you will see more swelling and a rash over the whole body. Now comes the really bad news—the airway starts to close. The person will be struggling

to breathe. At this point an intervention must be made.

The only thing that works is a shot of epinephrine, so anyone who knows they are allergic should have one, preferably in the form of an Epipen, with which it is easy to inject yourself, and keep it up to date. The one my friend produced had expired 2 years before. If you are allergic, you must get instruction from your doctor on how to use either the injectable or the auto-injector Epipen. Patients younger than 12 require a smaller dose. Also epi, as we call it in the ER, can be dan-

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ATC Membership Drive

The Appalachian Trail Conference has requested from PATC our membership list to assist them in a mail campaign membership drive. The purpose of the ATC is "the construction, permanent protection, and volunteer-centered stewardship of the Appalachian Trail." Per the Council's approval, PATC will provide the ATC with a list of our current membership who are not already ATC members. This list is being provided for one-time only mailing. You will not receive frequent requests from ATC based on this mailing list, nor will ATC provide other organizations with any part of this list.

Meet The Candidates For 1998

What helps make PATC unique, and successful, is the willingness of its members to invest their time, special talents, and energy in the daily work of the club on a sustained basis. PATC is doers making things happen, not just cash contributors. The candidates recruited by the Nominating Committee reflect this heritage.

Nominated for:

President: Walt Smith. A member since 1991, Walt has been President of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter since 1994. He is also overseer of the Tom Floyd Wayside

Shelter, the AT from the shelter to the 4-H Access Trail, the Snead Farm Loop Trail in Shenandoah National Park, and the Half-Moon Mountain and Look-Out trails in George Washington National Forest. Previously he held management positions in the Army, the Loudoun County Government, and with Bernard Haldane Associates of Arlington. Walt expects that we will plan for the future during 1999-2000.

Vice-President for Operations: George Still. George joined PATC in 1990 after attending

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VP Volunteerism: Tom Johnson
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Supervisor of Corridor Management: Bob Butt
General Secretary: Warren Sharp
General Counsel: Randy Minchew
Membership Secretary: Lisa Still
Treasurer: Dick Newcomer
Recording Secretary: Gerhard Salinger

Sections/ Chapters

Mountaineering Section: Tony Sanders
SMRG: Randy Rupp
Ski Touring Section: Katherine Stentzel
North Chapter: Steve Koeppen
N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Walt Smith
S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Lynn Cameron
Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon
West Virginia Chapter: Jane Thompson

Standing Committee Chairs (Council Members)

Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton
Cabins: Matt Ogorzalek
Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf
Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan
Corporate Donations: Jack Reeder
Endowment: Bill Ladd
Finance: Blair Staley
Hikes: Tom Johnson
Lands: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson, co-chairs
Legal: Randy Minchew
Maps: Dave Pierce
Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee: Charlie Graf
Public Affairs: Terry Cummings
Publications: Jean Golightly
Shelters: John Andrews
Trail Patrol: John Moore

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

Archives & Library: Paula Strain
Tuscarora Trail Land Management: Vacant
Cabin Reservations: Marilyn Stone
Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Rick Rhoades
Firestone Tract Management: Vacant
Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite Schneeberger
Internet Services: Andy Hiltz
Land Management: Ed McKnew
Vining Tract Management: Howard Johnson

Potomac Appalachian

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World Wide Web URL: <http://patc.simplenet.com/>

Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on August 11, 1998 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 25 Council members, 1 Special Committee Chair, 3 staff and 2 Club members.

The PATC membership stands at 6,111. There were 101 new members registered in the month of July.

The Council permitted the PATC membership list to be given to the Appalachian Trail Conference for a one-time use in a campaign to increase membership in ATC, the parent club of the Trail maintaining organizations,

The Council declined to consider an offer to purchase the Club headquarters. The previous move took several years to complete and required a large outlay of physical and intellectual resources.

The Council voted that PATC should become party to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding maintenance of the Appalachian Trail in and near the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. This is one of a series of MOUs defining the roles of the various partners in trail maintenance and improvement. The partners are the National Park, PATC, ATC, and the Appalachian Trail Park Office.

Representatives of PATC will meet with representatives of the Shenandoah National Park to inspect some of the cabins in the Park that are maintained by PATC to resolve questions about PATC's stewardship of the cabins.

The closing on the Oliphant property has been delayed to allow for a resolution among three property owners of a prescriptive easement on a roadway leading to the property. It is expected that the closing will be in September.

Members of the Executive Committee of PATC met at Blackburn Trail Center on the first weekend in August to lay the groundwork for long range planning. The major issues related to structuring the Club to efficiently maintain its volunteer orientation. There is a concern that only about 10 to 15 percent of the members are actively involved in maintenance of trails, shelters and cabins and other ancillary activities.

The letter detailing the development of the budget for 1999 will be sent out by September 8. The budget requests are due from Committee chairs by October 13. The budget will be developed and discussed with the Executive Committee at their November meeting. The vote will be December 8. Committee Chairs will be asked to state how the request addresses their long and short-term goals.

The agreement with GeoTrek to produce a CD-ROM version of the Appalachian Trail Guides and Maps has dissolved.

The publisher of *A Walk in the Woods* has offered cash settlement for using a copy of a PATC map on the cover without permission. Future editions will credit PATC. □

—Gerhard Salinger,
Recording Secretary

Reminder—New Cabin Rental Rates

Reminder: As announced in the July 1998 issue of the *Potomac Appalachian*, Council approved a simplified and adjusted cabin rental rate structure to become effective on October 1, 1998. See the July issue for a table of the new rate structure. This notice serves to remind all cabin renters that the new rate structure becomes effective for all cabins reserved at or after 4:00 p.m., October 1, 1998. This includes all cabins owned or managed by the Club. Shenandoah National Park officials have approved the new rate structure for the six primitive cabins inside SNP.

The cabins owned or managed by the Club are intended to provide unique outdoor recreational opportunities for our members. PATC currently offers 27 cabins for rent. Of these, 12 are available to the public, and 15 are reserved for members only. Eighteen cabins are located in Virginia, four each in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and one in West Virginia. Five more are currently under construction. □



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gerous—especially in older folks—like over 50. For those taking certain medications, like Beta-blockers, which are commonly prescribed for migraine headaches or high blood pressure, epinephrine can be rendered useless. If any of these factors applies to you, discuss it with your doctor.

Another alternative if you romp around the woods frequently is to get desensitized. See your family physician to get a reference to an allergist, who will administer allergy shots and gradually desensitize you to any insect stings you're allergic to.

What to do if you're a hike leader

All this boils down to some easy to understand concepts. If you are the person lead-

ing a group of hikers, you must find out if anyone in the group is allergic to insect stings. If so, my advice is to ask about their EpiPen—if they know how to use it, etc—because you are not trained to use the device unless you are a medical professional. Even paramedics in DC are not allowed to give it; the rule is they can only “assist” the patient. As you can see, there is some “gray area” here.

Remember that fire ants in addition to all kinds of bees can cause this problem, and there are “mild” cases, those who are not truly allergic but have a reaction. These individuals experience swelling around the sting site. This kind of reaction responds well to ice and Benedryl (diphenhydramine). It works for mild bee-sting reactions but not for the serious ones.

To prevent getting stung

Of course, the best prevention is not getting stung at all. Bees and other stinging insects are attracted to brightly-colored clothing, confusing it with a flower. Avoid wearing these colors, and stay away from areas where you know there are stinging insects present.

Learn to recognize the signs of anaphylaxis and be prepared to get help quickly if you or someone you're with starts to show those signs. As with all emergency situation, preparedness is key to getting out of the situation safe and sound. □

—Dr. John McNamara, MD, MPH,
Assistant Professor of Physiology,
George Washington University
PATC Medical Committee Chair

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three worktrips building Pinnacles Shelter on the (then) Big Blue Trail near Gore, Virginia. After a short membership lapse, he rejoined in 1992 and worked on the Shelters Committee, taking an active part in every Shelters project and acting as District Manager for Shelters in Maryland. George has worked closely with PATC Special events. He assisted the Virginia '95 Committee with their ATC conference, after which he was nominated for the position of First Vice President for the 1996 term. Because of an office transfer to New York, he was unable to complete that term and resigned the office. Upon returning to the area in 1996, he resumed Shelter Crew work at the Per-Lee project, and was “re-elected” to the new post of Vice President of Operations for the 1997/98 term. He has most-recently worked with Shelters Chairman John Andrews on trips to improve the Park Service's “rating” of structures within the Shenandoah National Park, and has been active with the Blackburn Trail Center renovation. This year he developed a Family Hikes Program and led hikes for parents and their children. He is currently examining future Cabins policy, bringing PATC-maintained cabins within the park into compliance with SNP guidelines, and exploring the direction PATC may wish to go with future Concessions Agreements with SNP.

Vice-President for Volunteerism: Tom Johnson. Head of the Hikes Committee and an active organizer of other activities, Tom is the incumbent. He's been a member since 1972, and is currently an AT overseer. He has led out-of-country excursions to Japan, England, and Costa Rica.

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Supervisor of Trails: Pete Gatje. A member since 1989, Pete has been serving as Supervisor of Trails (SOT) since 1997. He is also serving concurrently as District Manager for the Northern Virginia Metro Trails and as an overseer for the AT in the Central District of the SNP near Skyland. An avid hiker, he has hiked over 300 miles of the AT and submitted several articles to the *PA*. Pete helped coordinate the highly successful PATC ice storm recovery effort this past spring for the SNP AT and side trails. As the SOT, he will be responsible for supporting the efforts of the 468 overseers, 12 District Managers, and 7 Trail Crew Leaders who maintain nearly 1,000 miles of trail. Additionally, the SOT is responsible for the efforts of the Shenandoah and Massarock Trail Crews, who provide 10 weeks of volunteer work each summer. Pete has enjoyed working with his highly dedicated, enthusiastic, and interesting group of PATC District Managers and Trail Crew leaders so much that he is willing to take on the challenge of another two years.

Supervisor of Corridor Management: Tom Lupp. A member since 1986, Tom has spent most of his time working with the North Chapter. He served as chapter representative to Council in 1994 and 1995. He recently wrote the current North half of the Tuscarora Trail Guide. He also assisted with the South half guide and the new J & K maps.

General Secretary: Warren Sharp. Warren has been a Club member since 1975. In his early years with the Club, Warren was active in Trail work, including overseeing of a section of the Appalachian Trail in northern Virginia for about twenty years. He was also active in the

Club's shelters construction program for more than a decade. Since the early 1980s, Warren has held a number of elected offices in the Club, including several terms as a vice-president, and then was President of the Club for four one-year terms from 1986 through 1989. Subsequent to his tenure as President, he has served variously as General Secretary and as Recording Secretary. He currently is completing a two-year term as General Secretary. Although now retired, Warren is an electrical engineer, whose professional career was spent mostly in technical and engineering management positions involving the ground-based air navigation and air traffic control system operated by the US Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration. Warren's goals during the period of 1999-2000 include continuing to upgrade the headquarters systems and staff capabilities to more fully serve evolving Club needs as we strive to meet the challenges to trails that the new millennium is certain to present.

General Counsel: Eric Olson. Eric moves to the General Counsel position after serving as co-chairman of the Trail Lands Committee for the past eight years where he has been involved in numerous land acquisition projects that provide additional protection to the lands and resources of the AT and Tuscarora Trail. Eric joined PATC in 1984 following his 1983 AT “through hike” and maintains a section of the AT near Front Royal, VA.

Membership Secretary: Terry Cummings. Terry has been with the club since 1993 and a member of the council since 1994 when he took over the public relations job. He was

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responsible for the publicity and press relations for Virginia '95, the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference in Harrisonburg. He has always been a strong advocate of programs that bring value to one's membership, especially with regard to families and children. He has two children of his own that love the outdoors but need some people their age to share the experience with. One of his goals as the new membership secretary is to develop activities for different age groups and cultivate a membership base for the future that is interested in the stewardship of our natural resources. He is currently employed by the American Hiking Society as the manager of the National Trails System program.

Treasurer: Richard Newcomer. Dick Newcomer has served as PATC treasurer for the past four years. During that time he has enhanced the Club's reporting, coordinated the set up of accounts to control long term capital projects, and has organized the Club's first audit by an independent CPA firm. In real life, Dick is a CPA and works as the CFO of an international consulting firm. Other Club interests include hiking and cabins. During the coming term, Dick hopes to use his experience to date to assist in the long range planning as the Club evolves into an ever larger organization.

Recording Secretary: Gerhardt Salinger. An incumbent, he has been a Club member for eight years and serves as a substitute on the Sales Desk. He and his wife are overseers for

a section of the Bull Run Occoquan Trail and have hiked over 80% of the AT in sections. Salinger was hikes chairman for the Virginia '95 Conference. He was president of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and served a term on the ADK Board of Governors, before moving to Washington. He would use this experience to help the Club develop a long range plan.

MEMBER NOTICE

On Friday, November 6, 1998, PATC members will elect officers to the PATC Executive Committee. See the article above for the names of persons recommended by the Nominating Committee. These officers will serve for two years starting January 1, 1999. Members in good standing may vote either in person, at the annual meeting, or by absentee ballot. Those wishing to vote by absentee ballot must request a ballot in writing using the form below (or a photo-copy of the form). Ballots will be mailed beginning on October 22, 1998, the day after the cut-off date for receiving nominations made by petition. In order for absentee ballots to count, they must be received at Club headquarters in Vienna no later than 5 p.m. on November 6, 1998.

Other nominations of a complete slate for the Executive Committee, or of individual officers, may be made by twenty-five members who are in good standing. The twenty-five members must sign their names and post their nominations with Wilson Riley,

Director of Administration, at the Club headquarters no later than 9 p.m. on October 21, 1998. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. □

TO: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Attn: Ballot Request
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, VA 22180

Please provide me with an absentee ballot for the election of 1999-2000 PATC officers. I will not be voting in person at the PATC annual meeting held on November 6, 1998.

A self-addressed, 32-cent stamped envelope is enclosed if I need the ballot returned by mail.

Ballots may be obtained in person at the above address, during normal volunteer staffing hours, from October 22 to November 6, 1998.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____



Trail News From Around the World

The Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (a trial period for increased entrance fees at many national parks) has now been in effect for a year. In a January report to Congress, the agencies involved (NPS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management) related that the program has increased revenues, but presented several challenges. Described in the report were the results of a 1997 survey of national park visitors, indicating that over 80% of respondents were satisfied with the fees or thought they were too low, and 96% said the new fees would not affect their plans to visit parks. The report also included a Forest Service questionnaire that stated that over 60% of respondents thought the services provided by the parks were at least equal to the

fees paid, while 24% said otherwise. Support for the fees was generally related to the idea that the revenues would be spent within the parks and not returned to the U.S. Treasury. —from *The Mountaineer*, June 1998 (newsletter of The Mountaineers)

Two acres of woodland adjacent to the Appalachian Trail on Peters Mountain (in Pennsylvania) were burned in an October 31, 1997 fire. While the burnt area was relatively small and out of direct sight of the AT, the fire will have a negative visual impact for several years. Firefighters had to widen the trail in order to reach the blaze with their equipment, resulting in a road-like appearance instead of a narrow, winding path. Forest Rangers determined that a nearby campfire was the origin of the

fire. —from the *Bushwack Bulletin*, June/August 1998 (newsletter of the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.)

Good news for Appalachian Trail through-hikers: Woods Hole Shelter, just south of Slaughter Gap on the Georgia section of the trail, was officially opened on May 2, 1998 and dedicated to Tillie Wood and her late husband, Roy. For twelve years, Tillie has been housing through-hikers in her bunkhouse and treating them to a sumptuous breakfast. During last year's season alone, 355 hikers enjoyed her hospitality. Woods Hole Shelter is the only log shelter on the Georgia section of the AT. —from *The Georgia Mountaineer*, June 1998 (newsletter of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club)

(Continued on page 5)

On April 6, 1998, the National Park Service purchased 827 acres from the city of Roanoke, Virginia. Located along the ridge of Carvins Cove Reservoir, the purchase, in the form of a permanent easement, protects four miles of the Appalachian Trail. These four miles were the largest single stretch still unprotected along the entire AT. —from the *Trail Blazer*, Summer 1998 (newsletter of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club)

And for the health-conscious among us: In a new monthly column on Trail Medicine in the *Finger Lakes Trail News*, Bob Michiel, M.D. states that aerobic exercise (which you get when you hike and backpack) lowers your resting heart rate, blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol, and improves aerobic metabolism. The sum total of these benefits, he says, is that, by engaging in aerobic activity for at least half an hour three times weekly, you may live a longer, happier, and healthier life. (Your friendly reporter would like to take this opportunity to point out that engaging in the frolicsome sport of volunteer trail work provides all of the above benefits, plus camaraderie, free food, new friends, etc., etc.) —shameless lobbying on the behalf of trail crews aside, from the *Finger Lakes Trail News* (newsletter of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc.)

In May, a dozen Florida Congressmen asked the House Appropriations Committee to increase funding for the Florida National Scenic Trail. If included in the Federal budget, the funding would increase the amount appropriated for the FNST by over half, and would provide \$1 million for land acquisition for the trail in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. —from the *Footprint* (newsletter of the Florida Trail Association)

The effort to restore elk to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park may be delayed by as many as three years, due to concerns about diseases the elk carry. The plans are to bring in 40-50 elk from Elk Mountain National Park in Canada so officials can study the likelihood of the elk's long-term survival in the park environment. Common reasons a species may not do well when reintroduced include loss of habitat, changed environmental conditions, increased human activity, and disease. Elk populations frequently carry tuberculosis and brucellosis; chronic wasting disease, a relatively new disorder, has been discovered in Colorado and Wyoming elk populations. Elk will not be released in the park until the healthiest-possible animals have been found, to avoid any chance of infecting

other wildlife or domestic animals. A brief progress report on recently reintroduced critters: river otters are doing well, as are peregrine falcons, which have reproduced successfully in the park for the second year; the success of the wolf reintroduction is still uncertain, though the park continues in its efforts. —from "Experimental Elk Release Delayed," *The Enterprise Mountaineer*, August 24, 1998 (NC local newspaper)

—Lynn Witwer

Maryland's Rural Legacy Program has made its first grants for protection against development. \$3.25 million dollars of \$29 million are going to Frederick, Montgomery, and Washington counties to protect 2,794 acres of farm land, Civil War battlefield sites near Antietam National battlefield and on South Mountain, and near the Potomac River, the C & O Canal, and the Appalachian Trail.

A 3,300 mile trail connecting the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans is under construction in Canada. Open to multiple users (hikers, cyclists, riders, etc.), it will use existing trails, railroad rights-of-way, federal and provincial parks, and private lands for which right-of-way is granted. Headquarters of the Trans Canada Trail foundation is 5417 Centre Crescent, Calgary, Alberta.

Newly constructed and altered outdoor recreation areas "will, with the publication of new regulations nearing completion, have to comply with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act in providing accessibility. Clearly, any new foot trail will have to comply. It is not clear whether a relocated section of an already existing trail that is not accessible to the disabled will have to.

A marketing communications firm, Swenson Russell of Lincoln, Nebraska, reports in "A Financial Profile of Backpackers, Campers, and Hikers" that hikers are more affluent than one expects. While only about 10.9% of the adult population over 13 have hiked once in the last year, 51.30% of that group live in households with an annual income of over \$50,000. Only 37.4% of the total adult population have income at that level. Backpackers are slightly less affluent: only 47% of those who have backpacked in the past year have the \$50,000 income. The August *American Hiker* carries much more data from this report. □

—Paula Strain

Looking Back

20 Years Ago this Month....

The *PA* offered kudos to Jean Golightly for publishing the new PATC guide *Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania*. Today, a sixth edition of this guide is being prepared.

40 Years Ago this Month....

Orville Crowder reported that Harpers Ferry National Monument had three new trails: the Island Trail, the Jefferson Rock Trail, and the Loudon Heights Trail. Mr. Crowder expressed the hope that a restoration of the Appalachian Trail route to Harpers Ferry might soon follow.

60 Years Ago this Month....

William Appel, of the Equipment Committee, reported on an innovation to increase the comfort of down sleeping bags. He inflated cylindrical balloons and inserted them into pockets in the bottom of his sleeping bag to create an "exceedingly warm, comfortable bed even on stony ground."

Do you Know??

Where is the first point south of Killington Vermont on the Appalachian Trail where the height of 4,000 feet is reached?

Answer on page 18.

Patrons

Capital Hiking Club
Center Hiking Club
Potomac Backpackers Association
Sierra Club, Washington Outings Program
Wanderbirds Hiking Club

Corporate Supporters

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

30th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act

October 2, 1998, is the 30th anniversary of the National Trails System Act signed into law by President Johnson. The Act is the reason that the Appalachian Trail is a federally protected resource. The Act also affected the direction of our Club. It's why we're who we are as the PATC.

As Club members, it's important for us to understand what the Act is and how it came about, if not to appreciate the hard work of original PATC members, then to wonder at the AT's very existence at the turn of this millennium.

The Appalachian Trail (AT) was first completed as a continuous hiking trail on August 14, 1937. Protecting the AT was recognized as important from the Trail's very conception. While its location was more or less protected on public land, albeit at the whim of official managers, about a third of the Trail was on private lands, with only handshake agreements to ensure its continued existence.

In the 1940s, Congressional Representative Hoch (PA) introduced a bill to protect the AT. The bill went nowhere. In October 1956, G.F. Blackburn wrote an article in the *Potomac Appalachian Bulletin* entitled, "The Changing Appalachian Trail." In it, Blackburn discussed the problem of repeated relocations making it necessary for someone to always be monitoring the length of the Trail. The purpose of all those relocations was "to avoid some interfering situation or development." Those soft code words meant new roads and highways, and development of camps, resorts, and country clubs "having no compatibility with a wilderness foot trail."

Blackburn also talked about the problem of hikers (PATC or non-PATC) damaging the privately held lands over which the trail was marked, causing the landowners to prevent further hiking on their lands. So Blackburn stressed in his newsletter article that PATC hikers should do everything within reason to promote friendly relations with landowners because "Whether on privately or publicly owned land, the stability and even the continued existence of the AT depends to a large degree on good will."

In 1956, the AT essentially had no protection from anyone. The Trail and the hikers who loved it were at the mercy of everyone's

good will. On May 20, 1964, Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin) introduced a bill to protect the Appalachian Trail. By January 1966, President Johnson was mentioning the name of the Appalachian Trail in his Annual Message to Congress concerning extending Federal support to the "hiking path from Maine to Georgia."

Then, in 1968, the tide turned. The historic bill, known as the National Trails Act, established Federal protection for a nationwide system of trails, two of which were specifically listed: The Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. Fourteen more trails were listed for possible inclusion, among them the Continental Divide Trail, the Potomac Heritage Trail, the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Natchez Trace Trail, the Oregon Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, the Mormon Trail, and Mormon Battalion Trail, and five short trails in Alaska known as the Gold Rush Trails.

A jubilant John Oliphant reported the signing in the October 1968 *Potomac Appalachian Bulletin*. "At a glittering ceremony on October 2, President Johnson, accompanied by his wife, Lady Bird, signed four landmark bills that will bring to fruition many of the long sought hopes of outdoor enthusiasts. They are the Redwood National Park, North Cascades National Park, Scenic River System, and last but not least the National Trails System Act, which gives scenic trail status to the Appalachian Trail."

A quote in President Johnson's speech: "Our history of wise management of America's national forests has assisted us in designating the initial elements of the National Trails System. Two National Scenic Trails, one in the East and one in the West, are being set aside as the first components of the Trails System: The Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail."

At the end of Oliphant's October 1968 article, he goes on to say that the PATC's responsibilities, if anything, would increase. To secure funds for buying land, the PATC would need to demonstrate that hiking is a popular sport. And while the new Trails Act would add to the increasing use of PATC facilities, which were already difficult to manage, Oliphant accurately prophesied, "...we had best be thinking about [how to manage the AT] and not make the mistake of depending on the Federal Government to do the whole job."

While the 1968 National Trails Act was a legal victory for all those hikers and environmentalists who wanted to see Federal protection for hiking trails across the nation, in practical terms, the bill was frustrating. Paula Strain, PATC President 1970-1972, succinctly summed up the problem. "The Trails Act passed in '68 created the possibility of having trails. We fought awfully hard for it. But while the Park Service was told to put the [Appalachian] Trail together, it was given no money." The lack of money was inherent in the bill according to Fred Madison, the legislative assistant to Senator Nelson. He wrote in January 1969, "The legislation also stresses the idea that land is to be acquired only if all else fails. It is hoped that agreements can be worked out with landowners to provide the necessary right-of-way."

And so, even though the 1968 Act created the idea of Federal protection for the AT, problems with the private landowners persisted. Strain says, "The Club had problems in certain locations, such as Pennsylvania. The private landowners kept throwing the AT off their land and the ATC couldn't do a thing about it because they didn't have any money."

The government's support of the existence of the AT in theory was not enough. The AT needed to be owned by the ATC, the Federal government, or both. Allowing the AT to exist on private lands meant continuing problems with private land developers and capricious private land-owners.

An editorial entitled, "Securing the Appalachian Trail, Haste Being Made Slowly," by Alexander Kiefer in November 1973 marked the end of a two-year period during which the federal government had left it to the state and local governments to acquire the necessary protection for the AT right-of-way. By that time, Virginia and Maryland had enacted the necessary authorizing legislation, Pennsylvania and West Virginia had not. While Maryland had actually acquired only 1.83 miles of the AT with 4.16 miles pending, there is no mention of any land acquisition in Virginia. Kiefer went on to encourage PATCers to "seize every available opportunity to assist in acquiring land or easements for the AT wherever it is or could in the foreseeable future be threatened by private development. This requires money." The current balance of the land acquisition fund in September 1973 was \$7,008.

In July 1975, an ad hoc committee from the PATC, comprised of past presidents Grant Conway, Ed Garvey, and John Oliphant drafted a statement to deliver to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council. Part of the statement was a blunt challenge: "...we urge you to consider recommending that the Federal government begin a real program of acquisition of rights of way or property over which the trail passes, as published in the *Federal Register* of October 1971. The present law authorizes \$5 million for this work and very little of this authorization has been spent. It is now time to work along this line. So far the Federal government has not taken any action to secure the Trail right of way, and if it does not make a beginning, we fear many of the present lands crossed by the Trail will escalate in price or become unavailable for Trail purposes because of development."

The front page of the *Potomac Appalachian* newsletter for April of 1976 gave the happy announcement that Secretary of the Interior Thomas Kleppe had approved \$1 million for AT land acquisition. The move was designed to encourage states' interest in conserving the pieces of AT that ran through their own lands. The monies were not nearly enough.

Much to everyone's delight, ten years after the original National Trails Act was passed, the money came. On July 12, 1978, Congress approved by the vote of 341-61, an

omnibus parks bill for \$1.3 billion. The bill was a compilation of over 100 bills devised by Rep. Phillip Burton (CA), and it increased the wilderness areas protected within the national park system by 2 million acres, essentially tripling the existing wilderness areas. It also designated five new frontier paths as part of the national trails system, two of which were the Lewis and Clark Trail, running from Wood River, Illinois to Columbia River, Oregon, and the Continental Divide Trail, running from Montana through New Mexico.

A March 1979 *PA* article gave the most positive account of AT land acquisition in years. "Acquisition of AT land by the National Park Service is showing results in northern Virginia-West Virginia. Nine tracts of land south of Keys Gap, totaling 402 acres, protecting 4.2 miles of the Trail are completed. ...Appraisals have been ordered on 69 [more] tracts. ...The Park Service and the Conference are working with 11 states and with local communities within those states to keep the acquisition program in high gear. Fiscal 1980 would have been the first complete year in which the acquisition program would have operated and, pursuant to the terms of the Act, we had geared up for a \$30 million acquisition in 1980. It is urgent that the acquisition proceed at a rapid rate..."

Steps were finally being taken to ensure the safety of the AT.

Then, on January 26, 1984, National Park Service Director Russell Dickenson signed over to the ATC the responsibility for managing the lands acquired for the public by the agency. Secretary of the Interior William Clark remarked, "Without its great volunteer tradition, there would be no Appalachian Trail nor would there be such widespread support for its preservation as a part of our national heritage. The Appalachian Trail Conference and its committed volunteers have earned the trust of the American people."

So 30 years after the ball was pushed, 20 years after it really began rolling full steam downhill, all but 30 miles of the 2,158-mile Appalachian Trail is in public or private non-profit ownership. What started as Benton MacKaye's dream and was partially given over to the government for completion, was handed back to the people for stewardship and care.

Current PATC President Sandi Marra says, "The National Trails Act is what formalized our Club and its charter and it continues to guide us in our mission to protect the AT. A continued and renewed emphasis on the Act will benefit all of us as it is more important than ever to protect scenic trails across the country for recreational and conservation use." □

—Aimee Kratts

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: _____

Donations

Our heartfelt THANK YOU to those members who have given additional donations with their dues renewal fee to the individual funds listed below. Our mission of protecting the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and side trails throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, is assured through generous donations from you. It also helps greatly to insure that these protected trail lands can be enjoyed by future generations.

Donations received in June

Funds: G - General; T - Trail Lands; S/C - Shelters, Cabins, Cabin Lands; HQ - Headquarters Capital Repair; E -Endowment

Donna M. Brother	T	Judy and Randy Flynn	S/C
Harold Brown	S/C	Dyanne Lathan	S/C
Olivia E. Carolin	T	John F. McCrea	T
Coralie Farlee	HQ	Charles and Elsie Ziegenfus	T

Congratulations to our two newest Life Members: Nancy Merritt, Life Member since July 15, 1998 and John R. Williams, Life Member since August 7, 1998. Life Memberships can be obtained by sending \$500 in one sum, or you can make four monthly payments of \$125 each. Don't forget that the spouse of a current Life Member can obtain Life Member status by paying \$250, which is half the regular Life Membership fee. All Life Member payments go directly into the Endowment Fund.

—Pat Fankhauser, Membership Coordinator

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 Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com), 301/824-4942 for information. Pennsylvania work trips are generally held on the AT on the first Saturday and on the Tuscarora on the third Saturday—contact Charles Irvin at 301/447-2848. Pennsylvania AT work trips also include an optional Saturday night stay at the Gypsy Springs cabin. Dinner, breakfast, and camaraderie available. For information on upcoming hikes, contact Chris

Firme at 717/765-4833. For general chapter information, contact chapter president Steve Koeppe (skoeppe @qis.net) 410/756-2916.

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 Walt Smith, 540/678-0423.

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.

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 Wednesday evening for the following seven days. The *Forecast* can also be found on PATC's Web site at <http://patc.simplenet.com/forecast.html>

-  Hiking Trips
-  Backpacking Trips
-  Trail Work Trips
-  Cabin 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!

October

1 (Thursday)

DEADLINE - November 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 bianca@moon.jic.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Thursday)

MEETING - New Members Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Thrills and chills abound as hikes, cabins, excursions, and special events are stripped of secrecy for interested, new, and not-so-new Club members. Just show up or phone ahead. INFO: Lisa Still (Stills2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

1 (Thursday)

CLASS - Outdoor Gear Maintenance and Repair REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Fall and early winter offer some of the best opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Mid-Atlantic region. The heat and humidity are gone, fall colors are spectacular, migratory birds are passing through, and the air is often at its clearest. This is no time for equipment failure. Get your gear out and inspect it. Bring your problems to REI College Park, where Floyd Thomas will take a look and suggest maintenance and repair options, and discuss inspection and maintenance procedures to keep your gear performing right. INFO: REI Customer Service 301/982-9681.

3 (Saturday)

HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Toms Brook, VA

All are invited to join the NSVC on a hike in the vicinity of Toms Brook, VA on an easy paced, five mile hike across the Shenandoah Valley on the Tuscarora Blue. After descending from Fetzer's Gap, we will follow the trail along country roads and through woods and farm land with views of the mountains. We will also note the Civil War cavalry battle of Tom's Brook, fought on October 9, 1864. INFO: Walt Smith 540/678-0423.

3 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 a.m. to noon. DC's hiking trails offer some of the best fall scenery in the region. Help maintain the trails while you look. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

3 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

9:00 a.m. Enjoy fall colors with the South Mountaineers Trail Crew. Cooler air with erosion control on the agenda make this even a tough miss. Learn how natural erosion control devices work to protect a trail, then install them. Tools provided, bring lunch, water and gloves. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

Come watch the trees trade mantles of green for cloaks of every hue from the best vantage point imaginable—the roof of Blackburn Trail Center. Help

us saw, shingle, and swear as we re-roof this majestic structure. Enjoy an evening feast in the newer, bigger kitchen; marvel at the stone work on the outside walls; and enjoy the cool autumn breezes from the best screened porch on the Blue Ridge. For information or to accept this limited-time offer, call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070, George Still 703/425-3884 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

3 - 4 (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.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)
✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV Border

Help us open a new trail in Racer Camp Hollow in West Virginia. Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

3 - 4 (Saturday - Sunday)
✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Youth Service Project Work Trip South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The Schairer Trail Center in the South District of SNP will house the group for the weekend. Anyone interested in working with scouts or youth groups is welcome. If you need to perform a service project please join us. We will concentrate on wilderness trails in the area. All aspects of trail work may be covered depending on the size of the group. INFO: Hal Hallett 703/331-2173 or Heidi Forrest 703/242-0693 x12

4 (Sunday)
✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Trail work/trip cleaning waterbars, trail cleanup, trim branches and brush. AT in Northern SNP INFO: Frank Turk 301/249-8243 before 9 p.m.

4 (Sunday)
👤 HIKE - Jones Mountain/The Sag/Staunton River Central District, Shenandoah National Park

A pretty rough 16-mile day. One of the most beautiful and remote areas in the SNP PATC Map 10. Carpooling/Metro accessible (depending upon seating space in cars). INFO: Chris Tejrjian 301/652-4777 9/28-10/3 before 9:30 p.m.

6 (Tuesday)
👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles with a fair amount of elevation change for hikers who enjoy a good workout and nice scenery. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

6 (Tuesday)
👤 MEETING - Trail Patrol Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: John Moore (trailptr@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

7 (Wednesday)
👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers Prince William Forest Park, VA

About 7 miles, or shorter 5 1/2 mile option. Meet at 10 a.m. at Turkey Run Environmental Center in the park. Take route 95 South; exit West on Route 619. Right at entrance into park, then first left. Pass parking areas A, B, and C; keep left at fork. About 1/4 mile from fork, turn right. About 1/2 mile to parking lot at Environmental Center. Bring lunch. INFO: John or Suzanne Kominski 703/751-3026.

7 (Wednesday)
👤 MEETING: West Virginia Chapter Harpers Ferry, WV

Dr. Melody Roelke-Parker will discuss her work as a veterinarian studying lions on the Serengeti Plain of Africa. She discovered that a deadly epidemic was due to an outbreak of canine distemper virus. We will meet at Highacre at 7:00 p.m. INFO: Jane 301/865-5399 before 9:00 p.m.

10 (Saturday)
👤 HIKE - Great Falls Great Falls and Riverbend Parks, VA

This 7.5 mile loop begins and ends at Riverbend Park, traversing the edge of Mather Gorge for some spectacular vistas of the Potomac. Slow pace, minimal elevation gain. This is the second in a series of four videotaped hikes for Fairfax Channel 10. INFO: Tom Johnson 410/647-8554 (johnnts@erols.com).

10 (Saturday)
✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Suburban District Cabin John Trail, MD

Join us for tread rebuilding on the Cabin John Trail. Bring water, lunch, and gloves. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot for indoor tennis courts just off Democracy Boulevard, near Montgomery Mall. Sign up and INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

10 (Saturday)
👤 CLASS/HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Appalachian Trail in vicinity of Front Royal, VA
 What is it like to be a Trail Overseer? Join Lee Bowen, longtime overseer of a section of the AT and a trail in Shenandoah National Park, to discuss what the rewards are. Lee will show you what equipment is used and how the trail is maintained. If you think you might be interested in being an overseer sometime in the future, you are invited to join the group as Lee provides a realistic scenario of the work involved and the problems to be overcome in order to make an important contribution to the community. This will be a hiking - chat of approximately three miles, not a worktrip. After the explanations are over, participants may wish to hike farther on the AT, at their own speed, to Possum Rest Overlook for a good view of Hickerson Hollow and Dickey Ridge (bring lunch & water). This additional hike will bring the total for the day to approx. 7.5 miles. Or, participants may wish to return to their cars and travel into Front Royal for the annual Fall Festival of Leaves! INFO: Lee Bowen (leebowen@rma.edu) 540/635-2547(w); 540/635-8495 (evenings before 9:00 p.m.)

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
👤 HIKE - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail Series #II-5 Jamina/County Line

VA sections Third overnighter. Loman Branch to Waites Run Rd (forest service rd.). 1st day: 11.3 moderate miles with an elevation change of 500 ft. Overnight at Hawk Campground. 2nd day: 12.2 difficult miles with an elevation change of 1,300 ft.

Will shuttle vehicles and camping equipment to allow hiking with only a daypack. Will need tent, sleeping bag, and food. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
👤 CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

There will be big excitement as we raise 22' and 30' logs into place atop the log walls of the cabin. Come see how it's done. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA

Tread rehab on the trail from PATC's Glass House to the Tuscarora-Bear Wallow Trail. Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

10 - 11 (Saturday - Sunday)
👤 CABIN WORK TRIP - John's Rest Cabin South River Area near Madison, VA

Come, see and help with PATC's newest log cabin project. The side walls and roof are complete. Now construction of a porch will begin. Work also includes some brushcutting and further clearing of the site, and building a rock wall. Jobs for skilled and unskilled. We'll be camping in the area, with community meals Saturday night and Sunday morning. INFO: Robert Humphrey 301/229-6905.

13 (Tuesday)
👤 HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles with a fair amount of elevation change for hikers who enjoy a good workout and nice scenery. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

13 (Tuesday)
👤 MEETING - PATC Council Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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, but members wishing to address the Council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wrlie1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

13 (Tuesday)
👤 MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.

14 (Wednesday)
👤 HIKE - Easy Hikers Potomac, MD

Meet at 10 am at Swain's Lock for a 1 hour walk up and 1 hour back along the C&O Canal at your pace. Bring lunch and water. From the Beltway, take River Road (Rt. 190) toward Potomac. About 2.5 miles beyond Falls Rd, find the Swains Lock sign on your left. Meet in the parking lot. INFO: John Gerber 301/585-5172.

14 (Wednesday)
👤 MEETING - Mountaineering Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website (http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/)



FORECAST

15 (Thursday)

👤 **Hike - IN-BETWEEN hikers**

Great Falls, MD

Billy Goat and Gold Mine Trails near Great Falls, Maryland - about 7 miles. Minimum elevation change. We will hike the Billy Goat Trail at a moderate pace. This portion of the hike includes rugged sections and necessitates a fair amount of rock scrambling. The return over the Gold Mine Trail will be at a moderate-to-fast pace. Depart from the parking lot opposite the Old Anglers Inn on MacArthur Blvd. at 10 a.m. No pets. RSVP not required. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Hank Comeau (hankcomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

15-19 (Thursday - Monday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew Appalachian Trail, Northern Virginia**

The ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew will be spending five days building rock check dams and water bars on an eroded section the AT on Buzzard Hill. Come for a day or more and learn this all important trail craft from the experts. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

17 (Saturday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD**

9 a.m. in Frederick County, MD. Come enjoy the peak of fall colors on this event. Hike a while, use a pick and shovel, move rocks, get dirty and have fun in the cooler air. The trails need your help, and the nice weather beckons. Tools provided. Bring water, lunch, and gloves. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942.

17 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #6 McConnellsburg, PA**

A moderately paced 15.7 mile hike south on the Tuscarora Trail between Cowans Gap and Hells Hill Trail. Elevation gain is 1,500 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC Map K. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30. INFO: Jack 703-339-6716 and William 703-256-6735.

17 (Saturday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP Tuscarora Trail, PA**

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

17 (Saturday)

👤 **CLASS - Waterfall Photography Workshop Shenandoah National Park, VA**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Come explore the waterfalls of Shenandoah National Park and learn the techniques and equipment necessary to make beautiful waterfall photos. Led by local adventure/nature photographer Ed Neville, this workshop will concentrate on exposure and metering, depth of field, and composition. The workshop fee of \$60 includes a roll of professional grade slide film, a light metering guide, and class notes and assignments. INFO: REI Customer Service at 703-379-9400 or 301-601-0987 for registration and further information.

17 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

All are invited to join the NSVC on a varied hike of seven miles with an upward elevation change of 1,800'. The hike begins at VA 622, hiking up to Land's Run waterfall. Continuing on the Dickey Ridge and the Appalachian Trails, we will stop for the views at Fort Windham Rocks and on Compton Peak. We will

be able to compare the deciduous forests seen in the morning, along Land's Run, with the more rugged environment along Jenkins Gap Trail, as we return in the afternoon. INFO: Toni & Al Mitchell 540/459-4366.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA**

Feel like Whooping It Up? Come help us Raise the Roof at the Blackburn Trail Center. We have roof work, porch work, foundation work and stone wall work all on tap-what could be more fun than that? Come visit the loosest crew and the tightest-run project on the Blue Ridge. Dinner is served in the big, new kitchen; foolishness is served on the screened porch. Call to reserve your space in PATC history. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070, Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or George Still 703/425-3884.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **OKTOBERFEST TRAIL WORKTRIP - North District Hoodlums**

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Achtung! If you haven't had the opportunity to share sweat on the A.T. or break bread with the Hoodlums, this will be your last chance for 1998. We close out after a day of hard work on the trail, we will retire to Indian Run Hut for a German feast mit brew und deutschlander beer hall music. INFO/RSVP: George Walters 410/426-2724.

17 - 18 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV Border**

Help us open a new trail in Racer Camp Hollow in West Virginia. Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Will Kolbrenner 540/477-2971.

18 (Sunday)

👤 **HIKE - Family Nature Hike Alexandria, VA**

9:00 a.m. REI and the Metropolitan Washington Sierra Club team up to offer a leisurely, flat two-mile circuit walk for parents and children of all ages in Huntley Meadows Park (sorry, no pets). The path goes through wooded areas and over a boardwalk through a wetland area rich in wildlife. Bring camera and binoculars. Dress for the weather. Hike begins at 9:00 a.m. from the Visitors Center parking area. Co-led by Mike Monbeck and Mark Nelson. Directions and INFO: REI Customer Service 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

19 (Monday)

👤 **MEETING - Conservation Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

7:00 p.m. INFO: Mary Margaret Sloan 703/807-0746.

20 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles with a fair amount of elevation change for hikers who enjoy a good workout and nice scenery. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

21 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Scotts Run Nature Preserve, VA

About 4 moderate miles in the Scott's Run Nature Preserve in Virginia. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking area off VA 193 opposite Swink's Mill Rd. To reach this point, exit Beltway at Exit 13 Georgetown Pike (VA 193). Go right on 193 0.6 miles to Swink's Mill Rd. on left. Parking area on right. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

21 (Wednesday)

👤 **CLASS - Backpacking Virginia REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA**

7:30 p.m. Virginia has some of the best backpacking in the East. From Shenandoah Park and the Potomac headwaters all the way to Tennessee, high mountain ridges, clear streams and quiet hollows invite inspiration. Local backpacker Ed Neville will present a photo tour of some popular and more remote spots in the Old Dominion. INFO: REI Customer Service 703/379-9400.

22 (Thursday)

👤 **CLASS - Backpacking Virginia REI, College Park, MD**

See 10/12 entry above for details. INFO: REI Customer Service 301/982-9681.

24 (Saturday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC**

8:15 a.m. to noon. This is the final work trip of the season. If past years are any guide, we will need help readying the trails for a drenching winter. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

24 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Trail Patrol Training Hike**

Want to know what PATC's Trail Patrol does? Here's your chance. Join Janet Williams on a training hike. INFO: Janet Williams 301/670-9267 before 10:00 p.m.

24 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Natural History Hike Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Steve Bair, Shenandoah National Park ranger, joins Bob Pickett for a hike along the Staunton River up to Jones Mountain Cabin and back. This approximately 7 mile hike will lead us along the devastation that occurred late in June of 1995, when over 20 inches of rain in two days caused massive flooding. We'll learn more about what happened and see how this area has recovered. We'll also have lunch at Jones' Mountain Cabin and learn about the tough life of the former resident, Harvey Nicholson, as told in Tom Floyd's book "Jones Mountain". INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew Mutton Top Cabin, Standardsville, VA**

Enjoy the Shenandoah foliage in late October with the B&W Crew. We'll be overnighing at the Mutton Top Cabin and spending Saturday working on the Staunton River/Jones Mt Trails. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast will be pot-luck. INFO: Kerry Snow (kerrysno@sprynet.com) 301/570-0596.

24 - 25 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Have you ever wondered how the second floor joists could be installed in a log cabin without sticking through the walls like most of them do? Another mystery solved! Come see how we do it at Tulip Tree cabin. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

27 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles with a fair amount of elevation change for hikers who enjoy a good workout and nice scenery. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

27 (Tuesday)

MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.

28 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Cedarville State Forest, MD

A 5-mile circuit; mostly fairly level. From Beltway exit 7, go southeast on Branch Ave (MD 5) 11.8 miles to Cedarville Road (which is 2.2 miles beyond the junction of MD 5 and US 301); turn left (east) 2.4 miles to Bee Oak Road; turn right to state police office. Meeting in parking lot there at 10 a.m. INFO: Henry Shryock 202/479-4130 or Pauline LeMarie 202/484-2966.

31 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Suburban District Cabin John Trail, MD

Join us for completing tread rebuilding or to relocate a section of the Cabin John Trail. Bring water, lunch and gloves. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot just off Democracy Boulevard, near Montgomery Mall. Sign up and INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

31 - 1 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

What good is sitting at home in your room? If you can swing a hammer, drive a wheelbarrow or carry a rock, you can make a positive contribution to the Appalachian Trail. The Blackburn project has only a few more trips in 1998—don't let the year end without getting in on the fun. Call to spend your Saturday making the Trail happen. INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070, Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or George Still 703/425-3884.



November

1 (Sunday)

DEADLINE - December 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 bianca@moon.jic.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

3 (Tuesday)

MEETING - Trail Patrol Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's good will trail ambassadors to the hiking public. They provide a visible, reassuring presence on the trails, educating the public on good hiking practices, minimum impact hiking and camping ethics. Patrol members are trained in land navigation, emergency procedures, radio communications and personal equipment. All patrol volunteers are also expected to become certified in a recognized basic first aid course. Some equipment and uniform items are provided upon completion of training. INFO: John Moore (trailptr@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>)

5 (Thursday)

MEETING - New Members Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Thrills and chills abound as hikes, cabins, excursions, and special events are stripped of secrecy for interested, new, and not-so-new Club members. Just show up or phone ahead. INFO: Lisa Still (Stills2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

7 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Join the stalwarts of the South Mountaineers Trail Crew as they make the Trail in Maryland the best it can be. Bring water, lunch and gloves. 9 a.m. in Frederick County, MD. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942.

7 (Saturday)

CLASS/HIKE - Outdoor Leadership Workshop & Hike North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

For new and established outdoor leaders, this workshop and day hike discusses leadership types, setting people up for success, and modeling behavior. It covers 8 miles and 1,500 feet of climb at a moderate pace in Shenandoah National Park! INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

7 (Saturday)

SKI FAIR - Ski Touring Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA

Noon - 5 p.m. Free! Attractions for everyone, from the simply curious to cross-country addicts: presentations on where to ski, how to start, equipment and clothing; slide shows of cross country excursions in Norway, Colorado, Utah; ski swap (bring your used gear); and first chance to sign up for the new season's ski trips. INFO: Dave Holton 202/364-7055 or Katherine Stentzel 703/781-3249.

7 (Saturday)

HIKE - Half of Maryland Appalachian Trail, MD

This is a 19 mile hike from US 40 to Weverton on the Appalachian Trail. The pace will be fast so we can finish by sunset, but we will take some time to enjoy the great views from Washington Monument and Weverton Cliffs. This will be a joint hike with the

Susquehanna AT Club. INFO: Rob Shaw (rshaw@coltplumbing.com) 717/697-4618 x233.

7 - 8 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Tulip Tree Cabin Shaver Hollow, VA

We are not completely depraved or deprived. We have a nice warm enclosed summer kitchen to take refuge in if the weather gets too cold. We will work outdoors all day putting up floor joists and, oh yes, the never ending hewing! Tulip Tree is even beginning to look like a cabin. It has doors and windows and the second floor joists are going in now. Next will be one more course of logs and then the rafters...that is after we hew them! INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

7 - 8 (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.

9 (Monday)

MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.

10 (Tuesday)

MEETING - PATC Council Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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, but members wishing to address the Council should call two weeks prior to the meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda. INFO: Wilson Riley (wiley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

11 (Wednesday)

MEETING - Mountaineering Section Headquarters, Vienna, VA

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Tony Sanders 202/362-3819 or see PATC's website (http://patc.simplenet.com/mtn_sect/)

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



FORECAST

14 (Saturday)

👣 **HIKE - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail Series #II-6 GWNF, VA**

Waite's Run Rd. (forest service road) to Van Buren Furnace (VA Rte. 713). 8.9 difficult miles with an elevation change of 1500 ft. INFO: Chris Firme, 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

14 (Saturday)

👣 **HIKE - Natural History Geology Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA**

Tim Rose, geologist with the Smithsonian Institution, joins Bob Pickett on a hike along the Appalachian Trail in the Stony Man/Hawksbill area. We'll cover approximately seven miles. Learn about the geology and the natural history of the region on this moderate hike. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

14 (Saturday)

CLASS - Outdoor Leadership/Wilderness Risk Management

REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This seminar will cover concepts and protocols that assist in planning and running outdoor trips and activities, safety management and risk assessment. It will also introduce participants to preventive search and rescue, time control, confrontation and intervention techniques, and setting people up for success. This is an excellent class for outdoor club members, youth leaders and any outdoor enthusiast. Christopher Tate, Director of the Wilderness Safety Council, conducts the seminar. The fee is \$60 and includes course materials and a copy of *Outdoor Leadership*, by John Graham. Space is limited. Register early. INFO: REI Customer Service 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

14 (Saturday)

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

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

15 (Sunday)

👣 **HIKE - TRAIL PATROL TRAINING HIKE**

Ever wondered what PATC's Trail Patrol does? Now's your chance to find out. Join Kumait Jawdat for a day hike to learn more about this important volunteer opportunity. INFO: Kumait Jawdat 202/328-8137 to reserve and get more information.

16 (Monday)

👣 **MEETING - Conservation Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA**

7:00 p.m. INFO: Mary Margaret Sloan 703/807-0746.

19 (Thursday)

👣 **HIKE - In-between Hikers Fountainhead Regional Park**

Fairfax, VA

A moderate-to-fast 9 miles near the Occoquan Reservoir. Mostly hilly terrain. (PATC Wash. Region, Part B, plus). Depart from first parking lot on the right, off of entrance road at 10 a.m. Bring lunch and water. No pets. RSVP not required. INFO: Hank Comeau (hankcomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

21 (Saturday)

👣 **TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD**

9 a.m. Rock and tread work will be on the agenda for this event. Learn how erosion control protects the trail from gullying. Hike awhile and join in the fun social atmosphere that is a South Mountaineers trail

event. Tools provided. Bring lunch, water, and gloves. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942.

21 (Saturday)

👣 **HIKE - Tuscarora Trail Series #7 Hancock, MD**

A moderately paced hike of 16.2 miles on the Tuscarora Trail between Hells Hill Trail and Camp Hardy County Park. Elevation gain is 500 feet. A car shuttle is required. PATC map K. Meet at Vienna Metro, Nutley Street North at 7:30 a.m. INFO: Jack 703/339-6716 or William 703/256-6735.

21 - 22 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Land Navigation

Baileys Crossroads & Prince William Forest Park, VA

Back by popular demand. This comprehensive two day course covers the skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system, through classroom lecture and exercise, followed by a full day of field exercises on and off-trail in Prince William Forest Park. Participants will be taught to plot positions by latitude and longitude and UTM coordinates; point and self-location techniques; topographic map interpretation and terrain association; taking compass bearings; correcting for declination; and how to factor time and distance. The course fee is \$60 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map and grid reader. Space is limited to ensure individual attention. Register early! INFO: REI Customer Service 703/379-9400.

21 - 22 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

We are still hewing floor joists and wall logs and rafters but the end is in sight (two years down the road). We have dozens of interesting jobs to do this weekend besides hewing. This beautiful work of art is taking shape. Don't miss out on the opportunity to join our crew in creating a beautiful structure from the raw material that Mother Nature provides. INFO: Charlie Graf 410/757-6053.

24 (Tuesday)

👣 **MEETING - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group**

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

7:30 p.m. Meet in conference room. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rpihq.com) 703/255-5034 then press 5.



PATC In the News

The end of August proved to be an active time for PATC as it appeared in the *Washington Post* in two different locations. On August 21, the Trails Forum on the PATC website (<http://www.hypernews.org/HyperNews/get/trails/PATC.html>) was covered in the Weekend section in an article entitled "www.worth it". The article identified PATC's Trails Forum as "more up-to-date than many home-brewed, special-

interest Web pages and more focused and relevant than the average newsgroup." Meanwhile, PATC's Director of Administration Wilson Riley was quoted in the *Washington Post* Business section on August 24th in an article entitled "Outside Activities that Work." The article discussed the value of showcasing outside work activities on a resume and during job interviews. Wilson identified Club activities as a great way to develop skills. □

Towers Threaten Views: Can You Help?

A local provider is threatening to place a lofty 220-foot telecommunications tower with blinking lights along the Appalachian Trail (AT). District Manager Chris Brunton and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) conservation committee have been actively pursuing alternatives to this intrusion to the Trail.

The site, adjacent to Ashby Gap, lies within Clark County, VA. Nextel, the telecommunications provider, has shown some flexibil-

ity in considering alternative sites that would allow a smaller tower of approximately 50 feet to be placed at the Ashby Gap site. However, considering practicalities, the tower needs to be of a sufficient height to allow its antenna to function effectively. Another alternative may be disguising the tower as a tree to fit in with the surrounding foliage.

The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) has been following this tower issue closely, and it has successfully resisted the placement of tow-

ers on other sections of the Trail. The National Park Service's Appalachian Trail Park Office has jurisdiction over the Ashby Gap site because of the AT's status as a National Scenic Trail. It is not the conservation committee's position to prevent these towers from being placed on the Trail; rather we would prefer that these towers be placed and designed in such a way that they would not obstruct the views that our members enjoy on a year-round basis. The conservation committee will continue to monitor this situation closely.

NOTICES

DEAF TRAIL WORKERS. PATC's Massanutten Crew has an interpreter who will volunteer her time if there are deaf members who want to maintain trails with us. We work the second Saturday of the month. Call a week ahead so that we can send our usual newcomer material about what to expect on a work trip. Interpreter: Kelli Watts 202/543-4618 (tty). Crew leader: Wil Kohlbrenner: 540/477-2971 (relay).

The PATC store would like to ask our members for their opinion. We would like to have your suggestions as to what you would like to see available for sale in our store. You can send your suggestions to the PATC Headquarters to the attention of Maureen Estes, Sales Coordinator. We appreciate your feedback and hope to receive some helpful suggestions.

PATC SHELTER LOOKING FOR OVERSEER: The PATC Shelters Committee is presently seeking an overseer for the BOONE RUN Shelter located in George Washington National Forrest. If interested, Please contact John Andrews at jandrews@aol.com or call 703-938-0349.

PATC MEDICAL COMMITTEE Looking for Help Newly-appointed medical committee chair for PATC needs assistance with computer presentations for wilderness medicine classes. Will work at PATC HQ in Vienna. No equipment needed - just some time and expertise with computers. Call Dr. John McNamara at 703/528-4519.

HEADQUARTERS HOUSE COMMITTEE FORMING. Take Pride in Your Club! We're looking for a few good volunteers to form a Headquarters House Committee to monitor conditions and undertake minor maintenance projects in the Vienna Headquarters building. INFO: Warren Sharp, 703/242-0693, x-11.

NEW MEMBERS MEETINGS are hosted the first Thursday of each month at PATC Headquarters. If you're new to PATC, the meeting is a great opportunity to find out about club activities and meet some of the folks who lead these activities. Check the Forecast for specific meeting times.

SHENANDOAH RIVER LAND/ BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN LAND 10.19 acres of wooded land for sale, 557 ft. frontage on the Shenandoah River with natural canoe put-in, in Jefferson County West VA, 90 minutes from the DC area. Birds, wildflowers, views, great retreat abutting a 500 acre rolling pasture, \$69,900. Contact Anne McCormick (owner) 505/624-2434 or Cricket Morgan, agent for Greg Diden Realtors, 304/876-6400, evenings 304/725-6670.

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 (wrliey1226@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/Tide-water)-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: Martin Juenge 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.

SITTING AT HOME ON A RAINY SUNDAY? Why not stop by PATC Headquarters for the monthly Sunday at the Club — great slide shows and fascinating stories? INFO: Lisa Still (still2@aol.com) 703/425-3884.

PURE MAPLE SYRUP. PATC Life Member relocated to the Berkshires makes his own. A quart shipped within the USA is \$18.00, and makes a perfect gift. Contact me for a brochure. Tom McCrumm, 755 Watson-Spruce Corner Road, Ashfield, Massachusetts 01330, (413) 628-3268.

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED. Pictures taken on any of the hikes in *Hikes in the Washington Region: Part C*. This includes hikes in Rock Creek Park, Dumbarton Oaks, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Glover Archbold, National Arboretum, Doncaster, Cedarville, Myrtle Grove, Piscataway, Cosca, Jug Bay, Watkins Regional Park, and Calvert Cliffs. New edition being prepared for release this fall. Contact Jean Golightly @ jcgolightly@aol.com or call 703-591-9363.

TO LONGTIME MEMBERS—A number of you have requested an updated club membership directory. For various reasons, it seems impractical to produce one. However, a directory, limited to the members who joined between 1927 and 1981 has been produced.

Alphabetical by last name, it has the full address and home phone of these long-term members, as well as their date of joining PATC. To cover the cost (photocopying and postage) for the 20-page list, send \$1.00 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Membership Coordinator, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180. Mailing will be done the first of next month.

THE INTERNET SERVICES COMMITTEE is searching for an individual interested in doing two small video authoring projects for the PATC website. The goal is to develop two short streaming video movies that will appear on PATC's opening page. Interested individuals should have a video camera, computer, and video authoring tools that produce content that can be viewed without external plug-ins (such as Real Audio G2). Contact Andy Hiltz (ahiltz@cais.net) 703/764-0121.

WANTED: Hiking partner to do the Maryland section of the Appalachian Trail in four 12 mile long segments from Pen Mar, MD to Harpers Ferry, WV. The series of hikes would be done sometime in the fall during a Saturday.

Section 1—would be from Pen Mar to State Route 77.

Section 2—would be from State Route 77 to Washington Monument State Park.

Section 3—would be from Washington Monument State Park to Gathland State Park at Crampton's Gap.

Section 4—would be from Gathland State Park at Crampton's Gap to the U.S. Route 340 bridge at Harpers Ferry.

The mileage may vary. If you are interested, Please either call me, Dave Lepkowski, at (703) 758-9721 or Email me at Lwvs27b@prodigy.com

PATC SHELTER LOOKING FOR OVERSEER: The PATC shelters committee is presently seeking an overseer for the Hightop Hut shelter located in the South District of the Shenandoah National Park. If interested, Please contact John Andrews at jandrews@aol.com or call 703-938-0349.

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. PLEASE let us know when your notice is no longer applicable.

Towers, continued from page 12

Wave Of The Future

During the past year, the PATC has become increasingly concerned with the rapid construction of communications towers in general, and in particular with those related to new "wireless" cellular and PCS communications. One of the premier values of the AT experience is a visual landscape that is largely unspoiled by man-made structures, and new telecommunications towers have the potential to impact these values

dramatically. The National League of Cities estimates that there will be well over 100,000 new telecom towers built in the next three years alone. With their limited range and need to be within line of sight of each other, these towers seriously threaten the visual landscape as viewed from the Trail.

We Need Advocates

Right now, PATC and the ATC are looking for a network of volunteers who can serve as

our "eyes and ears" in each county and municipality along the Trail who are capable of serving as informed advocates to ensure that any proposed tower facilities do not unreasonably impact Trail values. The ATC is asking each Trail-maintaining club to designate one or more individuals in the organizations to serve as a contact and as liaison with local planning jurisdictions to assist the ATC and our regional office staff in monitoring any

See Towers, page 14

PATC Annual Meeting

How do you cap the end of another successful year for the PATC? Well, for starters you could combine the Club's business meeting with an election of officers for 1999, and see what has been happening in PATC this year, awards presentations for 1998 super achievers, a buffet-style dinner.

In fact, that is precisely how PATC plans to usher out 1998 and introduce 1999 at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Friday, November 6 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Elk's Lodge #2188 at 8421 Arlington Boulevard in Fairfax, Virginia.

The evening will open with a cash bar offering beer and wine beginning at 6:30. A buffet dinner will follow from 7:30 to 8:30. The evening's entertainment is provided by the Opus String Quartet featuring local violinist and PATC member Laura Horstkamp.

From 8:30 to 10:00 official Club business will be transacted before your very eyes, high-

lighted by election of 1999 Club officers. Annual club awards will also be presented. From 10 to 10:30 a wind-up and social goodbye period will close the evening. Admission will run \$16 per person (to defray the cost of dinner).

To reach Elk's Lodge #2188 by Metro, simply take the Orange Line to Dunn Loring Station. Shuttle drivers will meet you at the South parking lot to deliver you to (and bring you from) the meeting. Drivers will find the Elks Lodge on the south side of Route 50 (Arlington Boulevard) between Gallows Road and Prosperity Avenue. From the Beltway take the Arlington Boulevard Exit (exit 8) West.

Volunteers of all types (shuttle drivers, entertainers, etc.) are needed for this event. Please telephone Lisa Still at (703) 425-3884 or e-mail Stills2@aol.com. To attend please fill out the enclosed RSVP form and mail to PATC; Attn: Annual Meeting, Regina Garnett; 188 Park Street SE; Vienna, Virginia 22180.

PATC ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Number in party _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please enclose \$16.00 per adult for dinner.

Mail to:

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Attn: Annual Meeting Regina Garnett
118 Park Street SE
Vienna, Virginia 22180

RSVP BY October 31, 1998

BECAUSE PATC PAYS FOR DINNERS IN ADVANCE, NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 31, 1998.

Towers, from page 13

proposed towers likely to impact the Trail. These individuals will in essence be lobbyists to promote the adoption of appropriate land-use controls and regulatory procedures governing telecommunications facilities. Once you stellar individuals are identified, you will be provided with a packet of information that will assist you in developing a thorough understanding of issues related to telecommunications facilities and options available for minimizing adverse impacts on our beloved Trail.

The good news is that experience has shown that when trail groups get involved, telecommunications companies are willing to work with them and attempt to accommodate their concerns. Of course, some companies may take more prodding than others.

The tower at Ashby Gap is a good example of how hikers—by working directly with the company—got a tower reduced from 220 feet with blinking lights to 50 feet with no lights.

If you would like to get involved with the telecommunications towers issue as a contact-liaison in your county or with the Conservation Committee, please contact Mary Margaret Sloan at 703-807-0746. □

—Todd Birkenruth

To Members Who Are Coming to the Annual Meeting

We need your help for the upcoming annual meeting on the evening of November 6. There may be a need for some people to come to the event by way of the Metrorail. Therefore, we need a couple of willing volunteers to do some shuttling service for about a half hour before the meeting

begins. These same people would be needed to then transport these people back to the Metro station at the close of the evening. If you can help us in this way, please call Pat Fankhauser, Membership/Cabins Coordinator at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17 between now and 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 5th.

Memories of Jones Mountain Cabin

Editor's Note: Richard Wilkinson, the author of "Vacationing Volunteers Clear Jones Mountain Trails," in the August 1998 PA, received the following note from a reader with fond memories.

I read with delight, yet with a tear in my eye, your article "Vacationing Volunteers Clear Jones Mountain Trails." In the 70's my late husband, two young sons, and I hiked the "official" and "unofficial" trails into Jones Mountain many times. The oak rocker, which may or may not be still in use, was packed in by my husband in the early 80's when we returned with older children and another family, who was eager to "meet" the cabin we so loved.

The description of the "rebuilding of the springbox" is what has precipitated this note, however. I know that in the 90's, spring boxes and the like may be necessary, but some of us will delight in memories of collecting carafes (yes, left-over from joyous gatherings) of water so cold they would collect condensation on them when placed on the dining table. The water fell along a chestnut log that we believed had been hollowed out by Harvey Nichols himself. Thank you to you and all those that continue to make it possible for other young families to make priceless memories at Jones Mountain Cabin. □

—Lea Fischbach

Long-Time PATC Member Moves West

It felt like Old Home Week at Hermitage Cabin in Michaux State Forest on Aug. 21, when one of North Chapter's founding fellows, Elizabeth Johnston, came to call. For those of you who didn't know Elizabeth when she served not only North, but the whole of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), Elizabeth was one of the "old-timers." She and several other old-timers, including Charlie Irvin (boy, I hope he doesn't read this!), literally began the North Chapter in 1985, and she is a life member of PATC. In addition to hundreds of hours of trailwork, Elizabeth devoted her energy and intelligence to PATC's behind-the-scenes leadership.

After the death of her husband last year, Elizabeth decided to move closer to her daughter and grandchildren in Missoula, MT. She and an Audobon Society member, Shirley Fenstemacher, turned Elizabeth's move this past spring into a bird-watching road trip through the Dakotas, (the Bad Lands, etc.).

Before she left on her westward trek, however, Elizabeth stayed at Hermitage one Friday night and took a short hike Saturday af-

ternoon with friends, thanks to an invitation by North Chapter Secretary and member Kathy Seiler. A pot-luck dinner Friday night gave those of us who participated—myself, Kathy, Charlie, North Chapter President Steve Koeppen and his wonderful wife, Tess, North Chapter Hike Coordinator Chris Firme and new KTA Secretary-wife, Beth, and Pennsylvania ridge runner Joe LaRue—a chance to catch up on the whirlwind adventures of this Grande Dame of hiking.

Not surprisingly, Elizabeth, now in her new home in Montana, has not been sitting in front of her four picture windows facing the mountains all day long by herself. In addition to spending some quality time with the grandkids, Elizabeth has joined what she calls an "old-lady hiking club," where one of the senior members, in her 80s, "can really hoof it!" according to Elizabeth.

An avid bird watcher, Elizabeth has joined the local Audobon Club, attended events at the nearby University of Montana's student theater, visited local national parks, and become involved in a church.

This summer, she and Kathy Seiler visited Glacier National Park. In the next few months, Elizabeth will be visiting the Pacific Ocean and its coastline for the first time. Her daughter is planning a sabbatical next year from work, so Elizabeth looks forward to even more time with her family. Elizabeth says she's getting pretty settled, but still misses her friends here. She enjoys being close to the wonderful backcountry of Montana. The wildlife is a little less shy than it is out East, she reports. Two recent attacks on small children by mountain lions have made local parents careful about leaving the kids outside alone, she relates. She does not have her e-mail up and running yet, due to some telephone cable problems, but will let Steve Koeppen know when she's ready to keep in touch with all of her connected PATC friends.

Elizabeth continues to give her friends an appreciation for "wherever the trail may lead you." We hope she wanders back into our neck of the woods again sometime soon! □

—Diana Heim, North Chapter

Map 'Committee' Chair Speaks Up

PATC Interviews Its Master Mapper

Dave Pierce, a professional cartographer with the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, Department of Defense, was interviewed about his volunteer activities as Map Chair for PATC. He has been at this helm since 1993. During this time he has overseen 29 revisions or reprints actions resulting in the production of over 245,000 map copies.

Dave, who makes up the map committee?

Most of our PATC committees are truly a group of persons meeting and working together to achieve a common goal. Considering that definition, then, technically I'm a committee of one person. I rather believe I'm more like a conductor. I have lots of persons contributing to specific activities, all independent of each other, but timed by my direction. Among these persons are PATC headquarters staff and various committees, park or forest officials, cartographic and print contractors, and most importantly of all, a large group of PATC volunteers. It is these volun-

teers, to whom I assign tasks, that serve as my eyes roving the forests. The volunteers contribute 80 percent of the changes that eventually end up in each map revision. The other 20 percent come from my own field research and visits to park or forest staff.

What are the major events in revising a hiking map?

The first decision is predicting when the existing map supply is going to reach zero stockage. Nine to twelve months prior to that point I'll review the scope of problems already known about the map. If I need major field research, I'll line up people to scout out specific trails. If the map is mature in its information, I may spot check a few trails. I also touch base with the appropriate park or forest rangers. Many times these officials have information about trails or park conditions that will allow the park or forest visitors better enjoy their hike. About four months prior to printing I'll have the printer obtain the necessary map stock from a national distribu-

tor. If a map revision is appropriate, rather than a reprint, I hand draw the changes onto a master overlay transparency. I give the transparency, plus written specifications, to a cartographic contractor. The contractor updates compilation materials and provides me a full size negative for each ink color. Lastly, about three weeks prior to the scheduled print date, I deliver the negatives to the printer.

What's the difference between a revision and reprint?

A reprint means the map's information content is basically current and accurate. "Accurate" means the line work or symbology is within the locational tolerance allowed by the map scale. Of course my dream is to have all the PATC maps that perfect. The production effort would be a piece of cake. The first action would be for me to budget the necessary money. The second action would be to take the print negatives to the printer. The third action is go hiking for fun. The reality

Continued on page 16

is that something always needs changing on a map. If it's not the currency or accuracy factors that mandate a change, there's always the desire to add more information or standardize some bit of symbology. A revision means there are information content changes that improve the map's worth to the hiker.

I've had many people tell me how great our maps are for hiking. If this is true, what needs to be changed in our maps?

Don't be fooled by the color and immense detail of our maps. In my initial three years as map chair I had to make up for many years of benign neglect in the total map information content. As a professional cartographer, I look at the total image of the map and not just the wiggly lines representing trail locations. Every piece of text, symbology, line work, or color, tries to convey information and therefore is eligible for improvement. During the 1980's each edition reasonably updated the portrayal of the Appalachian Trail. On the other hand, the map revisers did not give sufficient attention to the overall information content; i.e., boundaries, public roads, side trails, park or forest features, etc. My biggest problem during my first revisions was to stop collecting change ideas—they were too plentiful—and commit the manuscript to the press.

Are the map changes very noticeable?

Yes, and no. For example, with the 1997 edition of Map J and K (Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania), or the 1998 edition of Map 7 (AT from the Potomac River south to VA-7), there were dramatic changes in the colors, specifications, or layout over the previous edition. Then again, on other maps, such as the 1997 revision of Map 10 (Central District of Shenandoan National Park) you would have to study the map very closely to find the 238 changes.

How do map users know they have the most recent revision?

That's my favorite issue. Thanks for asking. Revisions result in the edition number increasing by "1" and the revision year being changed. These two items appear in the title block of our maps. To find out which edition is most current, call the PATC sales office and ask the sales desk volunteer, or find the same information on PATC's web site. Since I time my print deliveries for the same month the former edition hits zero stockage,

we usually start marketing the new map immediately.

Can't a hiker find the same edition information at a commercial outlet?

If you are buying a PATC product from a commercial retailer, then use a little caution. The retailers, who market 95 percent of our maps, typically sell all of their existing stock before ordering more from PATC. We don't offer refunds on returns of outdated editions. For most retailers, this means every three or four years, they'll have an "old" map on their shelf for six to nine months after PATC begins selling the "newer" edition.

How much volunteer time goes into a map revision?

Some of my revision projects have entailed changing over 400 items of symbology or textual information. In those cases, I've contributed 80 to 100 hours of my evening and weekend time over 12 months. On top of that, perhaps 10 to 12 field volunteers have each spent a day, or more, hiking assigned trails. If it weren't for this volunteer contribution of time, our hiking maps would be much more expensive to produce and certainly not as profitable for the Club. Recently, I've started getting a second or third look at some of our maps and I'm glad to find the need for changes tapering towards zero. Only just this year was I sufficiently satisfied with a map that I chose to reprint the map in order to replenish our dwindling stock rather than revise it.

How many map copies do you print for each edition?

As a business decision, I print enough map copies to last 3 to 5 years of projected sales. Our sales rate ranges from 600 copies per year on our less popular maps to over 8,000 copies per year for our most popular map. Therefore, the print runs vary from 3,000 to 24,000 copies. My minimum quantity is 3,000 copies. While this quantity on our less popular maps may take 5 years to sell, were I to print less, say 2,000 copies, the per-copy cost would not represent any significant savings.

Why do you print enough copies for just 3 years of sales?

This forces PATC to have an opportunity to periodically revise the map. Early on, I had to replace some maps that were 20 years old.

These maps bothered me because a consumer could have rightly questioned the currency of the map information. If we had serious competition, we would have been out of the market. If I print enough copies for just two years of sales, the production cost per copy would be more expensive. On the opposite side, if I print enough copies for 10 years of sales I reduce the cost per copy but then we have excess capital tied up in the warehouse inventory and PATC risks having an aging product.

How are the maps produced? Are the maps "digitized"?

PATC maps use conventional cartographic compilation techniques. This means negative engraving methods (hand-drawn craftsmanship) and wax-backed photographic text strips rubbed onto a clear transparency. The techniques may be 60 years old, but they are still economical. Considering our limited product line and sales volume, PATC would have difficulty in amortizing the start up costs required in switching to a professional Geographic Information System. By retaining conventional cartographic techniques I can do some of the changes myself. If the work is too complex or if the work load is too great, I contract the cartographic work to a retired, now self-employed, (read "economical") cartographer. On the other hand, I have started using some computer-assisted methods. I compose textual material on a computer at the PATC office in Vienna. The printouts are essentially photoready. Small graphics such as the trail profiles and area enlargements are done on my home computer using an Adobe Illustrator graphics application with input from a 12"x12" digitizing tablet. My best enlargements to date appear on the 1998 edition of Map 7.

What has been your best contribution to the PATC mapping program?

I'd like to believe it has been the AT elevation profiles. These drawings were not revised in older editions for many reasons. The previous altimetry survey results were not available. It is difficult to perform new surveys. Lastly, you can't simply revise a small part of a profile drawing. The graphic must be completely redrawn. When done by a contractor, drawing of a profile is expensive. I found some maps had trail profiles that were over two miles different in length than the corresponding guide book distances! Over the past five years, I've surveyed over 500 miles of trail

for PATC. This took 1 to 2 hours per mile if I combine on-site survey time and computer keystroking time back home. I record my survey information in a spreadsheet file. I share this information with the guide book editors. My profile graphics are computer-drawn “line charts” enhanced through a graphic application. The results enable me to produce cost-free, photoready artwork. Best of all, a new drawing, due to a trail relocation is now easy since I’m modifying a digital image. An example is the Maryland AT profile on the 1998 Map 5-6. The new profile, necessary because of 3 recent trail relocations, took me 8 hours to survey and draw. The original profile, back in 1995, took me over 80 hours to survey and draw.

Why do you contribute so much of your time?

I accomplish every aspect of map production. That’s a challenge I would not be allowed to

take on in a large map firm, let alone in the government agency where I work. For example, I plan long range strategy, revise specifications, and collect source information. I do actual field surveys, task others to conduct field work, submit budget requests, act as a contracting agent, and help in product sales and marketing. I talk with dozens of users for quality evaluations, meet many dedicated rangers whose park or forest we are “advertising” to the public, make production decisions, and compose photoready artwork. Another challenge: can I reasonably accomplish all of those independent activities and have time left over for home and family activities. I hope my wife agrees that I do! Why contribute so much time? Well, it provides a good excuse to go hiking. What other reason could a PATC member want? Seriously, I enjoy knowing that the information I provide allows many persons to safely enjoy hiking. That’s my reward.

Dave, thank you for your contributions to PATC. How may other Club members help with a map revision project?

I maintain a mailing list of those PATC members who want to help on a project. Periodically, I mail out a list of projects and ask for commitments. The next letter is due out next month. Leave your name at the Club, and I’ll respond. One doesn’t have to be a “cartographer.” Rather, I need persons who can observe their surroundings while hiking, or driving to a trailhead, and ask themselves if the map is doing the best it can in portraying what they’re seeing given the map’s scale and symbology limitations. All I need back are stubby pencil suggestions. I do the technical work. Lastly, one doesn’t have to be a project volunteer. As many persons have found out, if they identify a map error, they’ll receive a complimentary map of the next edition. □

The PATC In Wartime—Part 2

As the nation entered into the war on a full-time basis, the great Civilian Conservation Corps program was shut down. Thus, the help the Club had received from this group in Shenandoah National Park was cut off. These men were needed in the armed services, and programs like the CCC were no longer needed to employ young men. There were job openings everywhere as men were drafted into the services.

By autumn of 1942, the Federal Government placed two camps of Conscientious Objectors in Shenandoah National Park, giving these men the same work the CCC had done. Using these men who refused to serve in any armed capacity the Park Service revived the program of trail maintenance on the AT within the Park. The Government had sanctioned maintenance of the Trail. Knowing it would disappear if not kept up, the NPS put the COs to work on it, so the Trail would be open for Army training, fire trails, or recreation for all.

The PATC began to rent trucks for work trips. These open trucks, (no roof on the back) could hold up to 30 workers. A core group of repeaters grew up, with a waiting list of members to take any openings in its ranks. Almost two-thirds of the workers were women. True, they were not as strong as men were, and some very heavy work was left undone if not enough men came out, but the

ladies showed qualities of desire, initiative, stamina, and tenacity, and they got most of the work done. Bill Mersch headed up the committee for these trips and was a big help to the Supervisor of Trails, Frank Schairer. In early 1943, Frank was forced to resign his position in the Club. He was now a husband and father. He was very much into his work of discovering new metal alloys for the gun barrels of the nation’s armed forces, and this took a lot of time and some travel. He succeeded in this work and was well recognized by both the U.S.A. and its Allies for his valuable contribution.

Locally, the Club several times held hikes on nights of the full moon, going to Rock Creek Park and the grounds of The Soldiers’ Home in the District of Columbia. No reservations were needed; just show up with adequate clothing, a canteen and maybe a light midnight lunch, and walk with your Club friends! This custom proved to be very popular, and memories of these hikes lasted a long time.

Excursions were more difficult to carry out. Trips were made to South Mountain by bus or to Harpers Ferry by the B and O Railroad. One could hike from South Mountain Tavern as far as one’s speed and stamina would allow, but the last bus left the Tavern for Washington at 5 P.M. The same sort of hike could be held from the train depot at Harpers Ferry, with the knowledge there were

later trains coming through for Union Station. Though all public vehicles were crowded in the war years, these trips were run a number of times and were well-attended. There were a few other trips like this, to places that the extensive rail and bus network then in existence allowed. There was no leisurely meal at a roadside restaurant, and, more important for tired hikers, no guarantee of a seat on the trip back. Many of these dedicated hikers said, after the war, that these trips were good. There was fresh air and exercise, being outdoors, which was what the Club members wanted. They were used to early departures on weekend trips and also late returns, but in this time, schedules must be kept, as commercial transportation would not wait. PATC, in late 1942, settled on a once-a-month excursion schedule for the next three years, and pretty much kept to it, at least until 1944.

The Club sponsored work trips two or three times each month from late 1942 on until the war’s end. It was able to keep somewhat to this plan, though not always. A truck was rented for each one, if possible. At times two or three members used their autos for a work trip. Gas rationing boards in the D.C. area would give a member an extra coupon or two for a trail-clearing trip. Federal authorities never hindered or were critical of these work trips. It had been recognized that the AT was a national asset, and as such, should be pre-

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served. It had no high priority, but work on it was allowed and assisted a little.

For cabin maintenance inside the SNP, there was an alternate way. One could take a bus or train to Luray, Virginia. There one could get transportation to some of the cabins at established rates. The information available is somewhat sketchy. The Arcade Cab Company in Luray sent a rate sheet to the Club! It charged \$2.50 to Meadow Spring, \$3.00 to Range View, \$4.00 to Rock Spring and \$6.50 to Pocosin, but it is not known now whether this was per person or per trip, no matter how many riders. It also is not known whether or not such trips were ever made, though there are sketchy rumors that such a trip or maybe two were made using the Arcade Cab Company. If these rates seem ridiculously low, prices and wages were such that a family of three could get by with five or six dollars for groceries each week, if frugal, and the wage scale was such as to make that necessary. Very little inflation, as is known today, occurred during World War Two.

The old PATC tradition of going on the trip regardless of what the weather was had to be bent occasionally if not broken. If the weather was so bad as to affect the ability of people to work, or make travel so slow as to impact on the time spent working, the trip was cancelled. There was no point making a trip to the Trail just to be there, if it would result in little or no real work. Such a trip would waste time, energy, money, gas and rubber.

Though President Schmeckebier and other Club members who held high-placed Government jobs supposedly had some clout, they were not able to secure any chartered buses for Club trips after the autumn of 1942. They made strong representations to the Office of Defense Transportation, but they made no headway in their requests for buses. The AT was not that important in the big picture. It was to the PATC, though, and the Club was forced to concentrate its resources of all sorts to keep the work trips going. Thus, excursions were scaled back even more, and some months went by without one.

Work on the Trail was done at Raven Rock Hollow in the fall of 1943, trail being cleared

Answer:

Hawksbill Mountain in Shenandoah National Park.

on both sides of that boulder. Another truck trip was made, like the Raven Rock Hollow had been, to blaze and clear trail from Ashby Gap to Manassas Gap. As these trips continued into winter, there was a memorable one in 20 degree Fahrenheit temperature in an open truck. With over 25 workers in the back, legs were often tangled, and as they became frozen, one had difficulty locating one's own limbs.

No scouting trips were made, for any reason. Trips just went out, assuming that work needed to be done after an elapse of several months or a year, according to past knowledge about the area. Resources could not be wasted on scouting. There were a number of Club members who had not been out, so a

new workers' list was made up in early 1944. It may have been thought that others could or should share the fun of these work jaunts, or perhaps a few really felt they had done their part for a while.

A bright spot in the picture was created when the first permanent Club office was opened. Employer's offices had been used until this time but in 1943, three rooms were rented at 808-17th Street, N.W., and were given good furniture and a good appearance, and kept clean and orderly. The volunteer workers who administered the PATC found this was a big help in the evenings.

(To be continued)

-Dave Bates

15th Annual PIG ROAST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 is the date for the 15th annual Pig Roast at the Blackburn Trail Center. This will be our traditional "Rick Pig and Tim Rahn" Cuban style roast pig with black beans and cold beer. If you have seen Rick and Tim operate before, then we know you will be back. If you have not, then make sure you get in on this once a year special event.

Inspect the Blackburn construction job that you have been reading about and meet some

of the construction crew. Because of the construction work, inside bunk space is limited but we have plenty of tent sites. Just 45 miles West of Tysons Corner this weekend event is a great way to spend a fall weekend. Meet old friends and make new ones. Families are especially welcomed but please, no pets. Reservations are a must. Fill out your reservation and mail it with your check to Nancy. For info call Chris at 703/560-8070 or Nancy at 202/483-6992.

15th Annual Blackburn Pig Roast Saturday, November 7, 1998 Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$20.00 each

Amount enclosed: _____

I will be bringing _____ children under 12 years of age (no charge for children under 12)

Include a \$20.00 payment per person for each reservation and mail to:
Nancy Hughes, 2339 17TH. St., NW Washington, DC 20009

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to make your check payable to Nancy Hughes.

Volunteers - Appointed in August

Trail Overseers

Bill & Carol Jones
Mike Karpie
Jim & Marth Dow
Edgar & Nanako Snow
Malcolm Davis
Bob Pruess
Ralph Monaco
Lisa Still
Adam Parascandola

AT- Pine Grove Furnace to Woodrow Road
AT- Spitler Knoll Overlook to Fishers Gap
Laurel Prong Trail
Passamaquoddy Trail
Corbin Cabin Cutoff Trail
Mill Prong Trail
Ridge Trail
Fishers Hill Loop Trail
Valley Trail - Military Road to Boundary Bridge

TRAILHEAD

It is October. The muggy, hazy days of summer have given way to the sharp, clear days of fall with its vibrant colors and cool, fresh air. What an incentive for overseers to check out their trail! The nettles and briars are dead or dying, and the leaves provide a nice crunching sound. Speaking of leaves, the later part of November and December is a good time to clear the drains blocked by the fallen leaves before the winter snow and spring rains cause unneeded erosion. This is especially true this year because the effort to quickly clear the ice storm damage from the trails resulted in debris being tossed into the drains. Depending on your trail location, you may find the effort to clear the debris may be more difficult than clearing the leaves and soil drainage.

Overseers are not the only creatures checking the trails. The bears in the SNP have been very active this year with a lot of sightings reported. Overseers will notice this activity in the form of overturned rocks (especially rock water bars and drains) and the large amount of scat on the trails.

This year's overseer trail reports were due the end of September. Thanks for submitting your reports. With two months to go, volunteer hours were already 20% ahead of the previous year's total and could be a record pace for PATC. The increased hours were due in part to the effort early in the year to clear the ice storm damage and the resulting explosion of weeds during the summer.

The SNP North District's loss is Central District's gain as C. T. Campbell is now the Park Service Trails Crew Chief for the Central District. I wonder if he will take the Stihl 044 with him? North District overseers are looking forward to working with a long-time friend and Park Service trail worker, Don Harvey, and his crew.

As of September 1st, our PATC trail crews have completed six successful weeks of trail work supporting the USFS and NPS. The Massarock Crew did outstanding work on trail construction in the Massanutten for the USFS for two weeks during mid-June. During the first four weeks of August, our SNP trail crews repaired and upgraded trails in the SNP South and Central districts for the NPS. Schairer Trail Center was used to house the crews working in the SNP South District and White Oak Cabin was used to support the

Central District crews. Pete Gatje, Supervisor of Trails, indicates that from all reports the crews have done a great job and enjoyed the experience.

After two trips in August, the Cadillac Crew's Tuscarora (Big Blue North) relocation project is within a couple hundred yards of the Virginia/West Virginia state line and is approaching the PATC property on Shockey's Knob. Al Rogers says the crew should celebrate with a champagne toast when they reach the state line. It has only taken three seasons. A special thanks to Don Nykum for repairing the crumbling ceiling in the Brill Cabin, our home away from home on work trips. Cutting new trail on the rocky slopes of the knob has been a real challenge and each trip means a further hike in with the tools to get to the work site. If you need a good physical challenge, there are several works trips remaining this year.

Twelve crew members showed up for the Hoodlums Cajun Weekend. I am not sure if they showed up for the work or for John McCrae's jerked chicken at the Indian Run Cafe. With twelve workers, two crews were organized. George Walters took one group to work the AT south of Elkswallow where many drains and check dams were constructed on the steep trail that approaches the ridge above Jeremys Run. Bernie Stalman took the other group to clear sections of the Overall Run - Tuscarora Trail. Thanks to an overcast sky, a normally hot day was made bearable. By the way, the chicken was worth the effort.

The brand-new Massanutten Crew has averaged over ten workers per trip in its first four outings. The crew is rebuilding a section of the old Glass House Trail laid out many years ago as a narrow, steep footpath for renters of PATC's Glass House. The trail crosses two ravines on its way to the Tuscarora. With years of neglect, and increasing horse and mountain bike traffic, the tread had collapsed into the ravines. The challenge of building multi-use tread on steep slopes has kept the crew busy learning every skill from pinning logs to dirt mining. Will Kohlbrenner thanks the many crew members who keep coming back for more, and welcomes any new recruits.

In July, the Blue and White Crew worked on the Cedar Run Trail, a wilderness-designated trail in SNP where power tools are not al-

lowed. Hikers had reported an old growth blowdown that was blocking the trail at two locations (across a switchback). The crew hauled a large two-man crosscut down to the fallen tree and dispatched it with gusto. The crew welcomed a new member, Mr. A. V. Dove, who contributed strong muscles and some sage advice. Mr. Dove was largely responsible for re-opening the Lower Staunton River trail last summer. After clearing the blowdown, the crew cooled off in a deep pool on Cedar Run and spent the rest of the day weeding and clearing waterbars. The crew plans to revisit Cedar Run in the near future to do treadway repairs and waterbar rehabilitation.

For an Eagle Scout project, seventeen scouts and adult leaders installed sixteen locust log steps on a steep section of the Northern Virginia AT north of Fent Wiley Hollow. Chris Brunton appreciated their help on a section long overdue rehabilitation. Chris would also like to invite overseers interested in learning techniques to control erosion to come and see an ATC work crew tackle an erosion problem on the AT near Buzzard Hill. The work trip is scheduled for Oct. 15-19. Call Chris at (703) 560-8070 for additional details.

Looking for a few good trail overseers. Four AT sections in the Northern Virginia-South District (Route 50 to SNP) are immediately available to dedicated PATC volunteers interested in advancing the Club's primary objective - stewardship of the Appalachian Trail. All sections are in the heart of Virginia's apple and wine region and are approximately a mile in length with easy access from I-66 in Linden or Route 522 in Front Royal. Several sections are part of the original AT blazed by the PATC in the late 1920's. The sections are: Pipeline to Davenport Meadow (1.20 miles); Denton Shelter to Power line (1.20 miles); Waterline to Bear Hollow Creek (.90 miles); and Bear Hollow Creek to Route 522 (0.80 miles). See PATC Map 8 for details. If interested, contact Ed McKnew at 540/622-6004 or emcknew@aol.com.

And there was the story about "Chicago Grace." Entries in the register at Gravel Springs Hut in the SNP complained about the deer eating hiker's clothes and carrying off walking sticks. One hiker mentioned seeing a deer munching on a black bra. My

See Trailhead, page 20

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings September 2, 1998. Contact the District Manager for the region that interests you.

VIRGINIA NORTH AT (Map #7 & 8)
[CALL CHRIS BRUNTON AT 703/560-8070]

Appalachian Trail

Loudoun Heights Trail to Gov. Stevenson Junction [.40 miles]

VIRGINIA SOUTH AT (Maps # 8 & 9)

NEW AT SECTIONS

[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004 OR
HEIDI FORREST AT 703/242-0693 x 12]

Appalachian Trail

Pipeline to the Davenport Meadow [1.2 miles]

Appalachian Trail

South end of the waterline to Bear Hollow Creek [0.9miles]

Appalachian Trail

Bear Hollow Creek to Route 522 [0.8miles]

SNP CENTRAL AT & BLUE-BLAZE (Map # 10)

[CALL KERRY SNOW AT 301/570-0596]

Powell Mountain Trail

Hazeltop Ridge Overlook to VA 759 [3.00 miles]

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH (Map # H)

[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477]

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]

Second Mountain Trail

Boone Run Trail to Kaylor Knob [1.1 miles]

TUSCARORA BLUE - SOUTH (MAPS # 9, F, G & H)

[CALL RICK RHOADS AT 703/239-0965]

Tuscarora Trail

US 340 to SNP boundary [1.10 miles]

Tuscarora Trail

Glass House Trail to Elizabeth Furnace [2.20 miles]

Tuscarora Trail

White Rocks Trail to Cedar Creek [2.70 miles]

Tuscarora Trail

Waites Run Road to Mill Mountain Trail

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companion's comment was that these hikers have been on the trail too long. That was until we met Grace at Rock Spring Hut. Grace is from Chicago and had decided to spend a week hiking SNP trails in lieu of a trip to the Amazon (but that is another story). In evening discussions, she related the incident she had the previous night. While in her tent, she heard a noise and looked out to see a deer munching on her sweaty underpants left to dry on the tent. A

shout, a rock thrown at the deer had no effect as it stood nearby staring like a rabbit munching on lettuce. We could only surmise that the deer have discovered another source of salt for their diet.

Future Trailhead articles will feature each of the trail crews to provide detail on their background, areas of expertise, and philosophy. For those interested in working with any of the trail crews, see the PA Forecast section for work trip dates and points of contact.

The Trailhead editor welcomes input from all that help to maintain PATC trails. Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Trailhead, c/o Jon Rindt, 7861 Colonial Village Row, Annandale, VA 22003 or to jkrindt@erols.com ☐



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