



The Potomac Appalachian

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

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50th New Year's at Allenberry Coming Up and How It All Began

After longtime Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) member Sam Moore went home from Allenberry Lodge on Jan. 1, 1998, he turned to his diary for recollections of the first PATC gathering there that ended Jan. 1, 1949. We reprint Sam's account in the hope that it will inspire others to join us at the lodge, near Boiling Springs, PA, this coming Dec. 30-31 (details below).

From Sam's diary:

The new year and a new (log)book. Wonder if this one will finish off as neatly a few years hence? This trip was not an official PATC trip but rather a New Year's party of some of the gang in the mountains. The hostelry where we stayed was sumptuous. Vic Howard found it while scouting the last TTT trip, but many, including myself, had never seen it. It's an old estate in the Cumberland Valley that has been turned into a sort of inn or resort. Two large barns were converted into a lodge and a dining hall that are really luxurious. Features of the place are a miniature golf course, lovely gardens, Yellow Breeches Creek and, particularly, a large map of the area painted on one side of the dining hall. We

were warned to bring our skis, but there wasn't any snow. Drove up Friday night in the truck. The Arnolds, Flemings and Liz Powell, plus Lowes, were there from Pennsylvania. Had a wonderful New Year's Eve party and square dance, prefaced by swell seafood dinner. Bill Richardson's cocktails helped. The singing was good, too, plus all the silly games and stunts we pulled. The ladies wore their square-dance costumes and looked lovely. I had my brand-new flash gun (Christmas present) and took numerous pictures. A final small party in the wee hours at the lodge finished off the evening. Just about the nicest New Year's Eve I ever spent.

Next day we staggered in to breakfast at all sorts of odd times. Glen Skaggs and I still had enough energy left to take off on a trip to scout part of the next TTT trip, which he leads. Leaving PA 94 at 11:00 a.m. we hiked north on the AT [Appalachian Trail] to Brandtsville. The wind was really terrific at the first tower on Lone Mountain. The whole trail was very, very wet, and I was glad I had rubber-bottom boots on. Since it was my first time over this trail, I was particularly interested in seeing Center Point Knob, the former midpoint of the AT.

The actual center is now somewhere in the middle of Cumberland Valley. Vandals had stolen the marker that used to be on the Knob. Passing White Rocks Ridge trail I resolved to "do" it some day. Farther down we passed large pits, which we later found were old iron ore pits. At Brandtsville, Bill Mersch had been supposed to meet us, but no Bill. We started back along the road, but we soon regretted it. The wind was bitterly cold and blew directly into our faces. It was a very painful hike.

Fortunately, I was wearing my parka and got a good deal of protection from that, but poor Glen had nothing. We met Bill at the gates to Allenberry, coming to get us. The time was 4:30, and the distance was about 14 miles. We were tired, but after a wonderful steak dinner were ready for another square dance, plus stunts. Great sport! Next day both Glen's and my feet and legs ached terrifically. That's what walking on pavement will do for you! Because of this I confined my activities to hiking into Boiling Springs and exploring the quaint little town. The springs are indeed something to see. In the afternoon I wandered

See Allenberry, page 3

PATC Awaits New Concessions Proposal to Maintain Cabins in Shenandoah Park

Everybody knows that PATC spends a great deal of time, energy, equipment and money building and maintaining shelters and cabins—aside from our world-famous trail work this might be the Club's best-known activity. The 33 shelters and 27 cabins are some of the Club's best recruiting tools and most eloquent speakers of PATC's commitment to the Trails Community and to providing outdoor educational and recreational opportunities to all who seek them.

But very few Club members are aware that the Club bids on and pays for the privilege

of maintaining the seven overnight shelters and six primitive cabins within the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park. Oddly, some of these structures the Club now pays to maintain were built by PATC before the Park was formed and have been cared for by the Club since the early 1930's.

These six cabins (Pocosin, Range View, Rock Spring, Corbin, Jones Mountain, and Doyle River) and seven shelters (Calf Mountain, Gravel Springs, Rock Spring, Pinefield, Hightop, Bear Fence Mountain, and Black

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Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on September 8, 1998 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 22 Council members, 2 staff and five Club members.

The PATC membership stands at 6,142. There were 114 new members registered in August.

Representatives of PATC and of the Shenandoah National Park (SNP) held a joint inspection of two of the six cabins in the SNP maintained by PATC under a concession agreement. PATC is generally meeting its obligations under the agreement, but will repair some floor joists in Range View to return the cabin to the rental system. In Pocosin cabin, a few logs need replacing or repairing. The North Country Hoodlums will undertake the work on Range View, which is to be done by the end of the year.

The request forms for the 1999 budget were distributed to committee chairs. The budget request along with a statement of plans for the committee for 1999 is due by October 13. Consultation between the Budget Committee and the chairs will be done by November 17. The Executive Committee reviews the budget at its November meeting and the budget is approved at the December Council meeting.

The Council heard a report from Frank Turk on the closed captioning of a Leave No Trace videotape and outdoor activities for hearing-impaired, inner-city youth that was financed through an ATC grant to clubs. The program accomplished its aims.

Tom Johnson reported on videotaping of hikes near Washington, D.C. to be aired on Fairfax Channel 10. Other hikes on trails near Washington, D.C. will be videotaped in the coming months. Tom was also interviewed about PATC activities by the Sports Talk show aired on WETM. This may become a bi-monthly event aired on Sunday morning.

The Conservation Committee received approval to track issues of interest to the mission of PATC and recommend that the Council take a position. In the discussion, it was pointed out that Council members should refrain from asking Club members to support or oppose matters in the name of the Club when the Council has not taken a position.

Warren Sharp and Paula Strain were re-appointed to three year terms on the Endowment Committee. Lisa Still was appointed to the unexpired term of the position vacated by Colleen Geraghty. □

—Gerhard Salinger,
Recording Secretary

In This Issue—Reader Suggestions

This issue contains a revised Notices section. Believe it or not, the notices do change from month to month, and hopefully the new organization will make it easier to find new notices.

This change is a direct result of a reader suggestion, and I wanted to take a moment to explain why some suggestions and submissions take a while to get into the *PA*. The deadline for all submissions is the first of the month before the newsletter in which the submissions are to appear. That means that by the time you read this, I'm working on the December issue and planning the January issue.

It's probably a little late to make changes such as the change in the Notices section, and it may be too late to submit articles for December's issue. So if you wonder why that

great idea, article, or Forecast item you submitted October 6th didn't show up in this issue, it's not because I didn't like your idea. I do try to get back to everyone who submits ideas or articles within a couple of weeks.

If you're writing to me rather than e-mailing, for faster reply, include a phone number, and remember, I only pick up mail from headquarters a couple of times a month. If you have a computer but can't e-mail, please put your article submissions on floppy disk; this saves me a lot of time I'd have to spend scanning. Keep those great ideas coming! □

—Bianca Menendez, Editor



Allenberry, from page 1

around the grounds at Allenberry until it was time to go home. It's quite a place, and it was a splendid way to start out the new year, even if we didn't have any skiing.

—Bill Bryant

This Year at Allenberry

This year's get-together will start after lunch

Concessions, from page 1

Rock) are now owned by the National Park Service. PATC has won the concession to rent these structures to the public with a winning "nominal" bid (enough to cover a dinner for two) paid annually to the Park.

The price for the concession might well be higher if not for the fact that the seven overnight shelters within the Park are tacked onto the deal. While somewhere there may be groups or companies who could rent the cabins for enough money to offset the cabins' high maintenance costs, the added costs of maintaining the no-charge shelters makes this a sure-fire money-losing proposition.

The agreement by which PATC takes care of these structures was last negotiated and signed in 1989 and expired in December of 1993. Since then, despite PATC requests that the Park issue a new multi-year concession, the agreement has been merely "renewed" on a year-by-year basis, and the current extension ends December 31, 1998. Shenandoah National Park has promised that this year a new concession agreement will be drafted, and Park officials have broadly hinted that PATC will not be the only bidder.

In anticipation of a new Request For Proposal from the Park on a newly-drafted concessions agreement, PATC has formed an ad-hoc committee to study the current concession and recommend a "wish list" of changes that the Club would like to see incorporated into a new contract. This group has reviewed the 1989 document and has made recommendations for changes that better protect the interests of the Club against changing Park definitions of the old relationship.

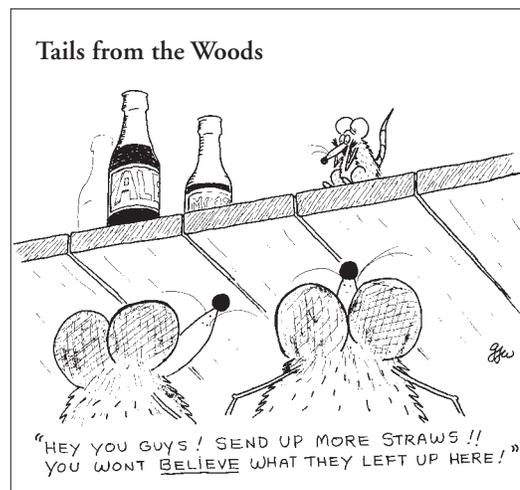
Without giving away the store and handicapping PATC's savvy negotiators, here are some of the positions the ad-hoc committee suggested the Club pursue:

on Wednesday, December 30, 1998 and will end with a mid-day Pennsylvania Dutch dinner on January 1, 1999. There will be some entertainment, slides or lecture, on Wednesday evening, square-dancing after dinner on New Year's eve, if there are enough dancers to form a couple of squares, otherwise a high-class film followed by midnight revelry with punch. Hikes will be offered Thursday and

- separate shelters, which are not "rented," from the concessions agreement and include them in a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as the maintenance huts and trails now are;
- resist efforts to cover more of the cabins and shelters under the National Historic Preservation Act (currently only Corbin Cabin is so designated), which would make maintenance of the buildings more difficult and expensive for the Club; and
- clearly spell out the Club's responsibilities for maintenance, and clearly define those types of work (major renovation, etc.) which are beyond the Club's responsibility and must be assumed or shared by the Park.

As of this writing (October 1), PATC has not received any new proposed concession agreement to bid on. As of your reading of this, the Club will have once again contacted the Park to express its interest in being asked to bid on a new agreement and to continue its connection with Appalachian mountain cabins and shelters, a connection that pre-dates Shenandoah National Park and all but a handful of our current membership. □

—George Still



Friday. Cost: \$165 per person double or \$185 single for two nights including all meals and a champagne party. Fee for one night will be \$90 per person double and \$100 for a single room.

To reserve: phone Bill and Helen Bryant 703/379-1888. Deadline for reservations: Dec. 9. □

Apparently We Didn't Know

First prize for catching a mistake in October's issue of the *PA* goes to Dave Pierce for catching the mistake in last month's "Do You Know?" For those of you who missed it, the question was "Where is the first point south of Killington Vermont on the Appalachian Trail where the height of 4,000 feet is reached?" The incorrect answer published was "Hawksbill Mountain in Shenandoah National Park." Interestingly, this question came right out of a past article in PATC's *Bulletin*.

According to Dave, who looked at PATC SNP maps going back to 1931, while there has always been a trail passing over the summit of Hawksbill, (elevation 4,050 feet), the Appalachian Trail has never done so. The AT stays on the north slope of the mountain with the highest trail elevation around 3,600 feet. The summit of Hawksbill (NOT Hawksbill Mountain, as the October issue named it) is the highest elevation in SNP, which may have led to the original confusion. The highest AT elevation in SNP is 3,837 feet on the southeastern slope of Stony Man.

The correct answer to the question is a mountain called the Priest, whose summit the AT crosses at 4,063 feet, 32 trail-miles south of where the AT crosses Interstate 64 and well south of SNP.

Thanks to Dave for catching this mistake and perusing his maps to find the correct answer. If you catch a factual mistake in the *PA*, let us know. We'll cheerfully publish the correct answer, and I will always maintain that it was done on purpose to keep readers alert!

—Bianca Menendez

Trail News From Around the World

The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation is suing the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) and eight western Connecticut landowners in an effort to reclaim almost 2,000 acres of land it says was illegally sold to non-native Americans in the 18th and 19th centuries. The land, north of the present 500-acre Schaghticoke reservation on the New York border, is bisected by National Park Service-owned AT corridors, which are not at issue because the US government cannot be sued without its consent. The real issue, say ATC attorneys, is the Schaghticoke's attempt to become recognized as a federally-designated Indian tribe, which would make them eligible for various government services, and allow them to build and operate a casino. (from *Appalachian Trailway News*, September/October 1998)

In mid-June, ATC Executive Director David Startzell received a phone call from US Representative Ralph Regula of Ohio (a Republican, if you're curious). Mr. Regula, the chair-

man of the House interior-appropriations sub-committee, announced that his subcommittee had just finished its work on the fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill and, as part of that legislation, \$15.1 million had been designated for the completion of the Appalachian Trail. Specifically, the bill included \$8.1 million for the Appalachian Trail programs of the National Park Service, and \$7 million for the U.S. Forest Service - the exact levels requested by Mr. Startzell and ATC Chair David Field. The \$15.2 million is the estimated amount required to complete remaining land acquisitions along the approximately 32 miles of Trail right-of-way still in private ownership, and of buffer lands totalling approximately 10,000 acres in most of the 14 Trail states. (from the *Appalachian Trailway News*, September/October 1998)

A Penn State research team has found a bacterium in central Pennsylvania lakes and rivers that can cause chronic gastritis, peptic ulcer disease, and certain types of stomach can-

cer. Lovely, huh. The bacteria, "Helicobacter pylori" (H. Pylori), exists in about half the people in the world but has never before been found in surface water in the U.S. Although not everyone who is exposed actually experiences problems, it is now accepted that the bacteria are responsible for most duodenal ulcers and 70-80% of gastric ulcers. In the late 1980s, researchers at Stanford University discovered a link between H. Pylori and certain types of stomach cancers. The Penn State team found the bacteria in more than 75 percent of the surface water samples tested, which included samples from both surface water and shallow well sources. The good news is that chlorine disinfection kills the H. Pylori bacteria as well as the other nasties (such as giardia) we've been warned about. So purify that backcountry water! (from *The Register, A Stewardship Newsletter for the Appalachian Trail*, August 1998) □

—Lynn Witwer

Dedication of Wineberry Cabin on November 14th

The dedication ceremony and celebration of the completion of Wineberry Cabin near Lydia, Virginia will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15. Wineberry is the last of four cabins to be renovated on the Vining Tract, a beautiful 200-acre mountain property that borders the southern section of Shenandoah National Park. The other cabins are well-known to cabin aficionados—Morris, Mutton Top, and Conley are all popular with PATC renters. Each cabin offers its own unique charms — the deck, marble floor, and creative angles at Mutton Top; the spacious kitchen and rustic feel of Morris; and the porch swing with spectacular view and new over-sized cook shed at Conley.

Wineberry has imaginative touches and conveniences that will let this small cabin more than hold its own with the competition. Although small—only 14 by 20 feet—it boasts features guaranteed to amaze and amuse. The cabin is a tin-roofed log structure, with a sleeping loft accessible via a hand-hewn mortis and tenon semi-circular log staircase. Downstairs are a double bunk, dining table, sink and tiled counter, and a wood stove hearty enough to have the cabin dubbed

"Warmberry" on the coldest of winter nights. The space inside is more than doubled by the decks outside — a roofed deck for cooking, an open octagon deck with matching picnic table in front, and a smaller deck in back for storage and sleeping on warm nights. The cabin gets natural light from windows all across the front of the loft, with (I kid you not) stained glass panels made by one of Wineberry's workers. And if all that wasn't enough, there's the solar shower by the outhouse and, perhaps its greatest luxury, a clean and very reliable spring only a few feet from the cabin! As anyone who's carted water up the hill to Conley Cabin knows, fresh water at the edge of the deck is really a treat. Wineberry will hold a maximum party of eight and will be available for rent next January.

Renovation of Wineberry Cabin

Anyone who saw the run-down structure called Wineberry Cabin before renovations began will not recognize the final product. We don't know too much about the history of the cabin, but Dr. Vining, who owned the land before PATC, believes Elijah Conley lived in the cabin in the 1940's. When PATC bought the Vining tract, the cabin consisted

simply of the original log walls and an old red tin roof. There was no chinking between the logs, no doors, no windows and no floor. Bob Humphrey and Park Anderson made some early efforts, stabilizing and leveling the structure, and adding an outhouse and a tool shed, necessary first steps for any project.

Fresh from Mutton Top construction, Larry Lang took over Wineberry's renovation in the fall of 1992. His first work trip, he says, consisted of a troop of Boy Scouts looking for service badges, giving him a quick lesson in management and them a lesson on installing floor joists. The first few years went slowly, consisting mainly of cutting and squaring nearby trees to replace structurally-flawed logs, building the loft, and insulating and chinking between the logs, a task that seemed to go on forever. We then moved to more dramatic tasks, and the cabin seemed to change every work trip as the decks were added, the floor was laid, the area around the stove was tiled, and the bunks and railings in the loft were built and finished. Along the way, the crew paused to do some projects at Conley, including rebuilding Conley's cook shed with timber-framing techniques and pruning and feeding the apple trees in the

orchard, which for the first time this year are producing large quantities of quite acceptable fruit.

Many hands have contributed to Wineberry's coming out party but, like most long-term projects, it had its core of devoted volunteers. First of course is Larry Lang, the visionary leader (for who else could have envisioned an octagon deck and slate steps to the shower?). Lauren Lang, who came to an early work trip and stayed on to marry Larry (another PATC romance), gets credit for many of the artistic touches. Hugh Robinson and Marilyn Stone have been hard-core crew members from start to finish, moving easily from Conley when it was finally completed to the Wineberry renovation. Karen and David Pugh were devotees in the early years; David single-handedly did most of the chinking, finding his personal calling. Richard Vetland came to help lay the tile around the cookstove and stayed on to design and lay the floor, build the counter, and do much of the fine finish work in the cabin. Eric and Amy are recent comers but, once they discovered Wineberry, made every work trip, contributing carpentry skills and friends from Blacksburg for extra labor.

Many others have contributed over the years—Tony Adams who made the stained glass from Lauren's design, David and Laura who trekked many weekends down from Philadelphia, Greg and dog Elvis who painted the roof; Bob Lougent with hole-digging skills, and many others we've lost track of—Paul Roberts, Neal and Karen, Robert, Emma, Kerry, Rachael, and Gary Nickola just to name a few.

The Dedication Weekend

The weekend is intended to be a celebration of the Vining Tract and all it offers as well as an introduction to and dedication of Wineberry, and we've reserved all the cabins for the event. All are welcome. We especially encourage any one who's worked on any of the Vining Tract cabins, and particularly those who have worked a lot or a little on Wineberry, to come for the dedication and to stay overnight.

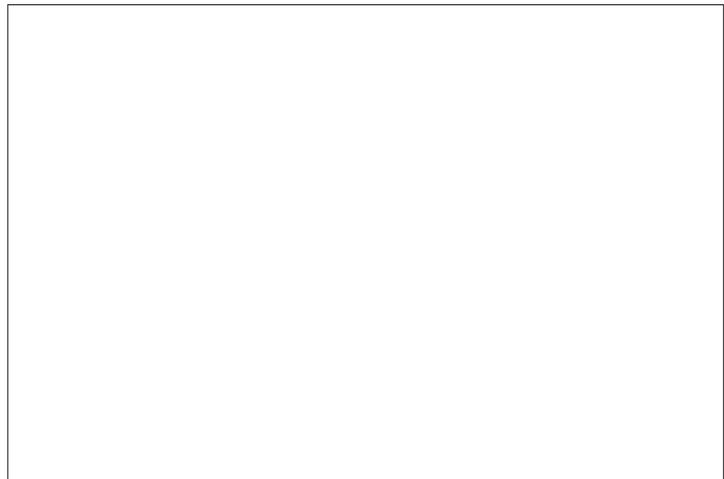
We will hold the dedication of Wineberry at 1:00 pm on Saturday, to include tours of the cabin and its immediate environs and a few short speeches and stories. We'll then hike through the rest of the Vining tract, stopping for snacks and drinks at Mutton Top and Morris respectively, and visit other sights on

the property. For those who are staying the night, there will be dinner at Conley and dessert at Wineberry. We'll also provide a communal breakfast on Sunday morning.

Please contact Larry or Lauren Lang if you

plan on eating dinner and/or staying the night by Tuesday, November 10th. There will be a charge of \$10 for dinner and breakfast. Larry and Lauren can be reached at (703)631-9278 most evenings or by e-mail at Lang_L@bls.gov. □

Wineberry Cabin Before and After



Ernie Dickerman

Ernie Dickerman, who was a driving force in passing the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975, passed away on July 31 at the age of 87. Lobbying for the environment and grass-roots organization was initially a part-time endeavor in his spare time. Ernie lobbied for the preservation of wilderness, because, as he once told a reporter, "When you log a place, you change its character...(W)hat is fine and natural, you lose." Even in his 80s, he invited Congressmen and reporters on hikes, easily outpacing the poorly shod politicians and journalists. Ernie died in his home, a farm in the Alleghany Mountains, where he had lived since retiring in 1976. —from a memorial tribute to Ernie Dickerman by Cathryn McCue of the Southern Environmental Law Center

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

Vote Early and Vote Often

Environmental issues are up for re-election this year on Tuesday, November 3rd, election day nationwide. The issues themselves, including clean water and air, protection of recreational uses of national forests and parks, placement of communication towers, construction of roads, regulation of noise by helicopters, snow-mobiles, and powerboats, are not on any ballots. But the people on those ballots embody those issues.

Amazing, but true, hikers and other pro-environment citizens are no more likely to vote and often even less likely to vote than the average American, according to some surveys by environmental organizations.

PATC's legal status as a charitable, non-profit, tax-exempt organization requires that it not participate in political activities. PATC never endorses candidates. Moreover, PATC recognizes that individual members have many other interests in reaching decisions about candidates for office.

Voters interested in discovering information about elections, issues, candidates, and endorsements in the DC-MD-VA area or nation-wide can contact the websites of environmental organizations listed here:

- 1) The League of Conservation Voters (LCV): <http://www.lcv.org>; phone 202/785-8683. The Maryland LCV chapter has its own website: <http://www.mdldcv.org>, with endorsements, profiles, legislative scorecards, and other information. The Maryland LCV director is Nancy Davis, phone 301/776-6846.
- 2) Sierra Club has a national legislative hotline, 202/675-2394, as well as a general web site, <http://www.sierraclub.org>. State-level political news and endorsements can be found at the same website. The regional office of the Sierra Club is at 301/261-2314.
- 3) The Conservation Fund, through its bi-monthly newsletter, *Common Ground*, provides concise news of legislation and policy initiatives at state as well as national level. See <http://www.conservationfund.org>. Phone, 703/525-6300. 4) Local Washington metro publication, *Edopt News*, published quarterly in Takoma Park, MD, carries local environmental political news. See website <http://www.edopt.com> or phone 301/260-0734. □

—Gerry Gold

A Family Retreat

Now and then we all experience one of those magical weekends. On September 19 and 20, Lisa and George Still led twenty-three families on a weekend retreat to the Bear's Den Hostel, which sits adjacent to the Appalachian Trail. Assisting on the trip were Stacy Bracewell, Laura Horstkamp, James Rumsey, Taylor Oliver and Tom Johnson. These folks helped with creating arts and crafts projects, leading hikes, cooking delicious meals, and helping to making sure everyone had a good time. Jim Harvey, the Bear's Den manager, whose understanding and willingness to allow PATC to "take over" the hostel for the event was invaluable to its success.

There were children of all ages from the wee little ones to teenagers. Two hikes went out on Saturday—one a six-miler and the second a four-mile jaunt. Tom Johnson led the longer hike to Sam Moore Shelter. Although this was a small group, a good time was had by

all. The shorter hike had approximately 27 people—many of whom had rather short legs, particularly the three year olds! Up the mighty mountains we trudged under the encouragement of George and his trusty assistants. Who could forget Taylor Oliver carrying a few kids on her back! Finally, our eyes were treated to pastoral vistas of the rolling hills of Virginia.

When we arrived back at the Bear's Den Hostel, a feast of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and fresh fruit awaited us. Then came an evening of volleyball and arts and crafts projects. A special treat was the music of Laura Horstkamp who played some lovely jigs and reels for some folk dancing.

By 8:30 the evening had cooled off a bit and it was time to crawl into our tents. Sunday morning we awoke to a splendid breakfast and more walks. The kids all enjoyed themselves. For the parents, it was wonderful to

Looking Back

20 Years Ago this Month....

The West Virginia Conservancy was attempting to obtain wilderness status for the Cranberry Backcountry. The Forest Service had recommended that 35,550 acres of the Cranberry Wilderness Study Area be classified as wilderness. The Cranberry Wilderness was not to come into being until 1983.

40 Years Ago this Month....

Paul Bradt reported on an innovative trail maintenance technique devised by Herbert Solyom. Mr. Solyom sprayed salt water along the trail in the hopes that the salt would attract deer to those plants for feeding and thus keep the brush back from the trail. Mr. Bradt did not report on whether or not the technique worked, as he felt that without a control group, "no distinct conclusions could be drawn."

60 Years Ago this Month....

The equipment committee reported on new light-weight, waterproof tents. The committee favored a tent with "a new type of coated fabric," manufactured by the Hodgman Rubber Company over a neoprene tent by DuPont. The Hodgman tent was "entirely waterproof and flyproof," gathered less condensation than the DuPont tent, and had the additional advantage of weighing less than the DuPont tent—only 3 1/2 pounds.

Do you Know??

What PATC members have received the Jim Kern Award of the American Hiking Society?

Answer on page 17.

be with other PATC families who value and share our common love of the environment. Many of us expressed an interest in continuing these family outings. Imagine a weekend with fresh air, nice walks, lots of families, and no pop-culture. Yes everyone, now and then magic does occur. Those interested in planning future family events should contact Bob Mathis, 301/589-7539 (e-mail Robert_Mathis@fc.mcps.k12.md.us). □

—Bob Mathis

SMRG Members Add Rappelling to their Rescue Techniques

“Belay on!”
“On belay!”

The call and response of rappelling commands and the metallic clanging of carabiners echoed off the cliffs of Maryland’s Carderock Park on a hot August Sunday as members of the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG) practiced their climbing and rope handling skills.

Comprised entirely of Potomac Appalachian Trail (PATC) members, the all-volunteer rescue group is on call 24 hours a day throughout the year to conduct and assist in organizing searches for missing hikers, campers and lost aircraft throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. While today’s training focused on climbing and rappelling, SMRG team members are also trained in wilderness search techniques, land navigation, backcountry survival and first-aid.

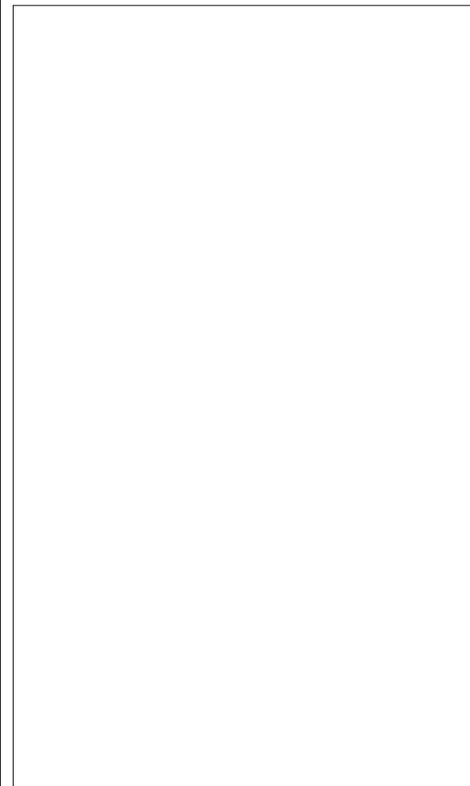
The ability to read and visualize the contour lines of a topo map would eliminate the surprise of encountering a cliff during a search, but there indeed are times when the fastest route to a victim or to safety is straight up or down. And that’s why the SMRG members were here this Sunday, honing their skills for that eventuality.

A figure appeared at the sunlit edge of the 35-foot cliff and began descending the bright orange climbing rope, smoothly reaching the ground. Unclipping his climbing harness from the rope, Tony Hoade, one of the class instructors, squinted back up at the rock face. “Who’s next?” he shouted.

Tony watched from the base of the cliff as Rob Miller, a first-time rappeller, clipped himself onto the rope under the close supervision of John Birch, Chuck Laikin and Julius Horvath, the other SMRG instructors. Rob took up the slack in the rope and approached the edge of the cliff. As he and several other

new members of SMRG discovered, it’s intimidating to walk to the knife edge of a precipice and lean backwards, defying all your natural survival instincts, trusting your life to your equipment and a belayer standing way below

See Rappelling, page 12



SMRG members practice rappelling.

Tip of the Month

To make meal preparation easier on work trips or backpacking trips, prepare your ingredients in plastic zipper bags at home, keeping dry ingredients together and wet or perishable ingredients each in their own bag. Put all the plastic bags in one bigger plastic bag. When you get to your cook site, assemble the ingredients and cook according to the recipe. Put the dirty bags into the bigger bag and pack them out. This makes clean-up easier, and you may be able to reuse bags that don’t contain meats or eggs.

Try this recipe:

Plastic Bag Fajitas:

At home: Slice meat. Season. Zip into bag. Zip toppings and tortillas into separate bags. At the cook site: Dump seasoned meat into pan, cook until done (cook chicken and pork thoroughly; cook beef to desired doneness). Assemble meat and toppings in tortillas. Extra fajita wrappers come in handy for Breakfast Burritos. Cook some eggs, add any leftover fajita filling, and roll it up! Not even paper plates needed! □

ATC Grant

Frank Turk recently completed a year-long program under a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference. Frank used the grant for a number of activities conducted by Gallaudet University’s Model Secondary School’s Outdoor Program. As Frank stated in a letter to the PATC Council, “The quality activities ... introduced a diversified, young and old population of hearing impaired individuals to appropriate use of the Appalachian Trail. The outings educated, impacted and inspired each participant in different ways. The unique classroom on the AT de-

veloped skills and qualities such as: safety, teamwork, planning, group commitment, self-sufficiency, crisis resolution, self-esteem and ‘stick-to-itiveness.’” The program’s plans for the future include building a log shelter and developing a script for a Leave No Trace video to be done in American Sign Language.

While the deadline for ATC grants for 1999 has already passed (October 15), if you have an idea for a program, start thinking about applying for an ATC grant next year. □

—*Bianca Menendez, Editor*

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: _____

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!

November

10/31 - 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.

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.

1 (Sunday)

HIKE

Great Falls to Oakton, VA

9 a.m. Come on a 16-mile, mostly level hike from Great Falls to Oakton, roughly following the valley of Difficult Run. This route passes through some of the most remote public lands in Fairfax County. Car shuttle required. Joint PATC-Northern Virginia Hiking Club hike. INFO: Bill Niedringhaus 703/821-0975.



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>).

3 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

4 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Great Falls, MD

5-6 miles on Goldmine Trail and C&O Canal Towpath in Great Falls, MD. Meet at 10 am at the parking lot across from Old Angler's Inn on MacArthur Boulevard. INFO: Nena Ewing 301/652-9147.

6 (Friday)

PATC Annual Meeting/Dinner

Elk's Lodge #2188, Fairfax, VA

6:30-10:30 pm

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 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV border**

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

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)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

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/).

11 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE/CANOE - Easy Hikers Potomac, MD**

Easy Hikers hike and/or flat water canoe along the C&O Canal. Lock # 21, Swains Lock, Md. At Capital Beltway exit 39, go west on River Rd., past Potomac Md. then 1/3 mi. to left on Swains Lock Rd. The 4-5 mile hike starts at 10 a.m. Canoe option starts at 12:30 and ends about 2 p.m. \$8.50 (split fee) per hour. Please RSVP only if canoeing by Nov. 9. Bring water and lunch. Please, no pets. INFO: Hank Comeau (hankcomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

14 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail Series #II-6 George Washington National Forest, VA**

Sugar Knob section. 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.

14 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA**

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

14 (Saturday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - DC Metro**

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15 a.m.- noon. Come to this bonus work trip that was scheduled to help finish work on a trail location project in Rock Creek Park. We normally don't have another trip until next April, so come now while you can. INFO: Mark Anderson (mark.anderson@cor.dowjones.com) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

14 (Saturday)

❖ **SPECIAL EVENT - Wineberry Cabin Dedication Vining Tract, Lydia, VA**

Come one, come all to admire our latest masterpiece; Wineberry Cabin. This cabin completes the beautiful Vining Tract near Lydia, Virginia. The dedication ceremony will be at 1 p.m. Stay to enjoy all the Vining Tract cabins during our progressive dinner celebration beginning at 3 p.m. Dinner: \$10. See article elsewhere in this issue for more information. Contact Larry or Lauren Lang, 703/631-9278, by November 10 to reserve dinner and/or lodging.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

✕ **TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Shockeyesville, VA**

Shockeyes Knob. This is our last work trip of the year! Come on out and help us finish the last 100 yards through the rock patch to hit PATC property on Shockeyes Knob! We promise the heat on the trail won't be bad. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday. Saturday night community dinner. Share costs for food. Please call by November 9 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

As in life itself, 90% of being successful at having fun helping renovate the Blackburn Trail Center is just SHOWING UP! Inclement weather means indoor work building bunks, nice weather means porch-building in the sweet autumn sun. Either way you cannot lose. Call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070, Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or George Still 703/425-3884 to reserve your space in PATC history.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **BACKPACK TRIP - Ramsey's Draft Wilderness George Washington National Forest, VA**

Ramsey's Draft backpack. Fifteen mile circuit hike in wilderness area of the George Washington National Forest. Bring wading gear and warm clothing because the trail crosses the stream five times and the place where I plan to camp gets cold at night. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewillcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

🏠 **CABIN WORK TRIP - John's Rest Cabin South River area near Stanardsville, VA**

Come, see and help with PATC's newest log cabin project. Log work and construction of a porch will continue. Work also includes 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 301/229-4083 or Shirley Strong 301/229-6905.



FORECAST

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. Reservations and INFO: Kumait Jawdat 202/328-8137.

16 (Monday)

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

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

17 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

18 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Bethesda, MD

About 5 miles on the Capital Crescent Bike Trail and its newly opened extension from Bethesda to Beach Drive. Meet at 10 am at the Bethesda Swimming Pool on Little Falls Parkway north of River Road. INFO: Dan Lieberman 301/986-9015.

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.

19 (Thursday)

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

The Marshalls. All are invited to join the NSVC and enjoy plenty of views during this twelve-mile hike in Shenandoah National Park along the Appalachian Trail, from Gravel Springs, over the Marshall Mountains. Return on the Mount Marshall and Bluff trails. We may take a look at Big Devil's Stairs. Leader/INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/662-1524.

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 (Saturday)

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

Corbin Cabin Circuit. All are invited to join the NSVC on a hike of about 4 miles, with 1100' upward elevation change, beginning at the Stony Man Overlook, with a great view of the Shenandoah Valley. After following the Appalachian Trail along the top of the ridge, we will descend on the Corbin Cabin Cutoff Trail into Nicholson Hollow. Crossing the Hughes River, our lunch stop will be at the PATC-restored Corbin Cabin, opened so that we can see the former home of the George Corbin family. The return trip up Nicholson Hollow Trail will be hiked at a slow pace. Leaders/INFO: Bill Hendrickson & Laurie MacNamara 703/519-9410.

21 (Saturday)

👤 **HIKE - Video Series**

Sugarloaf Mountain, MD

The third in the video hike series will be on November 21, a 7-mile circuit at Sugarloaf. Pace will be slow, and elevation gain will be 1500 feet. Excellent views from the top of the mountain at this always-popular close-in hike. INFO: George Still 703/425-3884 or Taylor Oliver 703/830-6283.

21 (Saturday)

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

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

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.

21 - 22 (Saturday - Sunday)

👤 **BACKPACK TRIP**

Massanutten Mountain, VA

Join us for a late fall backpack in this less-visited area before winter's onset. We'll do about 18 miles total along leafless ridges with good views. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

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.

24 (Tuesday)

👤 **HIKE - Vigorous Hikers**

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

25 (Wednesday)

👤 **HIKE - Easy Hikers**

Huntley Meadows Park, VA

Meet at 10 am at the Visitor Center Parking lot. To reach the park, take US 1 South (Richmond Hwy) from Beltway Exit 1 in Virginia. Go 3.1 miles to Lockheed Blvd., right 0.7 miles to Harrison Lane, and turn left into park entrance. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

27 (Friday)

👤 **HIKE - Family Hike**

Michaux State Forest, PA

Pack your child! Parent/Child Hike. Michaux State Forest, PA. Tumbling Run/Lewis Rocks. 5.0 miles. Pace: a little less than 2 miles per hour. Recommended for children 6 months to 4 years (remember what they don't walk, you have to carry). Friday November 27th - over Thanksgiving vacation. Depart DC suburban area around 9:00 a.m. INFO: John Butler 301/263-0141.

28 - 29 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Carpe Diem (Latin: complain daily)! This may be the final worktrip of 1998. Will you let it pass you by? Grab two handfuls of life at the Blackburn Trail Center renovation project. When the trip is over, sneak some of the experience into your pockets to share with your friends. Call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070, Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or George Still 703/425-3884 to have your bed and your breakfast reserved.



December

1 (Tuesday)

👤 **DEADLINE - January 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 (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 proce-

dures, 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 (trailptrl@aol.com) 703/368-1952 or see PATC's website (<http://patc.simplenet.com/patrol.html>).

1 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

4 - 6 (Friday - Sunday)

BACKPACK TRIP - Assateague Island Assateague Island, VA/MD

Twenty-eight mile circuit hike on Assateague Island. Departing Friday night. Saturday we will begin the hike in the National Wildlife Refuge in Chincoteague, Va. and hike up to the National Seashore in Maryland where we will camp. INFO: Dave Wilcox (davewilcox@worldnet.att.net) 703/212-0991.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

9 a.m. This is the 19th and final advertised South Mountaineers event of 1998. We will work on whatever is left! Tread repair is likely, so plan to get dirty. Tools provided. THANKS to all who participated in the '98 campaign. INFO: Rick Canter (rbcanter@erols.com) 301/924-4942.

5 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV border

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid Alexandria, VA

This sixteen-hour class includes classroom study, hands-on practice, and results in a two-year certification. The cost is \$125. Registration is limited to 25 people. Additional information at website: <http://wfa.net>. INFO: Christopher Tate 703/836-8905.

6 (Sunday)

HIKE - Trail Patrol Training Hike

Want to know what PATC's Trail Patrol does? Here's your chance. Join John Dami on a training hike on Sunday, December 6. Reservations and INFO: John Dami 703/920-2422 before 10 p.m.

6 (Sunday)

HIKE - Bluff Trail

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

A long but relatively easy 13 mile hike along Bluff Trail, with lunch at Gravel Springs Hut. Return on AT. Moderate pace, 2000 ft elevation gain. You get great views from several promontories at this time of year. INFO: Tom Johnson 410/647-8554.

8 (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 (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693 x11.

8 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

9 (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/).

9 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Scotts Run Nature Preserve, Langley, VA

4-5 miles. Meet at 10 a.m. From Beltway (I-495) Exit 13, go W on Va 193 (Georgetown Pike) 0.6 mi to Swinks Mill Rd. and turn R into parking area. Please, no pets. Bring water and lunch. INFO: Hank Comeau (hankcomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

11 - 13 (Friday - Sunday)

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY - Cadillac Crew Highacre, Harpers Ferry, WV

If you've been out on at least one work trip with the Cadillac Crew this year, please join us at Highacre in Harper's Ferry to help us celebrate the holidays! We'll stroll through the streets of the town, hike the trails and try not to spend too much money in the bookstore. Saturday, we'll buy our own lunches in town and Saturday night we'll have a big community dinner (if we can talk Jon McCrea into coming down from Philly to prepare the turkey again). Share costs for food. Please call by December 7 to let us know if you're participating! INFO: Fran Keenan (frannanc@erols.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 703/573-2261.

12 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail Series #II-VII George Washington National Forest, VA

Fetzgers Gap section. Distance 11.6 miles, moderate-difficult hike. Elevation change: 1,000 ft. Van Buren Furnace to Rt. 11. Meet at Van Buren Furnace Rt. 713 off of Rt. 600. INFO: Christopher Firme 717/765-4833 after 5:30 p.m.

12 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

12 (Saturday)

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

All are invited to join the NSVC on a five-mile hike on the Dickey Ridge Trail with about 800' in upward elevation change to warm up! From Skyline Drive we will hike at a slow pace up to the Shenandoah Valley Overlook for a view of the Valley and the mountains beyond. Leader/INFO: Martha Clark (mclark@visualink.com) 540-665-2101.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

HIKE/SKI - Cabin Christmas Morris Cabin, Lydia, VA

Escape the malls and parking lots for a crisp weekend in the Blue Ridge and the cozy warmth of the wood stove. We'll day hike and/or cross-country ski (if there is snow), and then spend evenings in yuletide celebration. This has become an annual event (now the tenth) but newcomers are welcome. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott, 703-846-9207.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)

HIKE - Natural History Weekend Massanutten Mountain, VA

Before the Christmas holidays attack, here's an opportunity to do some hiking and spend the night in one of PATC's newer cabins. We'll hike about six miles along Peter's Creek including a climb up the Woodstock tower on Saturday and then retreat to the Firestone cabin for a community dinner and mid-winter's night sleep. Sunday, after a community breakfast, we'll hike another six or seven miles along the Fridley trail in the Massanutten mountains. We should see both the American chestnut fruits as well as the other chestnut species; the Allegheny chinkapin. Dinner, breakfast, and cabin will be provided for about \$10 per person. Reservations and INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

14 (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.

15 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

19 (Saturday)

HIKE - Family Hike South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Pack your child! Parent/Child Hike. The Source. (South District, Shenandoah) Mile 81, 5.0 miles. Pace: a little less than 2 miles per hour. Recommended for children 6 months to 4 years (remember what they don't walk, you have to carry). Saturday December 19th. Depart DC suburban area around 9:00 a.m. INFO: John Butler 301/263-0141.

19 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade VA-WV border

Call 5 days ahead. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner 540/477-2971.

21 (Monday)

MEETING - Conservation Committee Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

22 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

29 (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.



29 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

A fast paced hike of about 15-18 miles for strong hikers who enjoy a vigorous workout on beautiful mountain trails. INFO: Cliff Noyes 703/451-5181.

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

CUTE FURRY ANIMALS. vicious creatures, and pests. Animal encounters in the wild will be the theme of an upcoming *Potomac Appalachian*. If you're an expert in any type of animal area hikers would likely encounter and would like to write an article, please contact the Editor, Bianca Menendez, at bianca@moon.jic.com or 703/823-1835.

DISCOVER THE LAKE DISTRICT IN ENGLAND. An invitation to fellow PATC members. Come and enjoy a leisurely guided hiking and sightseeing holiday in this beautiful corner of England. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty - land of Wordsworth, lakes and mountains. For more details contact Derek Teasdale on DTeasdale1@aol.com or write to 25 Queens Drive, Whitley Bay, NE26 2JU, England (tel 0191-2520752) Call John Mason at 703-450-5009 for local reference.

VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITIES

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).

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.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING OUTDOORS? PATC has a continuous need for Headquarters Volunteers willing to help out with a variety of tasks —

from manning the sales desk in the evening, to providing typing or office support. It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley (wriley1226@aol.com) 703/242-0693, Ext. 11.

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

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP (SMRG) is seeking people interested in wilderness search and rescue. New member orientation meetings are held every month at PATC headquarters. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. INFO: 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.

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@idsonline.com) 703/764-0121.

FOR SALE

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.

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.

HIKING PARTNERS WANTED

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 Lwms27b@prodigy.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

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.

Rappelling, from page 7

you on the hard and unforgiving ground at the base of the cliff.

Rob took up the slack in his rope, leaned backwards, feeding the rope through the descending device attached to his harness, and slowly began making his way down the cliff. As he reached the ground a grin to his belayer revealed his exhilaration. "That's the most important point of this training," said Hoade at the training, "you're not just rappelling, you're learning to rely on your equipment, and you're also learning to trust the person belaying you."

Of course, everything that comes down must go back up, and the equally vital skill of ascending a rope with the aid of prussiks (loops of thin cord secured to the climber's feet and harness that slide easily up the rope but clinch when a downward force is applied) was also being practiced. Like inchworms, SMRG team members made their way back up the rock face, securing their foot prussiks, standing up, sliding the harness prussik up the rope and starting the laborious process again until the cliff was scaled.

"Rock climbing and rappelling are certainly not skills that are called for in every search

mission," said Randy Rupp, chairman of SMRG, as he helped repack the ropes and climbing equipment back at PATC headquarters later that afternoon. "The majority of our searches don't involve anything as dramatic as scaling cliffs—clawing our way through a maze of brambles and greenbriar thorns is the more likely scenario when we're searching for a missing person or aircraft—but training events like this give our members valuable lessons about climbing and rappelling techniques should they be necessary on a search. We maintain our skills with our rescue equipment, and we learn the most important skill of all—simply, how to work together as a team." □

—John Luck

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB PUBLICATIONS				
Item #	Description		Retail	Member
PA100	Map 1 (ed. 9, 1998)	AT Cumberland Valley, PA (Susquehanna River to Route 94)	\$5.00	\$4.00
PA110	Map 2-3 (ed. 8, 1998)	AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 94 to Route 30)	5.00	4.00
PA120	Map 4 (ed. 7, 1998)	AT Michaux State Forest, PA (Route 30 to PA-MD State Line)	5.00	4.00
PA130	Map 5-6 (ed. 15, 1998)	AT Maryland	5.00	4.00
PA140	Map 7 (ed. 12, 1998)	AT Northern Virginia (Potomac River to Snickers Gap)	5.00	4.00
PA150	Map 8 (ed. 12, 1996)	AT Northern Virginia (Snickers Gap to Chester Gap)	5.00	4.00
PA160	Map 9 (ed. 14, 1996)	AT Shenandoah National Park (North District)	5.00	4.00
PA170	Map 10 (ed. 18, 1997)	AT Shenandoah National Park (Central District)	5.00	4.00
PA180	Map 11 (ed. 12, 1996)	AT Shenandoah National Park (South District)	5.00	4.00
PA190	Map 12 (ed. 7, 1996)	AT GWNF Pedlar District (Rockfish Gap to Tye River)	5.00	4.00
PA200	Map 13 (ed. 3, 1995)	AT GWNF Pedlar District (Tye River to James River)	5.00	4.00
PA210	Map D (ed. 2, 1991)	Potomac River Gorge Area and Cabin John Trail	3.50	2.80
PA220	Map F (ed. 4, 1995)	Great North Mountain-North Half (Virginia/West Virginia)	5.00	4.00
PA230	Map G (ed. 6, 1998)	Massanutten Mountain-North Half (Signal Knob to New Market Gap)	5.00	4.00
PA240	Map H (ed. 2, 1995)	Massanutten Mountain-South Half (New Market Gap to Mass. Peak)	5.00	4.00
PA250	Map J (ed. 2, 1997)	Tuscarora Trail AT, PA to PA Route 641	5.00	4.00
PA260	Map K (ed. 2, 1997)	Tuscarora Trail PA Route 641 to Hancock, MD	5.00	4.00
PA270	Map L (ed. 2, 1996)	Tuscarora Trail (Hancock, MD, to Capon Springs, WV, and Cacapon St. Pk.)	5.00	4.00
PA290	Map N (ed. 1, 1993)	Rock Creek Park Area, DC	5.00	4.00
PA300	PATC Elevation Profile of Appalachian Trail (Pine Grove Furnace to Rockfish Gap)		1.75	1.40
PB100	AT Guide Book #6 (ed. 15, 1995)	Maryland and Northern Virginia	7.00	5.60
PB110	AT Guide Set #6 (AT Guide Book to MD and Northern VA with Maps 5-6, 7 & 8)		18.00	14.40
PB120	AT Guide Book #7 (ed. 11, 1994)	Shenandoah National Park	9.00	7.20
PB130	AT Guide Set #7 (AT Guide Book to Shenandoah National Park with Maps 9, 10 & 11)		20.00	16.00
PB140	Massanutten Guide Set (Guide to Massanutten Mountain with Maps G and H)		14.00	11.20
PC100	Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park (ed. 14, 1996)		6.00	4.80
PC110	Circuit Hikes in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania (ed. 5, 1994)		6.00	4.80
PC115	Hikes in Western Maryland (ed. 1, 1997)		6.00	4.80
PC116	The Tuscarora Trail North (Guide to Maryland and Pennsylvania) (ed. 3, 1997)		6.00	4.80
PC117	The Tuscarora Trail South (Guide to Virginia and West Virginia) (ed. 3, 1997)		6.00	4.80
PC120	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part A Northern Maryland Counties (ed. 3, 1992)		6.00	4.80
PC130	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part B Northern Virginia Counties (ed. 3, 1993)		6.00	4.80
PC 140	Hikes in the Washington Region: Part C DC/Southern Maryland Counties (ed. 1, 1984)			NOT AVAILABLE
PC160	Guide to Massanutten Mountain (1993)		6.00	4.80
PC180	Hiking Guide to the Pedlar District, George Washington National Forest (ed. 2, 1990)		6.00	4.80
PC190	Climbers' Guide to the Great Falls of the Potomac (1985)		6.00	4.80
PC200	Carderock Past & Present: A Climbers Guide (1990)		7.00	5.60
PC210	Clearing Trails in War Time		5.95	4.76
PC220	Breaking Trail in the Central Appalachians - a narrative		12.50	10.00
PC230	Lost Trails and Forgotten People: The Story of Jones Mountain (ed. 2, 1985)		7.50	6.00
PC240	The Dean Mountain Story (1982)		5.50	4.40
PC250	Shenandoah Heritage: The Story of the People Before the Park (5th printing, 1995)		7.00	5.60
PC260	Shenandoah Vestiges: What the Mountain People Left Behind (3d printing, 1993)		5.00	4.00
PC270	Shenandoah Secrets: The Story of the Park's Hidden Past (Revised 1998)		12.95	10.36
PC280	PATC Cabins Booklet (1997)		4.00	3.20
PC300	Wildflowers of the Potomac Appalachians: A Hikers Guide (1979)		2.50	2.00
PC310	The Blue Hills of Maryland (ed. 1, 1993)		14.00	11.20
PC320	Memories of a Lewis Mountain Man (1993)		8.00	6.40
PD100	Map of the Stony Man Region of the Shenandoah National Park (Illustrated) (1964)		2.00	1.60
PE120	PATC Member Decal		N/A	1.00
PE130	PATC Member Patch		N/A	2.00
PE140	PATC Member Pin		N/A	2.95
PE150	PATC Ballpoint Pen with gift box		3.00	3.00
PE250	Long Sleeve T-Shirts		20.00	20.00
PE260	Short Sleeve T-Shirts		15.00	15.00
PE265	Notecards with Drawings of 3 PATC Cabins (box of 10 with envelopes)		4.00	4.00
PE280	PATC Coffee Mug		7.50	6.00
PE320	PATC Hat		12.00	12.00
XX700	Natural History Guide to Common Woody Plants of the GWNF and SNP (1995)		3.00	2.40

PUBLICATIONS FROM OTHER PUBLISHERS					
Description	Retail	Member	Description	Retail	Member
184 Miles of Adventure (C&O Towpath) (1991)	\$ 4.75	\$ 3.80	Potomac Trails (1997)	14.95	12.00
50 hikes in Northern Virginia (1994)	13.00	10.40	Skyland: The Heart of Shenandoah National Park (1960)	6.00	4.80
Appalachian Trail Field Book (1982)	3.50	2.80	The 18 Cabins of Old Rag	5.00	5.00
Appalachian Trail Patch	3.00	2.40	The Appalachian Trail Backpacker (1994)	11.00	8.80
Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion (1996)	10.00	8.00	The Appalachians (1975) (Maurice Brooks)	18.95	15.16
Backpacker Magazine Guide to the AT (1989)	16.95	13.56	The C&O Canal Companion (1997)	23.50	19.60
Backpacking One Step at a Time (1986)	9.00	7.20	The New Appalachian Trail (Ed Garvey) (1997)	14.95	11.95
Camping and Backpacking with Children (1995)	16.95	13.56	The Potomac River and the C&O Canal (1992)	8.50	6.80
Common Sense Medical Guide (1987)	15.00	12.00	The Undying Past of the Shenandoah National Park	18.95	15.16
Cross-Country Skiing (1988)	9.00	7.20	There are Mountains to Climb (1996)	12.95	10.36
Exploring Washington on Foot	12.95	10.36	Thru-Hikers Handbook (Dan "Wingfoot" Bruce, 1998)	12.00	9.60
Finding Wildflowers in Washington/Baltimore Area (1995)	15.95	12.76	Thru-Hikers Planning Guide	12.00	9.60
Food & Lodging Along the C&O Canal (1994)	3.00	2.40	Towns Along the Towpath	14.00	11.20
Guide to Skyline Drive and SNP (1997)	7.50	6.00	Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal (1994)	14.00	11.20
Guide to the Mason-Dixon Trail System (1992)	10.00	8.00	Trail Building and Maintenance (ed. 2, 1981) (AMC)	12.95	10.36
Hikes to Waterfalls (1997)	3.00	2.40	Trails in Southwest Virginia (1997)	6.95	5.50
Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest (1993)	12.00	10.00	W & OD Railroad Trail Guide (1996)	8.00	6.40
Hiking Virginia's National Forests (1994)	10.00	8.00	Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry (1994)	8.00	6.40
Hollow Boy by Rayner V. Snead (1995)	13.95	11.16	Walking the Appalachian Trail (1994)	16.95	13.56
Insiders Guide to Virginia's Blue Ridge (1995)	15.00	12.00	Workbook for Planning Thru-Hikes	6.00	4.80
Lightly on the Land	19.95	15.95			
Mountain Search and Rescue Techniques (1982)	5.50	4.40	Appalachian Trail Poster Maps:		
Mountaineering First Aid (1990)	7.00	5.60	b) AT and eight full-color trail photos 32" x 47"	6.95	5.56
Pennsylvania Hiking Trails (ed. 10, 1987)	7.00	5.60	c) AT strip map with forest green border 9-1/2" x 48"	3.50	2.80

(Continued from page 13)

Other AT Guide Books with Trail Maps:		
Maine (1993)	25.00	20.00
Massachusetts-Connecticut (1994)	20.00	16.00
New York-New Jersey (1994)	16.00	12.60
Pennsylvania (1994)	21.00	16.80
Central Virginia (1994)	18.00	14.40
Southwest Virginia (1994)	17.00	13.60
Tennessee-North Carolina (1995)	25.00	20.00
North Carolina-Georgia (1994)	25.00	20.00
AT Data Book (supplement to guide sets) (1998)	4.95	3.95
Trails Illustrated Maps:		
American Discovery Trail (covers DE, MD, & WV) (1995)	9.00	7.20
Shenandoah National Park (1994)	9.00	7.20
Trinkets:		
Appalachian Trail Bandana	5.00	5.00
Hand Painted Scenics on State Rock	19.95	19.95
PATC Water Bottles (1 pint)	5.00	5.00
Shenandoah National Park Calendar (1998)	5.00	5.00
Smokey the Bear Pins	4.00	3.20



ORDER FORM

TELEPHONE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Thursday - Friday: 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.
 Telephone: 703/242-0693
 Fax: 703/242-0968

SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

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 118 Park Street, S.E.
 Vienna, VA 22180-4609

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 Do not send cash, stamps or C.O.D. orders.
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Up to \$10.00	\$2.00
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Periodical Review

The August 1998 issue of *Parks and Recreation* is devoted to aspects of outdoor recreation. PATC trail workers and members who can find an issue will be interested in these particular articles:

- “Physical activity; how much is enough?” Mary K. Dinger says 30 minutes (either as a unit or in three 10 minute segments) for 5 days out of seven of activities as strenuous as pushing a lawnmower, walking briskly (4 mph pace) or fishing, is sufficient.
- “Managing Stress through Outdoor Recreation,” by Paul Finnicum and Jeffrey P. Zeiger. The title says it all - as if PATCers needed to be told!

- “Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; the Politics of Environmental Preservation,” by Daniel L. Dustin and Richard M. Barber. The problems that existed before Clinton created the new national monument haven’t gone away.

- “Reflections of an Outdoor Recreation Experience,” by Bruce J. Hill, who participated in the 1997 Mormon Wagon Trail long distance hike. He describes his experience in sociological terms (Flow, test of endurance, social bonding, sacred spaces, meaningfulness, wholesome societal significance, romance and humor) that explain the “AT experience” and “trail magic” that through AT-hikers so often mention but can’t define.

- “Amok,” by Stuart P. Cottrell and Richard L. Cottrell, points out the world of outdoor recreation faces a multitude of problems but there are signs new solutions are being found.

- “Volunteer-Based Recreation Land Management,” by Robert F. Bristow. He has discovered that the trail maintainers and corridor managers of the ATC clubs are capably doing a job that other recreation land managers could use as a model to solve their management problems. □

—Paula Strain

Washington PATC Members turn into New Zealand Tramps

A small group of Club members and other intrepids spent four weeks hiking—or as New Zealanders say, tramping and trekking in Fiji and New Zealand.

The Fiji stop interrupted an interminably long flight to our final destination, Auckland. Fiji, the winter playground for Kiwis is poor and affordable. The scenic mountains are covered with rain forest. It has a sugar cane-based economy and the most delicious mangos (27 for 0.60 cents) you have ever tasted.

New Zealand is a trekking paradise. Numerous multi-day trails run through the North and South Islands, with huts set up at intervals to accommodate the trekker at night.

The scenery in the high rugged mountains is unsurpassed, the rainforest lush and dripping with the regionally very abundant rain, which in places averages 18 feet yearly, making the Milford Sound area the wettest place on earth.

It is an empty country with no more than 3.5 million people, of which 1 million live in Auckland. Only sheep can be seen everywhere, as well as some cattle and domesticated deer herds. The deer end up on restaurant menus in the US and in Europe.

There are no predators to frighten the tramps, but nasty wasps pose a problem. One of our friends was severely stung when he disregarded the sign advising hikers about the spot-

tily successful eradication of these pests with the recommendation to jump in the adjacent lake should the beasties start to swarm.

Hiking is not the only option. We also rented sea kayaks for several days and kayaked a water trail, walking back on land after our craft were returned by boat.

Another option was hiking with day packs while the backpacks were transported on the water to the next camping or hostel destination. All that service was provided at very reasonable cost.

Tourism provides New Zealand’s top income. There are good reasons for it. □

—Ruth Healey

“Wherever mountains are, there exist people to whom mountains are where life should be lived. To millions more they are a fascination, an exhilaration, a challenge, a solace; but when a man tries to state why, he finds himself using the impotent abstractions. Like magnificence. Like solitude. Like self-humility. Like freedom and beauty. Or he goes the other way and speaks of fresh air and fishing of bighorn and bear. None of these suffices, and together they don’t explain. Maybe we can’t improve on the simple statement that mountains are mountains.”

—A.B Guthrie, Jr., *Big Sky Fair Land*, 1988



The PATC In Wartime—Part 1

Editor's note: "The PATC in Wartime, Part 2" was run before this article. To read that article, see the October PA.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the resulting war made a great difference in the lives of all Americans and organizations they belonged to.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) suffered along with other groups. Many male members of the PATC went into the armed services in the next three-and-a-half years, as did a few female members. All who stayed in civilian life worked longer hours, and thus had less time and energy for both hiking and work trips. Gas and tire rationing were put in place in the nation, which impacted both the use of private cars and commercial bus service.

President Lawrence Schmeckebier felt that the increased strain of the War created a need for wholesome recreation. He thought, in addition, that the Appalachian Trail (AT) and its feeder trails must be kept open and usable, or all of the hard work and time put in by volunteers before the war would be wasted. He told the Club's members they should not let the Trail be taken over by growth and blotted out so it could not be used. He also felt that the Army could use sections of the AT to reach training places for the troops, and, in other cases, the AT and its side trails could be used as access to forest fires should they occur. These were very good reasons to keep the Trail in hikeable condition, Lawrence believed.

Buses Used

In the first quarter of 1942, three hikes in the Shenandoah National Park were organized, all on chartered buses. One excursion per month went to White Oak Canyon, Nethers and the Meadow Spring area. A fourth trip went to Mont Alto State Forest in Pennsylvania. Notice was given to members that the chartered buses must be filled, or another use would be found for them. Reservations had to be made by the Wednesday before the trip and must be kept. So "Sign up and show up!" was the motto. Otherwise, no buses would be available for future trips.

Alvin "Pete" Peterson's work crew on the chain of lean-tos had finished its work by the end of April 1942, except for the structures at

Crampton Gap in Maryland and at Keys Gap in Virginia. These workers went to the sites by private auto and finished long years of work on this vital project in the Club's program. The chain of shelters stretched from Whiskey Spring near Harrisburg, PA, to Sawmill Run near Waynesboro, VA. Shelters were available on a first-come, first-served basis. Years of hard work on this project were almost finished.

Work Trips Get Priority

Word went out in early 1942 that work trips must take precedence over excursions. This gave members a chance to get out in the woods and be on the Trail, while helping to keep it open. People on these trips had to realize that they had come to work. Members' autos were shared, along with gas rations and the wear on tires.

At this point, rubber was scarce because the Japanese had seized Malaya and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) where most of the raw material for rubber came from, and most of what was available was taken for essential war vehicles, many used by the armed forces. As the Axis Powers also held a great many of the oil fields (Rumania and the East Indies), both gas and tires would be very scarce for civilians until the war was won.

To consolidate scarce transportation resources, efforts were made to work on several adjacent sections of the Trail. Trail Overseers and work parties from these sections had to take the same bus or occasionally car-pool in available autos and help each other clear trail. The plan involved the Excursions Committee arranging for members to bring their autos on a Sunday with the Supervisor of Trails organizing work groups, which would go off to clear trail.

On June 28, 1942, a bus took a combined excursion and work trip to Skyline Drive, and the group covered the 20 miles from Jenkins Gap to Panorama. The Trail Overseers from that area were on the trip and inspected their sections of the Trail. Hikers were asked to do a little simple work on the AT as they hiked on it, using tools brought along on the bus. Hikers inspected and made notes about the condition of cabins and lean-tos they passed. If the whole 20 miles were too much for some, the bus made stops where the AT crossed the

Drive, and hikers could board and rest. Then, if they felt like it, they could get off later and hike and work some more. Much was accomplished on this trip.

Another scheme was for Overseers to take work gangs along on a bus excursion so they could work on their sections while others hiked.

A third plan was to have several work parties share a bus, though of course, their AT sections must be contiguous. Thus the bus would not waste time, gas and rubber dropping off and picking up workers miles apart. Alighting and boarding stops were kept to a minimum. This plan was used in Pennsylvania on April 16, 1942, on June 14 in southern Maryland and September 20 in the Shenandoah National Park between Thornton and Swift Run Gaps. The PATC was able to charter buses for these work trips, but it shortly became very difficult, then impossible.

Social Use Ends

The last use of buses for pure hiking excursions was in May 1942. One trip went to Manassas Gap, VA, and the other to Bill Arnold's Mill, near York, PA. "Bill's Mill" was an important part of the Club's hiking and social schedule before the war and for a few years after it ended. There were interesting hikes near it and many good times were had on a weekend at the Mill.

Bill Arnold, an attorney from New York, and his wife, Judy, and her sister, Elizabeth Powell, were gracious and inventive hosts. However, after the May 1942 trips, the Mill buses were no longer available for hikes, and it was announced that they also could not be used for any work trips after the ones already scheduled were completed. The September 20 trip to Shenandoah Park was the last to use a bus during the War.

By summer 1942 it was apparent to all that the war would not be short nor easily won. The Nazis were making sizeable advances in the Soviet Union and North Africa. In the Far East, victories won at Midway Island and Guadalcanal were seen at the time to be very close-run wins and only temporary checks on Japan's streak of conquests. It was only in retrospect, years later, that these Ally victories were perceived as decisive turning points in the conflict.

Autos Replace Mass Transit

The huge expansion of auto ownership and use after the war and the building of the nation-spanning interstate highways under President Eisenhower wiped out the widespread, detailed network of both small rail lines and bus companies. This sort of public transportation had made it possible for people to travel to a great many places—small towns, villages, even individual homes. Competition between carriers had led to their stopping almost anywhere, especially on the bus routes. Even a few small railroads or trolley lines would stop where a dirt road or path crossed the tracks, the nearest the line came to a passenger's home a mile or two distant.

This very convenient transportation network was wiped out after the war by the spreading use of automobiles. During the war years, PATC members had used these public carriers to get to or near the AT for both hikes and work trips after the use of chartered buses was banned by governmental war-time restrictions.

At this time, President Roosevelt had given his blessing to both professional and college sports as a necessary recreation and rest from worry about the war. Franklin Roosevelt probably never heard of the PATC, but the Club took his approval of the continuation of sports to include Trail activities and continued its work trips and hikes as best it could. Federal authorities did not help or hinder Club policy.

The feds did not check up on the use of private autos, unless there was a great deal of obvious overuse, after the owner had qualified for a certain class of gas coupon. Neither did they check on the use of space on trains or buses. Ads asking, "Is this trip necessary?" with illustrations of men and women larking about in cars or sitting on public transportation on frivolous trips, picnics and that sort of thing while weary servicemen stood up or were left by the road or on station platforms, were run, but very little actual checking up on civilian travelers was conducted. Club members could go about their trips to the AT without harassment.

The PATC was able to make out fairly well in the first year after America was drawn into the worldwide conflict. Members really didn't have too much difficulty in getting out on either hikes or work trips. Things would get worse in the next three years, as the problems of transportation and free time increased. □

—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.

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 September

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

Duane Arenales	T	Keith C. Lohmeyer	T
John and Mary Ann Brinton	HQ	David L. Rinker	T
Michael and Nancy Chomel	T	Nathan Seeman	S/C
Brenda and Raymond Druen	S/C	Josh Silverman	G
Andrew and Yong Findlay	G	Bartow M. Thompson	T
Ralph E. Heimlich	G	John and Lorrie Wilber	G
Mary J. Kuehster	G		

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

Answer:

Jeannette Fitzwilliams, in 1987 "for outstanding efforts to keep the trail community informed of the work of the President's commission on America's Outdoors." Charles W. Sloan, in 1990 "for many years of service to trail protection through the establishment of the Appalachian Trail Lands Trust, and leadership in the American Hiking Society."

Trailhead

At the Trails Committee meeting in September, Pete Gatje recalled the many favorable comments he received from other hikers about the condition of PATC trails. These comments were offered by hikers who were unaware of his responsibility as Supervisor of Trails. He thanked the district managers and asked them to pass on his appreciation to the many overseers and trail crews responsible for the excellent condition of PATC trails which, by the way, has not been accomplished without a lot of effort. By the end of the reporting year on September 30, PATC trail maintainers will have worked nearly 20,000 hours and spent nearly 30,000 total hours on work and travel combined. This may be a record year. Pete would also like to see a good Trails representation at PATC's Annual Banquet on November 6 at the Elks Lodge in Fairfax, VA.

During the September meeting, Chris Brunton offered an observation on how to determine if an overseer is a backpacker or a hiker. To quote, "an overseer with backpacking experience clears wide and high while the hiker clears just enough to get by." Don't know how true this is, but as a backpacker, I give loppers and brush cutters a real workout. You may have noticed that there is a distinct overseer preference for lightweight tools for clearing small blow downs and trimming overhanging brush from the trails. The Corona 13" Razor Tooth Pruning Saw is fast cutting and easier to manipulate than a small bow saw. The Fiskars composite anvil head lopper is light (less than a pound) and small (15 inches in length) but cuts as well as a 22 inch lopper because of the gear advantage. Both are easy to carry in a small pack as you hike to your work area. However, the saw is extremely sharp, and you may need to fabricate a sheath since it doesn't come with one. If you haven't used these tools to clear your trail, you may want to borrow them for a trial.

The eleventh Annual North District Trails Maintenance Workshop in Shenandoah National Park (SNP) was a great success. Approximately forty hearty volunteers took part in the two-day event on Sept. 12-13 at Mathews Arm Campground in the North District of the Park. Everyone came well prepared to work and learn, and that's just what they did. Shawn Green, SNP Trails Coordinator stated, "It was a very positive experience for all involved, instructors and participants."

John McCrea, Kerry Snow, Bernie Stalman, and George Walters served as PATC instructors for the event. Park Rangers Don Harvey, C. T. Campbell, Roger Dovall, and Shawn Green provided support and instruction. During opening remarks, Bernie gave a brief talk on overseer dedication and commitment, which was well received. C. T. went over trail tools and emphasized safety. He stated "in eleven years, we've never had an accident." Basic trail maintenance standards, water bar construction, tread rehabilitation, and rockwork instruction were covered and put to use on nearby blue, yellow, and white trails. Although the Park praised PATC for organizing this event, a great deal of thanks should go to the Park Rangers for their support and participation in this annual workshop. As George noted, "the workshop is a great joint venture between PATC and SNP, and you couldn't find a nicer group of fellows to work with." Esther and Sam Aulthouse, who routinely cook for the Club's North Chapter, provided food. When Charlie Irwin, North Chapter District Manager, joked at the Trails Committee meeting in September that those down south were "stealing" his cooks, George Walters replied that he fully intended to steal them again for next year's workshop.

Yea, though I walk into the abyss of Little Devil Stairs, I fear no evil as I have my rock bar and grip hoist, and I'm ready to face the

ravages of nature. Thus began the first of two weeks of trail crew work in the SNP North District. In August, prior to the September work trips, Park Rangers Shawn Green and Don Harvey, and PATC's Bernie Stalman, inspected Little Devils Stairs and the intersection of Piney Ridge Trail and Piney Branch Trail. They determined there were challenging projects for two weeks of crew work. Both locations needed major work, especially Little Devil Stairs, which was almost impassable due to large blowdowns and damage to the rocky canyon steps. Under the direction of the SNP's North District Trails Supervisor, Don Harvey, and PATC's crew leader Pete Gatje, the first week's crew attacked Little Devil Stairs. The crew included Little Devil Stairs overseer Barbara Marrow, Mike Fleming, Jack Verhine, Fred Principe, Bernie Stalman and Central District's Mike Dyas. They first tackled the rebuilding of steps at several locations in the upper canyon. The most difficult location was an almost vertical wall that was blocked at the top by an old blowdown. After Don Harvey removed the blowdown, Pete Gatje directed grip hoist operations moving enough rocks into place to rebuild the steps and tread into a much safer climb. After four days and the rebuilding of the steps at two other locations, the crew finished the week filling in several low spots on the trail to include one with a crib wall. Little Devil Stairs remains the challenge that it always has been,

Volunteers - Appointed in September

Trail District Manager

Charles Hillon District Manager - Shenandoah National Park
Central Blue-blaze Trails

Trail Overseers

Roger Knoell	AT - Route 638 to the Denton Shelter
Bartow Thompson	AT - Denton Shelter to the Powerline
Ward Morrow	AT - Second Logging road to the Pipeline
Lee Larson	AT - Tanner Ridge Road to Milam Gap
Jay Skinner	Bearfence Loop Scramble
Steve Young	Powell Mountain Trail
Judith Langenhorst	Hightop Hut Fire Road
Mark Mitchell	AT - Black Rock Road to Annapolis Rocks Trail Black Rocks Cliff Trail
Richard Strickley	AT - Annapolis Rocks Trail to US 40 Annapolis Rocks Trail Catoctin Trail - Cat Rock Trail to Catoctin Hollow Road So.
Bruce Nierwienski	Catoctin Trail - Catoctin Hollow Road So. to Cat Rock Trail
Cindy Huebner	Crampton Gap Shelter Trail
George Schubert	Tuscarora Blue South - Waites Run Road to Mill Mountain Trail

Shelter Overseers

Keith Denson Hightop Hut - Shenandoah National Park - South District

Trailhead

although a little more hiker friendly for the time being.

Week two found six adventurous crew dogs that could hardly wait to hike 2.5 miles each morning, with tools, from outside the Park to the intersection of Piney Branch and Piney Ridge Trails. Don Harvey led two old timers, Bill Wallace and Gale Gibson, joined by Mary Anne Lepore from last year's North District crew and new members for this year, Martha Spohn, Ron Graham and Bernie Stalman into another week of moving rocks. Day one found the infamous vintage faded blue van that has hauled trail crews forever in the Shenandoah dead after a stop for coffee enroute to the trailhead. A jump-start, a trip back to SNP Headquarters Maintenance for a loaner vehicle, and the trail crew was once again on its way. The first two days involved water bar and check dam construction to improve the drainage on the lower 500 feet of Piney Ridge Trail. After construction and reconstruction of three massive rock water bars and two rock check dams, the crew hauled fill to leave a suitable tread. On day three, the crew hiked down Piney Branch Trail from Piney River Ranger Station, rather than hiking in from outside the Park, and was treated to a glimpse of a black bear—the only encounter for the week. The day was spent constructing a lateral ditch with a new tread adjacent to the ditch to solve a continuing drainage problem—another project moving lots of rocks. And to help the crew for the day, North District overseers, Jon Rindt and Bill Spach, appeared. Trail magic, when needed most. The fourth day was spent helping to prepare for George Walter's trail overseer workshop by cutting, debarking and moving black locust logs for new water bars. The Nutter Butter crew has vowed to return next year not only to improve trails but also spend an extra day or two to enjoy hiking (not just to the work site).

Pete Gatje reports nothing but positive comments have been received concerning the SNP and Massanutten annual trail crew workweeks. Special thanks go to Heidi Forrest and Heather Walker, PATC Summer intern, for the excellent job supporting the crews.

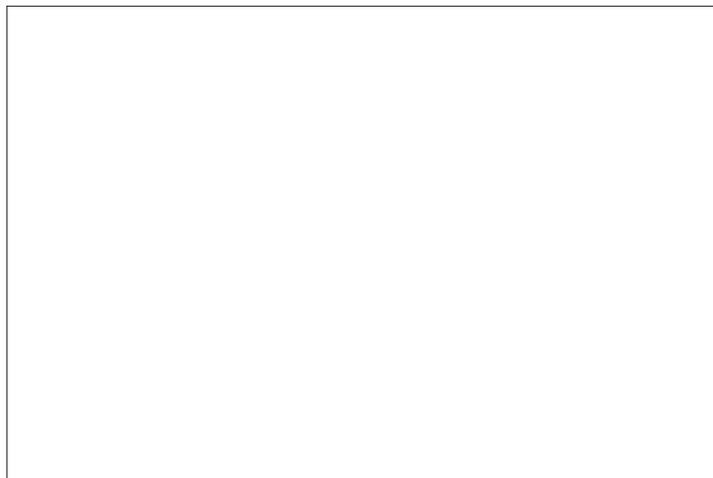
Trailhead would like to recognize two new District Managers, Phil Shroeder for SNP South blue-blaze trails and Charles Hillon for SNP Central blue-blaze trails. Hopefully,

their initiation will not include an ice storm like this past winter.

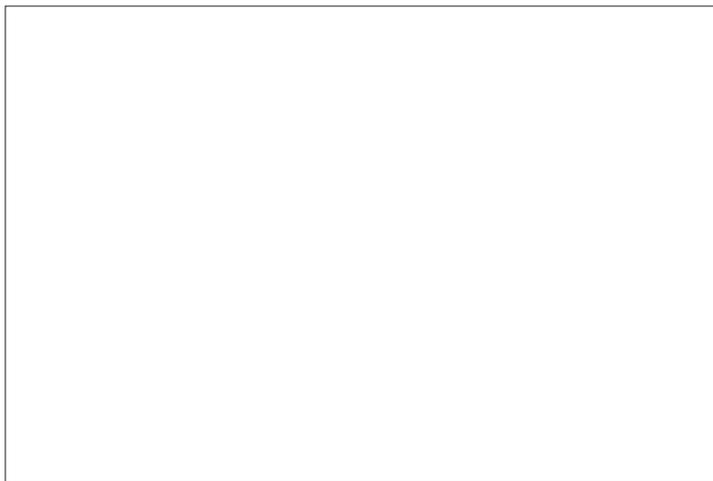
Since this month's Trailhead appears to focus on the SNP North District's activities, we might as well make it complete by advertising the North District's Hoodlums Trail Crew. Formed in 1993 to help overseers with major projects on SNP North District AT and blue-blazed trails, the crew provides expertise in erosion control. The crew leader, George Walters, says we like getting dirty constructing water bars and drains, refurbishing tread, and building new tread for minor trail relocations approved by the Park. George, who

is always looking for new recruits, says no experience is required. Just show up and you can learn trail maintenance and erosion control techniques. Currently, the crew schedules work trips for Saturday and Sunday on the third week of the month spending Saturday evening at PATC's Indian Run Maintenance Hut. To make the evening interesting, the crew designates a menu theme for each trip (i.e. French, Italian, Cajun, etc.) with crewmembers volunteering for food assignments. For those of you who missed the article in the May issue of *PA*, the name Hoodlums was bestowed on the crew by a well

See Trailhead, page 20



North District Trails Maintenance Workshop, Sept 12-13, 1998. The class of 1998 gathers Saturday morning at Mathews Arm Campground, Shenandoah National Park. The RVs in the background belonged to the camp cooks and served as the workshop's "kitchen."



(left to right) Park Rangers C.T. Campbell, Don Harvey, Roger Dovel, and Shawn Green-SNP's representatives and instructors for the Trails Maintenance Workshop.

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings October 9, 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]

Appalachian Trail

Pipeline to the Davenport Meadow [1.2 miles]

Appalachian Trail

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

Appalachian Trail

Bear Hollow Creek to Route 522 [0.8 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]



Trailhead, from page 19

dressed woman hiker, with a foreign accent, who met the grubby crew after a hard day's work and declared they looked like hoodlums. It stuck. For specific information on future Hoodlums work trips, see the *PA* Forecast section.

Close to completing another season, the Cadillac Crew has spent nearly a dozen weekends on the Shockey's Knob relocation project. The relocation is now nearly half way up the Knob and getting into the really mountainous terrain. Next year's challenge will be to cross the 70 acre lot that PATC owns on the eastern slope of the Knob and bring the relocation up to the crest of Sleepy Creek Mountain. Although the PATC lot is only about 2,400 feet across the diagonal, the elevation gain is nearly 500 feet and will re-

quire construction of switchbacks to reduce the steepness of grade. The Caskey family owns the ridge for a mile northward from the upper lot corner, but trail work in this sector will have to await the completion of logging planned for the 1999 season. Chances are good that an easement, which PATC had surveyed across the Caskey property in 1985, will eventually be recorded. The easement includes a one-acre lot, with a spring, set aside for the construction of a shelter that would be known as the Caskey Highlands Wayside.

The September *PA* listed 33 trail overseer vacancies and not all the vacancies were listed. Not so many years ago, when PATC was smaller and did not have nearly so many miles of trail to maintain, the long lists were of volunteers waiting for overseer slots to open up! Although the year is slowly winding down

for trail maintainers, it is never too soon for newer members to start shopping for a trail section that might fit their abilities, time budget, and location. If you are not sure about the sections listed, call the district manager for a more detailed description, or ask the Trails Management Coordinator about any new vacancies that may have just come up. Also, check the Club's web site at patc.simplenet.com for more details about the trails program and the support that the Club provides for overseers.

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 ☐

—Jon Rindt

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