



The Potomac Appalachian

The Newsletter of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180-4609
<http://www.patc.net>

Volume 31, Number 12
December 2002

In Our 75th Year!

Winter Cabin Use Comes With a Caution

Going to a PATC cabin in the winter can be somewhat of a challenge. Especially if you happen to choose one of those six (Range View, Corbin, Rock Spring, Pocosin, Doyle River, Jones Mountain) that are in the Shenandoah National Park. The access road to these cabins is the scenic Skyline Drive. But, if there happens to be snowfall or even the threat of snowfall or icy conditions about the time a renter is packing up for their cabin excursion, the Park will close Skyline Drive, and the access to the trailheads to the cabins. Although renting Jones Mountain Cabin doesn't present the same problem that the others do since you don't have to go on the Drive to access the trail to that cabin.

The Park has good reason to do this. It eliminates nasty accidents that will occur on the slippery turns and hills along the Drive. And it prevents SNP from having excessive salts accumulating along the edge of the road, which draws animals to lick on it.

See Winter, page 4



Rock Spring Cabin, as cozy as ever in the snow.

Photo by Eric Hougren

Get Your PATC Cabins Calendar

Everyone who registered for the 75th Annual Meeting/Dinner received many gifts commemorating our 75 years of service, including the first ever PATC Cabin calendar. If you were not able to attend you can still get one of these beautiful calendars, available for a limited time. This full-color wall calendar features photos of some of the best cabins in our rental system dressed out in their seasonal attire. Exclusive Sale - only through our Headquarters store - supplies are limited! \$10.00 for the calendar plus \$2.00 postage/handling. Virginia residents add 45 cents tax. Please consider coming by and picking it up at Headquarters, along with other gifts from our store. Contact Maureen Estes at 703/242-0693, Ext. 19 to order.



In This Issue . . .

Council Fire	2
Walt's Notes	3
Winter Hiking Essentials	4
Mike Karpie's Last Photo Tip	4
Beware of Skyline Drive Closures	4
Bob Pickett's Appalachian Nature	5
Western Ireland Hiking	6
Forecast	8
Annual Meeting/Dinner	11
Wanna Volunteer?	12
Notices	13
Trailhead	14
Volunteers Appointed	16
Help Wanted	16

HQ Closing Dates

PATC Headquarters will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 1. We will open in the evening on Dec. 24 for last-minute in-house shopping and cabins reservations.

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VP Volunteerism: Mickey McDermott

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Supervisor of Corridor Management:
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Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat

Tuscarora Trail Land Management:
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Council Fire

At the PATC Council's regular monthly meeting on Oct. 8, it approved a \$2,000 donation to the Appalachian Trail Conference to help defray costs toward preserving the wilderness environment of the AT adjoining the Carlton Penn property – a 240-acre tract that adjoins the AT corridor for 1.9 miles.

At the same meeting, Mark Nelson, an REI manager, presented PATC a \$2,000 Conservation Grant from the REI Corp. for forest management. Mr. Nelson complimented PATC on its trails maintenance work, and thanked PATC for the use of tools to help build a Greenway Trails System of over 100 miles in Montgomery County.

The monthly budget report for September indicated that expenditures exceeded income by about \$11,000, which is the amount spent on insurance. The year-to-date income still exceeded expenditures by about \$100,000. A preliminary budget for 2003 was to be available by the end of October.

Volunteers

Names and addresses of 52 PATC members were sent to ATC for the award for volunteering over 4,000 hours. The Club also sent 138 names to ATPO for awards for fewer hours. The Council voted to confer Honorary Life Memberships on Pete Gatje, John McCrea, Jon Rindt, and Walter Smith at the Annual Meeting. On

that occasion, 50-year-plus members were to be honored at a special table.

Operations

Hop Long was nominated to be Vice President Operations for next year. As the position was vacant, the Executive Committee voted that he should assume the position immediately.

Vandalism was reported at Big Flats, Pa., where someone drove off the road and over some of the new trees and down the trail. Some additional fencing will be put along the road. ATC and others are investigating. In Virginia, a split-rail fence will be installed by Turners Gap, where people are driving across AT lands to Dahlgren Chapel.

Cabins

The driveway to Cliff's House has been resurfaced with stone, and maintenance has been done at Weaver Cabin and Meadows Cabin. Regional Overseers were to meet Nov. 9 at Glass House.

Trail Patrol

Training was held or planned for new Trail Patrol members, Leave No Trace, hike leaders, and backpacking, all of which has brought in new members. In an incident on Old Rag Mountain, two members assisted a hiker who had fallen some distance and was in danger of bleeding to death. The Shenandoah National Park report was very laudatory of the Trail Patrol's work.

See Council Fire, page 3

HEADQUARTERS

HOW TO CONTACT US FOR CABIN RESERVATIONS,
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, AND SALES

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

and Thursday and Friday 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Phone #: 703/242-0315

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

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

Club e-mail: info@patc.net

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

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

STAFF

DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Director of Administration: Wilson Riley (Ext. 11) e-mail: W Riley@patc.net

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Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) e-mail: pfankhauser@patc.net

Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) e-mail: mestes@patc.net

Bus/Metro Directions to Headquarters: When taking Metro Orange line, get off at Dunn Loring station (not Vienna, the last stop). Outside the station, find the stop for Metrobus 2T westbound in the direction of Tyson's Corner. When the bus starts down Maple Avenue in Vienna, exit at the library just past Center St. Walk half a block in the same direction the bus travels, and turn right at Park St. PATC will be on the left only a few yards down from the corner. The fare is \$1.10, but you can ride for \$.25 if you remember to get a transfer ticket at your originating station.

Walt's Notes

Looking Ahead – Bold Volunteerism

The last topic concerning the 2027 Vision that I shall mention is membership (previous notes discussed hiking trails, trail land preservation, construction and maintenance of trail-related facilities, and education and outreach). What kind of membership will we be in the future?

A portion of the Council vision concerning membership reads: “thanks to our volunteers ... we will maintain our reputation for expertise in cabin construction, trail development and maintenance, mapping, outdoors education and goodwill with our government partners.” In other words, we will continue to be “an organization driven by its volunteers” that will remain unique, an example for others to emulate. It will be a club where personal contact is encouraged and expanded in order to promote participation. “More chapters of the Club may be formed; they will promote camaraderie among our members in areas far from Headquarters.” The Club will continue to reach out to other community groups for assistance and education as well as advocacy on trail environmental and conservation issues.

Being Bold and Innovative

What will be required of the membership in order to achieve the vision in a geographic area experiencing continuing change, residential and commercial growth, and social and environmental concerns that threaten the well-being of trails and the natural setting? The membership, in my view, must be innovative and bold but also have fun. We must be innovative and bold with our concepts, organizational design, and program development if we are to continue to lead activities successfully through volunteers. Such a path toward achievement sparks interest, enthusiasm, pride, growth, and enjoyment. An example: thinking of the statement above, “more chapters of the Club may be formed” brings to mind a question. What is the definition of a chapter and how does it contribute toward achieving our objectives? If we were to create a rather loose definition of “chapter,” could a trail crew with a fairly steady membership that always works in a specific geographic area, but whose members mainly commute, become a “chapter” for that area? Could they make contact with a local college or school to adopt for trail maintenance and preservation education (note my mention in the annual report on the use of students from Key School in Annapolis or the Model Secondary School for the Deaf)? Could a member of that trail crew, who happens to live in the area, serve as a PATC Community Coordinator (note Walt's Notes for November) for that neighborhood, fostering contact and trail interest with the local population?

Not that a trail crew wants to be called a ‘chapter’ necessarily but some may be ready to expand their thinking and operation in order to better tie their work to the community that uses the trails. Let us not be overly constricted by the traditional use of words and concepts, such as “chapter.”

Now, I do not mean to imply that the past is to be ignored, that only something new is appropriate in this changing environment. Actually, there is value in reexamining the past to see if we have ignored an idea that should now be considered for implementation. For example, in 1921 Benton MacKaye proposed that the main Appalachian Trail have lengthy branch trails, some leading hundreds of miles into Tennessee, Alabama, western Pennsylvania, upstate New York, and into Canada. We tend to forget about his original map but, with a substantial increase in population projected for the Eastern Seaboard, there is a need to plan now for more future connecting, branch trails. Why do we tend to focus organizationally on the AT as being just one trail, without branches? Why can't we think organizationally as the Appalachian Trails Conference and the Potomac Appalachian Trails Club as we expand our thinking and envisage future trail geography? The Tuscarora Trail is just the beginning. Let us be bold and innovative, even with an old idea.

With Gratitude

I am very grateful for the experiences I have had as President; experiences that have taught me so much about the trails community, the Appalachian region, nature, people, and myself. Thank you for these last four years. I especially acknowledge the assistance of our very able staff, members of the Council, and the Futures Group that labored for more than three years to develop appropriate recommendations for the Council and membership. I look forward to working with the new Council as Past President.

Time moves on, and so does the column, Walt's Notes. Walt's Notes was transferred to this publication four years ago from the *Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter Newsletter*. The column shall now be moved to the *Tuscarora Trail Central District Newsletter*, as I become the District Manager.

May you have a joyful and blessed holiday season.

See you on the trail,



Council Fire, from page 2

Chapters

The Southern Shenandoah Chapter reported it meets twice per month, mostly for hikes, and is interested in issues of air pollution from power-generating plants. The West Virginia Chapter's October meeting was a slide show. North Chapter used a grip-hoist and rock-placement workshop to repair a washed-out section of trail.

Membership

The October membership report indicated that PATC had 7,035 members, with 114

new members recorded in the database since the last report. None of the drops were long-term members. PATC received about 164 responses to cards asking why members were dropping. About 120 of these renewed.

The October Council meeting was attended by seven Club officers, eight standing committee chairs, three chapter representatives, one section representative, four other Club members, and two staff members. □

—George Meek, Recording Secretary



*In Remembrance
of a great trail
maintainer and friend.
Topher Bill left us one year
ago this month.*



Winter Hiking Essentials

As winter approaches we need to consider changes in our outdoor plans in order to be comfortable and safe. Many of the PATC-maintained trails are accessible year-round – and may even be more visually stunning with the loss of leaf cover. Also, many trails that are crowded at other times of the year are more tranquil with the onset of the chilly season.

Being prepared is not a luxury – it can be the difference between life or death when it comes to the cold. This environment can be extremely dangerous, with winter storms developing quite quickly. It takes proper planning, experience, and the right equipment to travel safely, and if you aren't aware of the hazards you can be at great risk.

The amount of information you need to hike safely in the winter could easily fill a book. But, it's important to learn the basics of winter outdoor skills before your trip. Many

See Winter Hike, page 15

Winter, from page 1

The Park also saves money by not having to plow or sand the road. So it's advisable to call to see what the road conditions are before heading down. You can do this by calling the Shenandoah National Park Information Line at 540/999-3500, and option 4 will get you to the Weather and Road Condition information that is updated daily.

But, if you're like Eric Hougen who this past winter stayed and gave us the great photo of Rock Spring Cabin (on page 1), you can get in before the rangers place the gate and enjoy a beautiful winter weekend. Every direction sheet that comes with the cabin key has optional hike-in directions for those who get snowed out. The hikes range from 1.5 miles to 6 miles, but the long walk is worth the effort on most occasions. However, it would not be advisable to try it under extensive snow cover as the trails will get obscured.

Renters are advised that if they choose not to hike in after being closed out of Skyline Drive, they can return the cabin key and only pay the \$2.00 processing fee. Otherwise, they can try to get to the cabin from outside the Park and pay the rental fee as usual. □

—Pat Fankhauser
Cabin Coordinator

Michael Karpie's Final Photo Tip: The Art of Seeing, Part II



We go to the mountains to let go ... to release our worries of the future and regrets from the past. We look forward to a feeling of just “being” that is, perhaps, mixed with a mild sense of adventure. Without the clutter of our daily lives to impair our vision we see more clearly and tend to notice more.

The next time you are walking in the woods stop for a moment. Breathe deeply several times and focus your attention on the moment. Let go of past and future and bring yourself completely into the present. Notice the stillness around you ... or the slight murmur of the breeze in the treetops ... the raven in the distance ... the smell of damp earth. Raise your camera to your eye and capture the essence of this moment ... this is what outdoor photography is all about.

I have finally exhausted my well of ideas, so it is time to conclude this series on Outdoor Photo Tips. I hope each of you has enjoyed reading this column as much as I have enjoyed writing it. Thank you for all of your comments and kind words.

Warmest regards,

—Michael

Note from the Editor:

Many thanks to Michael for the years he has put into this column. Although his articles are not totally ceasing, his regular contributions will be missed.

Beware of Skyline Drive Closures

In case you missed the closure information for the Skyline Drive in the last *PA*, following are those dates again:

1.) Nighttime gate closures to deter illegal hunting activity will occur for the **North and South Districts** beginning **Oct. 28**. Gate closures at Swift Run and Thornton Gaps for the **Central District** will begin **Dec. 2**. The closures will continue through early January. **Gates will be closed at 5:00 p.m. and be reopened at 8:00 a.m.**

2.) An unstable slope located at mile 67 on the Drive requires substantial rehabilitation and will require contractor work, including blasting and a great deal of material removal beginning on Nov. 12. A **major landslide** has occurred at this site recently. **The Park**

intends to close the entire Skyline Drive in the South District from Nov. 12 for a period of six to eight weeks to accomplish this project. The closure will obviously affect cabin rental and maintenance at Doyle's River cabin, hut maintenance, and **particularly Overseer access** to maintain trails for the period. The Park has not yet determined what level of access, if any, to the south end of the Drive in South District will be provided to PATC volunteer workers. More information will follow as additional decisions about the project are made.

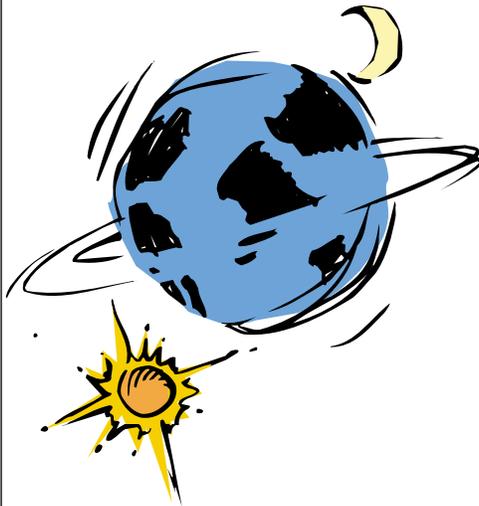
If you have questions, please contact Steve Bair or Shawn Green at Steve_Bair@nps.gov. □

—Steve Bair, NPS

Robert Pickett's Appalachian Nature: The Solstice Marks the Return of Spring

December is the birth of a new season; another new beginning. We recognize Dec. 21 as the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. What's interesting, however, is that it is not the day of the earliest sunset or the latest sunrise. The earliest sunsets in our D.C. area occur at 4:46 p.m. from Dec. 2 through Dec. 12. This, combined with the latest sunrises, which occur nearly a month later, at 7:27 a.m. from Dec. 30 through Jan. 10, makes the shortest day a compromise between these two extremes.

It's also worth noting that the earth is closest to the sun at this approximate time in its annual elliptical path around the sun (actually, it reaches its closest, or perihelion, on Jan. 3). So, why is it at its coldest at this time? It's the tilt of the earth's axis away from the sun in the northern hemisphere (23 degrees) and the resultant acute angle of the sun's rays that more than compensates for the nearness of the sun (a mere 3 million miles closer). For the same reasons, our warmest time of the year occurs when we are at the greatest distance from the sun (aphelion is reached on July 4). No wonder the hottest and coldest places in the world are found in the southern hemisphere where these two conditions work in tandem to create the temperature extremes.



From this day throughout the next six months, total day length will be increasing. Solar radiation, the ultimate source of all life on earth, will slowly halt the momentum of the cooling environment and turn us back towards the warmth of another growing season. It takes a while for the sun's warmth to take effect. In fact, our daily temperatures will continue to decrease until Jan. 8 through 23, when the average bottoms out at 42 degrees. (Again, the same lag time applies to our warmest day, which tops out at 89 degrees

from July 16 through 27, a month after the longest day.)

It is the first day of the new year for me. The first positive "light" that spring is on its way. Here is a time to reassess one's priorities and commitment to our environment. Why not take on a trail as an Overseer. It's not that hard, and the feeling of trail "ownership" is quite fulfilling. Or, join one of the numerous trail/cabin construction and maintenance groups. It's all extremely rewarding and provides a very positive influence into your life.

In addition to our Club's many opportunities, one opportunity this month is to volunteer for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Started over a hundred years ago, here's a chance to go out with experts and learn about our winter avian friends. No knowledge required; you can log the results and learn as you go. Surveys are done throughout the region, including the Shenandoah National Park. To find a survey site near you, and to get more information on this project, just go to: www.map.birdsource.org/Mapper/startCBCCompID.html. □

—Robert F. Pickett

Have You Moved? Are You Moving?!!

Did you know that the Post Office now charges PATC 70 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 this form and mail it to 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna VA 22180-4609. Or, you can call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, ext. 17, or e-mail pfankhauser@patc.net to let us know where we should be sending your issue. Thanks for your help.

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

Effective date of new address: _____

Combined Federal Campaign 2002

PATC Agency Number
7956

*Make Your Contribution
Count!*

Once again, PATC will participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for the National Capital Area. In last year's fund drive, 68 individuals, including 16 Club members, pledged over \$17,000 to help finance land acquisition and other Club activities. If you are a federal employee, or have friends and neighbors who are, please consider, or ask them to consider, a payroll deduction. Feds, keep up the good work.

It's for a good cause!

Western Ireland Hiking - At its Finest!

Perspectives from Two Hikers

1.) By any measure, the PATC Aug. 29 - Sept. 9 hiking trip to Ireland, planned by Joan Burg, was filled with surprises. Oh sure, we expected Ireland to be green, but not THAT green! And we expected the scenery to be great, but not THAT breathtaking! And we expected the Guinness, scones, and fresh mussels to be good, but not THAT good!

The trip truly contained something for everybody. When we first collected our luggage and met our guide, Michael Gibbons, we knew we were in for a treat. His Irish brogue; amazing life experiences; depth of knowledge of Irish history, culture, and ancient peoples; and his mischievous sense of humor kept us laughing and learning the entire trip. His able assistant, Jamie Thomas, usually brought up the rear of our group on hikes, as he stopped to explain the fauna and other finer points of his adopted country.

The hiking was superb. It was definitely the best way to get to know a small portion of this land so many of our ancestors came from. Every day varied. We hiked on three different islands: Inishbofin, Omey, and Inis Mor. Each is as different as night and day. Inishbofin is reminiscent of the dramatic Monterey, Calif., coast, but even more spectacular in its towering cliffs and rocky shores. Omey is greener, flatter, and sandier, with giant boulders tumbled along its headlands. Omey is also filled with reminders of past centuries: a sacred spring revered by sailors, the ruins of an ancient church where services are still held on sacred days, and human bones spilling out of rabbit holes dug above the site of a long-gone abbey on a sandy shore. Inis Mor is an island of rock: rock fields, rock fences, rock paths, rock houses, a spectacular rock fortress perched on a rocky cliff ... so much rock that the island exported rock and imported soil during its long human history.

Then there were the hikes on the mainland. There was a hike to a picturesque castle and along the bay and on into the quaint village of Clifden, where we stayed for five days. There was a hike past two ancient burial grounds and up a mountain overlooking an abbey (now a girls' school). Another day saw us hike up a mountain covered in blooming yellow gorse to reach three different summits, and then a hike down through boggy fields covered in heather of purple, pink, coral and salmon. We ended up in a picturesque village, where we walked through town and hiked some more – on sandy beaches, which became rocky beaches, which became grassy cow pastures next to the sea, and evolved again into sandy shores. We hiked on cliffs along the sea; we hiked along a fiord and learned about mussel farming; we



*Above, lunch time on Burren Hike;
lower left, Kylemore Abbey in Connemara.*

learned about the Irish potato famine as we saw the ruins of countless houses and entire villages decimated by hunger in the 1800s.

We also learned some of the pitfalls of bog hiking, where the ground is rarely what it appears to be. We were taught which plants meant the water was deeper than it looked. We were warned about quaking bogs which, like quicksand, can swallow a cow and certainly, an unsuspecting hiker. We climbed endless stone fences, and alarmed countless sheep colored with daubs of blue and red paint on their backs (each the mark of a particular farmer). We also attracted friendly sheep dogs, which sometimes spent an entire morning or afternoon with us, in exchange for an occasional friendly pat on the head or bite of a sandwich.

This trip let us touch ancient civilizations in the best possible way – with either no or very few other tourists around. We saw Neolithic stone tombs, brooding stone fortresses, standing stones, sacred ceremonial sites, the foundations of fences and buildings lost to memory, medieval castles, the timeless ruins of little churches and vanished villages, and everywhere, the ghosts of the ancestors of the modern Irish people. Michael Gibbons made this history come alive for us.

Michael also somehow arranged the weather so that we experienced some of the best days Ireland has seen this summer. We had temperate days, some glorious sunny days, some overcast days that made the gorse and heather seem even brighter. We only hiked one day in the rain, and even then it was intermittent, conveniently letting up when we reached areas we wanted to photograph: a Neolithic wedge tomb, the foundations of an ancient city, a spectacular view of the moors of the Burren National Park.

But there was more to this trip than hiking. The villages were made for exploring, the pubs were hospitable to visitors and featured excellent Irish music, and the food, particularly the fresh seafood, was superb. We made the most of our free days – one in Clifden where members of the group had their choice on the non-hiking day of fishing, golfing, mountain hiking, visiting Victorian gardens, or vegetating. And on our free day in Galway, despite the rain, early risers saw the swans awaken on the gray waters of Galway Bay, the lights go on in Shop Street, and the front door open wide at Kenny's famous bookshop, where several members of the group made repeated visits during the day. So many historic buildings to see in Galway, so many excellent restaurants, and every building a perfect photograph.

See Ireland, page 7

Ireland, from page 6

This trip had it all: a meticulous PATC organizer in Joan Burg, a wonderfully designed tour by Michael Gibbons' company, entertaining and informative guides, a skillful and good-natured bus driver, unbelievable scenery, great exercise, variety, plenty of sites of historical and anthropological interest, compatible companions, wonderful accommodations, excellent food, and many extras, including an Irish storyteller and a dinner in a castle. We left Ireland knowing far more about its past and appreciating far more about its present. I think each of us is eager to return someday.

—Valerie Johnston

2.) The trip to Ireland, expertly planned and led by Joan Burg, was the ideal combination of hiking, history, hearty eating, and hilarious adventure.

The hiking and walking were a combination of grassy meadows with wild flowers, bogs, hills, seacoast, and rocks at a comfortable intermediate level. On a day of optional activity, several climbed a steep mountain trail while others chose fishing, sight-seeing, or shopping. With few exceptions, our itinerary was off the beaten path – in fact, there were few paths or trails at all.

The day we visited the spectacular Cliffs of Moher on Ireland's western coast, one reason for the trip's special character became clear. It was the sole occasion when we were forced to mix with masses of tourists emerging from their enormous air-conditioned buses, the only time we passed Disneyland-like hotels and restaurants built in the style



of Norman castles ("tourist processing factories," our sardonic guide Jamie Thomas called them), and the only time that we opted to forego a pint of Guinness because the lines in the tourist center's "pub" were too long.

We bolted for our modest 22-seat bus – a comic miniature alongside the massive multi-wheeled motor monsters in the parking lot – and demanded a hasty retreat.

"Take us away from here!" we implored our sweet driver Michael O'Donnell, whose steady, careful, and incredibly patient hand maneuvered us safely over many miles of narrow winding roads in the 10 days we spent together.

"It's the only way most people see western Ireland nowadays, the poor bloody bastards," said Michael Gibbons, our Irish guide and leader extraordinaire. A native of



Lower left, Vintage Connemara scenery near Clifden; above center, Classic Aran Island Cottage Scene; upper right, Inishbofin Island Vista.

Connemara and one of Ireland's leading field archeologists, Michael is a writer, historian, raconteur, mountaineer, and great wit. For those seeking a mix of full-day workouts; intriguing and out-of-the-way sightseeing; exceptional scenery; and extraordinary (albeit terribly esoteric at times) architectural, archeological and natural history – capped off at the end of the day by a good meal with nice wine and a comfortable bed – Michael has perfected the formula. We had it all.



Photos by Joan Burg

Our home base for six days was Clifden, a charming, colorful town of 4,000 people and 17 music-filled pubs, the county seat of Connemara. We emerged each morning from our cozy B&B after hearty Irish breakfasts suited up in full hiking regalia. With the latest and best in boots, poles, back-packs, rain gear, et al, we might have been colorful ads for REI, North Face, and L.L. Bean – but not so after a few days of slogging through bogs, mud, and cow dung!

On the first full day, we loaded onto our bus and drove to the coastal town of Cleggan, a few miles away, where we boarded a ferry – judging from the exterior rust and interior odor to be of medieval age – which carried us across to Inishbofin, the island of the white cow, population 195. We learned that the island had passed from the O'Flahertys to the O'Malleys in the 1300s – warring families about whom we would hear much more in the coming days – and more than once was defended by the fierce Grace O'Malley in Elizabethan times. As the far-northwest boundary of the European continent, Ireland's history of turmoil and turbulence is well-known. Inishbofin is the far northwest outpost of Ireland and thus has a particularly turbulent history. A spectacular medieval fort is well-preserved in the harbor.

On this hike, we began our adventure with bogs – moss-covered clumps of earth and peat several feet in diameter and depth surrounded by water. A recent environmental initiative to plant trees and grow forests in the countryside of Ireland is woefully mis-

See Ireland, page 12



Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

The Charlottesville Chapter hikes every Saturday, summer, winter and in between. Hikes are usually 8 to 10 miles. We usually maintain trails 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. The majority of hikes are in the southern and central districts of Shenandoah National Park, with some in the north district and in George Washington National Forest. Our Chapter hikes are posted at www.patc.net/chapters/char/hikes.html. INFO: Jere Bidwell 434/295-2143 or John Shannon 434/293-2953.

North Chapter

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

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 Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See Forecast (or our link from PATC website) for work trips and hiking events sponsored by the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter. Hikers from the DC area should allow about 3 hours to get to our region. INFO: in Harrisonburg, call Alvin 540/434-6244 or Lynn 540/234-6273; in Waynesboro, call Michael 540/943-8695; in Staunton, call Doris 540/885-4526.

West Virginia Chapter

Chapter meeting at Highacre are on the second Wednesday of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot 540/667-2036 or e-mail wvpatc@hotmail.com.

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: Steve Brickel 301/946-2520 or sbrickel@erols.com.

Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types - we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interest in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics - we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Mack Muir 703/960-1697 (MackMuir@edisaurus.com).

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. The schedule of West Virginia Highland Conservancy outings in the Monongahela National Forest and surrounding areas is on their web site at www.wvhighlands.org.

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

Meetings

Meetings

Meetings are held at PATC HQ, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA unless otherwise noted.

New Members (PATC) - First Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Curious about the Club? Want to learn more? The best way is to attend a new Members meeting (but you don't have to be new to qualify). Attend the meeting and find the mysteries of PATC revealed in full. Refreshments will be served. Directions to PATC: Take Rt. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Mack Muir at 703/960-1697 or (MackMuir@edisaurus.com) or PATC's Web site: (www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect).

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(Business meeting) - Last Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. INFO: Zeb Whitaker (zw@tdcarchitects.com) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

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

Trail Patrol - First Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Trail Patrol volunteers are PATC's goodwill 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: Kumait Jawdat 202/328-8137 or see PATC's Web site: (www.patc.net/volunteer/trailpatrol).

December

1 (Sunday)

DEADLINE - January *Potomac Appalachian*

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter must be submitted electronically, if possible, to headquarters, or by e-mail to PA@patc.net. Allow one week for postal service delivery. Please e-mail Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net.

1 (Sunday)

HIKE - WV Chapter

Appalachian Trail, MD

Final section of the Maryland series hikes that were started last Fall. U.S. RT 40 to Gathland State Park, approximately 13 miles. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Gathland State Park to set up car shuttles. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) (301/834-7729).

1 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

Join us for a fun-filled event involving dirt and teamwork. Newcomers always welcomed. Bring layers if it is chilly, water, lunch, gloves, and boots. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

2 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike

Washington, DC

Theodore Roosevelt Island. Bundle up the kids and come on out for a stroller friendly hike in this beautiful park. The hike will be a circuit, about 2 miles long on flat trails. INFO: Lauren Lang (LEvansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278, prefer e-mail.

3 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Nicholson Hollow circuit follows the Hughes River to Corbin Cabin and climbs the Cutoff Trail to the AT south. Return on Indian Run Trail and Corbin Mountain. About 14 miles and 4000 feet elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931, before 9:30 p.m.

3 (Tuesday)

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

4 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Wild Alaska (REI)

REI, Bailey's Crossroads, VA

7:30 p.m. Backpacking & Sea Kayaking the Last Frontier. Ever dreamed of venturing into the Alaskan wilderness where discovery awaits your every step? Join travel consultant and veteran adventurer Alan Fiermonte of down2earth adventures for an informative and entertaining presentation on the adventure of a lifetime to remote Alaska. Alan will highlight the advance preparation, gear, and equipment needed for backpacking and sea kayaking in two beautiful and distinct Alaskan wilderness destinations, Katmai National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park. Enjoy a fascinating slide show with incredible photos of Alaska's resident brown bears and icebergs. INFO: Mark Nelson (mnelson@rei.com) 703/379-9400.

4 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Glover Archbold Trail, Washington, DC

Hike 4 easy miles along Foundry Branch from Van Ness Street, NW to Georgetown. After lunch in the Georgetown Park Mall Food Court, all decorated for the Holidays, we will return to our starting point by Metrobus. Bring \$1.10 (or 50 cents for seniors) exact change for fare. Meet at 10:15 a.m. on the parking lot of the National Presbyterian Church, Van Ness Street entrance. Directions: From Maryland take Wisconsin Avenue (MD RT 355) inbound from the Beltway about 5 miles to a right turn on Van Ness. Go one block to church parking lot on left. From Virginia cross Key Bridge, turn right on M Street. Move immediately to the left lane, and turn left on 33rd Street. Follow it until it merges on to Wisconsin Avenue. Proceed 2 plus miles to a left turn on Van Ness Street. Church parking lot is one block on the left. Bring water. Hike is cancelled if D.C. Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather. INFO: Gary Abrecht (GAbrecht@AOL.com) 202/546-6089.

4 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Fraser Preserve, Great Falls, VA

Joint hike with Sierra Club MWROPA moderate to fast 9 miles over variable terrain. From I-495, exit 44 west on VA RT 193 (Georgetown Pike) for 7.5 miles to Springvale Road. Go right for 2.5 miles to arrow, turn left then immediate right. At Allenwood Lane turn left and park. Bring water and lunch. Starts at 10:00 a.m. No pets. Rain or shine. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

7 (Saturday)

HIKE - In-Between Hikers

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

Please join us for a closed circuit approximately 4.5 hour hike on the Valley and Western Ridge Trails in beautiful Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC. We will visit Fort DuRussy (civil war fort), Jusserand Memorial, and have lunch at Pierce Mill. Bring water and lunch. INFO: Don Titus (donaldtitus@earthlink.net) home 301/652-6806 or office 301/688-0135.

7 (Saturday)

HIKE - Natural History Hike

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Len Wheat, author of the Journal of Regional Sciences' 2000 best seller, *Kubrick's 2001: A Triple Allegory*, leads us to at least five different Lewis Mountain cabins that supported a number of families before the land was purchased for Park property back in 1935. His knowledge of the Park is unparalleled by any one individual and these trips always reveal many interesting stories and artifacts of life before the Park. These are bushwhacking trips, and while the distance may only cover four or five miles, the rough terrain, fallen trees, and unstable footing makes this a moderately difficult hike. Call for reservations. INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

7 - 8 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid

Alexandria, VA

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

8 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

The South Mountaineers' finale of 2002; the 19th work event of their 9th year. Thanks to all who volunteered this year. Enjoy the Holiday season and see you again in 2003. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

9 (Monday)

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

10 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Prince William Forest Park, VA

Briskly paced circuit hike in Prince William Forest. 19 miles with many short hills. Tuesday regulars, PLEASE NOTE CHANGE in normal meeting time and place. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Springfield Mall parking lot off Franconia Road between Silver Diner and Target. INFO: Cliff Noyes (cliff.noyes@juno.com) 703/451-5181.

10 (Tuesday)

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

11 (Wednesday)

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

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN TRIP - Meadows Cabin

Syria, VA

What a better way to celebrate the Yule tide than by the wood stove in a cozy cabin in the country. Join us for a holiday celebration that includes hiking in the crisp December air (or xc skiing if we have snow), camaraderie, carols, a group banquet and much cheer. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Highacre House, Harpers Ferry, WV

Annual Christmas Party and work trip. If you have been out on at least one work trip with the Cadillac Crew this year, please join us and help celebrate the Holidays and another great year of trail work. The crew will set up the Christmas decorations for Highacre, do some yard and trail work. There will be opportunities to visit historic Harpers Ferry and local hiking trails. A community dinner is planned for Saturday and Sunday breakfast will be provided. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

14 - 15 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew

Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract Crew meets once a month to work on cabin and land management projects on the beautiful Vining property. We are now building a small cabin using logs from an old barn, as well as projects at Conley and Wineberry cabins and around the property to keep everything in top shape. Come join us and raise a hammer, a paintbrush, or a log in the cause. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

15 (Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - WV Chapter

Gambrill State Park, MD

Continuation of ongoing trail maintenance and relocation projects from last Spring on the Black Locust trail. Also, correction labels need to be



placed onto hiking trail maps. Free trail maps to those that participate in putting labels on the maps. Meet at the Nature Center at 10:00 a.m. This will likely be the last trail work trip until next March. INFO: Dave Jordahl (dave.jordahl@askdep.com) 301/834-7729.

17 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
White Rocks history hike. Climb Buck Hollow to the AT south to Pinnacles, return via upper Hannah Run Trail and Hazel River Trail to White Rocks then bushwhack 1.5 miles down the old wagon road to church on RT 211. 14 miles and 3500 feet elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931, before 9:30 p.m.

18 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

W&OD Trail, Arlington, VA

Come join us for 4 to 5 miles on the W&OD Trail. From Capital Beltway take RT 50 or Arlington Boulevard. East towards Falls Church. Go right on George Mason Drive. Then right on Columbia Pike. Go to No. 4714, look for Goodwill Store on left. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in parking lot across from the store next to Four Mile Run Drive. After hike, we will have lunch at PILIN Thai Restaurant in Falls Church. INFO: Mary-Margaret McGrail 703/751-8126.

21 (Saturday)

HIKE - Massanutten Mountain Series
Edinburg Gap, VA

The eleventh hike will be a 16 mile circuit hike in the GWNF from Edinburg Gap to Moreland Gap on the Taskers Gap and Massanutten Trails. Total elevation gain is 2900 feet. PATC Map H. Meet at the Oakton Shopping Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Contact leaders for requirements and details. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham (Needham82@AOL.com) 410/884-9127.

21 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade

No trip scheduled

The Stonewall Brigade will not have a work trip this month. Enjoy your seasonal festivities and join us January 18.

24 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Anticipate holiday excess with this exercise. Climb Overall Run for view of falls, loop around Weddelwood Trail and return all the way down seldom-hiked Mathews Arm Trail (3 mile shuttle). About 12 miles and 3000 feet elevation gain. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931, before 9:30 p.m.

25 - 29 (Wednesday - Sunday)

XC SKI TRIP - Tug Hill Region (STS)
Pulaski, NY

Celebrate the holidays on this upstate NY cross-country ski trip. Stay with our group at a local Bed & Breakfast (the 1880 House) in Pulaski, NY, very near Lake Ontario. Enjoy expected heavy lake-effect snowfall common in this area as we ski some of our favorites at nearby Winona State Forest, Salmon Hills, and Osceola STCs. Estimated cost \$165 per person. Non-STS members add \$10.00. Includes semi-private lodging, plus continental breakfasts. INFO: Steve Brickel or Peggy Alpert (sbrickel@erols.com) 301/946-2520.

27 (Friday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

The Mall, Washington, DC

Since Christmas and New Years are on Wednesday this year, the Easy Hikers will walk 2 to 3 miles along the Mall on Friday, December 27. We will visit the display on the Ellipse, the flower show at the Botanical Garden, and end with lunch at the cafeteria in the National Gallery of Art. Meet at the bottom of the escalator at the Smithsonian Metro station at 10:15 a.m. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

31 (Tuesday)

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

31 (Tuesday)

HIKE - Vigorous Hikers

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Prepare for celebrations. Enjoy climbing Piney Branch to Link Trail loop around on Sugarloaf Trail and AT, returning on the Piney Ridge Trail. About 14 miles and 3000 feet elevation gain with options to shorten. INFO: Chris Nolen (chrishiker@erols.com) 301/469-8931, before 9:30 p.m.

January

1 (Wednesday)

DEADLINE - February *Potomac Appalachian*

Headquarters, Vienna, VA

5:00 p.m. All items for the next issue of the newsletter must be submitted electronically, if possible, to headquarters, or by e-mail to PA@patc.net. Allow one week for postal service delivery. Please e-mail Forecast events to PA-Forecast@patc.net.

1 (Wednesday)

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

2 - 5 Thursday - Sunday

XC SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley WV (STS)

Harmon, WV

Start 2003 off right at the Mountain Retreat Main Lodge (dormitory style) with estimated costs of \$60 per person, respectively for 3 night stay. Non-STS members add \$10.00. Ski trails in nearby Canaan State Park, Whitegrass STC, Blackwater Fall State Park, and Dolly Sods area. INFO: Elliot Brumburger(elliottb@com-cast.net) 301/977-9706.

7 (Tuesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

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

8 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers
Manassas Battlefield, VA

The Easy Hikers will hike approx. 5.2 miles. Meet at the 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. Bring water and snacks. We'll have lunch at a nearby restaurant after the hike. Directions: From the Beltway (I-495) take I-66 west to exit 47B (RT 234 north). Proceed approximately 0.5 miles to park entrance on right. In case of inclement weather the hike will be canceled if schools in Fairfax County or Prince William County are closed. INFO: Ellen Glynn (jeg314@aol.com) 703/698-8740.

10 (Friday)

ANNUAL MEETING - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter, Front Royal, VA

6:30 p.m. dinner meeting at Deans Steak House. This is the Annual Meeting of the NSVC.

We'll elect officers for the year and Lee Shaffer will show slides from his trip to Dominica. Call for reservations by January 6 please. INFO: Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

10 - 12 (Friday - Sunday)

XC SKI TRIP - Laurel Highlands (STS)
Laurel Highlands, PA

Cross country ski the three Laurel Highlands, one of the more reliable snow sites in the Mid-Atlantic hills. We stay in downtown Somerset at the Super 8 Motel. Cost \$65 per person for 2 nights stay. Non-STS members add \$10.00. Location is central to favorite ski sites Hidden Valley, Laurel Mountain, and Laurel Ridge STCs. INFO: Bert Finklestein 703/715-8354.



11 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew
Massanutten Mountain, VA

Shed the holiday blues by working on a mountain trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. on the Massanutten. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

11 - 12 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Blackburn Trail Center, Round Hill, VA

First work trip of 2003 the Crew will be clearing brush along the access road to Blackburn. Other projects are dependent on the weather but there is always plenty to do. Great place to get away from town in January. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

13 (Monday)

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

14 (Tuesday)

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

17 - 20 (Friday - Monday)

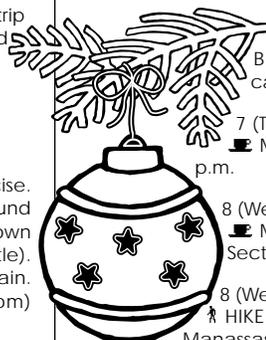
XC SKI TRIP - Blackwater Falls (STS)
Blackwater Falls State Park, WV

Stay at Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge adjacent to Blackwater River and gorge, complete with its own dining, indoor pool, and exercise room. Ski trails in the park, or nearby at Whitegrass, Blackwater Falls State Park, and Dolly Sods. Cost \$135 per person for 3 nights stay. Non-STS members add \$10.00. INFO: Mark or Clare Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718.

17 - 20 (Friday - Monday)

XC SKI TRIP - New Germany (STS)
New Germany State Park, MD

Back by popular demand. Stay at the quaint, Mennonite-run Casselman Inn in Grantsville, MD, a few miles from well-maintained ski trails in New Germany State Park. Also close to other skiing areas in western MD, PA, and WV. Estimated cost \$100 per person for a 3 night stay. Non-STS members add \$10.00. INFO: Jack Wise 410/256-3963.





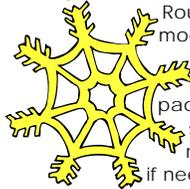
17 - 20 (Friday - Monday)
✿ XC SKI TRIP - Tug Hill Region (STS)
Pulaski, NY

Join a dozen cross country skiers enjoy the likely heavy lake effect snowfall endemic to this area, as we stay at the 1880 Lodge in Pulaski (close to Lake Ontario). Options include joining a local ski race or just touring trails at Winona State Forest, Salmon Hills, and Osceola STCs. Estimated cost \$165 per person. Non-STS members add \$10.00. INFO: Robert Swennes (robertswennes@hotmail.com) 703/532-6101.

17 - 20 (Friday - Monday)
✿ XC SKI TRIP - NATO Downhill Nordic
Canaan Valley, WV

Two days of training in downhill Nordic skiing methods offered by professional ski instructors both local and from North American Telemark Organization. Training covers basic downhill skiing to high end hybrid freeheel techniques including jump Tele's and freeheel parallel. Training is tailored to your skill level and interest.

Round out your training skiing moguls, steep and packed surfaces, powder, tree and trail skiing, skiing with a pack, and other backcountry skiing secrets. Clinic uses natural or man-made snow, if needed. Cost of 2 day instruction is \$165 per person, but may drop if signups exceed 10 persons. Cost for lodging \$190 per person for 3 nights at the Canaan Valley Lodge near Whitegrass STC. Non-STS members add \$10.00. Meals, rental equipment, and area use fees extra. Initial down payment fee of \$178 to cover 50 percent of expected lodging and instruction fees only. INFO: Ted Fryberger (tkfryberger@comcast.net) 410/312-2982.



18 (Saturday)
✂ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade
Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to get tools then work on a trail in the nearby area. Please RSVP by Wednesday evening if you plan to attend. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, seasonal clothing, and hiking shoes. INFO: Hop Long (mgrgnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

24 - 26 (Friday - Sunday)
✿ XC SKI TRIP - Canaan Valley (STS)
Canaan Valley, WV

Stay at Canaan Valley Lodge in Canaan Valley State Park complete with its own dining, indoor pool, and exercise rooms. Ski trails in the Park, or nearby at Whitegrass, Blackwater Falls State Park, and Dolly Sods. Cost \$130 per person for 2 night stay. Non-STS members add \$10.00. INFO: Erma Cameron 703/273-4578.

24 - 26 (Friday - Sunday)
✿ XC SKI TRIP - Learn To Cross Country Ski (STS)
Laurel Highlands, PA

Catch cross country ski fever with 20 other students and help of expert volunteer instructors. Stay in Jennerstown, PA, at a quiet, motel-like facilities at foothill of Laurel Mountain. Cost of \$80 per person covers room, breakfasts, and instruction. Non-STS members add \$10.00. INFO: Dave Holton (dbdcholton@mymailstation.com) 202/364-7055.

25 - 26 (Saturday - Sunday)
☑ CABIN WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Cliff's House, Shenandoah, VA

Get out and enjoy winter as the crew continues clearing brush and undesirable trees from around Cliff's House and the Weaver Cabin.

Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Cliff's House. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.net) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

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

31 - 2 (Friday - Sunday)
✿ XC SKI TRIP - Blackwater Falls (STS)
Blackwater Falls State Park, WV

Follow the groundhogs as we stay at Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge adjacent to Blackwater River and gorge, complete with its own dining, indoor pool, and exercise room. Ski trails in the Park, or nearby at Whitegrass, Blackwater Falls State Park, and Dolly Sods. Cost \$90 per person. Non-STS members add \$10.00. INFO: Randy Kerr (lerrkerr@aol.com) 703/860-0755.

31 - 2 (Friday - Sunday)
✿ XC SKI TRIP - Laurel Highlands (STS)
Laurel Highlands, PA

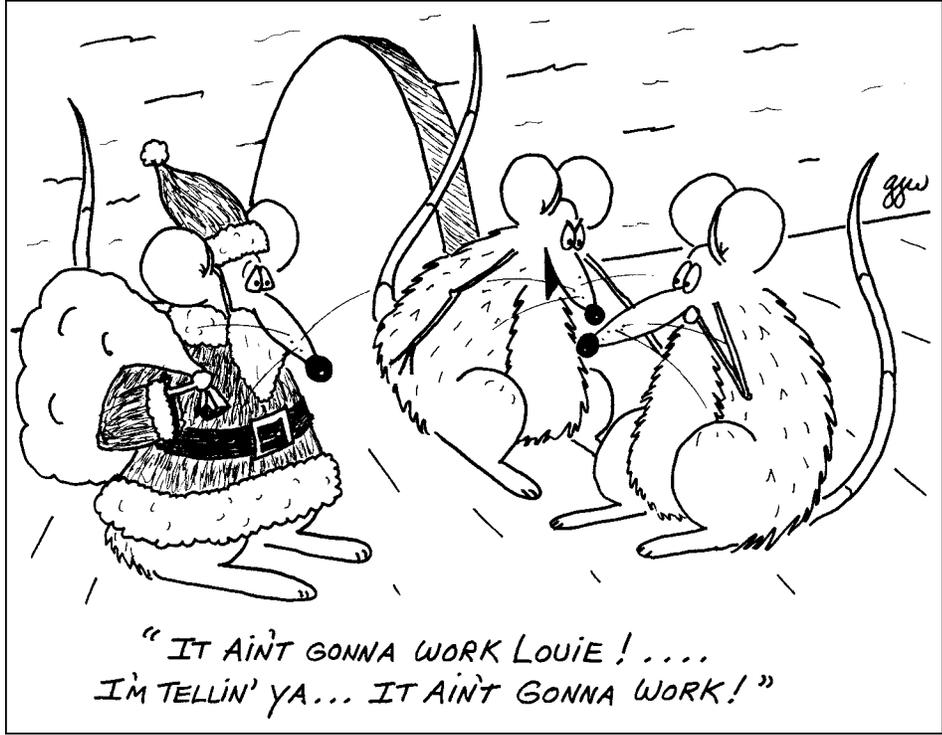
Ski the Laurel Mountain Highlands area near Jennerstown, PA, one of the more reliable snow sites in the Mid-Atlantic hills. Also near Hidden Valley and Laurel Ridge STCs. We stay at Laurel Manor Motel. Cost \$65 per person for 2 nights stay. Non-STS members add \$10.00. There is also close by telemarking and downhill skiing at reopened Laurel Mountain downhill area INFO: Steve Brickel or Peggy Alpert (sbrickel@erols.com) 301/946-2520. ☐



What A Great Annual Meeting

At PATC's 75th Annual Meeting on Nov. 12, all were treated to a wonderful celebration (was that singing we heard?) at the beautiful Atrium at Meadowlark. This facility's use was graciously donated by the National Park Service, in recognition of all PATC has done in partnership with the Park service over the many years of the Club's existence. All officer candidates were elected without opposition, and many awards were given, including the naming of Mike Sutherland as the Volunteer of the Year. Honorary Life memberships were awarded to Jon Rindt, John McCrea, Peter Gatje, and Walt Smith. And Charlie Irvin received special recognition for being a "model volunteer." A special commendation was awarded to Elizabeth "Hope" Wilson for her contributions to the Club this year. Look for more complete coverage in next month's PA, including lots of photos of the event and a list of all the service awards. ☐

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



Wanna Volunteer?

I've been heading up a band of under-achieving nonprofessional, headstrong hard-working volunteers for a couple of years. Sitting around the campfire at Meadows, after the day was done, I realized that nearly every one of these had "drug their feet" in the beginning.

I ask for people to "bring a hammer." Two people waited to join in a work trip because they did not own a hammer, and thought it was a requirement (I always carry five on a work trip).

One guy had worked on his own house for 15 years, but didn't think he would be helpful because he was not a professional carpenter or builder. We have a professional who comes out once in awhile, and he's not really all that much better than we are. I talk on the phone all day so I claim my eye-hand coordination is good – at least I don't hit myself in the head with the receiver, so that makes me an expert at hammering.

The reasons go on and on. I smoke. My husband says I'm not enough of a dedicated tree hugger to get in with that group. I like to have a beer in the evening, and I was sure that would be taboo. I might screw something up, and I didn't want to get kicked out. Blah, Blah, Blah.

HELLO. We have 7,000 or so members, and what, you think all these trails, shelters, huts, outbuildings, Park Cabins, and PATC rental cabins, including the five that are under construction and not

even rentable, are all kept up, maintained, and worked on by the five to six people this Club pays a salary too?

Get real. PATC is about helping, enjoying, getting out there, and doing what you like. I have a couple that comes to five to six work trips of mine a year. They are not members. He claims if he became one, I would not let him take his two-hour Saturday afternoon stroll. I have people buying tools that they will never use if they aren't working on a cabin. The votes say that the best weekend cook of last year was a male.

If you have ANY thought of helping, just go for it. It doesn't matter what division you pick up, and it really doesn't matter how much work you do, or how good you are at it.

If you are nervous about helping out or having some fun, give me a call or e-mail. I will have about 15 work trips in 2003. Come for a few hours, a day, a night, or a weekend. You will not be the only girl, the only one with kids, the only one with a dog or cat, or the only one who couldn't build a house single-handed. I have used six-year-olds to deliver Kool-Aid, and I've had an 87-year-old do the cooking. Can't you fit in somewhere? ☐

—Thomas C. Jorgensen
Southern Regional Cabins Supervisor
Hairatheart@aol.com

Ireland, from page 7

guided, according to Michael, as the trees are drawing water away from the bogs and drying them up. It seems that bogs are "Ireland's rain forest" and an integral part of its ecosystem.

Suffice it to say that we became all-too-familiar with the term "bogged down." Failure to place one's foot on exactly the right spot of the bog meant splattering ankle-deep or higher into muddy, sticky slush. None of us escaped.

On the following days, we trudged over grassy hills blooming purple heather and yellow furze, high rugged cliffs, an island accessible only at low tide (population 20), stunning turquoise beaches, and stony fields. Everywhere we encountered sacred archeological sites and remnants of history – remains of monasteries, Celtic forts, neolithic tombs, Norman castles, ancient abbeys. In one rocky area, by positioning us a few feet apart along a certain pattern, Michael revealed how we were in fact standing atop a barely-discernible medieval stone wall.

Among the more modern – and therefore somehow more poignant – historical sites are the many roofless stone cottages abandoned during the Great Famine of the

1840s when many people died of starvation and there was mass emigration to America.

A particular highlight of our trip was the long day spent on Inismor, one of the Aran Islands known for their magnificent Celtic and monastic treasures and where Gaelic is still the predominant language. Among other historical facts, we learned that the islands had belonged to the O'Briens before they were lost to the warring O'Flahertys (or was it the other way around?). Hiking across a complex network of granite and limestone walls, then underneath towering cliffs along the shoreline, we eventually climbed to the ancient fortress – or temple? – of Dun Aengus (or Dun Aonghasa in Gaelic), one of the most famous and best-preserved ancient landmarks in Europe whose origin and purpose are still a subject of debate.

After spending two days in Galway City, a lively and economically-booming port city with sophisticated restaurants and shops, we again boarded our bus and headed for rural County Clare and the stark Burren region, meaning great rock. For the first time, remarkably, it rained vigorously on us while we were hiking. And ironically, what appears in our photos now that we are back home as a gentle rolling hill was in fact the site of our most challenging hike of the trip. Tall grass virtually obscured the bogs

and stones; it was therefore impossible to know whether one was stepping onto solid ground or into water. It was tortuous, ankle-twisting, and slow, yet the memories that remain are of the fairy forts scattered through the beautiful hills, panoramic views of the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, and the mountains of Connemara where we had been in the days before. It was a glorious adventure.

Our final evening was a gala medieval banquet at the Knappogue Castle in County Clare constructed in Norman times by the MacNamara family (or was it the O'Haras?). After generous portions of mead – the drink of the nobility – and many courses of food, we were entertained by the court musicians and singers. It was a grand evening to cap off a most memorable trip.

The following morning, we boarded our bus for a final time and drove to the Shannon airport. We bid an affectionate farewell to Michael and Jamie – our guides, and Michael our driver.

"It was good of you to see us off this morning," one of us said to Michael Gibbons.

"We had to be sure you would really leave!" Michael quipped.

No fool, that Michael. We were sorely tempted to stay. ☐

—Marie Bass

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

LOST - GLASSES, SAT. NOV. 9, bronze colored flexon frames with oval lenses having a rather strong prescription. Lost on the AT between Rt. 66 and 522 about 100 yards South of the gravel road passing High Knob. Lost at a recently fallen dead tree. Contact Kurt at kurtn@cybcon.com or 703/709-9306 ext 248.

SKIS AND TENT FOR SALE: Bonne 190 cm wood skis (made in Norway). Excellent bases (for purists who love wood skis) but also beautiful enough to use as indoor decor. Includes waxes & 3 pair med. size, over-the-knee wool Nordic socks. \$75. 2-person REI backpacking tent (yellow) with tan rain fly & 3 external, telescoping poles. From the 80's but hardly used; in excellent condition. \$35. Call Andrea at 703/573-2069 between 8:30 & 5, or 703/573-8032 between 5 & 9 p.m. Or e-mail at hhntylr@prodigy.net



DONATIONS WANTED

LAPTOP AND COMPUTER PROJECTOR NEEDED: The PATC Officers, Staff and Committee Chairpersons need a laptop computer and computer projector which can be used to make presentations at conferences, meetings, and community presentations. Projection at 1024 X 768 desired. If you work for a corporation which might make such a donation, contact Mike Sutherland at msutherland@cox.rr.com or 703/591-8330.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 5 ACRES, approximately 5 miles north of Waynesboro, Rt. 340 north. Crystal Springs subdivision. Joins SNP at base of Turk Mountain. Near Turk Mountain and Appalachian Trail. \$54,000. For information call Elton L. Fauber 757/566-4041.

WANT TO RENT. If anyone has a primitive cabin (four walls and a roof, some type of heat source, and

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LAND MANAGER NEEDED - No Experience Required - PATC needs a land manager for a pristine 75-acre tract just south of Snickers Gap (Va Rt 7). It has a waterfall, road access, and borders the AT near Buzzard Hill. For details about tract management positions, contact Tom Johnson at johnts3@juno.com, or 540/622-6422.

DAYTIME SALES DESK VOLUNTEERS BADLY NEEDED every Thursday and/or Friday at the PATC Headquarters between Noon and 2 p.m. We will train you. Once or twice per month. If interested call Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, or e-mail at pfankhauser@patc.net or Maureen Estes at Ext. 19, or at mestes@patc.net.

ALSO NEEDED:

COOKS/WORK CREWS, WEAVER CABIN - Contact Thomas Jorgensen at Hairtheart@aol.com or 540/248-7009 (w) 540/456-4760 (h) .

PROJECT LEADERS / CONSTRUCTION FOREMEN, for info call Charlie Graf at: 410/757-6053 or e-mail cagraf@aol.com.

MEDICAL CHAIR VACANCY: If interested please contact Mickey McDermott at patcvolunteer@patc.net.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

It takes a lot more than trail workers to keep the Club going! INFO: Wilson Riley, Wriley@patc.net or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

PUBLICATIONS CHAIR NEEDS HELP on a book. Please contact Aaron Watkins at 410/740-7082 or publications@patc.net.

THE SALES OFFICE is looking for volunteers please contact the Sales Coordinator, Maureen Estes, by either calling headquarters at 703/242-0693, ext. 19, or by e-mail at mestes@patc.net.

NEEDED: PEOPLE TO HELP PLAN and conduct our Club events. If you are willing, please contact Liles Creighton, Membership Secretary at 410/573-0067, lcrei@aol.com or Pat Fankhauser at Club headquarters - 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, pfankhauser@patc.net.

water access) please contact me. I am interested in renting such a cabin for weekend use one or two times a year. Close proximity to the AT or other hiking/recreational areas would be ideal. Melody Blaney, 540/384-7023, info@wildsideadventures.com.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

DO YOU WANT TO BE A LANDOWNER along the AT? And have a home in the woods! Are you in a position to become a Conservation Buyer through the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust? Our program matches conservation buyers - people like you - with people who are selling land along the AT. You locate your home or cabin out of sight from the Trail. All we ask is that you donate a conservation easement on the rest of the property. A conservation easement "runs with the land;" that is, no present or future owner can develop it! AND, because an easement is an irrevocable gift of a property right, you get a nice income tax deduction equal to the value of the easement. Contact Bob Williams, Director of Land Trust Programs, at bwilliams@appalachiantrail.org, or at 304/535-6331, or write to P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

TRAIL OVERSEER OPPORTUNITIES

PATC OVERSEERS get discounts from the following merchants who support our volunteer programs: Blue Ridge Mountain Sports (Charlottesville, Tidewater) - 20%, Hudson Trail Outfitters (Metro DC) - 15%, The Trailhouse (Frederick, Md.) - 15%, Casual Adventures (Arlington, Va.) - 10%, Campmor (mail order via PATC HQ) - 10%, and Weasel Creek Outfitters in Front Royal - 10%. Check the back page of the PA for the latest trail, cabin, and shelter Overseer opportunities. 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.

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

Trailhead

With the onset of winter, trail Overseers and crews have been squeezing in last-minute projects and wondering what this winter will foretell. We avoided damaging hurricanes this year, and rains of October lessened the threat of fire. However, the ice storm of '98 is in the back of everyone's mind.

Celebrating Wilderness

PATC trail Overseers and members of the Trail Patrol joined forces to assist Shenandoah National Park staff with their 26th anniversary celebration of the designation of wilderness areas in Shenandoah National Park. During the weekend of Oct. 19 and 20, Hal Hallett, Alex Lampros, Joe Garreri, Gary Steele, and Georgeann Smale assisted the SNP South District Park staff Roger Dovel and Charlie Rudacille in demonstrating and describing the various hand tools used in trail maintenance for designated wilderness areas. The highlight was giving visitors the chance to use a crosscut saw to cut a disc that could be taken home as a souvenir of the weekend. The event is so popular that we had some repeat visitors from the previous year. Under the careful tutelage of Roger and Charlie, both the visitors and PATC volunteers had the opportunity to learn new skills.

Tentsites On Massanutten Trail

The Massanutten Crew has been constructing tentsites along the Massanutten Trail in areas where none existed. The tentsites are generally in pairs. They consist of leveled, raked mineral earth surfaces, with a slight pitch to shed rain water. The crew is hauling lots of dirt in five-gallon buckets! Since water is scarce along the Massanutten Trail, the tentsites are located about a half mile from road crossings where backpackers can easily cache a jug of water before beginning their hike.

When tentsites are out of sight of the trail, the unblazed path that leads to the site is signaled by a small tent icon painted on a tree facing the hiker. This distinguishes the path from paths to overlooks and paths made by hunters and game animals.

The 71-mile circuit is a nice length for a week's hiking, and hikers are reporting their experiences and comments by sending emails to publications@patc.net. These comments provide useful input to the crew in planning future work.



Photos by John Spies

Get a look at these new steps leading down to the firepit at Blackburn Trail Center. Steps by the Cadillac Crew from the Oct. 27 worktrip.

A supplement to PATC's "Guide to Massanutten Mountain" is available on the Forest Service Web site at www.fs.fed.us/gwj/lee/massanutten_trail.htm. The supplement's focus is on the locations of water and campsites. It is updated as more tentsites become available.

PHT - Waterbars And Checkdams

On a perfect fall day, Bernie Stalman was the lead trainer for a group of Potomac Heritage Trail volunteers. Sneaking around the backyard of nearby CIA headquarters, Bernie oversaw the construction more than 10 waterbars and checkdams to improve a steep section of the PHT as it rises from the river. The pizza delivery man needed no identification papers as he brought lunch and left just before Bernie rolled a 200-pound rock down the hill through scattering volunteers. A small tree thankfully changed the rock's trajectory just before it was to plunge into a nearby McMansion's courtyard wall. When combining new volunteers with supposedly veteran trail maintainers, one never knows from what direction the fun will start. Next spring begins the new round of excitement as the PHT hopes to host a number of PATC veteran crews that will not only provide needed training, but follow in Bernie's footsteps to provide comic relief as well.

Blue And White Finish Project

The Blue and White Crew used its October worktrip to complete a project started five years earlier, the rebuilding of AT treadway between the Dean Mt. Road and the South River Road. The trail was heavily damaged by the various storms of the late '90s, and much of the tread had slipped downhill. The crew spent hundreds of hours, over several seasons, removing large boulders and root-balls from the tread, replacing cribbing, digging new sidehill and installing erosion control devices. Overseers of sidehill trail are reminded to weed very aggressively on the uphill slope. Aggressive vegetation control widens the corridor and encourages hikers to walk toward the inner side of the tread. It also helps prevent sloughing and eventual "sidehill slippage." The crew also attacked several large blowdowns in the Central District. Dinner was provided by Sal, who whipped up two large pizzas complete with magical, disappearing anchovies (but light on the brussels sprouts and pineapple).

SOT Turns DM

In November, Kerry Snow reassumed duties as Co-District Manager for the AT in the Central District of SNP. Kerry wants to thank Hal Hallett, who graciously accepted the task during Kerry's tenure as Supervisor of Trails. Hal added the DM tasks to his already busy schedule as Overseer, Blue and

White crew member, PATC Trail Patrol member, and member of the PATC Futures Group. Thanks for your hard work, Hal.

Tread Repair On Hogback

On Saturday, Oct. 5, Kevin Kraditor, Sherri Fickel, Jose and Danny Rojas, Mike Ritoli, Kisun Han, and Paul Wright joined forces with DM and Overseer John McCrea to continue a rehab project that started three years ago on the AT south of Little Hogback Overlook in Shenandoah National Park.



Sandi Marra leads Cadillac Crew gals in a toast to the guys in their lives - past, present, and future.

The crew regraded, sidesloped, and installed new erosion-control devices, repairing a couple of chronic problem areas and continuing work on the lower switchbacks. They all punctuated the day with a dinner of grilled chicken marinated with lime, cilantro, and chili peppers and couscous with roasted vegetables. The group also did some light cabin work on Sunday before splitting off in different directions – with some of them coincidentally meeting up later by chance in Sperryville, but that's another story.

Oktoberfest

The North District Hoodlums couldn't make it to Munich and our hopes of celebrating Oktoberfest in Germany were dashed for yet another year, but we didn't cry in our beer. We still celebrated Oktoberfest in grand style in SNP and saved on the trans-Atlantic flight.

Two dozen hearty souls showed up at Piney River, and we braved the beautiful fall weather and leaf-people and attacked the

South Marshall AT, building rock waterbars, check dams, and steps near the viewpoint. A separate crew went to work on the AT on either side of Beahms Gap, rebuilding waterbars.

After work was done, we retired to Range View Cabin for a hearty feast of sauerbraten, various sausages and wursts, John's famous potato pancakes, apple struedel, etc., etc. And the Bavarian spirit of Oktoberfest flowed!

No View

A fine October weekend at Mutton Top turned out to be shrouded in clouds, fog, and rain, obscuring what was hoped to be a fantastic view of the changing seasons. Not to worry. The Cadillac Crew reworked the tread on the Boundary Trail from Mutton Top to the Vining Tract parking area. Our feet may have been wet and muddy but we warmed up on Richard and Sybille Stromberg's goulash and couscous. Plus a nice vine was mighty fine.

Later in October the crew was faced with another potential wet weekend when it rained more than an inch the night before a work trip at Blackburn Trail Center. But, not to be deterred, the crew attacked some mighty big rocks on the northern side trail to the AT. This work trip completed a two-year project to build rock steps almost the entire length of the steep side trail. The same weekend saw the Scouts of Troop 142 build tent pads on the campsite just off the side trail. Led by Ian Laughlin for his Eagle Scout project, the lads labored to carry eight-foot 6X6 pressure-treated lumber up the side trail to frame three freshly leveled pads. Ian hung around to enjoy the crew's evening campfire, and the older generation learned some of the younger generation's jokes.

10 Percent Discounts

Brandon and Wendy McCrary have opened Weasel Creek Outfitters in the Kmart Plaza in Front Royal. They are offering 10 percent discounts to Overseers. They will be included in the list when the Overseer cards are reprinted in January. Address:

Weasel Creek Outfitters
433 South St.
Front Royal, VA 22630
540/622-6909

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

Winter Hikes, from page 4

books and training are available in this area, and much information is available online.

WWW.patc.net has a few articles and links related to winter hiking. Check out www.patc.net/hiking/gear/wintervisit.html for an article by a Park Ranger with SNP on winter visits to the Park, or www.patc.net/hiking/gear/winter.html for a good discussion of clothing and gear essentials for winter outdoor wear.

Any Internet search engine can provide you with a long list of resources for deciding the best gear for your hike - whether it be a day hike or a more extended journey. But remember to always carry the necessary gear to avoid trouble in the event of unforeseen circumstances. And remember, a little training and preparation now goes a long way later when you need to rely on experience to get yourself or others out of a bind. □

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TRAIL, SHELTER and CORRIDOR OVERSEERS/MONITORS WANTED

CORRIDOR MONITOR
SAND SPRING – VA/WV
 CALL TOM LUPP, 301/271-7340
 E-mail: tlupp@erols.com

SHELTER OVERSEERS WANTED
 CALL FRANK TURK, 301/249-8243
 E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

CO-OVERSEER FOR
WAGON WHEEL SHELTER – PENNSYLVANIA
BEARFENCE HUT - SNP

Trail Overseer Openings. Call the District Manager for the section that interests you.

PENNSYLVANIA - MAP 2-3,4,J,K
 CALL PETE BROWN, 410/343-1140
 E-mail: peter.brown4@worldnet.att.net
Appalachian Trail [Co-Overseer]
 Gas Pipeline to Rattlesnake Run Road (3 miles)

ASHBY GAP/ LINDEN AT & BB – MAP 8
(RTE. 50 to RTE. 638)
 CALL ED MCKNEW, 540/622-6004
 E-mail: emcknew@aol.com
Dicks Dome Shelter Trail
 AT to Shelter (0.2 mile)

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED
[NORTH END] – MAP 10
 CALL DAN DUEWEKE, 703/266-3248
 E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

WILDERNESS OVERSEERS NEEDED FOR
REMOTE TRAILS.
HARD WORK, LOW PAY, ADVENTURE GUARANTEED.

Catlett Mountain Trail
 Hannah Run Trail to Hazel Mountain Trail
 (1.2 miles)

SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED – MAP 11
 CALL PETE GATJE, 434/361-1309
 E-mail: pjgatje@aol.com
Rockytop Trail (upper) – Co-Overseer
 Big Run Loop Trail to Lewis Peak Trail (2.2 miles)

TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP E, G, 9
 CALL RICK RHOADES, 540/477-3247
 E-mail: Rrhoades@shentel.net
Tuscarora Trail
 Rock Marker to Massanutten Trail (1.5 miles)

MASSANUTTEN NORTH – MAP G
 CALL MIKE SUTHERLAND, 703/591-8330
 E-mail: msutherland@cox.net
Massanutten Trail
 Rte. 758 to 7-Bar-None Trail (3.3 miles)
Massanutten Trail
 7-Bar-None Trail to Bear Trap Trail (2.7 miles)
Massanutten Trail
 Bear Trap Trail to Peters Mill Run Trail (1.6 miles)
Massanutten Trail
 Jawbone Gap Trail Crisman Hollow Rd. (4.8 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP H
 CALL DON WHITE, 804/795-2914
 E-mail: whitedh@attbi.com
Massanutten Mt. South Trail
 TV Tower to Pitt Spring (3.40 miles)
Massanutten Mt. South Trail
 Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)
Second Mountain Trail
 Boone Run Trail to Kaylor Knob (1.1 miles)
Morgan Run Trail
 Cub Run Rd. to Massanutten Mt. South Trail
 (2.6 miles)



GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F
 CALL HOP LONG, 301/942-6177
 E-mail: mgrnmd@hotmail.com
Mill Mountain Trail
 Big Schloss Cutoff Trail to the Tuscarora Trail (3.3 miles)
Great North Mountain Trail
 Stack Rock to FR 720 (4.2 miles)
Gerhard Shelter Trail
 Tuscarora Trail to Vances Cove (1.5 miles)

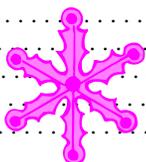
SUBURBAN MARYLAND – MAP D
 CALL LILES CREIGHTON, 410/573-0067
 E-mail: lcrei@aol.com
Cabin John Trail
 Tuckerman Lane to Goya Drive (1.5 miles)



Volunteers Appointed - October

Trail Overseers

Barb Austin	Sealock Spring Trail
Tom Johnson	Appalachian Trail – Denton Shelter to VA 638
Edward Karpie	Appalachian Trail – Powell Gap to Flattop Mountain Summit
George Calaba	Tuscarora Trail – Warner Trail to PA 233/Colonel Denning SP
Bob Creter	Tuscarora Trail – Cowpens Road to 3 Square Hollow Road
Andrea Grund	Tuscarora Trail – US 522 to Gore
Agnes Bouton	Tuscarora Trail – Southern Rockfield to Pinnacle Powerline, Fry Path Trail, Laurel Run, Overlook & Rock Cave Trail
Gregg Houchens	Rocky Mount Trail – Gap Run Trail to Summit of Rocky Mount Gap Run Trail – Rocky Mount Trail to Route 628 Access Trail



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