



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 29, Number 7
July 2000

Volunteers needed for the Shenandoah Trail Crews

Many of you have probably not even heard of the Shenandoah Trail Crews, but this may be just the volunteer work experience you have been looking for. During the summer, PATC organizes six work crews to provide trail work support to the Shenandoah National Park (SNP). Crew members are selected from qualified applicants age 18 or over. Each trail crew works five days. Camp begins on Sunday evening and ends on Friday afternoon. A typical workday may consist of such glamorous tasks as cleaning and building waterbars, clearing overgrown trails, reblazing, and repairing trail treadway. The work will likely be hard and dirty. However, during work breaks the Park Ranger often gives the volunteers some interesting insights into the SNP. These insights can include how to survive on certain edible mushrooms, how easy it is to mistake edible mushroom for poisonous ones, the different types of trees in the work area, and perhaps a good fishing or swimming hole. You will see an abundance of wildlife including deer and possibly a black bear or two. Other benefits include the opportunity to meet new friends, to

observe the beauty of the Shenandoah, to clean up after work, and to eat some great food. Housing and meals are provided free. If you still have energy after working all day there is nightly entertainment to enjoy at both the Skyland and Big Meadows Lodges. As a volunteer, you will also receive the satisfaction of helping the National Park Service do work that they could not afford without volunteer labor. Finally, you may even build up a few muscles you have been neglecting.

All in all, you should find the Shenandoah Work Crew to be a very satisfying experience. Not only will you gain a greater appreciation for this beautiful park, but you will be able to give something back to the park as a volunteer. To help you decide whether this may be for you, a summary of the trail crew dates, housing, meals, and rules are provided below:

Shenandoah (South District) Trail Crews

Dates: July 30th to August 4th and August 6th to August 11th. (Sunday evening to Friday afternoon).

Housing and Meals: Crews will be housed at the Schairer Trail Center in the South District. Private autos may be driven near the cabin, but the access is too rough for most vehicles. Breakfast and lunch will be prepared by the crew at the Schairer Trail Center. Dinner will be at the quaint Town & Country Inn in nearby Elkton, VA. PATC will assign an experienced Trail Crew leader who will drive a SNP provided vehicle to and from the work site. The crew leader and trail crew will perform trail work together under the supervision of a Park Ranger during the day.

Shenandoah (Central District) Trail Crews

Dates: August 13th to August 18th and August 20th to August 25th. (Sunday evening to Friday afternoon).

Housing and Meals: Crews will be housed at the Pinnacles Research Center near Skyland Lodge in the Central District. Private autos may be driven to the cabin. Breakfast and lunch will be prepared at the

See Volunteers, page 4

PATC's Future Leadership Depends on You

The Nominating Committee is meeting now to determine the slate of candidates for this fall's elections of the PATC Executive Committee. Are you interested in shaping the direction of the Club? Get involved! Are you interested in running? Do you know someone who would be a great candidate? Contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Rick Canter, 301/924-4942
southmountaineers@yahoo.com

Maureen Harris, 202/966-8345;
mh63q@nih.gov

Steve Koeppen, 410/756-2916;
skoeppen@qis.net

Bianca Menendez, 703/823-1835;
jns-bianca@home.com

Jack Reeder, 301/320-6324;
rappahannock@juno.com

The Nominating Committee will select members to fill the following Executive Committee positions for the two-year term beginning in January 2001: President, Vice President-Operations, Vice-President-Volunteerism, Supervisor of Trails, Supervisor of Corridor Management, General Secretary, General Counsel, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. □

In This Issue...

Council Fire	2
Walt's Notes	3
Outreach Program	5
Adopt A Trail	5
Big Meadows	6
It Wasn't Always So	6
A Brief History of PATC	7
Forecast	8
Shockeys Relocation	12
Websites for AT	13
Notices	14
Encountering Equestrians	15
Cabin Corner	16
Mike Karpie's Photo Tips	17
Trailhead	18
Trail Overseers Wanted	20

Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

Officers

President: Walt Smith, 703/242-0693
Ext. 40, wsmith@visuallink.com

VP Operations: Tom Johnson

VP Volunteerism: Mickey McDermott

Supervisor of Trails: Pete Gatje
Email: PJGatje@aol.com

Supervisor of Corridor Management:
Tom Lupp

General Secretary: Warren Sharp

General Counsel: Eric Olson

Membership Secretary: Terry Cummings

Treasurer: Dick Newcomer

Recording Secretary: Gerhard Salinger

Sections/ Chapters

Mountaineering Section: Greg Christopoulos

SMRG: Peter Pennington

Ski Touring Section: Steve Brickel

North Chapter: Steve Koeppen

N. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Martha Clark

S. Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Michael Groah

Charlottesville Chapter: John Shannon

West Virginia Chapter: Judy Smoot

Standing Committee Chairs (Council Members)

Blackburn Trail Center: Chris Brunton

Cabins: Mel Merritt

Cabin Construction: Charlie Graf

Conservation: Mary Margaret Sloan

Grants & Donations: Jack Reeder

Endowment: Dick Newcomer

Finance: John Richards

Hikes: Tom Johnson, 410/647-8554,
johnt3@juno.com

Internet Services: Stephen Raia

Land Management: Anita Canovas

Land Acquisition: Phil Paschall & Eric Olson

Legal: Eric Olson

Maps: Dave Pierce

**Maryland Appalachian Trail Management
Committee:** Charlie Graf

Potomac Appalachian: Bianca Menendez

Public Affairs: Terry Cummings

Publications: Aaron Watkins

Shelters: Charlie Graf, 410/757-6053

Trail Patrol: Kumait Jawdat

Tuscarora Trail Land Management:
Lloyd MacAskill

Special Committees/Ongoing Activities

Archives & Library: Carol Niedzialek

Cabin Reservations: Darlene Wall

Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Rick Rhoades

Firestone Tract Management: Shirley Strong

Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite
Schneeberger

Medical: John McNamara

SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:
Kerry Snow & George Walters

Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:
Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

Vining Tract Management: Howard Johnson

Vienna Chamber of Commerce: Patricia
Driscoll-Smail

Potomac Appalachian

Chief Editor: Bianca Menendez
jns-bianca@home.com

Features Editor: Joanne Erickson

Forecast Editor: Joe O'Neill
JJONeill@visi.net

Pre-press: Nancy Merritt,
MeritMktg@aol.com

Council Fire

The Council held its regular meeting on May 9, 2000 at the Club headquarters. The meeting was attended by 21 Council members, 1 staff, and 3 Club members. The PATC membership stands at 7,011, with 84 new members registering in the previous month.

PATC will participate in the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Conference on Greenways in September 2001. PATC will host a pre-conference hike along the AT in northern Virginia demonstrating trail location, construction, and maintenance. The Cadillac Trail Crew will provide workshops on construction and maintenance of primitive trails. PATC will also lead a workshop on developing volunteer organizations. Vice President Tom Johnson and Director of Administration Wilson Riley are the contacts.

Volunteers Needed!

Tom Johnson is looking for volunteers to provide a program on how to take a hike—including planning, appropriate gear, safety, Leave-No-Trace, and other topics, for the Women's Center in Vienna in October.

The summer Trail Crews in the Shenandoah National Park are not yet filled. Supervisor of Trails Pete Gatje is looking for volunteers to do trail work under supervision in the SNP for five days. Accommodations and meals are provided.

Changes in Leadership Duties

The Council voted modifications of the duties and responsibilities of elected officers so that each Club function is represented on the Executive Committee. The Vice Presidents of Operations and of Volunteerism will more actively coordinate the work of committees that fall within their purview. The General Secretary now oversees all activities having to do with facilities and does less with the day-to-day operations of the Club. The Supervisor of Corridor Management has responsibility for corridor management on the Tuscarora Trail as well as the AT. The nominating Committee will use this information to recruit nominees for officers to be elected this fall.

Cabins Update

The Council modified the policy allowing Trail Overseers to reserve cabins for work trips. Work trips advertised in the *PA* can continue to reserve cabins. For work trips not advertised, the Supervisor of Trails must approve the cabin reservation.

The Council voted not to renew the lease for Garlan Cabin.

Conservation Activities

The Council approved a letter to Congressman Wolf supporting the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support the purchase of the Ovoka Farm property to

See Council Fire, page 3

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

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

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

Phone #: 703/242-0315

To receive an information packet: Extension 10

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

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

Facsimile #: 703/242-0968

Club E-mail #: Wriley1226@aol.com

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

STAFF DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

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

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

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

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

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

Council Fire, from page 2
protect trail in the Sky Meadows State Park.

Guidebooks and Maps

In the next few weeks, the new guide to trails in the Massanutten will be published as will the revised Circuit Hikes in Virginia,

Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. Maps 2/3 and 4 in Pennsylvania, 7 in northern Virginia, and 10 in the central part of the SNP will be revised by September. Sale of the Pennsylvania maps has increased dramatically since becoming part of the AT Guidebook for Pennsylvania.

David Pierce will accept comments on these maps until July 30. □

—Gerhard Salinger
Recording Secretary

Walt's Notes

Woods and More Woods

Located in four states, PATC owns land on nearly forty different tracts that range in size from an acre to more than two hundred acres. Most of the land is covered with trees.

In May, I attended a conference at Sweet Briar College on "Managing to Create the Ancient Forest." Landowners, forest advisors, educators, conservationists, and volunteers interested in the health and long-term management of forests gathered to examine ways to create old-growth forests.

Why should anyone be promoting old-growth forests? The many benefits were discussed: economic, recreational, cultural, and spiritual. Older forests are especially valuable as reservoirs of plant and wildlife diversity.

Following two days of discussions on forest management and related problems in the US and Great Britain, we went to the field to see old-growth trees. I chose to hike with a group in the James Madison Landmark Forest at Montpelier, Virginia. The old oak and tulip popular trees, some of which were in place when the Madisons lived there in the late 1700s, were magnificent to see. I could not help but wonder if perchance there are still some old growth trees tucked away somewhere on PATC property.

What Should PATC Do With All Its Woods?

We do not talk much about our trees at Council meetings. In fact, since we have not inventoried our property, I do not know where we would begin discussions. If forest management were defined as "the art, science, and business of managing a forest for its most productive and beneficial uses based on the landowners' goals and objectives," then what would be our goals and objectives?

Do you have an interest in helping to develop policy pertaining to PATC-owned forests? How should our plan relate to what the neighbors are doing? Would you look at the woods from the standpoint of an ecologist or a landscape artist? Do you think that in some areas we should promote old growth through thinning? Should we be burning all deadfall in cabin fireplaces, or are there some tracts where the deadfall should remain in place? Should timber be sold from some parcels? Should we manage differently along streams? How does the so-called "riparian effect" influence biodiversity? How should we, as a volunteer organization, address the issue of forest management? Should we assemble a group, visit a select number of sites, and then discuss an approach?

Select Forest Management Group

I would like to assist our Land Management Committee by forming a sub-committee that would develop some approaches for managing our forestlands. The membership of the group should be diverse, including specialists as well as members who are simply interested in woodland habitats. Please contact me by telephone at the Club headquarters or via e-mail if you would enjoy helping develop some policy on the subject.

See you on the trail,

Walt



*Oliphant property, purchased November 1998.
PATC woods with stream near Myron Glaser cabin.*

Photos by Walt Smith

Volunteers, from page 1

Research Center. Dinner will be eaten together in the beautiful Skyland Lodge dining room. PATC will assign an experienced crew leader who will drive the SNP provided vehicle to and from the work site. The crew leader and trail crew will perform trail work together under the supervision of a Park Ranger during the day.

Shenandoah (Northern District) Trail Crews

Dates: August 27th to September 1st and September 4th* to September 8th. (Sunday evening to Friday afternoon). *Starts Monday evening due to Labor Day holiday.

Housing and Meals: Crews will be housed at the Pinnacles Research Center near Skyland Lodge in the Central District. Private autos may be driven to the cabin. Breakfast and lunch will be prepared at the Research Center. Dinner will be eaten together in the beautiful Skyland Lodge dining room. PATC will assign an experienced crew leader who will drive the SNP provided vehicle to and from the work site. The crew leader and trail crew will perform trail work together under the supervision of a Park Ranger during the day.

If you are interested in becoming a Shenandoah Work Crew volunteer, contact

Heidi Forrest at PATC Headquarters at 703/242-0693 ext 12 and request a work crew application form. You will be notified whether or not your application is accepted within two weeks of the date your completed application is received at PATC Headquarters. Please do not apply unless you intend to make a firm commitment. If you are accepted and later cancel or do not show, your \$20 refundable deposit (from new crew members only) will not be returned to you since PATC loses money spent for your pre-purchased food. □

—Pete Gatje
Supervisor of Trails

Trail Crew Rules

Crew member applications must be screened and approved by either the PATC Supervisor of Trails, a PATC District Manager, or the PATC Trails Coordinator. Previous proven crew members will be given preference. Crew members may be male or female 18 years or older.

Maximum of six members per crew. Desired crew size is 4 to 6 members.

A PATC District Manager and SNP Trail Supervisor will welcome the crew members and dine with them on Sunday evening.

Each crew member will be given a PATC crew T-shirt at the beginning of camp on Sunday evening. Crew members are encouraged to wear the T-shirts to dinner during the week.

No hard liquor, drugs, or pets are permitted at the cabin or campsite.

No smoking will be permitted in the cabin and, if fire danger exists, in the camp area.

The crew vehicle will be driven only by the crew leader or a driver designated by the crew leader. The leader is responsible for insuring the crew vehicle is driven in a prudent manner.

There will be lights out and quiet in the sleeping area after 10PM. Reveille will be early enough for the crew vehicle to leave the cabin by 7AM.

Each crew member will receive a \$10 laundry stipend and complimentary T-shirt.

Additional information is provided on the PATC Website: <http://patc.net/crew00.html>

Shenandoah Trail Crew of Previous Years



May Ann Lepore

(PATC Archives)



Workshop participants build a turnpike on White Oak Canyon trail.

(PATC Archives)

Shenandoah Trail Crew of Previous Years



SNPC 2nd week '99



(PATC Archives)

*Waterbar Construction on the AT
SNP Hut Overseers Keith Denson and Mike Karpie*

An Outreach Program for Women

The Women's Center of Vienna, Virginia, has contacted PATC for help in educating the women at the Center about hiking skills and opportunities. A hike is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, leaving from PATC headquarters in Vienna. We need women to help with the program.

The Women's Center is a non-profit counseling services center in downtown Vienna only a block from PATC. It provides a variety of counseling services, including women's health issues, recreation, legal aid, divorce, and the like. The Center is a non-resident facility.

The Center views physical exercise as an important component of its programs but has never offered hiking as a part of the program. The Programs Coordinator hopes that PATC will give the Center's clients an introduction to hiking skills, accompanied by a moderate hike on a local trail. The first hike will be at Sugarloaf.

If you want to find out more, call Tom Johnson at 410/647-8554 (johnts3@juno.com). □

Aurea Mediocritas

I have walked far;
eaten pale skin
of apricot, flesh
of yam.

Now I boil water
for flaxen-green tea
and, like an alchemist,
transmute steep paths
into gold.

—Jerry Hoff

Adopt a Trail

I would like to respond to "Walt's Notes" from the January 2000 PA, and a recent letter I received from Bernie Stalman, North District Side Trails Manager. Why, in a Club with such a large membership, is it so difficult to find overseers?

I know that we are all busy, and many of us have children. My husband, two children (now 11 and 13), and I have been the overseers for the Sugarloaf Trail in the North section for three years. Yes, it is often difficult to schedule our work trips between all the soccer games and scouting events. Somehow we do manage to find the three or four days a year it takes to go out and clean water bars, cut back the brambles, or

clear downed trees on our 1.25 miles. (We did enlist the help of another family to clean up after the ice storm in 1999!)

I'd like to encourage other families to "adopt" a trail. It's a great chance to get out with your children. Even younger children can clip back brush, and pick up trash. Also, we've developed a special relationship with "our" trail, enjoying our trips back to see the seasons change, or the impact of all the trees downed in the big storms.

Every issue of the *PA* has a list of overseers needed. Volunteer! □

—Barbara Elkus



Summer may seem to have barely begun, but the deadline for the August issue of the *PA* is July 1 and for the September issue August 1. See the Forecast for details.

Big Meadows Exhibit Reopens

Almost without notice, Shenandoah National Park reopened its exhibit hall at the Big Meadows Visitors Center this past spring. There are currently three topics covered. The most intriguing to me was the one on the mountain people, which was purposely designed to replace the somewhat patronizing exhibit that ran there for years. It is an exhibit well worth your time. You can, in fact, visit it several times and learn new information each time. I'm sure I will return many times.

Using a carefully-planned mix of interpretive text, photos, art, quotations, and archival documents, the exhibit is a visual and historic delight. It explores the way the coming of the Park affected the original inhabitants and their reactions to it. It also shows the counterpoint of the various public officials and their role in bringing the Park into existence. While thought provoking, it lacks almost all propagandist commentary many government museum exhibits have (such as the nuclear energy museums in Los Alamos and Oak Ridge, Tennessee). You see it and draw your own conclusions.

One of the chief disappointments is that it vilifies an early pre-Park researcher, Miriam Sizer, who was one of few people who prepared primary hard data on the mountain inhabitants preparatory to their moving off the mountain. I find this derogation to be unsporting conduct. Long disappeared from the scene, she cannot defend herself today. It is a curiosity by itself for no other individual is so negatively singled out.

The other disappointment is that Park exhibit planners said little about PATC's role in helping create the Park and its role in helping the mountain people during hard times. There is one brief comment by Myron Avery, and he deserves much more, as do Frank Schairer, Dr. Roy Sexton, and many other members. But you have to draw the line somewhere, I suppose. It is, after all, an exhibit about the mountain people themselves more than the people who, in effect, made them leave their mountain homes and businesses, sometimes willingly and sometimes less willingly.

A second exhibit is totally visual: it is color photography of wildflowers in Shenandoah

National Park by PATC's own John Amberson. (John, and his wife, Joan, have been VIPs in the Park for years.) Every single photograph was a work of art, a perfection of and in itself. Congratulations, John. We're glad you are being recognized for your skill. The exhibit is exquisite, pure pleasure. Have you always wanted to know the name of that flower? See John's exhibit.

Finally, there is an exhibit of work-in-progress of the restoration of Hoover Camp (or the "President's Camp," if you prefer the formal designation) by Park authorities. This combines photographs, text, maps, archival documents, and archaeology, in an interesting and informative way. You want to know what SNP is doing to Hoover Camp? Go read about it at Big Meadows. You might really dig it.

All in all, the new exhibits at Big Meadows make diversified and interesting viewing. Be sure to stop by. You won't be disappointed. □

—Jack Reeder

It Wasn't Always So

Many of us take for granted some of the magnificent facilities now in use by Club members, not the least of which is Corbin Cabin. Because of its able leadership and especially because of the labor of many men and women volunteers, we are all able to enjoy PATC's primitive cabins (i.e., lacking electricity, running water, and most of the other comforts of home). But did you ever stop to think how they came into being "back in the old days?" Here's an excerpt from the Club Bulletin (precursor of the Potomac Appalachian) that will give you some idea:

"The first work trip to recondition the Corbin Cabin was under the able leadership of Fitzhugh Clark. The Corbin Cabin is one of the few cabins of the mountain farmers which was left standing after the area was taken over to create the Shenandoah National Park . . . The possibility of fixing it up so it could be added to the PATC string of shelters was suggested by the Park

management, and, after an inspection by our Shelters Construction Committee, the offer was accepted.

In Celebration of PATC's History

"[From Skyland Drive]...The Nicholson Hollow Trail starts eastward and downward 1.8 miles to the old log cabin never used since vacated by the Corbin family . . . years ago. The trail to the cabin over an old woods road is a pleasant one for the hiker, but proved to be a rugged one for Lowell Bennett's jeep which made several trips to take in material, food and camping equipment. Everyone was amazed the way Lowell maneuvered the jeep through narrow spots to bypass large boulders in the middle of the road and over the rocky creek bed.

"At the cabin we found dense wilderness growth, 3 to 8 feet high around it, doors and windows missing, a phoebe's nest on the mantel over the fireplace, and the veranda sagging badly, but the walls and roof apparently were in good condition. Minutes after our arrival all 27 on the trip went into action with weeders, pruners, scythes, crowbars, shovels, axes, and hammers, and the general appearance of the place soon began to change.

"There were two surprises we all liked. First, the Committee arranged to have as our guest Mr. George Corbin, who had built and owned the cabin. He is now 65 . . . and is a pleasant, quiet, friendly man. He told us much of the social and business affairs of the area while he lived there. Also, that the trail going by the cabin leads over the mountain to Luray and that he frequently carried 60 pounds of produce on his back to Luray and returned the same day with an

See Corbin page 7

Corbin, from page 6
equal weight of groceries.

"The second surprise was an announcement after supper that a square dance was being run at Skyland for our group and the Park staff and employees, with Fitz supplying the music and the calls. No one regretted the climb back to the Drive and the dance. It was quite a success, and we had a fine time getting acquainted with the Park people and their families.

"When we left Sunday afternoon, much had been accomplished. A large area around the cabin had been cleared, a nice trail had been made to the mountain stream some 75 yards away, tent sites cleared near it, a second trail cleared to an ice-cold spring (temperature 43° F. according to Haynes Walker's thermometer), the interior of the cabin cleaned, several snakes dispatched, some window frames put in, some chinking started, etc. At least we felt much had been done and told each other so. . . ."

Apparently the work trips continued, because we still have a Corbin Cabin today.

Many of PATC's cabins both in and out of the Park have interesting "start-up" histories. But the many similarities with today's cabin work crews are possibly even more interesting (with perhaps the dancing an exception!). When did this Corbin Cabin work trip take place? May 30-31, 1953. We must still be doing something right! □

—Jack Reeder

A Brief History Of PATC Hikes, Part I

Excerpted from "PATC Hikes, 1927-1997: A Preliminary History," which can be found in the PATC Archives.

PATC hiking over 70 years falls into three periods, each roughly a quarter century—or a generation—long. In the first generation of the Club, hikes were an equal partner with work trips. Then there was a period in which hiking was the most important activity of Club members. In the latest generation, hiking as a Club activity seems to depend largely on individual initiative.

Although PATC has been hiking for 70 years, it has only had a Hiking Chairman since 1998. Planning Club hikes used to be the job of an Excursions Chair.

PATCers Go Hiking

Within five months of its founding, PATC held its first hike—a two-day inspection of the just-created Appalachian Trail between Linden, Va., and Harpers Ferry, W.Va. It was held in April 1928 as a joint hike with the Red Triangle Club. Hikers signed up for one or both days and traveled by train either to Linden or Bluemont (the first day's hike ended at Snickers' Gap) and returned by train from Harpers Ferry. Overnight lodgings were secured at boarding houses for summer vacationers in Linden and Bluemont.

Just a month later the Club sponsored another two-day trip, to Skyland, G.F. Pollock's camp on the Blue Ridge, to which one either walked up from the train station in the valley or hired horse and wagon, or, possibly, an auto. Additional Skyland Frolics were held in 1929, 1930, and 1931 before Skyland was taken over by the just-formed Shenandoah National Park Administration.

In October 1928, the Club decided that one work trip and one hike would be scheduled each month, leaving two weekends free for private trail work trips. PATC promised that on Club hikes "no work will be done." The term "excursions" first appears in the announcement of a two-day trip, again by train, to Powell's Fort Valley in April 1929. The first 15-day excursion was not held until 1931 when the Club went to the Appalachian Trail Conference at Gatlinburg, Tenn., and hiked in those mountains.

The Forecast was created when the quarterly Bulletin was inadequate for listing all the Club's hikes.

Travel costs and scarcity of available accommodations limited the number of people who could go on the excursions, but there was no limit on the number of people taking Club day hikes in the 1930s. In the spring of 1929, 65 hikers were on the ridge above Hazel Hollow when suspicious mountaineers set fire to the woods to get those city folk out. The first hike up Old Rag Mountain, led by Myron Glaser in February 1930, had 70 hikers.

Chartered buses for the day's hike became common as roads improved. Dorothy Walker, who joined in 1929, tells of going by trolley to 15th Street just below the White House to join the 7 a.m. bus for a Club hike.

By the middle of the 1930s, hikes began to move off PATC's AT. Hikes were taken in the Pedlar district, George Washington

National Forest (GWNF), and Ramsay's Draft, and later in the Massanutten. "Winter sports" hikes, presumably skiing or snowshoeing, were held at Sextons' Knob (an early name for a locale near The Pinnacles) in Shenandoah Park and in Michaux State Forest in the winters of 1937-1939. Rock climbing expeditions were listed as "hikes" from 1937 until 1947 when the Mountaineering Section was organized.

In 1939, the 40-passenger "silver bus" of Capital Transit, the street trolley and bus company serving Washington residents, was the most frequently chartered transport for PATC hikes. One of its drivers, C.F. (Bill) Mersch, became a valued and active PATC member, even serving as Supervisor of Trails for some years before his retirement to Vermont around 1959.

The first two years of World War II had little effect on Club hiking schedules. Things changed in December 1941. Rubber and gas rationing went into effect; train schedules again became important. *The Bulletin*, PATC's newsletter before the *Potomac Appalachian*, published a series of articles describing how public transportation could be used to get to trailheads from mid-Pennsylvania to Rockfish Gap. In January 1942, hikers were warned to make the reservation for Sunday's hike by Wednesday if a bus was to be chartered. Sometimes Trail Overseers rode with the hikers, not to hike but to maintain trail while the hikers walked.

The number of hikers remained high. Forty-five people used the Virginia Trailways bus on a hike to Shenandoah Park

See *History*, page 13

FORECAST

Chapters

Charlottesville Chapter

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

North Chapter

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

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

See Forecast (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 on the first Wednesday of the month. See Forecast for upcoming activities. For information about the chapter or to receive the newsletter, contact Judy Smoot at 540/667-2036 or 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@aol.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 who want to learn the basics — we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Greg Christopoulos at greg.christopoulos@do.treas.gov).

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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.

Trail Patrol - First Tuesday (Except July, see forecast)

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 website (<http://patc.net/trailpatrol>).

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.123 into Vienna, VA and turn east on Park St. (Rt.675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Terry Cummings (TCIVP@mindspring.com) 410/489-4594.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

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

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Greg Christopoulos (greg.christopoulos@do.treas.gov) or see PATC's website (http://www.patc.net/mtn_sect/).

The Futures Group - Third Tuesday

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

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

July

1 (Saturday)

DEADLINE - August 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 jns-bianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Join us for a good time getting dirty on the trail. We bail early in excessive heat. Bring plenty of water (2 to 4 quarts), lunch, gloves, and boots. Tools provided. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Appalachian Trail, PA

Join the North Chapter trail crew for an all out attack on weeds, greenbriars, and other such trail nemeses. We will 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.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter AT near Harpers Ferry, WV

We may be on the AT by July and tasks will include transporting the completed log structures (from Bowie, MD), digging, pouring cement, laying block, and maybe even assembling the first logs. Additional information available at website <http://patc.net/garvey/>. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

5 (Wednesday)

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

6 (Thursday)

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

8 (Saturday) (Rain Date: July 22)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Trail Crew Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

8:15-11:30 a.m. We slip to a once-a-month summer schedule beginning in July. Come find out why Rock Creek Park is the coolest place to do trail work inside the boundaries of the nation's capital. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

8 (Saturday)

HIKE - North Chapter Link Trail, PA

Link Trail Series #4. Mapleton Depot to PA 655. 9.7 miles with an elevation change of 1700 feet. This section includes the 1000 Steps which were recently purchased by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and donated to the Pennsylvania State Game Commission to remain as an easement for future generations. This section also takes in Jacks Mountain with its fantastic views. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:30 p.m.

8 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew Massanutten Mountain, VA

On the Sidewinder Trail. The sidehill tread that we built a year ago has come through the winter in fine shape. We'll adjust the outslope in places, deepen a drainage area to keep flood water off the trail, and reshape a steep, gutted section. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Shockeyville, VA

Shockeyville Knob. Join the Cadillac Crew as we finish trail ends of the Tuscarora Trail relocation and dedicate the new trail section! Rub elbows with the various incarnations and generations of the Cadillac Crew. It's sure to be a good time, and boy are we glad to have this trail section open for hikers! Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at local cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@mgfairfax.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC) Annandale, 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 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter**

AT near Harpers Ferry, WV

See 7/1-2 for details. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Come cool off in our basement, or get a tan on our roof — whichever you prefer! No special skills needed, just lots of enthusiasm and a penchant for fun. Come out for the day or the weekend. Saturday evening includes good food and great company. This time of year you may also get the chance to share ice cream with AT through-hikers. INFO: Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

10 (Monday)

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

11 (Tuesday)

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

11 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Mexico to Canada on the PCT (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) runs 2,650 miles through some of the most dramatic and unique landscapes between Canada and Mexico. It traverses the incredible southern California deserts, the Sierra Nevada's glaciated peaks and valleys, and the Cascade volcanoes of Oregon and Washington. Steve Higgs will share

images and stories of his two-and-a-half month, 1,200-mile journey over the California section, and give advice on long distance hiking, trail food, and bear wrestling. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

12 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Mexico to Canada on the PCT (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 7/11 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

12 (Wednesday)

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

15 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Trail stewardship is a hobby and working with the crew is a social fun time. Come out and enjoy the trail in a different way with a South Mountaineers event. We meet in Frederick County. Bring a lot of water, lunch, gloves, and boots. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

15 (Saturday)

HIKE - Cumberland Valley Night Hike Carlisle, PA

A great way to spend a summer evening is hiking on the AT across the Cumberland Valley from Sherwood Drive to Boiling Springs. This hike is 11.6 miles at a moderate pace and the flat terrain (the longest flat stretch on the entire AT) which traverses bridges, streams, puncheon, farmers' fields, and woods is excellent for night hiking. A nearly full moon completes the enchanted setting of this rather unique hike, now in its third year. Pennsylvania AT section 10, PATC map 1. INFO: Rob Shaw (rshaw@coltplumbing.com) 717/697-4618 x233.

15 (Saturday)

HIKE - Mason-Dixon Trail Series #6 SE of York, PA

A moderately paced 16-mile hike along the Susquehanna River from Muddy Creek, PA to Broad Creek, MD. A car shuttle is required. Mason-Dixon Trail maps 5 and 6. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

15 (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 work on the Mill Mountain Trail near Big Schloss. This popular area offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will rework the sidehill on Mill Mountain Trail just below the Schloss, where the tread is eroding in the center of the tread. We will also remove rocks and smooth the tread between that point and the spur trail to Big Schloss. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (mgrnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

 **SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter**

AT near Harpers Ferry, WV

See 7/1-2 for details. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

FORECAST

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ Southern BBQ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District Hoodlums

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Pig on a spit? Well, maybe we won't go THAT far, but you get the idea! Finger lickin' BBQ and real down-home Southern vittles will follow a day's work on the Appalachian Trail. No experience necessary — tools provided. Bring work gloves, lunch, and a smile. Overnight stay at Indian Run Hut within the park. Come for the day, stay for the evening meal, or spend the entire weekend. The crew meets at 10:00 a.m. at Piney River Ranger Station in the North District. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@erols.com) 410/426-2724.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ TRAIL WORK TRIP

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Tired of that manufactured, air-conditioned "air"? Depressed because your cubicle is in a building with no windows? Have an almost overwhelming desire to *thwack* a perpetually bored and always-in-the-way teenager? Come out and help a crew of trailbuilders rebuild a section of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park! That's right! Feel the satisfaction of your mattock well and truly striking the earth. Use the rock bar to move that immovable object of a boulder out of the way! Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Timber Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive. Overnight accommodations at Pococin Cabin. Reservations/INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 703/443-1572.

18 (Tuesday)

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

20 (Thursday)

⬆️ HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

It's hot outside, but it is always cool under a waterfall. How about four waterfalls? Midweek during a hot July day the Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter will go to the Shenandoah National Park and hike a circuit that contains four waterfalls. This hike is approximately eight miles long and of moderate difficulty. Wear sturdy shoes and attire appropriate for sitting under waterfalls. Leader/INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/662-1524.

22 (Saturday)

⊗ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

22 (Saturday)

CLASS - Outdoor Leadership and Wilderness Risk Management (REI)

REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

This class, taught by Christopher Tate, Director, Wilderness Safety Council, attacks the outdoor survival problem from a new perspective: avoiding the survival situation through sound planning, meticulous preparation and the reduction and management of risk. This is a great course for youth group leaders, hike leaders, and anyone interested in a new perspective on outdoor safety. INFO: REI 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

22 (Saturday)

⬆️ HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter AT, North of SNP, VA

Join us for a hike on the Appalachian Trail from Bear Hollow to Linden, VA. We will begin near VA Rte. 522 and hike approximately 8 miles to Rte. 55 in Linden. Along the way we will stop for lunch at the Mosby Primitive Campsite and take a break at the PATC Denton shelter. Elevation gain of 1800 feet. Leader/INFO: Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew Tuscarora Trail

This weekend, the Cadillac Crew is going to be working on the Tuscarora in the Sleepy Creek area, from Shanghai Road to the PATC Property. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at local cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@mgfairfax.r.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

👉 SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter

AT near Harpers Ferry, WV

See 7/1-2 for details. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

25 (Tuesday)

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

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

⊗ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew

Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

The Blue and White Crew will start a large rehab project on the AT in the Central District. Pot luck dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Overnight accommodations to be announced. INFO: Kerry Snow (KerrySnow@prodigy.net) 301/570-0596.

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

👉 SHELTER WORK TRIP - Ed Garvey Memorial Shelter

AT near Harpers Ferry, WV

See 7/1-2 for details. INFO: Frank Turk (FrankTurk@aol.com) 301/249-8243.

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

⬆️ BACKPACKING TRIP - Dolly Sods Dolly Sods Wilderness, WV

Escape the D.C. heat and humidity and join us for a moderate backpack in the lush and cool environment of Dolly Sods. We'll hike along Red Creek 16-18 miles (round-trip) to one of many pristine campsites in this unique wilderness area. Depart Friday evening. INFO: John Koutze or Kathy McDermott 703/846-9207.

29 - 30 (Saturday-Sunday)

⬆️ BACKPACKING TRIP - Parent(s) with Teen(s) South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Parent(s) with teen(s) come join us for an overnight, short hike to Doyles River Cabin. The cabin is rustic with no electricity and you must be prepared to backpack one-half mile with your belongings to the cabin. Then, after unloading most of our provisions at the cabin, we will set off for a six to seven-mile scenic, circular, day hike looking for the three waterfalls along the Doyles River Trail and the Jones Run Trail. We will

complete the circuit by going north on the AT back to the cabin. The next day's adventures will be decided according to the many options that are available to us. You must contact Eagle Trail Dancer (AKA Jim Ward) immediately, for space is limited. Reservations/INFO: Jim Ward (james35026@aol.com) 301/296-8940 (w) or 703/451-3283 (h).

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

👉 CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

Come cool off in our basement, or get a tan on our roof — whichever you prefer! No special skills needed, just lots of enthusiasm and a penchant for fun. Come out for the day or the weekend. Saturday evening includes good food and great company. This time of year you may also get the chance to share ice cream with AT through-hikers. INFO: Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

30 - 4 (Sunday - Friday)

⊗ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah (South District) Trail Crew

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Crew will be housed at the Schairer Trail Center in the South District. Crewmembers will park their vehicles at Eaton Hollow Overlook and hike in a half-mile to the cabin. Crewmembers will pack their own lunches; breakfast will be self-serve at the cabin. The crew will drive to Elkton for dinner at the Country Inn. A PATC member will act as crew leader and drive a park-provided vehicle to and from the work site. The crew leader and trail crew will perform trail work under the supervision of a Park Ranger. Donate a week (or more) of honest sweat and fun in exchange for meeting new people, and sleeping under celestial splendor. For details on this thrilling and rewarding opportunity, free grub, and crew shirt, leave your name and address on 703/242-0693 x12.

August

1 (Tuesday)

DEADLINE - September 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 jns-bianca@home.com. Allow one week for postal service delivery.

1 (Tuesday)

👉 MEETING - Trail Patrol, 7:30 p.m.

2 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Saturday)

⊗ Humiturefest TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers

Appalachian Trail, MD

"Humiturefest" is the South Mountaineers' anniversary event each year. This is the 7th year of our stewardship. Come join us; novices warmly welcome. We work on the AT and Catocin Trails west of Frederick, MD. Bring a lot of water, lunch,

gloves, and boots. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter

Appalachian Trail, PA
 Work trip followed by Charlie's annual corn roast (reservations required). We will meet at US 30 and PA 233 at the parking lot of Caledonia State Park. Departure 9:00 a.m. sharp. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

5 - 6 (Saturday - Sunday)
 🏠 CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

Come cool off in our basement, or get a tan on our roof — whichever you prefer! No special skills needed, just lots of enthusiasm and a penchant for fun. Come out for the day or the weekend. Saturday evening includes good food and great company. This time of year you may also get the chance to share ice cream with AT through-hikers. INFO: Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550 or Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

6 - 11 (Sunday - Friday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Shenandoah (South District) Trail Crew

South District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Crew will be housed at the Schairer Trail Center in the South District. Crewmembers will park their vehicles at Eaton Hollow Overlook and hike in a half-mile to the cabin. Crewmembers will pack their own lunches; breakfast will be self-serve at the cabin. The crew will drive to Elkton for dinner at the Country Inn. A PATC member will act as crew leader and drive a park-provided vehicle to and from the work site. The crew leader and trail crew will perform trail work under the supervision of a Park Ranger. Donate a week (or more) of honest sweat and fun in exchange for meeting new people, and sleeping under celestial splendor. For details on this thrilling and rewarding opportunity, free grub, and crew shirt, leave your name and address on 703/242-0693 x12.

8 (Tuesday)
 🏠 MEETING - PATC Council, 7:00 p.m. sharp.

9 (Wednesday)
 🏠 MEETING - Mountaineering Section, 8:00 p.m.

12 (Saturday) (Rain Date: August 26)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Rock Creek Trail Crew
Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC
 8:15-11:30 a.m. If it's hot on this day, we'll leave the sledgehammers and picks in the truck and do some lighter work with a focus on maintaining proper hydration. Meet at the Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

12 (Saturday)
 🏠 HIKE - North Chapter
Link Trail, PA
 Link Trail Series #5. PA 655 to Frew Rd. at Carbon Trail. 8.8 miles with an elevation change of 200 feet. This section is on Stone Mountain with no steep climbs. INFO: Chris Firme 717/765-4833 after 6:30 p.m.

12 (Saturday)
 🏠 HIKE - Family Hiking
Catoctin Mountain Park, MD
 Family hiking returns to the Catoctins for a 3 to 5 mile hike to Chimney Rock, possibly continuing to Wolf Rock. We will follow a more difficult trail than last year. Best suited for families with children at least 5 years old. Swimming afterwards at Hunting Creek Lake. INFO: Lynn Gulley (earthconcepts@aol.com) 410/730-8034.

12 (Saturday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew
Massanutten Mountain, VA
 We'll finish off the work on the Massanutten East Trail, north of its intersection with the Waterfall Mountain Trail. INFO: Wil Kohlbrenner (wmaxk@shentel.net) 540/477-2971.

12 - 13 (Saturday - Sunday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
George Washington National Forest
 It's the dog days of summer and the Cadillac Crew has found some shelter at Firestone Cabin! We're going to help the trail overseer at Boone Run work on his trail. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Firestone Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@mgfairfax.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

13 - 18 (Sunday - Friday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - SNP (Central District) Trail Crews
Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Housing and Meals: Crews will be housed at the Pinnacle Research Center near the Pinnacle Picnic Area in the Central District. Vehicles may be driven to the Center. Crewmembers will pack their own lunches; breakfast will be self-serve at the cabin. Dinner will be served at Skyland Lodge. A PATC District Manager will stay and work with the crew under the supervision of a Park Ranger. Donate a week (or more) of honest sweat and fun in exchange for meeting new people, and sleeping under celestial splendor. For details on this thrilling and rewarding opportunity, free grub, and crew shirt, leave your name and address on 703/242-0693 x12.

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

15 (Tuesday)
 🏠 MEETING - The Futures Group, 7:00 p.m.

19 (Saturday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter
Tuscarora Trail, PA
 For meeting place and other details, call Charlie Irvin, 301/447-2848.

19 (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 work on the Mill Mountain Trail near Big Schloss. This popular area offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will continue to rework the sidehill on Mill Mountain Trail just below the Schloss, where the tread is eroding in the

center of the tread. We will also remove rocks and smooth the tread between that point and the spur trail to Big Schloss. RSVP/INFO: Hop Long (mgrgrnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

19 (Saturday)
 🏠 HIKE - Mason-Dixon Trail Series #7
Havre de Grace, MD
 A moderately paced 19-mile hike along the Susquehanna River from Broad Creek, MD to Havre de Grace, MD. A car shuttle is required. Mason-Dixon trail maps 6 and 7. INFO: Jack Thorsen 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue and White Crew
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Escape the dog days with the Blue and White Crew at the historic Pinnacles Camp high on the Blue Ridge. The Crew will continue their July AT project, and return to the Research Station for a pot-luck feast. Check out the Blue and White Calendar at <http://sites.netscape.net/kerrysnow>. INFO: Kerry Snow (KerrySnow@prodigy.net) 301/570-0596.

19 - 20 (Saturday - Sunday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Tired of that manufactured, air-conditioned "air"? Depressed because your cubicle is in a building with no windows? Have an almost overwhelming desire to *thwack* a perpetually bored and always-in-the-way teenager? Come out and help a crew of trailbuilders rebuild a section of the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park! That's right! Feel the satisfaction of your mattock well and truly striking the earth. Use the rock bar to move that immovable object of a boulder out of the way! Meet at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Timber Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive. Overnight accommodations at Pococin Cabin. Reservations/INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 703/443-1572.

20 - 25 (Sunday - Friday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - SNP (Central District) Trail Crews
Shenandoah National Park, VA
 Housing and Meals: Crews will be housed at the Pinnacle Research Center near the Pinnacle Picnic Area in the Central District. Vehicles may be driven to the Center. Crewmembers will pack their own lunches; breakfast will be self-serve at the cabin. Dinner will be served at Skyland Lodge. A PATC District Manager will stay and work with the crew under the supervision of a Park Ranger. Donate a week (or more) of honest sweat and fun in exchange for meeting new people, and sleeping under celestial splendor. For details on this thrilling and rewarding opportunity, free grub, and crew shirt, leave your name and address on 703/242-0693 x12.

26 - 27 (Saturday - Sunday)
 ✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Shockeysville, VA
 Shockeys Knob. Yes, even though the Tuscarora Trail relocation at Shockeys Knob is officially opened for hikers, we still have some tread work to do. Join us on one of our last trips to Shockeys Knob this summer. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at local cabin. INFO: Fran

FORECAST

Keenan (outdoorsnow@mgfairfax.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

27 - 1 (Sunday - Friday)

✕ TRAIL WORK TRIP - SNP (North District)
Trail Crews

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Housing and Meals: Crews will be housed at the Pinnacle Research Center near the Pinnacle Picnic Area in the Central District. Vehicles may be driven to the Center. Crewmembers will pack their own lunches; breakfast will be self-serve at

the cabin. Dinner will be served at Skyland Lodge. A PATC District Manager will stay and work with the crew under the supervision of a Park Ranger. Donate a week (or more) of honest sweat and fun in exchange for meeting new people, and sleeping under celestial splendor. For details on this thrilling and rewarding opportunity, free grub, and crew shirt, leave your name and address on 703/242-0693 x12.

29 (Tuesday)

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

Shockeys Relocation Opens!

"See you at the bottom!" This unusual sign-off has been heard quite frequently among Cadillac Crew members involved in trail work during the past month or two and reflects the fact that most of the trail construction that they have done in this area recently has been near the top of Shockeys Knob, a long way uphill from the Brill Cabin where they have been staying. It is at this uphill point where the PATC-sponsored relocation of the Tuscarora Trail that has been under construction since 1995 finally ties into an older ridgetop trail on Sleepy Creek Mountain.

This ridgetop trail had, in fact, already been chosen as the route of the older Big Blue Trail as far back as 1985, and there were still some faded old blazes along the route to testify to this fact. But the land ownership at the time was still in the hands of alleged moonshiners who were not hospitable to hikers and their trail clubs.

This picture changed dramatically at the end of 1988, when Dr. Byron Brill of Stephens City, Va., purchased nearly a thousand acres of land on and around Shockeys Knob from the former owners. PATC followed up by purchasing 70 acres of these holdings from Dr. Brill in late 1994. This became the cornerstone of the Cadillac Crew's relocation project.

Another important part of the relocation was a two-mile long easement that extended southward across Dr. Brill's property, from the new PATC lot to Shockeysville Road (VA 671). It was here that most of the relocated Tuscarora Trail was built, with the

objective being to get the trail off the state highways leading from West Virginia's Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area down to Siler, Va. The new relocation has no less than 40 switchbacks, intended to provide gradual climbs up the sometimes steep slopes as well as adequate side drainage for water to run off the trail.

The last blaze was put up on the new relocation on June 2, except for some last-minute changes that will be needed to switch the old route over to the new one on July 8. This date has been chosen for the official grand opening, and some circuit hikes of varying lengths have been planned over the new relocation in the vicinity of the Brill Cabin and Shockeys Knob. Anyone who would like to stay for the beef barbecue dinner on July 8 or participate in any of the other meals that weekend is asked to make a reservation with Hop Long, who can be reached at theFSLongs@erols.com, or 301/942-6177, or one of the other crew leaders (see the ad elsewhere in this issue for more information).

PATC is still interested in preserving the remaining acreage around Shockeys Knob, and in fact Dr. Brill would like to sell most of his remaining holdings to a non-profit organization with this end in mind. Anyone who would like to develop an appreciation for the relative isolation that this area still enjoys is invited to come out for the grand opening or hike the new trail at any time in the future that it might be convenient. □

—Lloyd MacAskill

VOLUNTEER WORK CREW OPPORTUNITIES SUMMER 2000

PATC, in conjunction with Shenandoah National Park and George Washington National Forest, will sponsor volunteer work crews during the summer of 2000. No past experience is necessary. Trail Crew Staff will work with the crew and guide them through maintenance procedures for trail erosion, brush removal, blowdown removal, sidehill construction, and treadwork. All of the necessary instruction and tools will be provided, as well as meals and housing.

The SNP Crew season is six weeks from July 30-September 8. The Forest Service Crew runs from June 11-23, and September 10-22. Volunteers may sign up for one or more weeks if they have previous experience. For further information, see the Trail Crew article on the front page, call the Trail Management Coordinator, Heidi Forrest, at PATC Headquarters during the day, 703/242-0693 ext.12, or visit the PATC Web page at <http://www.patc.net>.



Photos by George Walters

The North District Hoodlums Trail Crew building new trail for the AT relocation on Compton Peak in the North Section of SNP in April.

Correction: the Long Distance Hiking Workshop mentioned in the "What's New at Bears Den Hostel" in the June PA will be held October 14 and 15 and not the dates listed in the article. See Notices for details.

Websites for AT-maintaining Clubs

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

www.matc.org

Dartmouth Outing Club

www.dartmouth.edu/student/doc

Green Mountain Club

www.greenmountainclub.org/

AMC-Berkshire Chapter

www.outdoors.org/

AMC-Connecticut Chapter

www.ct-amc.org/

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

www.nynjtc.org

Batona Hiking Club

members.aol.com/Batona/

AMC-Delaware Valley Chapter

www.amcdv.org/

Philadelphia Trail Club

m.zanger.tripod.com/index.htm

Allentown Hiking Club

www.enter.net/~dch/

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

www.libertynet.org/susqatc/

York Hiking Club

www.angelfire.com/pa2/yorkhikingclub/index.html

Mountain Club of Maryland

pw2.Netcom.com/~sburket/mcm.html

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

www.patc.net

Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

pages.prodigy.net/john_reilly/oatdc.html

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

www.geocities.com/Yosemite/9125

Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club

www.inmind.com/nbatc/

Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech

fbox.vt.edu:10021/org/outing/

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers

www.path-at.org/index.html

Mt. Rogers Appalachian Trail Club

www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Geysers/2539

Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club

www.tehcc.org

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

www.pageright.com/smhc

Carolina Mountain Club

www.carolinamtclub.com

Nantahala Hiking Club

www.smnet2.net/users/nhc

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club

www.georgia-atclub.org

History, from page 7

in 1943. After October 1945, travel became easier. Some months in 1946 saw more than one hike scheduled on a single Sunday. In the next three or four years, both chartered bus and the Appalachian Truck Company's "Red Beauty" truck provided transportation for PATC hikers. In the early 1950s, when G.F.M. Barger, M.D., was Chairman of Maps, each hiker got a mimeographed map of the route and mileages of the day's hike, along with a list of hikers. Often, a profile of the route would be added.

By 1947 the quarterly *Bulletin* was inadequate for announcing hikes and was replaced by the monthly, mimeographed *Forecast*, which announced coming PATC events. The hike leader could then reserve the bus or Red Beauty if reservations were few.

No matter which vehicle was used, the early morning ride to the mountains was a time for friends to catch up on news. Perhaps there was a coffee stop such as at Barbara Fritchie's in Frederick. After the hike, the long-established dinner stop followed—at the Cab Inn or Sperryville Inn, the Virginia Gentleman in Front Royal, the Ritz Hi-hat in Culpepper, or the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont. Occasionally hikers splurged at the elegant Laurel Brigade Inn at Leesburg. After dinner, some hikers slept, but more sang. By now, few PATC hikers needed to refer to the songbook the Club had produced in the late 1930s.

The Nature Of The Hikes

PATC continued to offer rock climbing and some winter sports after the war. By the end of the 1940s and the early half of the 1950s, PATC's rock climbers were more into cave exploration than mountain climbing, and the Club offered at least one

archeological hike to members in 1950.

Most day hikes took place on the Club's trails, though some were planned in the Bull Run Mountains and Pabapsco Park. Moonlight hikes reappeared on the schedule.

Two studies of PATC's trails and hikers were reported in the October 1952 and January 1953 Bulletins. Of the 157 responses to the 1952 study, 139 preferred day hikes, 106 people wanted two- or three-day binges, and 79 wanted camping trips, while 57 wanted excursions with better accommodations than a tent. Thirty-one voted for hikes of 12-20 miles in length, 76 for 6- to 12-mile hikes, and 110 wanted both.

The 1953 questionnaire studied use of trails. Two hundred forty-seven respondees (34 percent of the membership) reported going on 192 hikes or excursions and on 221 trail work trips. They also reported going on 1,115 private trips in the same period.

Backpacking, with one exception in 1950, was not on PATC schedules. In 1957, the Bushwhackers, an informal group of PATC members usually led by Jeannette Fitzwilliams, initiated a series of once-a-month weekend explorations off-trail in the Shenandoah Park and George Washington and Monongahela National Forests, most of the time hiking only with lunch and water, leaving gear and packs in an off-trail camp. There were so few people hiking off-trail then that there was no danger of theft. Starting in 1958, PATC scheduled infrequent on-trail backpacking hikes. It wasn't until the mid 1970s that they appeared more frequently.

Club Hikes Branch Out

The Club's first overseas hike was held the summer of 1959. Fifteen PATCers hiked hut-to-hut in Norway's Jotunheimen Mountains under the joint leadership of Paula Strain and Liv Helset, who had hiked regularly with the Wanderbirds while she was attached to the Norwegian Embassy in Washington. The Norwegian hike was so successful that at least two other Club hikes to Norway were held in the 1960s and 1970s, not to mention several private hikes. Day and weekend hikes in the 1960s used chartered buses following the retirement of Red Beauty in 1959. They continued to be within a 100-mile distance from the city, but, beginning as early as 1957, unfamiliar locales for hikes began to be listed: a back-road hike to Waterford Fair, exploration of the new Sleepy Creek State Forest, pecan-picking and hiking near Bowie.

A wildflower "ramble" in 1960 may have been the first of Phil Stone's many such walks. Dave Brownlie led the first of his annual Old Rag hikes in January 1966, a hike he continued to lead for almost 20 years. The July 4, 1969, weekend to Locust Springs and Laurel Fork, GWNF, opened the first of more than half a dozen such annual trips led by Bob McAra and Jim and Molly Denton. PATC planned special-purpose hikes such as new member hikes and hikes for junior members (teens and early 20s). The Club organized one or two beeline hikes, which started at a point on the Skyline Drive with hikers taking a compass course to a point on a neighboring ridge or in the valley below. Hikes were a very strong activity in these days and continued to be into the next decade. □

—Paula Strain

Next month: Hikes in the '70s

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

LONG DISTANCE HIKING WORKSHOP at Bears Den Hostel, Bluemont, Va. Join Bears Den Hostel Manager and 1996 Appalachian Trail through-hiker, Melody Blaney on October 14 and 15, 2000, for an informative weekend discussing and demonstrating backpacking skills required for a long distance hike. This workshop is designed for the beginner and experienced backpacker who is planning a long hike of any distance. Cost: \$40. Overnight lodging at the hostel is available for an additional cost (\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, plus tax, per night). For reservations or information: Bears Den Hostel, 18393 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, Va. 20135; 540/554-8708; bearden@crosslink.net.

FOR RENT: Canaan Valley four seasons resort vacation home "Chamonix." New four bedroom, two bath, fireplace, hot tub, deck, BBQ, all amenities. Beautiful wooded mountain location near hiking, biking, skiing, and fishing. \$450 for three nights (summer rate). Call 800/633-6682 or e-mail: rentals@timberlinerealty.com. Ask for "Chamonix" #82 MountainSide.

NEEDED FOR BLACKBURN TRAIL CENTER. Wooden porch furniture and picnic tables. Call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BEARS DEN HOSTEL, owned and operated by the Appalachian Trail Conference, is looking for groups or individuals to help with various projects of the facility and grounds. On the schedule for this year: painting, tending gardens, building a new tool shed; replacing a deck, building a privy; and office work. Bears Den is a stone lodge located 250 yards from the AT near Bluemont, Virginia and the ATC in Harpers Ferry. We will provide one night's free lodging if you are interested in joining us for any of these projects. INFO: Melody Blaney or Patii Landovek, Managers 540/554-8708 or bearden@crosslink.net.

IN SEARCH OF HIKING STORIES: Got a hiking strategy for frustrating situations or a personal story of overcoming adversity? I'm putting together a new book for hikers. Deadline is July 10, 2000. INFO: Rus VanWestervelt rusvw@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 20031, Baltimore, MD 21284.

BEARS DEN HOSTEL is recruiting volunteers willing to lead a series of workshops and programs and share what they know. The workshops are part of a continuing series of educational programs organized by Melody Blaney, manager of the hostel, and are held on weekends at the historic facility along the crest of the Blue Ridge, near Bluemont, Va. Melody needs volunteers to lead workshops on environmental education, nature activities (e.g., bird watching), writing, painting, and preservation of wildlife and natural habitat. Bears Den is a hiker hostel owned and operated by the Appalachian Trail Conference. INFO: Melody Blaney, Bears Den Hostel, 18393 Blue Ridge Mountain Rd, Bluemont, Va 20135, 540/554-8708, or bearden@crosslink.net.

TRAIL REPORT COMPUTER DATABASE PERSON: Volunteer needed to come in 2-3 nights a month to enter trail work reports in the Club's database. If interested call Heidi Forrest at 703/242-0693 x12, or e-mail heidi@erols.com.

NEEDED: VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR—a Club member to coordinate volunteer opportunities and place volunteers in jobs. There is currently no placement system to match volunteers with open tasks; you can devise and implement one. No experience needed, just a general understanding of Club activities and a willingness to

work. Most work will take place at the headquarters in Vienna. Call Mickey McDermott, vice president for volunteerism, at 703/866-0928, or e-mail him at jtmcc@erols.com.

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

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

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

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

HIKING PARTNERS

SLOW HIKER (10 MILES PER DAY) who has done 1200 miles of AT seeks companions for sections of the southern half: Catawba to Daleville, Va. (June 5-7), Daleville to Glasgow (June 8-13), Glasgow to Tyro, Va. (June 14-18), Tyro to Rockfish Gap VA (June 19-21), Franklin to Nantahala River NC (June 27-30), Nantahala R. to Fontana (July 1-3), Fontana to Davenport Gap (July 4-11), Davenport Gap to Allen Gap (July 12-16), Springer Mt. to Hiawasse, Ga. (Aug 2-9), Hiawasse to Franklin, NC (Aug 10-14), Allen Gap to Erwin, Tenn. (Aug 15-20), Erwin to El Park, NC (Aug 21-24), Elk Park to Damascus, Va. (Aug 25-31), Damascus to Troutdale, Va. (Sept 1-15), Troutdale to Atkins VA (Sept 16-17), Atkins to Bland VA (Sept 18-22), Bland to Pearisburg, Va. (Sept 23-26), Pearisburg to Catawba, Va. (Sept 27- Oct 3), Rockfish Gap to Front Royal, Va. (Oct 4-14). George Meek ("Poet") 703/875-3021 or gmeek@mciworld.com.

HIKING VACATIONS

WALKING HOLIDAYS. This is an invitation for you to join a small party and enjoy a week exploring the Lake District of England or Northumbria. Holiday dates are July 8-15, August 19-26, September 9-16 for Lake District tours or June 10-17 or July 1-8 for Northumbria tours. INFO: Derek Teasdale, 0044/191-2520752, DTeasdale1@aol.com, or http://members.aol.com/DTeasdale1/

GELINAS MANOR VICTORIAN BED AND BREAKFAST offers a 20+% discount on space available to hikers who would like a room (and bath) for the night while hiking through the Boiling Springs, Pa area. Gelinas Manor is located about 100 yards from the Boiling Springs Post Office and the Appalachian Trail and has available fax and e-mail service for hikers. INFO: Leo Gelinas 717/258-6584, gelinasmanor@aol.com,

or http://pts.placestostay.com/gen_prop.asp?hotel_id=18403

LOST and FOUND

Found: 1) A pair of eye glasses in a black FourEyes container left at Corbin Cabin May 13-14. 2) Sierra Designs tent at Doyle River Cabin 5/19. 3) Toddler's leather boot. Various articles still unclaimed from the Dogwood Half-Hundred hike.

Lost: Nikon Camera lost at Pocosin Cabin May 13 weekend.

If anyone should know anything about the above articles lost or found, then please contact Pat Fankhauser at PATC HQ, 703/242-0693, ext. 17.

WANTED/FOR SALE

WANTED: Mamiya ZE-X 35mm camera body. Have an older camera lying around in your closet that you would like to get rid of? I currently have lenses that will fit this specific camera body. My former ZE-X has bit the dust, so I am looking for a replacement. Price negotiable. Contact Susan Bly at 304/258-3319 or e-mail sbly@shepherd.edu

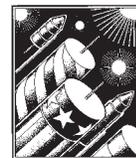
WANTED: Someone with pickup truck to take away a truckload of firewood (blue ash cut down January 12, 2000). Wood is stacked in Bernie Morgan's back yard (Hyattsville, Md), accessible by a wide alley. We periodically carry our seasoned wood to cabins by car but cannot long store this large amount and hope it might be useful to a Club member. INFO: Bernie and Mary Morgan 301/864-1324.

WANTED: USED WORKING CAROUSEL SLIDE PROJECTORS. If you have a working carousel projector you no longer use, PATC could use it for meetings and classes held at HQ. The last working projector disappeared more than a month ago and has not returned. If interested please drop it by PATC HQ or give us a call at 703/242-0693, ext. 11 or 12.

PAIR OF PETER LIMMER BOOTS: These are widely recognized as the best hiking boots made in the U.S., built to measure by Peter Limmer & Sons in Intervale, NH. I have a pair of men's boots, sized around 13 or 13 1/2, made for me some years back and completely rebuilt recently. Sad to say, my aging feet no longer fit in them since the rebuild, so they're available at the \$100 cost of the rebuilding. The payment will be donated directly to PATC, so we will all benefit. Call Richard Frankel, 202/547-3118, to arrange a try-on.

PAID OPPORTUNITY

PART-TIME OFFICE AND FIELD SUPPORT NEEDED for this summer's trail crew and trail patrol programs. Anyone, 18 years or older, with own transportation may apply. Contact Wilson Riley at 703/ 242-0693 X11 or see our web page at PATC.net for additional information.



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

Encountering Equestrians on Trails

Most of us hike on trails that are shared with equestrians. We can expect to meet horses and their riders. If we run on trails, we can even expect to overtake equestrians and want to pass them. How should we pass each other on the trail?

Here's how the horse (or mule) sees the situation. It tries to assess what this thing is in the trail. Its survival instinct tells it to run if it can't match us with its pattern for "harmless human." Our domestication of the horse has taught it to suppress this fright-flight instinct and to take its cues from the rider, but its own assessment may be telling it to run.

Furthermore, a horse sees best to either side, less well directly ahead. On a narrow trail, its limited forward vision slows its ability to make its own assessment.

Why wouldn't a horse register a hiker as a harmless human? The answer varies with every horse, rider, and hiker encounter. Perhaps the hiker has a towering backpack or is carrying a hiking stick or trekking poles, or is wearing a poncho or a headnet. Perhaps horse and rider had a previous bad experience with a hiker and both are

nervous! Perhaps the encounter occurs on a section of trail that always spooks the horse. One rider related that his horse gets nervous every time he rides through a particular section of trail—for no apparent reason. Perhaps the first time on that trail the horse caught the scent of a bear and remembers the spot.

What's a hiker to do?

The most useful action that the hiker can take is to speak in a pleasant tone to the horse and to the rider. "What a great day to be out on a trail!" "Are you going up to the overlook?" "What big ears you have, Mr. Mule." Most animals will be calmed by the pace and tone of human conversation. Perhaps the rider relaxes as well—riders tell of encounters with sullen or angry hikers. Hiking sticks, trekking poles, pickmattocks, whatever you have in your hands should remain at your side or grounded, not over your shoulder. Keep a distance from the horse and rider. Any move to touch the animal, reins, or bridle may be taken as a threatening move by the horse—and by the rider.

On a narrow trail, either the hiker or the equestrian will have to step off the trail.

Negotiate this with the rider. The rider may prefer to back the horse off the tread, so the horse can watch you go by. If the encounter is on a very narrow tread cut into a steep slope, there may be no way to pass with a comfortable separation. You might offer to turn around and walk back to a wider place. If you are hiking with friends or doing trail maintenance and the equestrians want to ride through, it may help if all the hikers and their gear move to the same side of the trail so that the horse doesn't have to run a gauntlet.

If you are a runner and you are closing on a group of riders ahead, you will probably want to pass them. Begin by calling to them to get their attention. Stop. Then ask the best way to pass—even if you think you know the best way to pass. They will probably move the horses to the side. You can walk past, then resume running. Again, the most useful action on your part was the friendly conversation.

These tips should help avoid bad encounters and will allow you to continue enjoying your hike or run. □

—Wil Kohlbrenner

The Mason Dixon Trail

It was one of those late winter days in February when everything is gray. The air was heavy with moisture looking for a place to condense. The snow that had threatened but bypassed the Washington rush hour had chosen central Pennsylvania as its final resting place, leaving the trees limned with white. It made you wish that Punxsutawney Phil had stayed in bed. You wish that you had too.

We stood at the western terminus of the Mason Dixon Trail, a 187.2-mile pathway that runs roughly southeast from Whiskey Springs on the Appalachian Trail just south of Harrisburg, Pa., to Chadd's Ford north of Wilmington, Del. The Mason Dixon Line, for which the trail is named, runs east-west, separating Maryland and Delaware from Pennsylvania. It would have marginal historical relevance had it not been for slavery and the Civil War, where it

served as a sociological, philosophical, and ultimately confrontational line of demarcation. The relationship between the trail and the line is mnemonic rather than geographic, as the trail is at best in the general vicinity of the line, crossing it only twice over its entire length.

Facing 17 miles of road hiking, we set off, the wet cold penetrating to the bone. The monotonous, impervious pavement soon gave way to contemplation, the mind freed from concentrating on the tread and the terrain. In the information age of the global positioning system and topological computer maps, a straight line marking the boundary between two states hardly seems noteworthy. But in the 17th century, finding the line was a prodigious feat, testimony to the indomitable spirit and technical abilities of the two men who surveyed it between 1763 and 1769, Charles Mason

and Jeremiah Dixon. But that's another story.

Hiking country back roads rather than hiking leafy trails is the pedestrian equivalent to driving north on Route 95. The extent of humanity's pervasive impact on nature stands in stark contrast to the preferential hiker's milieu. In the forest you see trees and an occasional deer. On the road you see lawn ornaments festooning the greenswards of Levittown gone awry.

And then there are the dogs. Pennsylvania must have a tax deduction for dependent dogs, as every house has at least one and most several. You are assaulted at every turn by canine guardians of their masters' abodes, unaccustomed to things that move along the road on two feet instead of four wheels. Raising the hue and cry to prevent

See *Mason Dixon*, pag 16

Mason Dixon, from page 15

even a hint of trespass, they continue long after you have passed until the air is filled with the cacophony of piercing yelps.

After a few hours of macadam marching, we stopped for lunch at a back-roads intersection. We saw two men clearing brush in a field by the side of the road. As we got up to leave, one of them asked what we were doing. We told him we were hiking the Mason Dixon Trail. His expression conveyed that he wasn't convinced we were altogether rational.

At long last, we left the road, entering Gifford Pinchot State Park, the twilight marking the beginning of the end of a long day. It was a joy to be back on the trail in ankle-deep, slushy snow, proving yet again that all things are relative. Nothing but the trees and the occasional spoor of a restive rodent. Gifford Pinchot was purportedly

the first American trained in forestry and served as Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service from 1898 to 1910. He is credited with the establishment of over 200 million acres of national forest and for the land management rules that govern their use. According to President Theodore Roosevelt, Pinchot "rendered literally invaluable service to the people of the United States." Pinchot subsequently served as governor of Pennsylvania, evoking a conservationist agenda during his tenure of more than a decade.

Gifford Pinchot's rules for forest management were probably appropriate in the context of their creation. Trees were natural resources, and the small but expanding population was surrounded by vast tracts of wilderness. Logging roads to harvest the bounty of forest products in economical clear-cut swaths may have been appropriate in 1900. But it makes no sense in 2000.

Today the practices of the U.S. Forest Service merit our reconsideration. National forests belong to the people not the lumber companies. Trees could and should be grown on private tree farms for periodic wood harvests and the national forests managed by the Department of the Interior as adjuncts to the national parks. We need another Gifford Pinchot.

Such are the musings of a hiker constrained to the tarmac. Strains of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" ring in your ears, drowned out by the roar of a four-by-four in low gear. And in spite of the dogs and the trucks and the trash, it was a good hike. They all are. And as for Mason and Dixon? That story will have to wait for another hike. And besides, we haven't even crossed their line yet.

—Bill Needham

Cabin Corner—Potty Talk

There's been a lot going on in the PATC Cabins system lately. The Glass House cabin has just undergone a badly needed reconstruction job in the bathroom thanks to overseer Maureen Estes and her band of volunteer workers. They put in a new toilet and new flooring. It's not quite finished yet, but it's much better than it was.

James Booker (overseer) and Tyler Somerville (cabins regional supervisor) both took care of some badly needed floor work in the bathroom at Catoctin Cottage. They also installed new drywall to fix a large bashed-in hole in the wall that someone was inclined to make near the front door.

Bear Spring cabin has new overseers to bring it back to life. Lisa and Joe Ratajczak have fallen in love with it and will be giving it a lot of attention this year. Of course there is a couple of years' worth of work to be done there. Their first item on the "to do" list is dig a new outhouse pit. That's got to be love.

If you're hiking on the AT in Pennsylvania around Milesburn Cabin, then you have to check out the new steps that lead up from the cabin to the outhouse. Overseers Tyler Somerville and Tim Young worked together with scouts from Troop 980 and their

Venture Crew 980 leaders to create a 15-step stairway as an Eagle Scout Project for project leader Rick Costello. The stairway makes it safer for cabin users to travel up that 30-degree incline, especially in wet or snowy weather.

While we're on the subject of outhouses, there are certain ones in the system that the overseers have to take really drastic measures to keep control of the waste. Take Hermitage Cabin in Michaux State Forest Pennsylvania for example. According to Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources regulations, overseer Charlie Irvin, Tyler Somerville, and others had to take kerosene and literally burn out the debris from the pit. Charlie said it's now good for about five years. Tyler commented that it was a pretty amazing sight to see. Marshmallows anyone?

Beginning June 16th, the Garlan House will no longer be in the PATC Cabin Rental System. The five-year lease we opened with Mr. and Mrs. Garlan in 1996 has come to its end. The Council has voted not to renew the lease as it would not be in the Club's interest financially to continue it. It would take substantial volunteer time and effort, in addition to the monies needed, to bring this cabin up to PATC standards.

We're grateful to the Garlan family for allowing us to enjoy the use of their cabin and the wonderful view of Old Rag Mountain that it has. □

—Mel Merritt
Chairman, Cabins Maintenance



Photo by Tyler Somerville

***New Steps to the privy
at Milesburn Cabin***

**Invitation to Cadillac Crew's Grand Opening of
Shockeys Knob Relocation of the Tuscarora Trail
8-9 July 2000 Brill's Cabin, Shockeysville, Va.**

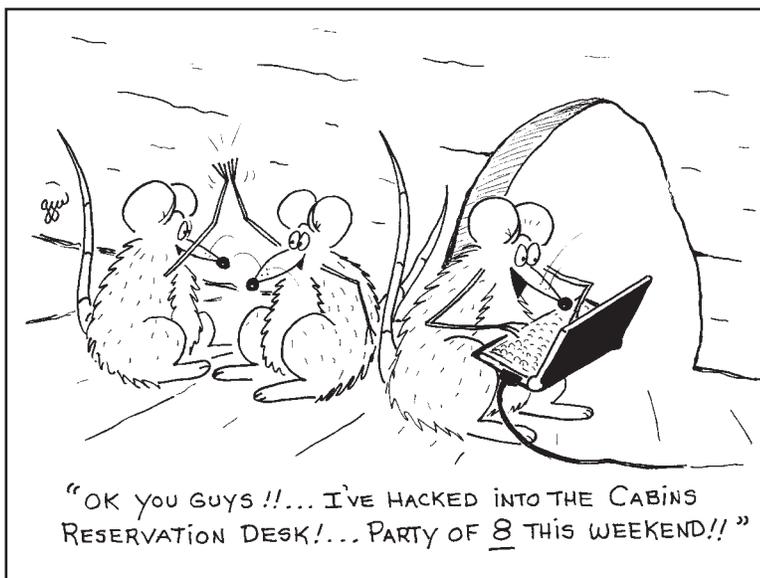
The Cadillac Crew is pleased to announce the opening of the new Shockeys Knob off-road relocation of the Tuscarora Trail. This relocation bypasses a zillion miles of trekking on hard-surface highway across the Virginia/West Virginia border. Dr. Byron Brill provided an easement for the construction of the major portion of the new trail. In addition, the Caskey family, represented by Mr. Larry Caskey, has granted permission for hikers to use approximately a mile of trail across their land on top of Shockeys Knob and Sleepy Creek Mountain. This relocation gives trail users access to West Virginia's Sleepy Creek Wildlife Management Area from the PATC land on Shockeys Knob.

The Cadillac Crew began work on the Shockeys Knob off-road relocation in March 1997. In August 1999, the Crew decided to open the trail pending completion of the final treadwork. Please join us for our grand opening of this trail relocation. The dedication ceremony, followed by dinner, will take place at 5:00 PM on Saturday, July 8, 2000, at Dr. Brill's cabin. Come out early to help with planned trail work or to hike a marked short or long loop on the new trail. Bring your camping gear and stay overnight for a bonfire and more trailwork or hiking on Sunday.

RSVP

If you want to attend, please respond by June 28, 2000 by e-mail or phone call to Fran Keenan, outdoorsnow@mgfairfax.rr.com, 703/938-3973, or Jon Rindt, jkrindt@erols.com, 540/635-6351. Please provide your name, your phone number, when you will be arriving, the number of people in your party, and whether or not you will be staying overnight.

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



Joe Clapper Finishes the Tuscarora Trail

At 4:35 AM on Monday, March 13 in the cold and dark, Joe crested the long climb up Overall Run and reached the Appalachian Trail and completed his journey. He had done 252 very tough miles in less than four days. The Tuscarora is gratuitously hard, rocky, and isolated. The weather sucked with rain, storms, and, on the last night, bitter cold. And Joe actually ran far longer than 252 miles, as he got lost on several occasions.

Many friends helped Joe by crewing for him and running (and walking) with him. On the final ascent, three people accompanied him to the top. While the help of all of these people was instrumental to Joe's success, it was his positive attitude that got him through. I saw him at Elizabeth Furnace and went with him to the Veach Gap Trailhead. He had last slept two nights before. He wasn't going fast, but he was moving, alert, and upbeat. He was truly amazing.

—Anstr Davidson

from the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club website,
www.vhtrc.simplenet.com

**Mike Karpie's Photo Tips:
Lenses, Part One: Which Lenses Should I Pack?**

Tiny flowers, panoramic vistas, fleeting glimpses of wildlife...there is so much to capture on film, yet how can we get it all without lugging tons of equipment?

Option One: Carry a super "All-in-One" zoom lens. The most common size is 28-200mm. In the past these lenses were extremely large and heavy, newer models are relatively compact, lightweight and provide an adequate range of capabilities.

Option Two: Prepare for a specific type of photography. For instance, if you intend to concentrate on wildlife photography you

might want to just carry a telephoto or telephoto zoom lens. A size of 300mm is recommended. If you wish to include scenic shots you might also pack a compact wide-angle lens. Substituting the wide-angle lens with a macro lens or adding a set of close-up filters will expand your capabilities to include flowers and other minute subjects.

I prefer to use Option Two. While I am hiking I keep my 300mm lens on the camera and carry the camera in my hand, always ready for wildlife. I keep my wide-angle lens close at hand so I will be less likely to pass up scenic shots. When the

other lenses are packed away I am less likely to use them because of the extra effort to retrieve them from the pack.

Next month: Lenses, Part Two: Using Your Lenses.

The archive of Photo Tips and sample photos can be found at: <http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/tips.html> □

—Michael Karpie



Trailhead

If overseers haven't noticed it by July, then they have a surprise in store when they visit their trails. With all the spring moisture, the weeds and grasses have gotten a head start and are growing rapidly. Looks like the new millennium has brought a banner year for the weeds.

Opportunities

If you are looking for an outdoor experience, fun, and some hard work, the Shenandoah National Park Summer Crews are in need of volunteers. No past experience is necessary. Trail Crew Staff will work with the crew and guide them through maintenance procedures for trail erosion, brush removal, blowdown removal, sidehill construction, and treadwork. All of the necessary instruction and tools will be provided, as well as meals and housing. Openings are available: July 30-August 4 (2-3 vacancies), August 6-11 (5-6 vacancies), and August 13-18 (5-6 vacancies). Contact Heidi Forrest at 703/242-0315 ext. 12 or visit the PATC Web Page at <http://www.patc.net> for additional information.

Blowdowns! Blowdowns! Blowdowns!

Shawn Green, SNP Trails Coordinator, reports the spring opening of Park trails is complete. The official count is 3,092 blowdowns cut off park trails by NPS and PATC crews. This enormous task was completed without incident or injury. Our thanks to the PATC volunteers and NPS employees for their careful efforts and long hours.

In the interest of resource protection, the superintendent's office provided a 6-week "chain saw window" for opening trails in Wilderness. 1,917 blowdowns were cut off trails in wilderness areas and 1,175 blowdowns were cut off other backcountry trails.

Ice storms and hurricanes aside, 3,000+ blowdowns cut out following a mild winter is a new record and a sign of things to come. For a 6-month period this represents 6 blowdowns per mile of trail or 16 trees falling across our trails each day. Yikes! NPS and PATC trail maintainers can expect to be very busy clearing large numbers of blowdowns for the next several years.

For the most part, we are dealing with dead

oaks related to the gypsy moth infestation ('87-'94), but around the same time ('92-'93) the pine bark beetle was active killing southern pines on the drier SW slopes. Then there are the dead and dying hemlocks, but unlike the oaks the hemlocks generally fall apart from the crown on down. So a number of different trees are all coming down in the forest in the space of a few years.

Watching the dead oaks fall over the years, they seem to come down on a random basis as the root ball rots away rather than with major storm events, but a little wind always helps. During the drought months of the last two years more trees came down during the few wet months, which makes sense. This spring NPS crews cleared several trails in April, then had to cut them out again in May.

Again, we are guessing that the majority of the standing dead trees will be on the ground in the next five years, and we will look back at these years as the good old days when dead oak trees literally rained down upon the trails. I imagine that the trail maintainers of the 1940s had a similar experience with American Chestnuts following the chestnut blight of 1932.

In the meantime, keep Park Trails staff and PATC trail maintainers informed of down trees and we will do our best to keep the Park's trail system open and clear.

Rain and Fog Doesn't Stop Relo

The North District Hoodlums dodged showers and fog on Skyline Drive to work on the new AT relocation on Compton Peak in mid-May. The crew dug sidehill trail through the Mountain Laurel and installed several large rock steps before retiring to Indian Run Hut for a Tex-Mex feast.

Scouts 72, Waterbars 0

Saturday, May 20th, Mike Karpie was joined at Beagle Gap by Ryan Schubert and members of his Boy Scout troop (Troop 7, Free Union, Va.) to tackle his Eagle Scout project. We thought we'd be doing well to rehab 16-22 of the waterbars on the south slope of Little Calf Mountain over the weekend. As it turns out, we managed to work 34 waterbars on Saturday alone!

Saturday night Ryan, several of his buddies, another adult, and Mike feasted on steak (grilled over an open fire), corn on the cob, Mike Karpie's Famous Gourmet Instant Hash Brown Potatoes enhanced with wild scallions (a must for any gathering), and home-baked apple pie. The pie was only produced after the scouts were given a hard time for not bringing the ingredients for s'mores. After all, they're scouts, that's what they do, isn't it???

Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast, we hit the trail on Bear Den Mountain to rework some of the waterbars on the north slope. We ended up reworking 38 of them and still finished in time for lunch!

The scouts (and parents) exhibited incredible enthusiasm and integrity. Under Ryan's leadership we accomplished more than four times the amount of work we had anticipated, and the quality of the work was excellent. If Troop Seven is ever in need of another project they can work in the South District, SNP district any time!

TGIF

Trails Get Improved on Friday, or at least that's what happens on the Blue and White weekday crew in the SNP Central District. Not content with fighting the weekend crowds or finding the tool caches picked clean on Saturday morning, Dan Dueweke and Charles Hillon have launched a crew that offers "weekday warriors" the chance to participate in trail maintenance activities. The first outing was held in May and included overseers Mr. and Mrs. S.V. Dove and Gary Steele, who provided the necessary horsepower to tackle some treadway problems in White Oak Canyon and Nicholson Hollow. Accommodations at the famous Rock Spring cabin were enlivened by Dan's five-alarm chili, which was shared with a grateful crowd of through-hikers overnighting at Rock Spring hut. With any luck, this will become a regular event, so if you have some weekday time to kill, contact Dan or Charles, or watch the Trails Forum on the PATC website for future outings.

Ten-Mile Loop Trail in Pennsylvania

For those not aware of it, the PATC North
See Trailhead, page 19

Trailhead

Chapter (Pennsylvania) has opened up the old AT location between South Mountain and Caledonia. The trail has been named the Raccoon Run Trail. The combination of the Raccoon Run Trail and the AT makes a ten-mile loop hike. A register has been installed near the South Mountain end of the Raccoon Run Trail and already lists users.

The Spring 2000 edition of *The Register* had an article about the new Ensign Phillip Cowall Memorial Shelter. The old shelter located nearby has been dismantled. There are plans to re-assemble it on the Tuscarora Trail near Colonel Denning State Park in Pennsylvania. Work will occur at various times during the summer. Interested persons should contact Charlie Irvin for the schedule.

PATC Assists Konnarock Crew

The Blue and White crew was on hiatus in May. Several of the crewmembers, Kerry Snow, Charles Hillon, Cliff Wiley, and Don Watts, journeyed south to the Mt. Rogers area to join the ATC Konnarock Crew. The Crew rebuilt tread along the AT on Wilburn Ridge, constructing three rock turnpikes and numerous waterbars and check dams. The trip to Sugar Grove (the Forest Service camp that hosts the Konnarock Crew) has become an annual tradition for the PATC crewmembers. Working with the ATC crews allows trail maintainers to pick up some new skills and see different parts of the AT.

Handtruck on a trail?

The Massanutten Crew needed rocks for a retaining wall. The crew was angling a section of new trail down a steep bank, where the new trail would merge into a nice old wagon road. The retaining wall would support a long ramp at a moderate grade across the face of the steep bank.

Rocks were available within a few hundred feet in either direction along the wagon road, but how to transport them to the site of the wall? Rocks of moderate size could be carried or flipped end-over-end, but the crew wanted to top the wall with massive rocks—rocks that could not be tipped off the wall by teenage boys showing off to teenage girls. Getting such a large rock into a wheelbarrow and balancing the wheelbarrow seemed likely to overstress the wheel-

barrow. Trying to balance an overloaded wheelbarrow with a crewmember on each side might not work, with the possibility of the rock tipping out of the wheelbarrow onto a foot.

The wagon road's surface was fairly smooth and had a moderate grade. A sturdy handtruck, with heavy-duty rubber tires, was used to move the large rocks. A rock was tipped onto the truck with a pry bar, and the truck was used to wheel the rock up or down the wagon road. It was easier than moving a kitchen appliance, since all the weight was concentrated in the area right over the wheels. The rock was never more than a few inches off the surface of the road, and if it tipped over there were no toes nearby. The spacing of the handtruck's wheels and the low center of gravity of the rock made tipping unlikely.

All the rocks were moved with ease.

Rotate that leaner!

Hop Long and Wil Kohlbrenner were running a chainsaw on the Racer Camp Hollow Trail in West Virginia. A tall, 13-inch oak snag, with no complicating branches, was leaning across the 8-foot wide wagon road that serves as the trail tread. The tree was about 15 degrees off the vertical and lightly touching an upper branch of a live tree on the other side of the trail. There was no wind to complicate the situation.

The first cut severed the leaner from its stump. The next cut left the butt end in the middle of the trail with the trunk now ten degrees off the vertical. If the top of the snag could be nudged along the supporting tree's branch, the snag would probably slip off it and drop cleanly into an open space between other big trees. How does one move the top of a 70-foot long tree that weighs over a ton? Rhythmic pulling on a 50-foot rope attached 12 feet up on the trunk did not flex or budge the trunk.

Rotating the trunk would walk the top along the supporting limb, but how can one rotate a heavy tree trunk standing on end in soft earth?

A hole was bored through the trunk at waist height and a stout 6-foot pole was wedged

in the hole. With Hop pushing on this lever, and Wil pulling on a rope attached to it, the rotation began. After a half turn, the trunk began to slip along the supporting branch. With Hop and Wil moving rapidly out of the area, the trunk slipped off its support and dropped into the open space.

Archimedes smiled.

Nature's Show

A May evening for the Cadillac Crew at Mutton Top was a lesson in meteorology as a storm front passed over providing unique cloud formations, rain, hail, and a fascinating light show. However, the evening show didn't interrupt daytime crew work that included clearing brush and blowdowns from the Cliff Trail, removing brush from behind the cabin, and opening up a view to the east of the cabin.

Likewise, later in May, rain and fog didn't deter the crew from installing some 30 check dams and 12 waterbars on the south end of the Dickey Ridge Trail in the SNP North District. For the crew's effort, overseers Richard and Sybille Stromberg invited the crew to overnight at their beautiful home with views of the Shenandoah River and Skyline Drive. Thanks Richard and Sybille for putting up with the crew's dirt, dogs, smell, and Bernie's continuous dialog. Please send any interesting tale, technical advice, individual or group accomplishments, and trail maintenance questions to Trailhead, c/o Jon Rindt, 621 Skyline Forest Drive, Front Royal, Va. 22630 or to jkrindt@erols.com. □

POTOMAC APPALACHIAN

(UPS-440-280 ©2000, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Inc.

Published monthly by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

Periodical class postage paid at Vienna, VA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 118 Park Street, S.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

Subscription: \$6.00 annually; \$.50 single copies.

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Trail Overseer Openings June 4, 2000. Contact the district manager for the region that interests you.

ASHBY GAP/POSSUMS REST AT & BB—MAP 8,9

[CALL ED MCKNEW AT 540/622-6004]

or E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

Appalachian Trail

Verlin Smith Trail to Manassas Gap Shelter [1.40 miles]

Appalachian Trail

VA 638 to the Denton Shelter [1.10 miles]

SNP NORTH AT - Map 9

[CALL JOHN McCREA AT 610/352-9287]

Appalachian Trail

Neighbor Mountain Parking Area to Beahms Gap [1.60 miles]

SNP NORTH BLUE BLAZED-MAP 9

[CALL BERNIE STALMANN AT 301/725-8876

or E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com]

Buck Hollow Trail [lower]

US 211 to Buck Hollow stream crossing [1.30 miles]

SNP CENTRAL DISTRICT BLUE BLAZE (MAP #10)

No vacancies available at this time, but always looking for interested crew volunteers.

CALL CHARLES HILLON AT 703/754-7388

or E-mail: hillon@erols.com or

Dan Dueweke 703/266-3248

danjan@double.com

TUSCARORA SOUTH - MAP F, G, 9

[CALL RICK RHOADES AT 703/239-0965

or E-mail: RTRhoades@aol.com]

Tuscarora Trail

Waites Run Road to Mill Mountain Trail [3.30 miles]

Tuscarora Trail

Mill Mountain Trail to White Rocks Trail [2.90 miles]

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN - MAP # F

[CALL "HOP" LONG AT 301/942-6177

or E-mail: theFSLongs@erols.com, or mgrgnmd@hotmail.com]

Gerhard Shelter Trail

Tuscarora Trail to Gerhart Shelter [0.10 mile]

MASSANUTTEN NORTH - MAP # G

[CALL WIL KOHLBRENNER AT 540/477-2971

or E-mail: wmaxk@shentel.net]

Massanutten Mt. East Trail

Habron Gap to Kennedy Peak Trail [3.60 miles]

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH - MAP # H

[CALL BILL SCHMIDT AT 301/585-2477

or E-mail: weschem@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu]

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail [3.3 miles]

Volunteers - Appointed June 7, 2000

Trail Overseers

John Beisner & Teresa Peters

Massanutten East Trail—

Habron Gap Trail

to Kennedy Peak Trail

Steve Pebley

Mill Mountain Trail

Bob Ludke

Appalachian Trail—

Black Rock Road to

Annapolis Rock Trail

Mark Mitchell

[co-overseer]

Appalachian Trail—

Bear Spring Cabin Trail

to Crampton Gap

Cindy Huebner

[co-overseer]

Appalachian Trail—

Bear Spring Cabin Trail

to Crampton Gap



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street

Vienna, VA 22180-4609

Telephone: 703/242-0315

Mon.-Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri. 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.