



The Potomac Appalachian

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

Volume 30, Number 9
September 2001

New Hiking Guide

PATC is pleased to announce the publication of the "Guide to Great North Mountain Trails." The first edition covers the trails on the Virginia-West Virginia border in the Lee Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest.

The guide was written by Wil Kohlbrenner, a volunteer for the Forest Service, who has spent many years in PATC's trails stewardship program on trails in the Lee District. Wil is also the editor of the 16th edition of the "Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails."

"Guide to Great North Mountain Trails" is written to correspond with the 2001 revision of PATC Map F, published just a few months ago. The highlight of the book is a 25-mile circuit hike with several overlooks through one of the more remote areas in our region. The Forest Service relocated the north end of the longest trail in the circuit just one year ago, a change long anticipated by PATC and local backpackers. A mileage diagram in the guide assists backpackers in planning the circuit.



Big Schloss, as seen looking south from the Mill Mountain trail.

More than 40 trails are divided into five sections in the guide. In addition to trail

descriptions, a mileage diagram is provided in each section for planning circuit hikes and for planning longer circuits that cross into other trail groups. Day hiking and backpacking options abound in the trails covered by this guide.

The guide contains a wealth of historical information for anyone interested in earlier uses of wagon roads, old chimney stones, iron blast furnaces, charcoal hearths, and various diggings to be discovered along the trails. In addition to describing the trails and the historical data, the Guide communicates the importance of rainfall on the mountains and its impact on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The "Guide to Great North Mountain Trails," PATC Map F, and the "Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails" may be ordered directly from PATC by calling 703/242-0693 or by visiting the online store at www.patc.net. The "Guide to Great North Mountain Trails" is not yet available in stores. □

—Wil Kohlbrenner

Make Your Plans Now for PATC's Annual Meeting and Dinner

Mark your calendar now for PATC's 2001 Annual Meeting/Dinner.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2001. That's the date. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. That's the time. Elks Lodge 2188, Fairfax, Va. That's the place.

The meeting and dinner are open to all Club members and their families and will feature our various committees, which will be showing off their displays. Come on over and find out what's been going on in the Club this year and what we have in store for the 75th Anniversary next year. Tickets will be distributed at the door for prizes presented later in the evening. A cocktail buffet and cash bar opens the social hour, followed by a buffet dinner featuring Boneless Chicken Breast Cordon Bleu and Vegetarian

Lasagna. A fee of \$20.00 per person will be collected in advance for those who come for dinner. The children's fee is \$10.00. There is no fee for those only attending the meeting.

The Elks Lodge is at 8421 Arlington Blvd. (Rt. 50) in Fairfax. It is just west of the I-495 exit on Rt. 50. Please make your reservation before Nov. 1, and bring a friend. Key speakers and entertainment for your enjoyment will be announced in the October newsletter. Fill out the registration form on page 3, and mail it back to PATC by Nov. 1, 2001. As always, we will need a lot of volunteers to handle various tasks to help coordinate a successful event. If you're interested, please contact Pat Fankhauser at 703/242-0693, Ext. 17, or pfankh@erols.com. □

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Council Members, Chairs and PA Staff

Officers

President: Walt Smith, 703/242-0693
Ext. 40, wsmith@visualink.com
VP Operations: Vacant
VP Volunteerism: Mickey McDermott
Supervisor of Trails: Kerry Snow
Supervisor of Corridor Management:
Tom Lupp
General Secretary (Facilities): Jon Rindt
General Counsel: Charles Sloan
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Tuscarora Trail Land Management:
Lloyd MacAskill

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Cabin Reservations: Darlene Wall
Deputy Supervisor of Trails: Hop Long
Headquarters Facility: Orron Kee
Information/Sales Desks: Marguerite Schneeberger
Medical: John McNamara
Shelters, Cabins, & Cabins Land Fund: Jon Rindt
SNP Boundary Trailheads Study Group:
Mark Holland
Tuscarora Trail Shenandoah Valley Project:
Phoebe Kilby & Larry Bradford

Potomac Appalachian

Chief Editor: Linda Shannon-Beaver
PA@patc.net
Contributing Editors: Marion Lee, Kathy Murphy
Features Editor: Joanne Erickson
Forecast Editor: Joe O'Neill
PA-Forecast@patc.net

Council Fire

At its regular monthly meeting on July 10, the Council was briefed by Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) Board Member and former PATC President Sandi Marra on the current goals and probable future course of the ATC. She said among the priorities are minimizing user impacts on the AT, control of invasive and exotic plant species, preservation of historic and cultural resources, and monitoring air pollution. Since ATC faces a budget shortfall, it might have to consider accepting more federal dollars, particularly with the delegation agreement coming up for renewal in 2003.

Constitution and Bylaws

The Council completed consideration of the draft revision of the Club's Constitution and Bylaws by approving the following language for Article V, Section 2, of the Constitution: "Special Meetings may be called by the President, or shall be called by the President upon written petition of not less than twenty-five members in good standing, upon written notification to all Club members mailed not less than two weeks prior to the date of the special meeting. The petition shall specify the reason for the meeting, which shall be limited to that purpose. The notification shall state the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the special meeting requires Council action, a majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of the quorum shall constitute the act of the Council."

The draft amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws were approved without dissent for submission to the membership at the Nov. 14 general meeting, subject to mail

votes from absent Council members to achieve the required two-thirds majority.

Finance

It was announced that a "liquidity account" has been established for holding money for expenditures from restricted funds for projects approved by the Council, such as land purchases. The Council approved the appointment of Joanne Duncan, chief financial officer of the Insurance Association of America, to serve on the PATC Endowment Committee until June 30, 2004. The new PATC Business Manager, Rebecca Emig, was introduced to the Council. Employees of REI have nominated PATC for a \$3,000 grant.

The Council unanimously approved a new policy for funding of chapters, eliminating the current formula for funding through dues reimbursement. The new procedure is as follows: The Chapters of PATC will annually, during the Club budget process, provide a budget request to the Budget Committee that requests funding, provides an overview of the present year's activities, describes chapter goals and activities for the next budget year along with any long-term goals, and presents the Chapter assets and income from other sources. Discussion clarified that submission of Chapter membership lists will no longer be required and that the chapter budget submissions will specify the purposes for which the money is being requested.

The Budget Committee announced it would circulate the 2002 budget package at the August Council meeting, with an initial

See Council Fire, page 4

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) e-mail: Wriley1226@aol.com
Trails Management Coordinator: Heidi Forrest (Ext. 12) e-mail: heidif@erols.com
Business Manager: Rebecca Emig (ext. 15)
Membership/Cabin Coordinator: Pat Fankhauser (Ext. 17) e-mail: pfankh@erols.com
Sales Coordinator: Maureen Estes (Ext. 19) e-mail: patcsales@erols.com

Walt's Notes

Will Your Vision Become Part Of Our Future?

Members of the Futures Group have begun to assemble a vision of PATC's activities as they might exist in the year 2027, our 100th anniversary. In order to inject an element of discipline into the process, the group has attempted to project trends in the areas of trail maintenance, cabin and shelter construction, land acquisition, hiking and excursions, and other activities undertaken since the Club was established in 1927.

However, forecasting what we might do some years hence is not an easy task. We have not necessarily been consistent while pursuing Club objectives. Hiking is an example where the emphasis has changed over the years. Paula Strain wrote in the July 2000 PA that "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." Paula, in Part III of her series of articles on the subject, begs the question, "What will the future bring? It's up to you, the membership, to decide that."

Predicting Future Trails

Now you could ask, "Haven't we been more consistent with trail operations?" Well, sort of. We have always placed emphasis on maintaining the Appalachian Trail. At the ATC Presidents' meeting in 2000, it was acknowledged that PATC maintains the longest section of the AT — 240 miles. However, the AT is no longer the longest segment of trail that we maintain. That dis-

inction is now held by the Tuscarora Trail, which winds a distance of 254 miles through Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Moreover, we are no longer maintaining trails only in the mountains. In the 1970s, we began a spurt of urban trail acquisitions: Rock Creek Park trails in D.C., Sugar Loaf Mountain, Cabin John, and the Billy Goat trails in Maryland, the Bull Run-Occoquan and Potomac Heritage trails in Virginia, and trails in Great Falls Park in both Maryland and Virginia. Today, the emphasis on trail-land acquisition is for the Tuscarora Trail and Shenandoah National Park trailheads. Is the pendulum swinging back once again toward emphasis on acquiring mountain trails?

Primitive Versus Nonprimitive

The location and degree of PATC activities is only a part of our vision. Another consideration is the environment. Can we define the location of our activities in any way other than we want the place to be "green?" We do tend to talk about having primitive experiences on trails, especially on the Appalachian Trail. In 1995, the ATC Board of Managers indicated that the Conference "should take into account the effects of Trail-management programs on the primitive and natural qualities of the Appalachian Trail and the primitive recreational experience the Trail is intended to provide." What do we mean by this description of "primitive?" Does it include the portion of the AT that crosses Skyline Drive and hugs campgrounds and snack bars in Shenandoah National Park? Does the definition include buildings as Benton MacKaye indicated in his 1921 vision of the AT? MacKaye anticipated that the walking trail would connect recreational facilities. All of the facilities "should be equipped always for sleeping and

certain of them for serving meals." Can there be primitive cooking areas?

Ever since the last Ice Age our geographic area has been changing. What was primitive 10,000 years ago is certainly different today. Webster's Dictionary defines primitive as "of or relating to the earliest age or period." Certainly our definition of primitive will depend upon circumstances. Even the ATC Board of Managers policy suggests that conditions change, indicating that although the Conference guidelines "are intended to apply primarily to the effects of actions or programs on predominantly natural, wild, and remote environments along the Trail, they may apply to certain pastoral, cultural, and rural landscapes as well." As development presses against the AT in Northern Virginia in spite of our efforts to expand the corridor through land acquisition, we shall continue to experience a change in "primitive" conditions.

Will Your Definition Become Our Vision?

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 18, in the Headquarters Building, the Futures Group will continue to define our vision of this changing world. Only the future will provide an answer concerning the success of the group's predictions. However, as Paula said, "It is up to you, the membership, to decide."

I hope that some of you may join us on the 18th and become part of the vision. Help us define what the trails should look like down the road. Help us paint the blazes in the right direction.

See you on the trail,



Registration for Annual Meeting/Dinner

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Number of adults: _____ Number of children: _____ Phone: _____

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$20 per adult/\$10 per child for dinner.

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

Because PATC pays for dinners in advance, no refunds after November 1, 2001.

Council Fire, from page 2

response expected by September and final vote in December.

Montgomery County Accord

The Council approved a memorandum of understanding with the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning/M-NCPPC and the Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE). The accord covers the roles, responsibilities, and liability of each party in regards to the Cabin John Trail for a trial period of joint hiker-biker use. The text of the agreement was amended to clarify that joint PATC/MORE work trips will be led by a PATC member.

Trail Lands

It was announced that the owners the 38-acre tract of land for sale near the John's Rest Cabin indicated that they would be willing to sell the property to PATC for \$38,000, but that they want to obtain an appraisal and take a tax write-off if the land is valued higher than the Club's offer. Final papers were signed for the sale of the Amy Tate Jones property to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (which was approved at the June Council meeting).

Other Business

The Futures Group continues work on the Vision Statement for 2027. On Aug. 21, the Facilities Group was scheduled to present its views.

Repairs have been completed at Range View Cabin, and it has been reopened. Good progress has been made in repairing Meadows Cabin. Additional funds will be needed for Highacre for roof replacement and termite treatment.

New caretakers are being sought for Blackburn Trail Center, which is in the final stages of renovation and is receiving heavy use by hikers.

The membership report showed 6,547 members for July, but the total is fluctuating because of programming problems that are being worked out.

Trail Patrol reported four ridgerunners are on the job. Leave-No-Trace training is set for Sept. 21.

The July Council meeting was attended by 21 Council members, two staff persons, one member, and one Board member of ATC. □

—George Meek, Recording Secretary

Mike Karpie's Photo Tips: Photographing Wildlife, Part III

The best times to see wildlife are dawn and dusk. At dawn you will have more opportunity for photos if you stick to the ridgetop. As air is warmed by the morning sun it begins to drift upward, following the slope of the mountains. Animals find it advantageous to stay on the ridgetop where they are more likely to detect the scent of an approaching predator. In the evening you may find more wildlife in the hollows as the cooling evening air drifts downward.

If you are hiking, try stopping every now and then and simply stand or sit for several minutes. Sometimes an animal may be near the trail but has remained unnoticed by keeping perfectly still. If you remain stopped long enough it will begin to get nervous and move away, revealing its presence. If you have no particular destination or time frame, find a large rock or outcropping in a wooded area to sit on, perhaps near a water source. If you remain still for an hour or two there is no telling what surprises you may find!



Photo by Michael Karpie

Next Month: Autumn Splendor!

The archive of Photo Tips and sample photos can be found at:

<http://www.geocities.com/mkarpie/tips.html>

— Michael R. Karpie

Corridor Management Program Receives Grant From ATC of \$1,500

The Corridor Management program has received a 2001 grant from the Appalachian Trail Conference. A grant of \$1,500 was awarded for the construction of two vandal-proof sign boards. The sign boards will provide information for trail users at heavily used access points. Volunteer hours and Club funds will be used to match this grant.

The sign boards were manufactured by Hopewell Manufacturing of Hagerstown, Md., and have been used along the AT at areas where vandalism has been a problem. With the help of Rick Canter and several members of the South Mountaineers, the first sign board was installed in late April at Weverton, Md. The sign board is located a few yards in from the road as you head north up the trail toward the cliffs. The second sign board is located at the 725 parking lot off VA Rt 55 near Linden, Va. The installation in August was done by volunteers led by Ed McKnew, Virginia District Trail Manager.

The ATC's Grants-to-Clubs program was this year funded at \$20,000 due to a contri-



Photo by Tom Lupp

Weverton signboard.

tribution to the Conference by L.L. Bean. L.L. Bean has been a corporate supporter of the Conference for more than a decade and has been the primary funding source for the Grants-to-Clubs program for the past four years. Since 1979, ATC has awarded more than a quarter-million dollars in modest grants through this program to support various Club projects. □

—Tom Lupp

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PATC Trail Crews in the Lee Ranger District

The accompanying article (page 7) about the Massanutten Ring praises the years of hard work by PATC's Massarock Crew, which returns every year in the early summer and two more weeks in early fall to build new trails in the national forest. You may be curious about PATC's variety of trail crews "on the Lee."

The Massarock Crew is a week-long crew (five days). The crew stays at a Forest Service campground, and all meals are provided at a nearby summer camp under an agreement between the Forest Service and PATC. The crew has new members every year, although a core of old-timers keeps showing up, willing to tell their stories once again and share their wry opinions of how it really ought to be done.

You say you are interested, but you can't spare a whole week? Massarock usually has room for folks who can only work a partial week.

You're still interested, but you can only work a weekend day? Other PATC trail crews have room for folks who can work a weekend day. These are the Stonewall Brigade and the Massanutten Crew (not to be confused with the Massarock Crew). The Stonewall Brigade and Massanutten Crew work once a month, usually a Saturday, except during hunting seasons when they switch to Sunday to avoid the hunters.

The Massanutten Crew works on the second Saturday (or Sunday) of the month. This crew focuses on the trails on Massanutten, usually the north half of the mountain, and often on trails that are already "overseen" by a PATC Overseer. The crew tends to do the work that is hard for an Overseer to accomplish, such as tread reconstruction. Sometimes, when there is an Overseer vacancy, the crew fills in by doing the more routine work of an Overseer, such as brush cutting. The crew may work on

trails that are maintained by other groups. For example, they assisted a Girl Scout troop over the past four years in completing a relocation of a trail that the troop adopted. Six of the girls "crossed over" to senior scouting last May and received a Silver Award for their work.

The Stonewall Brigade works on the third Saturday (or Sunday) of the month. (Yes, you could work with both crews, and some do!) The Stonewall Brigade focuses on the Lee's western trails, in the Great North Mountain area, along the border of West Virginia. The Brigade assists Overseers with trail reconstruction, fills in for missing Overseers, and occasionally works a trail that is not maintained by PATC — just because it needs to be done. The Brigade has been joined by Boy Scouts and college outing clubs.

See Trail Crews, page 6

Get Set for the Eighteenth Annual Blackburn Pig Roast

The 18th Annual Blackburn Pig Roast is scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, Oct. 13/14, 2001. Once again, the event will be planned and organized by Tim Rahn and Rick Portal with help from Nancy Hughes and this year's new addition to the Pig Roast crew, Sharon Johnson.

In staying with tradition, the Cuban-style roast pig will be accompanied by black beans and rice, potato gratin, and apple crisp. Festivities will begin with Portal's famous tamales. In addition, Rahn will lead the Sunday breakfast crew to take care of those spending the night at the cabin or the campground.

As usual, the event will have plenty of activities for young people, including a drum workshop led by Mark Torgeson. Parents can take that opportunity to hike along the AT to the "Blackburn view," grab a nap in the tent, or simply enjoy the fall foliage from the Cabin's porch. There will also be the annual Jack-o'-lantern carving contest

where participants have to tell a ghost story to accompany their carved pumpkin.

Dinner will be served early evening on Saturday; however, participants are encouraged to come up any time starting Friday evening. Dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday are up to each individual.

Members and others interested in attending the Roast should complete the form below and send a check for \$25 per adult and for children over 12 to Sharon Johnson, 137 Courthouse Rd., SW, Vienna, VA 22180. All proceeds after costs will be donated to the PATC Land Acquisition Fund. INFO: Sharon Johnson 703/281-0798 or e-mail johnts3@juno.com. □

—Sandi Marra

Blackburn Pig Roast — Saturday and Sunday, October 13/14, 2001

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____ Number of reservations: _____ @ \$25.00 each

Amount enclosed: _____

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

Include a \$25.00 payment per person for each reservation and mail to:

Sharon Johnson, 137 Courthouse Rd., SW, Vienna, VA 22180

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to make your check payable to Sharon Johnson.

Combined Federal Campaign 2001

Thanks to the generosity of local federal government employees, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club received over \$12,000 in contributions from Campaign 1999. In last year's fund drive 68 individuals, including 16 Club members, pledged over \$17,000 to help finance land acquisition and other Club activities. If you are a federal employee, or have friends and neighbors who are, please consider, or ask them to consider, a payroll deduction in the upcoming campaign. We had nearly a 45 percent increase in pledges last year and would be delighted to see that growth continue. Feds, keep up the good work! PATC's Agency Number is 7956. □

—Pat Fankhauser

**Combined
Federal
Campaign
7956**

Trail Crews, from page 5

The Massanutten Crew and Stonewall Brigade advertise their monthly work-trips in the Forecast section of the PA. The crew leaders, Mike Sutherland and Hop Long, are always willing to introduce a newcomer to other crew members and share safety tips, tools, and "how to" information.

The preparation for a day of work with the crew is about the same as the preparation for a day of hiking, except that you need to bring work gloves, as well as your boots and a pack with lunch and plenty of water. PATC supplies the tools. Crew members are not obliged to work every month, of course. In fact, they're not obliged to work any month. Some crew members come out every month, others make one or two trips per year. Many trail Overseers began as crew members—a trail crew is a great introduction to trail overseeing.

If you enjoy meeting new people, give these crew leaders a call, or send an e-mail to find out the details and talk over any concerns that you have. See the Forecast section. □

—Wil Kohlbrenner

Massanutten, from page 7

45.2 SR675. Cross SR675 and continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn East Tr (0.8). Camp Roosevelt is west 0.1 miles.

46.0 SR675. Edith Gap. Stay on same side of road and continue north along the ridge on orange-blazed Mass Mtn East Tr (15.3).

61.3 Little Crease Shelter. Veach Gap Trail's trailhead parking is 1.3 miles west. Continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn East Tr (5.8). The tread is also part of the Tuscarora Trail and carries its blue blazes, as well.

67.1 Shawl Gap. Turn left on yellow-and blue-blazed Shawl Gap Trail (2.1).

69.2 Elizabeth Furnace Picnic Area, entrance road at bridge. Cross the bridge, and follow blue blazes of Tuscarora Bear Wallow Trail (0.3) across SR678.

69.5 Tuscarora Spur Trail, white-blazed. Turn right on the spur trail (0.5).

70.0 Signal Knob Trail parking area. □

—Wil Kohlbrenner

Don't Miss the 14th Annual SNP North District Trails Workshop

It's hard to believe we have been doing this for 14 years, but it is true! The annual North District Trails Workshop for PATC Overseers will be held once again in the North Section of Shenandoah National Park this year on the weekend of September 8-9, 2001, and an invitation is extended to all PATC Trail Overseers to come join in the fun. Come and work side-by-side with the trail professionals of SNP and Club veterans on some of the park trails in the North District. The SNP workshops are designed to tackle a few major trail projects in the park and, as always, to teach Club volunteers some new skills. There is also basic trail maintenance instruction offered for new Overseers or those who are interested in what PATC's trails program has to offer. Come one and all!

The workshop will be held at Mathews Arm Campground near milepost 22 in the North Section of SNP. The uppermost tent camp-

ground loop will be set aside for exclusive use by PATC for this event from Friday evening 'til Sunday. All participants should bring tents and sleeping bags. We will start at 9 a.m. Saturday morning and end with a grand lunch at the campground early Sunday afternoon. Once again, the Aulhouse family chuckwagon will be serving up some mighty fine meals! The \$18 registration fee will include lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. The North District workshop chow is legendary, so don't miss out!

Please make reservations early as the workshop is limited to 25 participants and we always fill up early. Call George Walters at 410/426-2724 or e-mail: gjwalters@starpower.net to make a reservation, then mail the form below and you will be sent a confirmation and further instructions. See you there! □

—George Walters

SNP North District Trails Workshop

September 8-9, 2001, Mathews Arm Campground, Shenandoah National Park

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Number of reservations: _____

Check area of interest: _____ Basic Skills _____ Trail Project

Please send registration form and \$18 per registrant to:
George Walters, 5604 Pilgrim Road, Baltimore, MD 21214
(checks payable to George Walters)

Massanutten Ring: A Guide to the Trails on the North Half

The north half of the Massanutten Mountain is a 28-mile-long system of ridges and valleys, about six miles wide. Down the center of the Massanutten's ridge system, there is a broad, flat inner valley known as Fort Valley (from George Washington's plan to use it as a possible winter camp for the Continental Army). Most of Fort Valley is privately owned farmland, but the ridges that surround it are part of the Lee Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest.

The mountains of Massanutten's north half are traversed by 135 miles of blazed hiking trails. These trails climb to the ridges on both sides of Fort Valley and run along the ridges. In June of 2001, PATC's yearly summer work crew, the Massarock Crew, completed many years of work extending one of the long trails, so that there is now a continuous 70-mile ring of trails around the mountain. These trails pass by three Forest Service-developed campgrounds and an open shelter. In addition, there are numerous dispersed campsites along the trails for backpackers.

There are only a few sources of water outside the campgrounds. Water in the campgrounds is tested regularly and treated if necessary. All other water sources should be purified before being consumed and before being used to wash eating utensils.

The Massanutten Ring crosses nine county roads or forest service roads, generally in the gaps along the ridges. Thus, a two-car shuttle system can be used for water and food resupply wherever the ring crosses one of these roads.

The area is covered by a hiking guide and two excellent maps designed for trail users: *PATC Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails, 2000*; *PATC Map G, Massanutten Mountain, North Half, 1998*; and *Trails Illustrated Map 792, Massanutten and Great North Mountain, 2001*.

These publications do not show the trail development that completed the ring, so hikers can pencil in the final links in the ring using the brief description that follows.

This description starts from the Signal Knob Trail's parking lot on Fort Valley Road, SR678, 3.4 miles south of Waterlick on VA55. A counter-clockwise route is described. Cumulative mileage is given on the left and interval mileage is

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given for each entry. Detailed descriptions can be found in the *Guide to Massanutten Mountain Hiking Trails*.

Miles:

- 0 Follow the yellow-blazed Signal Knob Tr (4.5).
- 4.5 Signal Knob. Turn south on orange-blazed Massanutten Mountain West Tr (1.2).
- 5.7 Turn right on the blue-blazed Tuscarora Doll Ridge Tr (3.5).
- 9.2 Join Mass Mtn West Tr briefly, then bear left on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (4.7).
- 13.9 SR758, Woodstock Tower Rd. Cross the road and continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (8.2). Little Fort Campground is 0.9 miles down the east side of the mountain, at the base of the Wagon Road Trail.
- 22.1 SR675 in Edinburg Gap. Cross the road and continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (7.2).
- 29.3 FR374. Cross the road and continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (0.9).

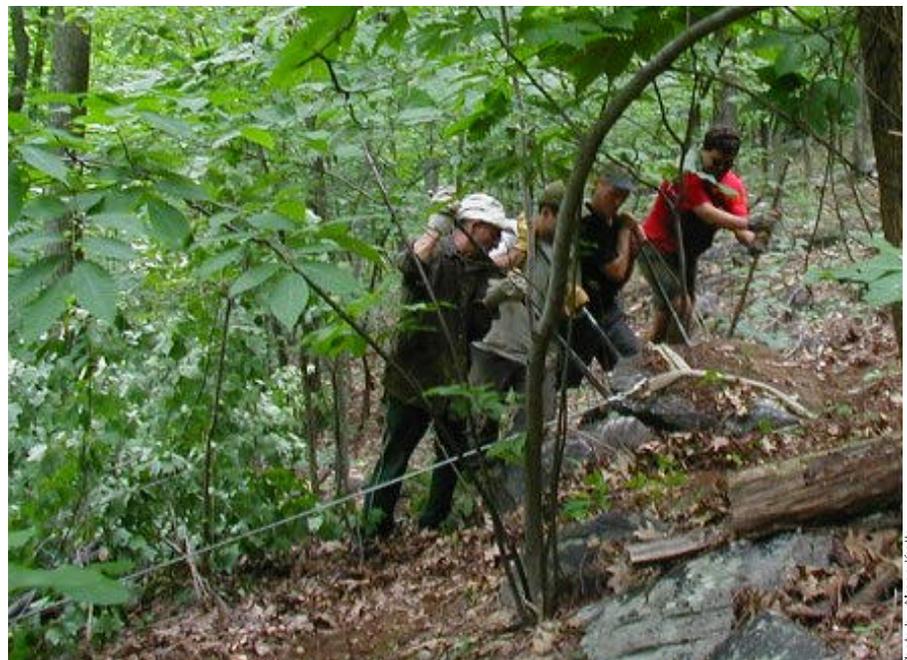
30.2 SR730, Moreland Gap Rd. Cross the road and continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (1.6). This section, completed in June 2001, passes along the west flank of Kerns Mountain, then rises into Jawbone Gap. A white-blazed spur trail rises from the gap to Jawbone Overlook.

31.8 Jawbone Gap. Continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (4.1). This section, completed in the summer of 2000, goes south along the ridge of Kerns Mountain, then tails off on the east side to meet Crisman Hollow Road at its highest point, which is 0.2 miles south from the Waterfall Mountain Trail's trailhead.

35.9 FR274, Crisman Hollow Rd. Cross the road, and continue on orange-blazed Mass Mtn West Tr (1.2). This section, completed in June 2001, goes southeast to the ridge of Waterfall Mountain (overlook), then northeast along the ridge to the old Waterfall Mountain Trail, then turns right on orange blazes to descend the east slope on switchbacks.

37.1 Duncan Hollow Trail (also called Massanutten Mountain East Trail). Turn left, north, and continue on orange-blazed Duncan Hollow Tr (8.1). This point is 1.8 miles north of US-211.

See Massanutten, page 6



Cadillac Crew, July 28, moving a rock to make some new rock steps on the blue-blazed access trail running up the ridge between Blackburn Trail Center and the AT.

Photo by Althea Kraits

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. Our Chapter hikes are posted at <http://www.patc.net/chapters/char/hikes.html>. 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) 717/794-2855. For general chapter information contact chapter president Steve Koeppen (patcnorth@mail.com) 410/756-2916 or visit the North Chapter home page (www.patc.net/chapters/north).

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

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

Mountaineering Section

We're a diverse group of local Washington, DC area climbers. Young and old, male and female, crag rat, sport climber, and alpinist, active and armchair types – we all enjoy climbing in its many varieties. We also share common interest in promoting safe climbing, conserving the outdoors, developing new climbers' skills, representing the Washington area climbing community, and having fun! We provide instruction for those wanting to learn the basics – we're not a school, but we can get you started. We go climbing, either locally or further afield, nearly every weekend. In the winter we organize trips to the Ice Festivals in the Adirondacks and the White Mountains for beginning and advanced ice climbers. For further information contact Mack Muir 703/768-5724 (MackMuir@edisaurus.com).

PATC Midweek Hikes

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

Other Clubs' Hikes

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

KEY to Forecast Activities

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

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

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

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: (www.patc.net/volunteer/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. 23 into Vienna, Va. and turn east on Park St. (Rt. 675) to 118 Park St. on your left. INFO: Liles Creighton 410/573-0067.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

(New Members meeting) - Second Monday 7:30 p.m. New members meeting. INFO: Martin Juenge (mjuenge@rphq.com) 703/255-5034, then press #5.

PATC Council - Second Tuesday

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

Mountaineering Section - Second Wednesday

8:00 p.m. Second Wednesday of every month. INFO: Mack Muir at 703/768-5724 or (MackMuir@edisaurus.com) or PATC's website: (www.patc.net/chapters/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 Salinger (evger@erols.com) or Walt Smith (wsmith@visalink.com), Co-Chairs.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

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

September

1 (Saturday)

DEADLINE - October Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

Labor Day Weekend! Finish up the summer with a long weekend in the Blue Ridge. Combine work with hikes and enjoy the scenery, good company and food. Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

1 - 2 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew Appalachian Trail, PA

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

4 (Tuesday)

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

4 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Exploring the C&O Canal (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Lose track of time for an evening. Discover a place steeped in history, where nature and wildlife are easily seen. Explore a narrow ribbon of forest and river, easily accessible, yet serenely remote, even near Washington. Come along as REI's Ed Neville and Mark Nelson spin a tale of history and artifacts, man and nature, and discuss access, points of interest, gear, and geology along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

5 (Wednesday)

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

5 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy-Hikers

Battery-Kemble Park and Glover-Archbold Park

The Easy Hikers will hike 5-6 moderate miles through Battery-Kemble and Glover-Archbold Parks. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the parking area in Battery-Kemble Park. To reach the parking area from the intersection of MacArthur Blvd. and Arizona Ave., go south toward downtown on MacArthur and turn left at the second street, Chain Bridge Rd., DC, and after about 1/2 mile, turn right into the park and continue to the parking area. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Shirley Rettig 703/836-0147.

5 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Exploring the C&O Canal (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 9/4 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

6 (Thursday)

HIKE - In-between Hikers

Great Falls Park, VA

Great Falls and Riverbend Parks. 5-10 miles at moderate pace. Start 10:00 a.m. Meet in Great Falls Park (VA) Visitor Center parking lot. From I-495 Beltway take Exit 44 (old 13) west on VA 193 (Georgetown Pike) for 4 miles to Old Dominion Drive. At traffic light turn right. Go 1 mile to park entrance. Fee \$4 per vehicle or Park Pass. RSVP not required. INFO: Mary Siu 703/533-1430.

7 - 9 (Friday - Sunday)

HIKE/Camp - West Virginia Chapter Shaver's Fork Recreation Area, WV

Enjoy early fall hiking in the Shavers Fork area of WV. We'll follow the West Fork Trail and visit the High Falls of Shavers Fork. Car camping is available at the Laurel Fork campground. INFO: Susan Bly (sbly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 or 304/258-3319.

Potomac Appalachian

8 (Saturday)

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

8:15 - 11:30 a.m. We only need you once during this beautiful month for work on the hiking trails. The rest of September you are welcome to use for hiking. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

8 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

Enjoy cooler air in the woods of western Maryland on this work event. The South Mountaineers' day events meet west of Frederick, MD at 9:00 a.m. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew Vining Tract, Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract Crew meets one weekend a month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs to land management projects. We're now in the midst of constructing a small cabin using logs from an old barn. Come join us and practice (or develop) your log-lifting and chiseling skills. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry cabins. INFO: Lary Lang 703/631-9278.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew

Shockeys Knob, near Gainesboro, VA

Always plenty of trail work on the Tuscarora relocation project. The district manager of this section of the Tuscarora Trail may need help clearing nearby problem areas. We are also looking for a shelter site on PATC's 70 acres on the Knob. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Brill Cabin. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.ir.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

SPECIAL EVENT - 14th Annual North District Trails Workshop

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come and work with park trails professionals and club veterans in this annual event held at Mathews Arm Campground in SNP. See article on page 6 for a complete description and more details. \$18 fee includes all meals. Reservations limited. RSVP/INFO: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

8 - 9 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Company Central District(?), Shenandoah National Park, VA

The Acme Treadway Company has never achieved a fungible profit. All returns are distributed directly to members. Membership depends upon passing a secret test (participating in at least one worktrip ... uh, meeting). Each member may be detected (with a keen eye) by the discretely distinctive apparel he (or she) displays upon passing muster (or, the mustard). The next meeting of the Bored (oh, Board) is set for 9/8. Overnight accommodations and food are provided to members in good standing (or, who sit well, too). INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 804/270-3116.

10 (Monday)

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

10 (Monday)

HIKE - Family Hike

South end, Potomac Heritage Trail, VA

3.4 mile hike along the Potomac River. We will begin at the Roosevelt Island parking lot and hike up past Spout Run to the cascade at Windy Run. Designed for the under 5 crowd, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. Prefer e-mail.

11 (Tuesday)

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

11 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Trail Volunteers' Night (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. As you hike our regional trails, do you ever think, "Wow, it takes a lot of work to create and maintain a trail, maybe I can have some fun and give something back."? You can! REI, M-NCPPC, PATC and the Potomac Conservancy are joining forces to recruit volunteers for a trail project to construct the next link in the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail. Join us as trail crew leader, Mark Nelson outlines the scope of work, use of tools, and volunteer safety. We'll also show you great new hiking opportunities on trail sections already complete and share the final vision for this cross-county trail. Come on out and get involved! INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

12 (Wednesday)

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

12 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers

Lake Frank, MD

Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Lake Frank parking area for a four mile hike, plus. From I - 270 N, exit on Route 28. Follow route 28 east through Rockville. It becomes Norbeck Road. Just after the light at Gude Drive, move left and take the next left turn on Avery Road. Lake Frank parking area is on your right, before Southlawn Road. Bring water, and a lunch to eat near our cars. A new, short mystery hike will be offered nearby after lunch. Hikers who reserve in advance may be picked up at Shady Grove Metro at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Margaret Chapman 301/977-8988 (h) or 301/869-9291 x3 (w).

12 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Trail Volunteers' Night (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 9/11 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: 703/379-9400.

15 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metrolites

C&O Canal Park, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites for a work trip in the C&O Canal Park, Montgomery County. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Falls parking lot. Bring lunch, gloves, and water. INFO: Liles Creighton (Lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

15 (Saturday)

HIKE - Tuscarora Trail VIII Tuscarora Trail, PA

Tuscarora Summit Section-Fannettsburg-Burnt Cabins Rd. to Pa. Rte 16. 15.4 miles; 1200 ft elevation gain. After descending into Cowans Gap State Park we will begin a steep climb via switchbacks to the top of Big Mountain (2458 ft). Once to the top it is a fairly easy hike to Pa Rte 16. We will pass through Buchanan State Forest; named after the only president from Pennsylvania. To the east of us you would find the cozy village of Cove Gap the birthplace of James Buchanan. If time allows we can stop and visit such site before eating at the Foot of the Mountain Restaurant. We also can visit the cabin restored on the grounds of the Mercersburg Academy. So come and join us on this historical event. INFO: Christopher Firme (bcnfirm@innernet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

15 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew Tuscarora Trail, PA

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

15 (Saturday)

HIKE - 2001 Canal Odyssey

Dickerson, MD

The eighth mission of the C&O Canal Odyssey will be from Dickerson to Pennyfield Locks, Maryland, 20 miles. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Carderock parking lot on the C&O Canal. A car shuttle is required. Contact leaders for requirements and details. INFO: Jack Thorsen (thorsen4@Juno.com) 703/339-6716 or William Needham 410/884-9127.

FORECAST

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 get tools then drive to a trail in the nearby area. This popular venue offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will remove and break up rocks in the tread and work on waterbars. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, bug spray, and hiking shoes. RSVP by Wednesday. INFO: Hop Long (mgrgnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

15 (Saturday)

☞ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew
George Washington National Forest, VA

We will be rebuilding a section of tread on the Signal Knob Trail. Join us and enjoy the camaraderie of people who appreciate the great outdoors! Work with us and take pride in the support you give to the trail community! INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.rr.com) 703/591-8330.

15 (Saturday)

☞ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Annual Service Project (REI)
Montgomery County, MD

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Be part of something big! Leave your mark on the land! Get a spiffy T-shirt! Montgomery County is creating a 100 mile, natural surface trails system! The backbone of that system is the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail, a hiker/equestrian trail that will stretch 27 miles across the county, connecting the Potomac River and C&O Towpath with trails in the Patuxent River State Park. 20 miles of the trail is already open. REI and M-NCPPC (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission) need YOU to help complete the next segment, from Watkins Mill Rd. to Brink Rd. Come out and enjoy a great day, doing great work! Registration/INFO: REI 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

☞ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue & White Crew
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join us for trail projects in the Central District of SNP. INFO: Charles Hillon (charleshillon@earthlink.net) 703/754-7388.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Catch the beginning of autumn at Blackburn working on the pump room, plumbing and Carriage House roof. No special skills required — just enthusiasm and penchant for good company. Later we will spend a pleasant evening on the porch after a fine group meal cooked in our kitchen. Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

☞ JAMAICAN TRAIL WORK TRIP - North District
Hoodlums

North District, Shenandoah National Park, VA
Come to Jamaica, mon! Come work on de trail and leave de trouble behind! Famous Hoodlum jerk chicken and other Caribbean delights will be de reward for a good day's trailwork on the AT in this section of SNP. Noooo problem, mon! The North District Hoodlums do 'roll-up-your-sleeves' treadwork, build rock steps, log waterbars and engage in similar other activities by day but are occasionally known to enjoy the fruits of their labor in grand fashion via the "theme" meal following the day's work at a facility within the park! No experience necessary and newcomers are always welcome. Check out our website at <http://www.patc.net/volunteer/trails/hoodlums/hoodlums.html>. Come for the day, stay for the evening's festivities, camp out overnight in SNP - lots of options! We meet at Piney River Ranger Station, MP 22 on Skyline Drive, at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Please make reservations by midweek prior. INFO/RSVP: George Walters (gjwalters@starpower.net) 410/426-2724.

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)
Alexandria, VA

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

15 - 16 (Saturday - Sunday) w/Monday option

☞ BACKPACK TRIP - Natural History Foray
Hazel Mountain Region, Shenandoah National
Park, VA

Bob Pickett tries a different kind of trip this time. Let's go find an isolated area to establish a base camp and do some exploring. For example, there are the remains of an old milldam, complete with a millstone to be inspected. In the same area are some bunchberry (an uncommon dogwood species groundcover) which should be in fruit at this time. And, there just happens to be a rattlesnake den nearby that should be receiving its guests for the winter about this time of the year. And, with the leaves still on the trees, this will be our last chance to look for artifacts uncovered by duff following last fall's fire. Participants can opt for just one night or stay until Monday. Reservations/INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

16 (Sunday)

☞ HIKE - Meet the Trail Patrol
Call for location

Hike with the Trail Patrol and learn what the PATC's goodwill ambassadors do. These adventurous, dedicated men and women monitor the Club's 1,000 miles of trails, helping people, instructing them in safe hiking practices and reporting on the conditions of the trails. We hike many wonderful, little-known trails, while having a great time. INFO: Ben Fernandez (bmf Fernandez99@earthlink.net) 703/222-8249 5:00-9:00 p.m. or weekends.

17 (Monday)

☞ HIKE - Family Hike
Pohick Creek, VA

3 mile hike along Pohick Creek beginning at the Hidden Pond Nature Center. The trail is a little rugged and muddy. Not much elevation gain or loss. Jogging stroller passable (barely). After the hike, we will picnic near the pond and enjoy their great playground. Designed for the under 5 crowd, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. Prefer e-mail.

18 (Tuesday)

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

19 (Wednesday)

☞ HIKE - Easy Hikers
Cabin John Regional Park, MD

5 - 6 easy miles through the woods. Meet at 10:15 a.m. in the Locust Grove Nature Center parking lot, 7777 Democracy Blvd., N. Bethesda. Bring lunch and water. From Beltway go North on Old Georgetown Road 0.7 miles to Democracy Blvd. Turn left (West), go 1.8 miles (past Montgomery Mall) to Nature Center and turn right into parking lot. Coming from 270, take Democracy Blvd. West exit, past Montgomery Mall to Nature Center. INFO: Renee Schick (rs530@aol.com) 301/493-9525.

20 (Thursday)

☞ HIKE - In-between Hikers
Leesylvania State Park, Woodbridge, VA

A scenic/historic 7.2 miles next to the Potomac. The Paw-Paw fruit should be ripe. From I-495 take I-95 south about 13 miles, exit 156 east, go to Route 1, turn right, drive south to 2nd stop light. Left onto Neabasco Rd. The park sign is 1.5 miles. Pay \$2.00 and park in adjacent lot. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 10:00 a.m. INFO: Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

20 (Thursday)

☞ HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Tuscarora Trail, Powell's Fort Loop, VA

This six to eight mile loop includes an easy walk up to the Strasburg Reservoir and then a moderate hike up the west ridge of Massanutten Mountain over a rugged trail with spectacular views to the west. Also see first hand some of the effects of this year's gypsy moth infestation, which was severe in some areas of this trail. We will then loop back to where we started: Powell's Fort. Leader/INFO: Lee Sheaffer (thumpers@visuallink.com) 540/662-1524.

22 (Saturday)

☞ TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers
Appalachian Trail, MD

Bring water, lunch, and gloves. Tools and training provided. Enjoy comradeship, jokes, and the peace of the woods. Go home happy and tired; it's that simple. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

22 (Saturday)

☞ HIKE - Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Tuscarora Trail/Signal Knob, VA

Join the NSVC as we hike the Signal Knob and Tuscarora/Bear Wallow Trails to Signal Knob. We'll hike about 9.5 miles and climb about 1600 feet at an easy pace, with stops to enjoy the views along the way. Those interested in joining the Chapter for a gathering after the hike are welcome to do so. Leader/INFO: Gerry Boyd (gerryb@compuserve.com) 703/281-7216.

22 (Saturday)

CLASS - Wildlife Photography (REI)
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. A Natural Light Photography seminar by award-winning photographer, Jack Mills. Spend an enjoyable day with Jack and learn the techniques for successful wildlife photography. Jack will discuss what it takes to create a great wildlife image, such as exposure techniques, image sharpness, depth of focus, macro photography, and, where and when to find wildlife and how to approach and set up the shot. Participants receive 8 hours of instruction, film, class materials and text, and discount on a one-day field/photo shoot with Jack. Class fee is \$75.00. Registration is limited. Registration/INFO: REI 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

22 (Saturday)

CLASS - Basic GPS (REI)
REI, College Park, MD

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Buttons and Screens: What They Mean to You. Learn the basic functions of Garmin and Magellan GPS units. Learn how to optimize your GPS for YOUR uses through hands-on class demonstrations and discussion of accessories and software programs. Put your new knowledge to the test on our local GPS course. Free with REI GPS sales receipt! \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members. Registration/INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

22 - 23 (Saturday - Sunday)

☞ TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Cabin John Trail, MD

Cabin John Trail is popular with local hikers and the Crew plans to repair some areas prone to erosion. Steep sidehill, roots, and creeping tread is the name of the game. Bring a lunch and water for Saturday noon. Community dinner, or dinner on the town, Saturday night. Overnight with local crew members unless other arrangements can be made. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

24 (Monday)

☞ HIKE - Family Hike
Riverbend Park, VA

2.5 mile kid friendly hike. The trail is jogging stroller passable. We will hike along the Paw Paw Passage Trail, past a pond and down to the Potomac. The hike continues on the Potomac Heritage Trail right along the river. We will meet in the visitor center by the turtles. We will end the hike with a picnic lunch on the Visitor's Center deck. Designed for the under 5 crowd, all ages welcome. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. Prefer e-mail.

25 (Tuesday)

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

25 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Allegheny Adventure (REI) REI, College Park, MD

7:30 p.m. Allegheny Adventure: Autumn Along the Eastern Divide. Fall comes sooner and sharper atop the high ridges along the West Virginia line. The colors are brilliant and the air is sharp. But the afternoons are still warm and there is plenty of outdoor adventure available to those who seek it along the trails and streams of the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests. Join REI's Ed Neville and Mark Nelson as they reveal some of their favorite fall destinations in the autumn high country. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

26 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Allegheny Adventure (REI) REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 9/25 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

26 (Wednesday)

HIKE - Easy Hikers Difficult Run to Great Falls, VA

About 5 fairly easy miles with some hills in Great Falls Park. Meet at Difficult Run parking lot at 10:15 a.m. From the Beltway, go west on Georgetown Pike approximately 3.7 miles. The parking lot is on the left shortly after the Difficult Run bridge and shortly before the turn into Great Falls Park at Old Dominion Drive. Bring lunch and water. INFO: Ruth Powers (ruthpowers@starpower.net) 703/821-2431.

28 - 30 (Friday - Sunday)

Camp/HIKE - Family Camping/Hiking Weekend Carderock, MD

We will camp at the Marsden Tract group campsite along the C&O Canal Towpath near Carderock. The campsite is about a half-mile hike-in from the cars, with privies at the site and water close by. Bike on the towpath, paddle on the river, or hike along the Billy Goat Trail or up to Great Falls. Designed for families with young children. On Saturday there will be an organized hike of the central section of the Billy Goat Trail. This will be a 3 mile hike along the less popular, but very beautiful, section B of the Billy Goat Trail. It's located just down the towpath from the popular Northern section. This trail provides some kid-sized rock scrambles; challenging, but overall, kid-friendly. INFO: Lauren Lang (LevansAT94@aol.com) 703/631-9278. Prefer e-mail.

29 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metroites Cabin John Trail, MD

Join the Maryland Metroites for a work trip on the Cabin John Trail in Montgomery County. We meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Nature Center parking lot off Democracy Blvd. Bring lunch, gloves, and water. Directions/INFO: Liles Creighton (Lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

29 (Saturday)

HIKE - Old Mining Circuit Wardensville, WV

Great North Mountain (Map F). From Wardensville, WV we will travel to the Capon Furnace where we will begin a six-mile hike at a slow pace, with two gradual 500 foot climbs, on the Capon Trail Loop. Along the way we will observe the ruins of the Capon Furnace, mining pits and trenches, a burst dam, charcoal hearths, chimney foundations remaining of the mining community, a couple of views, and the autumn beauty below the shadow of Halfmoon Mountain, crossing the North Halfmoon Run via the Bucktail Trail a couple of times. INFO: Walt Smith (wsmith@visuallink.com) 540-678-0423.

Potomac Appalachian



Photo by Dove Lespikowski

Look Ma, no power tools! Workers putting their back into the job at the Tulip Tree Cabin site.

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

CABIN WORK TRIP - Blackburn Trail Center Round Hill, VA

Catch the beginning of autumn at Blackburn by working on the pump room, plumbing and Carriage House roof. No special skills required — just enthusiasm and penchant for good company. Later we will spend a pleasant evening on the porch after a fine group meal cooked in our kitchen. Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

29 - 30 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Trail Patrol Training Glass House, Fort Valley, VA

This weekend course teaches the fundamental skills you need to become a member of the team that patrols, monitors and helps hikers along the 1,000 miles of PATC trails. Training topics include land navigation, Leave No Trace, equipment and clothing, radio communications, how to communicate with hikers, and scenario-based training. INFO: Chris Logan (loganj@erols.com) 301/774-2949 (6:00-9:00 p.m. or weekends).

October

1 (Monday)

DEADLINE - November Potomac Appalachian Headquarters, Vienna, VA

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

2 (Tuesday)

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

3 (Wednesday)

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

6 (Saturday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers Appalachian Trail, MD

The colors are starting to change in western MD. Get away from the city for a day of "work", comradeship, and peace in the woods. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew Appalachian Trail, PA

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

6 - 7 (Saturday - Sunday)

TRAIL WORK TRIP - Acme Treadway Company Shenandoah National Park (?), VA

The Acme Treadway Company has never achieved a fungible profit. All returns are distributed directly to members. Membership depends upon passing a secret test (participating in at least one worktrip ... uh, meeting). Each member may be detected (with a keen eye) by the discretely distinctive apparel he (or she) displays upon passing muster (or, the mustard). The next meeting of the Bored (oh, Board) is set for 10/6. Overnight accommodations and food are provided to members in good standing (or, who sit well, too). INFO: Don White (whitedh@hotmail.com) 804/270-3116.

6 - 8 (Saturday - Monday)

BACKPACK TRIP - Jones Mountain Cabin Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Come join us for some spectacular scenery as we backpack about 4 miles on Saturday into the rustic Jones Mountain Cabin in the central section of SNP where we will spend Saturday and Sunday nights. This circa-1850 cabin was the home of moonshiner Harvey Nichols and is one of the best PATC cabins. On the way in, we will see firsthand the results of the Great Flood of '96. On Sunday, we will day hike about 9 miles in a circuit through some virgin forest, past the remains of human activity in the park, and enjoy the splendid view of the Staunton River valley from Bear Church Rock. The fall leaf color should be nearing it's peak. On Monday we will hike back to the cars and return. While we are there, we will also investigate the mystery of the Jones Mountain lights, strange lights that are sometimes seen hovering over Jones Mountain. Due to the elevation changes, this trip is moderately strenuous and is limited to 10 people. INFO: Kevin Haney (kevin_haney@nih.gov) 301/271-5023.

6 - 8 (Saturday - Monday)

BACKPACK TRIP - Maryland AT I (North half) Appalachian Trail, MD

This is the first of two outings to backpack the Appalachian Trail across Maryland. On this trip we will backpack from the Pennsylvania border to Washington Monument State Park, a distance of 21 miles, in 2.5 days. The trip will be of moderate difficulty. The group will meet at the Shady Grove Metro Station at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and return Monday afternoon. Group limit 8 people. INFO: Bryon Lawrence (blawrence@msn.com) 301/916-2188.

6 - 8 (Saturday - Monday)

BACKPACK TRIP - "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania" Pine Creek Gorge, PA

A Bob Pickett natural history backpacking trip. Travel north to the Pine Creek Gorge for a 22-mile backpacking trip through this scenic gorge in north central PA. We will leave early Saturday morning and begin our hike on the West Rim Trail about 1 p.m., after a filling fast food lunch (the trip is a little over four hours). Hiking distances will approximate 6 miles on Saturday, 12 miles on Sunday, and the final 4 on Monday; leaving by early afternoon on Monday. The Pine Creek Gorge is known for its spectacular views, mature forests, and wildlife (including fishers, porcupine, black bear, and bald eagles). If the weather is warm, maybe we'll sneak down to the Creek for a dip! INFO: Bob Pickett 301/681-1511.

8 (Monday)

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

9 (Tuesday)

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

10 (Wednesday)

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

13 (Saturday)

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

8:15 - 11:30 a.m. Help us get the trails ready for the winter. All are welcome. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

FORECAST

13 (Saturday)

📍 HIKE - Tuscarora Trail IX
Tuscarora Trail, PA

Lockings Section-Pa Rte. 16 to Pa Rte. 456. 14.5 miles; 1500 ft elevation lost. From the vantage point at the Lockings, we will be able to see into three states; Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. This is the point where the Tuscarora Mountain and the Dickey's Mountain meet atop the ridge. Ravens and porcupines have been spotted in this section. Excellent views despite the lack of water until we descend off the ridge to PA Rte 456. So come on out and enjoy another wonderful section with gorgeous views. INFO: Christopher Firme (bncfirme@innet.net) 717/794-2855 after 6:00 p.m.

13 (Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Massanutten Crew
George Washington National Forest, VA

Join us and enjoy the camaraderie of people who appreciate the great outdoors! We can help you avoid crowds and crowded trails! We can show you nature at its best and most beautiful! We can help you feel good about yourself and take pride in the support you give to the trail community! Join us on Massanutten Mountain as we build waterbars, renew tread, and reconstruct sections on trails which we all enjoy! INFO: Mike Sutherland (msutherland@cox.rr.com) 703/591-8330.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

18th Annual Pig Roast!! But we are still looking for folks wanting to do some work on the Cabin Renovation Project. Look in September issue for registration form for Pig Roast. If you want to come up for the work trip and not stay for the event, call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Tread improvement is the name of the game as the crew removes rocks and builds steps for the side trail from Blackburn Trail Center to the AT. This will be the final work trip to Blackburn this year and there is still a lot of work to be done. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at Blackburn Trail Center. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

13 - 14 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - LNT Trainer Training
Location to be determined

Learn the principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) from the Trail Patrol's LNT Masters. This fun, weekend course, which includes a night of camping in the woods, provides hands-on training and certifies you as an LNT Trainer. Space is limited. INFO: Anniell Miller (amill1@yahoo.com) 703/250-8113 until 10:00 p.m.

16 (Tuesday)

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

16 (Tuesday)

CLASS - Hike America! Virginia! (REI)
REI, College Park, MD

7:00 p.m. Guides Bill and Mary Burnham will be available to sign your copy of their new book: Hike America! Virginia!, and lead us on an evening's armchair tour of some of their favorite Old Dominion rambles and scrambles. INFO: REI 301/982-9681.

17 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Hike America! Virginia! (REI)
REI, Baileys Crossroads, VA

Same as 10/16 except at Baileys Crossroads. INFO: REI 703/379-9400.

17 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Trail Patrol Backpacking 202 Class 1
HQ, Vienna, VA

7:30-10:00 p.m. Trail Patrol presents the first of two classes that teach you how to plan and carry out an early winter backpacking trip. Classes cover equipment selection and use, route planning, food planning, safety, comfort and Leave No Trace principles. A November weekend trip, accompanied by experienced instructors, gives you the opportunity to try out your new skills. INFO: Larry Marcoux (nolsintmaster@aol.com) 703/979-1066 or 703/402-5441.

18 (Thursday)

📍 HIKE - In-between Hikers
Fairfax, VA

Fountainhead Regional Park, 19875 Hampton Rd., Fairfax, Va. A moderate 8 miles near the Occoquan Reservoir. Mostly hilly terrain. (PATC Wash. Region, Part B, plus). Meet 10:00 a.m. at first parking lot on the right off of entrance road. Bring lunch and water. No pets. Henri Comeau (henricomeau@aol.com) 703/451-7965.

20 (Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Maryland Metrolites
C&O Canal, MD

Join the Maryland Metrolites for a work trip in the C&O Canal Park, Montgomery County. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Falls parking lot. Bring lunch, gloves, and water. Directions/INFO: Liles Creighton (lcrei@aol.com) 410/573-0067.

20 (Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Stonewall Brigade
Shenandoah County, VA

Great North Mountain on the VA/WV state line. Join the Stonewall Brigade at Wolf Gap Recreation Area at 9:00 a.m. to get tools, then drive to a trail in the nearby area. This popular venue offers fine panoramic views of Trout Run Valley from the mountain crest. We will remove and break up rocks in the tread and work on waterbars. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, bug spray, and hiking shoes. Please RSVP by Wednesday if you plan to attend. INFO: Hop Long (mgrnmd@hotmail.com) 301/942-6177.

20 (Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - South Mountaineers
Appalachian Trail, MD

Don't miss the fall foliage! Come out and join this event for fun "work" getting dirty in the woods. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in Frederick County. INFO: Mark Mitchell (mdtrail@yahoo.com) 301/461-7048.

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 CABIN WORK TRIP - Vining Tract Crew
Vining Tract, Lydia, VA

The Vining Tract Crew meets one weekend a month to work on various projects, ranging from cabin repairs to land management projects. We're now in the midst of constructing a small cabin using logs from an old barn. Come join us and practice (or develop) your log-lifting and chiseling skills. Overnight at Conley and Wineberry cabins. INFO: Larry Lang 703/631-9278 or Hugh Robinson 703/525-8726.

20 - 21 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Land Navigation (REI)
REI, Baileys Crossroads and Prince William Forest Park, VA

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. at REI Bailey's Crossroads, and Sunday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. in Prince William Forest Park. This comprehensive two-day course teaches all skills necessary to use map and compass in an integrated land navigation system. The first day is spent in intensive classroom exercises concentrating on map reading and interpretation, position plotting, compass fundamentals, declination and azimuth. The second day is spent in Prince William Forest Park, primarily off-trail, engaging in practical navigation exercises of increasing complexity. The course fee is \$85 and includes workbook text, course materials, compass, map, grid reader, and lunch on Saturday. Register/INFO: REI 703/379-9400 or 301/982-9681.

24 (Wednesday)

CLASS - Trail Patrol Backpacking 202 Class 2
HQ, Vienna, VA

7:30-10:00 p.m. Trail Patrol presents the second of two classes teaching how to plan and carry out an early winter backpacking trip. Classes cover equipment selection and use, route planning, food planning, safety, comfort and Leave No Trace principles. A November weekend trip, accompanied by experienced instructors, gives you the opportunity to try out your new skills. INFO: Larry Marcoux (nolsintmaster@aol.com) 703/979-1066 or 703/402-5441.

26 - 27 (Friday - Saturday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - North Chapter Pa. Trail Crew
Tuscarora Trail, PA

We will work in and around Cowans Gap State Park and will be staying overnight on Friday and Saturday at a cabin in the park. Reservations are required. INFO: Charlie Irvin 301/447-2848.

27 (Saturday)

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

8:15 - 11:30 a.m. This is it! Don't miss your last chance to do something good for the D.C. hiking trails. Our last trip of the year is always the best. Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center. INFO: Mark Anderson (mhacca@starpower.net) 202/462-7718 or Ranger Ken Ferebee 202/426-6834 x31.

27 (Saturday)

📍 HIKE - West Virginia Chapter
White Rock Cliffs, Tuscarora Trail, VA

This 10-mile moderate hike will bring us to one of the many viewpoints along the Tuscarora Trail. The fall leaves should be at peak or just beyond peak. Be a true leaf peeper and not a windshield tourist. Dust off those hiking boots and enjoy nature. INFO: Susan Bly (sblly@shepherd.edu) 304/876-5177 or 304/258-3319.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

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

Daylight Savings time ends — use that extra hour to work on the Blackburn Trail Center! Reservations/INFO: Chris Brunton 703/560-8070 or Bruce Clendaniel 410/820-7550.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Blue & White Crew
Central District, Shenandoah National Park, VA

Join us for trail projects in the Central District of SNP. INFO: Charles Hillon (charleshillon@earthlink.net) 703/754-7388.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

📍 TRAIL WORK TRIP - Cadillac Crew
Vining Tract near Stanardsville, VA

Enjoy the cooler weather and fall foliage as the crew begins work on opening a new trail route on the Vining Tract. Other opportunities may involve moving a privy to a new site and clearing brush for the Mutton Top cabin overseer. Community dinner on Saturday night. Overnight at PATC's Mutton Top cabin(?) — what a view. INFO: Fran Keenan (outdoorsnow@cox.rr.com) 703/938-3973 or Jon Rindt (jkrindt@erols.com) 540/635-6351.

27 - 28 (Saturday - Sunday)

CLASS - Wilderness First Aid (WSC)
Alexandria, VA

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

30 (Tuesday)

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

NOTICES

NEW NOTICES

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM coordinator needed. The Corridor Management program is looking for an individual to coordinate several Natural Heritage projects within the Club. The coordinator will work with NPS & ATC personnel to identify sites and provide training as well as PATC site monitors and trail maintainers to protect plant communities along the A.T. Ability to identify plants in the field helpful but not required. Contact Tom Lupp, Supervisor of Corridor Management 301/271-7340 or tlupp@erols.com

RARE OPPORTUNITY: HOUSE FOR SALE with 18 to 27 acres on border of Shenandoah National Park: Three bedrooms, 16-windowed great room with spectacular views of 3000-foot mountains; two decks, one on roof; 1.5-mile walk from house up fire road to AT; other trails nearby; cool 2000-foot elevation; on state road for year-round access; lovely wooded property with mountain laurel, waterfalls, and lookout cliff. Only 2 hrs. 10 min. from Beltway. INFO: Eric or Ellen 434/985-7167 or hollowfolk@nextel.net.

HIKES

FEMALE HIKING PARTNER(S) WANTED. I would like to do a three-day back packing trip in the Cranberry Wilderness over the Labor Day weekend and stay at the Hermitage Motel in Petersburg on Labor Day night, drive back the day after. If interested call me at 301/504-8781 (work) or e-mail at DRShattuck@aol.com

1997 THRU-HIKERS REUNION – Please join us for a reunion of Class of 1997 thru-hikers. This year's reunion will take place on September 14-15 at the Bear's Den Hostel in Virginia, just off the AT. There will be a reasonable charge for lodging and for a shared feed on Saturday night. Your SO, family members, or friends are welcome. Bring pictures or slides of your latest adventures, plenty of stories about your hike, your appetite, and desire for fun and companionship with fellow hiker trash. For more information, call Dingle and HatTrick at 703/641-8837 or e-mail to mike.baehre@erols.com. See you this fall!

DONATIONS WANTED

WANTED FOR THE BLACKBURN TRAIL CENTER:A propane gas Barbecue Grill. But please, must be in good working order. Call Chris Brunton 703/560-8070.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FORECAST EDITOR for the newsletter and website. This is a great way to volunteer for the Club without having to sweat (at least outdoors.) If you have a computer and an eye for detail you have most of the tools required. Please contact Linda Shannon-Beaver at PA@PATC.net if interested.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A LANDOWNER along the AT? And have a home in the woods! Are you in a position to become a Conservation Buyer through the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust? Our program matches conservation buyers – people like you – with people who are selling land along the AT. You locate your home or cabin out of sight from the Trail. All we ask is that you donate a conservation easement on the rest of the property. A conservation easement "runs with the land;" that

**Check out
www.patc.net**

***It's full of scheduled
activities and insight
into the experiences of
other members.***

is, no present or future owner can develop it! AND, because an easement is an irrevocable gift of a property right, you get a nice income tax deduction equal to the value of the easement. Contact Bob Williams, Director of Land Trust Programs, at bwilliams@appalachiantrail.org, or at 304/535-6331, or write to P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

CONSERVATION BUYER COORDINATOR PATC's Trail Lands Acquisition Committee has a need for a volunteer Conservation Buyer Coordinator. The Coordinator will act as a central clearinghouse for forwarding questionnaires to, and receiving completed questionnaires from potential conservation buyers interested in protecting the Tuscarora Trail or SNP trail access points. The Coordinator will also provide contact information for the Appalachian Trail Conference Land Trust if the buyers are interested in protecting the Appalachian Trail. The Coordinator will also maintain information in the conservation buyer databank and determine from the data-bank which conservation buyers would be likely interested in acquiring land once property goes on sale. Inquires should be address to Phil Paschall, PATC Trail Lands Acquisition Committee, 118 Park St., SE, Vienna, VA 22180.

TRACT MANAGER WANTED. Did you know that PATC owns or manages over 2,000 acres of forest land? Every tract must have a "tract manager" who keeps tabs on the property to guard against encroachments and to watch over the forest. An opportunity has presented itself for a dedicated PATC volunteer to serve as tract manager for the 27-acre Lucas Woods Tract along the Virginia-West Virginia border, which we manage for The Nature Conservancy. The Tuscarora Trail runs through the property, and we maintain a campsite. Interested volunteers should call Tom Johnson at 703/281-0798 or e-mail him at johnts3@juno.com.

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN the PATC Council and staff at the annual general membership meeting. When: November 14, 2001; Where: Elks Lodge, Fairfax Va.; Time 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Would appreciate calls indicating intentions to attend soonest, reservation forms will appear in Sept. and Oct. PA. Call Liles Creighton 410/573-0067 e-mail Lcrei@aol.com for details.

NEEDED: PEOPLE TO HELP PLAN and conduct our Club events. What would you like to see

at our annual meeting on 14 November at the Elks Lodge? Would you help with a Potluck Dinner? This is not only a meeting of the entire Club, but a time to give out awards, examine accomplishments, meet with friends, and have fun. We are planning other events, such as a picnic in SNP summer 2002. We receive many invitations to provide a Club display at other people's activities. Often we just don't have members to attend. If you are willing, please contact Liles Creighton, Membership Secretary at 410/573-0067, lcrei@aol.com or Pat Fankhauser at Club headquarters.

HELP PATC CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY in 2002. Vice President Mickey McDermott is in charge of planning. INFO: mcdermottj.aimd@gao.gov

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.

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

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.

NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE GREAT 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, wiley1226@aol.com or 703/242-0693, ext.11.

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. □

Trailhead

After a summer of attacking the ever-present weeds on your trail, take a break and do some hiking in the cooler, bug-free fall environment. You could even critique other Overseer's trails for a change. If you are interested in a long loop hike and some backpacking, check out the 70-mile ring of trails on the north half of the Massanutten Mountain described in an article by Wil Kohlbrenner in this issue of the *PA*, page 7.

Annual Reporting Period

Computer frustrations continue at PATC Headquarters. Heidi Forrest, our Trails Coordinator, has been without a functional computer for several months, and communications have suffered as a result. Hopefully, there will be progress soon. In any case, please continue to submit work reports. Our reporting year ends in September, so make sure your work hours are up to date and are submitted early in the month.

Shippensburg

The ATC Biennial Conference in Shippensburg, Pa., was a great success. The highlights, for the Supervisor of Trails, were Ted Ragsdale's session on sidehill slippage and the chance to visit with Elizabeth Johnston.

Elizabeth now lives in Montana, but remains a loyal PATC'er. As Elizabeth says, "Once a PATC'er, always a PATC'er." Before her move west, Elizabeth worked hard with the North Chapter, volunteered to be Assistant Supervisor of Trails with Anneliese Ring, and edited the Trailhead column for several years. Elizabeth reports that Montana is a hiker's paradise, and she now enjoys frequent hiking and birding trips with her new club.

Ted Ragsdale, a member of the Georgia AT Club, presented an excellent session on the preservation and reconstruction of sidehill trails. Many of the trails that PATC maintains are of sidehill construction, and most Overseers need to be sensitive to the specific problems associated with this type of tread. In particular, Overseers should be sure to weed aggressively on the inner (uphill) slope, keep sloughed material from the inner edge of the tread, and maintain erosion-control devices. When tread begins to "slip," trail damage accelerates, and, unfortunately, inappropriate maintenance adds to the problem. PATC Trail Workshops will continue to address this problem, but Overseers should also try to



Photo by Dave Lespkovsk

Side view of Denton Shelter, located about eight miles south of historic Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

work with an experienced crew when possible to learn more about sidehill maintenance. Ted's notes are available as an Adobe pdf file at <http://members.telocity.com/~kerrysnow/patc/index.html>.

Special Thanks

Activities during the AT Conference at Shippensburg, Pa., included some 75 organized hikes in the area. Many were on the AT and the Tuscarora Trails maintained by PATC's North Chapter and the South Mountaineers. A lot of favorable comments were received on the excellent shape of both trails. Hats off to Charlie Irvin, Pete Brown, Rick Canter, and all the Overseers who care for those trails.

Beware Of Crawling Things

While blazing on Mill Mountain Trail in July, Wil Kohlbrenner had an encounter with a crawling thing. After carefully scanning the ground around a tree on the side of the trail, he had started to scrape for a blaze when he heard an unmistakable buzzing. A rattler, about 3.5-feet long, was on the other side of the tread, nestled down in some grass and rock. Good chance he would have stepped on, or very near, it after painting the blaze. On a hike later in the month, Wil ran into another 3-foot rattlesnake. It had only a tiny button for a rattle and couldn't make much of a buzz. But it tried! On brushy trails it is hard to see the ground ahead, so you get pretty close before you see the snake or the snake starts buzzing.

Recently, the University of Virginia Medical Center reported it has seen more bites this year on people just minding their own business, walking down a trail. The article concluded with, "Most victims in local areas are bitten by either the timber rattlesnake or the copperhead, which are both poisonous." An ER nurse from the Shenandoah Memorial Hospital said that the hospital won't administer the anti-venom until there is clear evidence of poisonous snake bite because the

serum is made from horse blood and some folks have a severe reaction to that, in addition to the snake's venom. As we get into cooler fall weather, the snakes start to gather around a winter den. If you see one snake, be careful in "going around" it—there may be others.

Adding A Little Culture

In interest of culture, a trail district in northern Virginia previously known geographically as "Ashby Gap to Possums Rest" will now be referred to as the "Mosby District." The District Manager, Ed McKnew and his Deputy, Lloyd Parriott, initiated the name change to reflect the heritage associated with this area of PATC trails.

Shelter Dedication

Thirty-nine people attended North Chapter's dedication of the new Wagon Wheel Shelter on the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania on June 30th. The new shelter is actually the old Hemlock Hill Shelter, moved from its previous location on the AT near Smithsburg, Md. The effort was an Eagle Scout project for Mr. & Mrs. Henneburger's son. Nineteen different volunteers completed the project in about 400 hours on 10 worktrips at the cost of \$700. The Chapter appreciates all the help provided by the Boy Scouts, the shelter Overseers, and the Tuscarora Forest Service, led by Jim Foose. The Chapter hopes to build another shelter for the Tuscarora Trail in the next year or so.

For those interested, the North Chapter has a need for trail Overseers, especially for the Tuscarora Trail. Call Charlie Irvin at 301/447-2548 or Pete Brown at 410/343-1140.

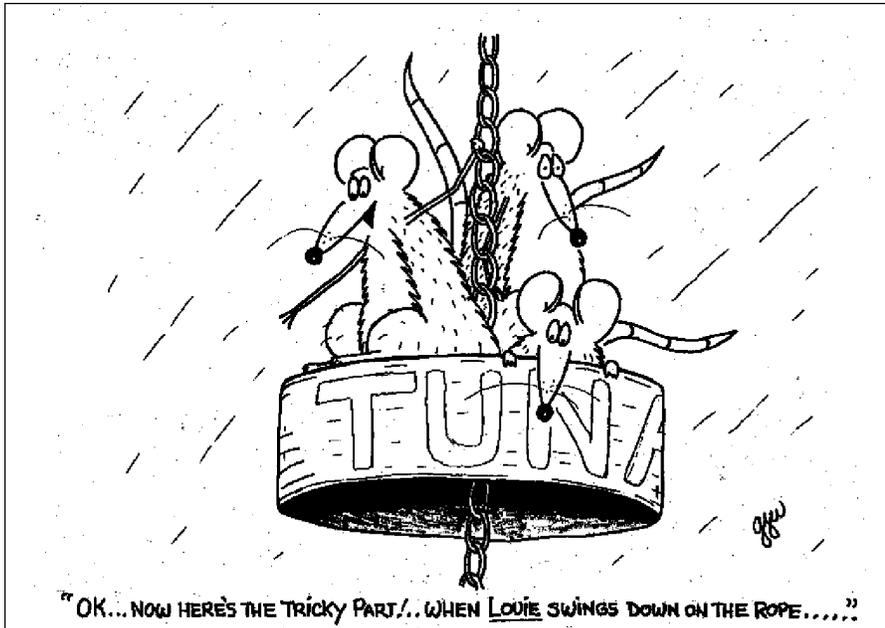
Hughes River Crossing

Central District's Blue and White Crew caught Big Rocky (Hughes River) at low water on their July work trip and proceeded to engineer a stream crossing linking Corbin Cabin to the Cutoff Trail. Under the watchful direction of SOT Kerry Snow, Mr. Silva Dove set up the griphoist and we began moving some Brobdinagian stepping stones. In the course of our quarrying efforts, Steve Paull discovered a small (and apparently forgotten) cache of grain beverage in one of the deeper and colder pools of water. This discovery was promptly confiscated by Mr. Snow, who was concerned (rightly so) that its consumption so early in the day might lead to a crooked crossing. Taking great pains to select only the finest

See Trailhead, page 15

Potomac Appalachian

Tails from the Woods by George Walters



Trailhead, from page 14

rocks, Hal Hallett and Dave Bailey kept instructing the crew to keep the "flat side up." One by one though, the stones were moved into position and tested for wobble by John Hebbe and Mark Holland, who pronounced them "worthy."

As the day wore on, the once endless supply of easy-to-get rocks seemed to vanish, and a skyline was set up to zip a distant boulder into place. Using techniques learned at PATC's spring rock workshop, Dan Dueweke got a stepstone airborne and moving downstream at great haste, pausing only to drop it in a pre-surveyed spot—the only way to move a rock. While all this splashing around was going on in the creek, Alex Lampros, Patrick Wilson, and Harry Glenn were making a serious re-route of lower Corbin Cabin Cutoff trail to align it with the new stream crossing. Working us until almost dark, the SOT finally declared the job "good till the next hurricane" and

approved the consumption of the now lukewarm suds. Thus refreshed, we headed back to Pinnacles Research Station for a spicy chicken feast prepared by Susan Cahill and Janet Dove.

North Marshall Project

The North District Hoodlums completed their North Marshall AT project in July, installing several locust waterbars and check dams near the viewpoint along Skyline Drive. After the day's work, the crew went to France (OK, Indian Run Hut) where they feasted on French cuisine and vino long into the evening. Hoodlum Chief George Walters also reported sighting seven bears in just two weekends in the park!

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

New Trail Volunteers – July

Trail Overseers

Matthew Marshall	AT – Smithburg/Wolfsville Rd. to Black Rock Rd.
Eric Thomson	AT – Pleasant Valley Overlook to Weverton RR
Chuck Huenefeldt	AT – Black Rock to Annapolis Rocks Side Trail & Bagtown Trail
Bob Stransky	AT – Dick's Dome Road to parking lot #8
Frank Burke	AT – Jenkins Gap to viewpoint Trail on Compton Peak
Patricia Glenn	AT – South River Hut Road to Saddleback Mt. Trail
David Reus	Loudon Heights Trail
Gary Mendenhall	Pass Mountain Trail
Don Freeman	Tuscarora Trail – Hemlock Road to Mountain Road

Shelter Overseers

John Coffee	Crampton Gap Shelter
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PATC Trail Patrol presents

A Course for INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED BACKPACKERS

Learn how to:
Enjoy the Backcountry Under
Challenging Conditions

The course teaches the needed skills for planning and executing an early winter backpacking trip. Two pre-trip sessions cover equipment selection and use, route planning, food planning, safety, comfort, and Leave-No-Trace principles. A weekend trip accompanied by experienced instructors gives you the opportunity to try out your new skills.

Classroom Instruction: Wednesdays,
October 17 and 24, 2001
7:30-10:00 p.m.
PATC Headquarters
118 Park Street, SE
Vienna, Virginia

Weekend Outing: November 10-12,
2001 (Veteran's Day weekend)

Fee: \$40.00 for PATC Members;
\$55.00 for non-members

To receive a registration form and all
other information, please call:
Larry Marcoux at:
703/979-1066, or 703/402-5441
nolslntmaster@aol.com

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TRAIL, SHELTER and CORRIDOR OVERSEERS/MONITORS WANTED

SHELTER OVERSEERS WANTED 08/02/2001

CALLFRANK TURK, 301/249-8243

E-mail: frankturk@aol.com

Pass Mountain Hut – SNPNorth District [PATC map 9]

CORRIDOR MONITORS WANTED

CALL TOM LUPP, 301/271-7340

E-mail: tlupp@erols.com

Caledonia/DeerLick PA [376, 377, 379] PATC Map 2/3, & 4

Lambs Knoll MD [405, 406] PATC Map 5/6

Sand Spring No. VA [413] PATC Map 7

Sawmill Springs No. VA [414, 415] PATC Map 8

Rod Hollow No. VA [416] PATC Map 8

Ashby Gap North No. VA [417] PATC Map 8

Ashby Gap South No. VA [417] PATC Map 8

Sky Meadows No. VA [417] PATC Map 8

TRAIL OVERSEERS WANTED

Contact the District Manager for the section that interests you.

ASHBY GAP/RTE. 638 AT & BB – MAP 8 (RTE. 50 TO RTE. 638)

CALLED MCKNEW, 540/622-6004

E-mail: emcknew@aol.com

Manassas Gap Shelter Trail

AT to Manassas Gap Shelter (0.10 miles)

SNP NORTH BLUE-BLAZED & [HAZEL MT. AREA] -MAP 9, 10

CALL BERNIE STALMANN, 301/725-8876

E-mail: Bstalmann@aol.com

Jeremys Run Trail

8th ford to west park boundary

Broad Hollow Trail

Hazel Mountain Trail to VA 681 (2.4 miles)

SNP CENTRAL BLUE-BLAZED [NORTH END] – MAP 10

CALL DAN DUEWEKE, 703/266-3248

E-mail: danjan@fcc.net

Roberts Mountain Trail

Old Rag Fire Road to Weakley Hollow Fire Road (2.4 miles)

Jones Mountain Trail

Bear Church Rock to Cat Knob Trail (2.80 miles)

SNP SOUTH BLUE-BLAZED (MAP #11)

CALL LOIS MANSFIELD, 804/973-7184

E-mail: lem@Virginia.edu

Rocky Mount Trail

Intersection of Gap Run [upper] to summit (1.2 miles)

Rocky Mount Trail

Summit of Gap Run [lower] (2 miles)

Trayfoot Trail [Co-overseer]

Skyline Drive to summit (1.8 mile)

Trayfoot Trail

Summit of Trayfoot to second summit (1 mile)

TUSCARORA NORTH-MAP L

CALL LLOYD MACASKILL, 703/978-4070

Email: LloydMacA@aol.com

Tuscarora Trail

Siler, VA/South Sleepy Creek, WV

Tuscarora Trail

Northern Rock Field to Southern Rock Field (1.5 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Yellow Spring Road to Capon Spring Road (3.9 miles)

TUSCARORA SOUTH – MAP F, G, 9

CALL RICK RHOADES, 540/477-3247

E-mail: RRhoades@shentel.net

Tuscarora Trail

VA/WV55 to Gerhard Memorial Shelter (4.2 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Mill Mountain Trail to White Rocks Trail (2.90 miles)

Tuscarora Trail

Sherman Gap Trail to Veach Gap (3.10 miles)

MASSANUTTEN NORTH - MAP #G

CALL MIKE SUTHERLAND, 703/591-8330

E-mail: msutherland@cox.rr.com

Signal Knob Trail

VA 678 to Ft. Valley Overlook (2.2 miles)

Meneka Peak Trail

Signal Knob Trail to Bear Wallow/Tuscarora Trail (1.2 miles)

MASSANUTTEN SOUTH – MAP #H

CALL BILLSCHMIDT, 301/585-2477

E-mail: weschmidt@aol.com

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

TV Tower to Pitt Spring (3.40 miles)

Massanutten Mt. South Trail

Pitt Spring to Morgan Run Trail (3.3 miles)

Fridley Gap Trail

VA 868 to Cub Run (2.60 miles)

GREAT NORTH MOUNTAIN – MAP F

CALL HOPLONG, 301/942-6177

E-mail: FSLongs@erols.com

Big Schloss Cutoff Trail

Mill Mt. Trail to FR 92 (1.90 miles)

Mill Mountain Trail

Big Schloss Cutoff Trail to the Tuscarora Trail (3.3 miles)

Tibbet Knob Trail

Wolf Gap to VA 691 (2.50 miles)

Great North Mountain Trail

VA 691 to Stack Rock Trail (2.20 miles)

SUBURBAN MARYLAND – MAP D

CALL LILES CREIGHTON, 410/573-0067

E-mail: lcrei@aol.com

Northern Peaks West Trail

Picnic area of Sugar Loaf to 1020 Elevation Marker

Ford Mine Trail

Lock 20 Maintenance Road to Ford Mine (.75 mile)



The Potomac Appalachian

118 Park Street
Vienna, VA 22180-4609

Periodical
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