

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

April 2010 - May 2010

Prez Sez



Longer days, warmer temperatures, crocuses and daffodils in the garden all combine to herald the arrival of Spring. Winter made quite an impression on all of us this year with its below freezing temperatures and frequent snowfalls. Though I enjoy the snow, I am more of a fair weather hiker preferring more moderate days for outdoor activities. Looking ahead, there's lots of fun stuff on the TATC horizon. The Southern Regional Partnership meeting will be held at Mountain Lake the weekend of April 9-11th. It's a fun opportunity to meet members of our neighboring clubs as well as rub elbows with our partners in the Forest Service, Park Service and AT Conservancy. And you don't have to be on the Board of Directors to attend. The following weekend is our Spring Walk-Through where we'll hike our section of the AT and associated trails and assess trail conditions. We'll be camping at the Volunteer Village/Kitchen at Sherando. Trail Supervisor, Scott Hilton, has promised us a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning! Of course, the Walk-Through is only a preliminary to the main event, Spring Maintenance the weekend of May 21-23rd. We'll be at Sherando once again but this time at the Williams Branch Group camping area. It's car camping so bring the BIG tent! Scott will have a full day on the trail planned for us on Saturday to be followed by dinner that night expertly prepared by Chef Mike Mureddu. Could here possibly be a better combination for a perfect day? (Let's hope for good weather!)

We also have some great speakers lined up for our monthly meetings. April brings us Steve Ralph's adventures in New Zealand followed in May with Bill Billing's presentation on his recent bridge building expedition in Ethiopia. Do you have a topic you'd like to present? Let me know and I'll get you on the schedule. Interested in taking on the fun job of Programs Chair? I can set you up for that too!

Check out the website for lots of fun local events with trips to First Landing State Park, Yorktown Battlefield, Merchant's Mill Pond and Beaverdam Park. The more adventurous might consider hiking in Ramsey's Draft or biking the Greenbrier Trail. The Education Committee is conducting another low impact camping and hiking workshop at First Landing in May. This is a must for anyone spending time in the outdoors with helpful hints for minimizing your impact on the land.

(Continued in next column)

Looking ahead towards summer, we have two weeks of Konnarock to continue work on the Hanging Rock project. Mark your calendars now to join in the trail building fun. The next AT Biennial is not that far away and ***your help is needed!*** Virginia Journeys will be held at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia July 1-8th. Ned Kuhns and Mark Wenger are seeking volunteers to help with workshops, publicity and brochures. Please contact them and offer to help.

Take advantage of the great weather and get out there and play!!

Be safe. Have fun.

Phyllis Neumann
TATC President
president@tidewateratc.com

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(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)



Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

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TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW

Membership

It's time to renew your membership in the TATC for 2010. Your card expires on Feb. 28, 2010. The membership renewal period is from February to the end of April. There is a form included with this newsletter. You can renew at a meeting or by sending your form and check to the PO Box. If you have any questions, please call me at 627-2392 or e-mail me at the address below.

Welcome to the following new members: Mike Pierson and John Davis.

Mary Hormell
Membership Committee Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

Minute for Maintenance

Spring is in the air, and with it the urge to get out and do some trail maintenance is strong, and I hope there are a lot of other club members with the same thing on their minds also. With five trips scheduled on the calendar, there are plenty of opportunities to be had. First up on April 16, 17, and 18th is our walk-thru, and we will be camping at the volunteer village CCC kitchen at Lake Sherando. This is a survey trip to see what toll the winter has taken on the AT and Mau-Har trails, and possibly the St Mary's trail if we have enough folks. All section leaders are encouraged to attend.

Then May 21, 22, and 27th is the big spring fling, when work crews scatter into the woods and do everything from sawing and clearing blowdowns to stuff like cleaning waterbars, sprucing up campsites and the shelter areas, and refreshing the blazing. We will be camping at the Williams Branch picnic area at Sherando. Saturday supper will be provided by the club. Mike Mureddu and helpers will be fixing the meal on Saturday and would welcome any other volunteers.

June 10-14 and July 1-5, the Konnaroc crew will be working the rehabilitation project north of Hanging Rock. While the crew is going to be camped at Maupin Field, club members will be staying at Sherando at the volunteer village. If you have ever wondered what goes into doing a major trail rehab including moving large rocks and creating a safer and stable trail, come on out. There will be work for all levels of skills and abilities. If you can't make it for the entire 5 days, at least try to come out for Saturday and Sunday. The club will be providing supper on Saturday night for all.

October 15, 16, and 17th is the fall maintenance weekend, where any areas that still need work get attention to get ready for winter. Saturday supper is again provided by the club.

Also sometime in late July I may schedule a long weekend in St Mary's to continue with the work we have been doing there. This would be a backpacking trip, where we hike in with all our tools, set up camp and work from there. Watch for more info on this later.

To all the folks that are new to the club, please come on out to any of the work efforts, it's a great way to meet others in the club and enjoy the outdoors. All of our weekends are car camping, so you can bring everything but the kitchen sink. If you need directions to Sherando or have any questions, please see me at one of the general meetings or e-mail me at trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com. Thanks and hope to see you at one of the maintenance weekends this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Hilton
TATC Trails Supervisor
trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Appalachian Trail Museum

The Appalachian Trail Museum had been a dream for many years but it wasn't until the formation of the Appalachian Trail Museum Society in 2001 that the project became a reality. Under the leadership of Larry Luxenberg, ALDHA and many other dedicated individuals, the museum will soon be open to the public. Located in a 200 year old grist mill at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania, the museum "will collect, preserve and interpret materials" related to the history, current use and future of the Appalachian Trail. Though much work is yet to be done,



Workshop Presenters Needed



Share your knowledge and skills as a workshop presenter at the upcoming Virginia Journeys 2011 which will celebrate the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. This gathering, to be held at Emory & Henry College in southwest Virginia from July 1 – 8, 2011, will be the 38th Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. A main feature of the conference is a wide variety of workshops which will be held Saturday – Monday, July 2 – 4, 2011. Conference organizers are inviting speakers to present sessions in the following areas of interest:

- Hiking and Backpacking Skills
- Trail Management
- Natural Wonders
- Engaging Youth on the Trail
- Community Partners: Sustainable Tourism & the Trail
- A.T. MEGA-Transect: Environmental Monitoring of the A.T. Corridor
- Cultural History along the A.T.
- Celebrating Benton MacKaye

If you would like to present a workshop related to any of the conference tracts, or would like to suggest a topic to be considered, we want to hear from you. The deadline for speaker registration is June 30, 2010. Please contact Laura Belleville at lbelleville@appalachiantrail.org, (540) 953-3564 / 3571, Mark Wenger at markwenger@cox.net, 757-253-0056, or Ned Kuhns at nedkuhns@cox.net, 757-552-0292.



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Freezees Hike the Presidential and Crawford Notch

By Mal Higgins

Ten winterized members of TATC drove to New Hampshire's White Mountains playground January 28—February 2, 2010 and experienced the soothing effects produced by below zero temperatures and gale force winds. TATC members JP Jones, Ed Martin, and Al Bellinoff drove and were joined by Bob Adkisson, Mark Connolly, Duncan Fairlie, Bruce Davidson, Brian Richie, Richard Tarr, and me. Most of our original hiking plan was accomplished with one notable exception: we bailed out of the plan to enjoy tenting on the Nauman tent platforms on the shoulder of Mt. Pierce. More on that later!

Departing Thursday, after nasty driving through two separate snow squalls in Massachusetts and Vermont, the trip north on the interstates was marked by the urgent need of one of our drivers to find a bathroom stop in New Hampshire, only an hour from our destination at the Four Seasons Motel, Twin Mountain, N.H. As we pulled off the interstate into Hanover, N.H. we all began to muse that we thought some college was in this town. Within a minute we realized we'd pulled into the center of Dartmouth College's campus. Our driver frantically parked us on the edge of campus and made a mad dash to Murphy's Bar, leaving the rest of us to enjoy the ambience of the gently falling snow.

Our first hike Friday was to the Appalachian Mountain Club's Zealand Falls Hut, one of three operated by the AMC on a "caretaker" and reservation basis. We'd divided in two groups, and the second group shuttled Ed's car to an alternate trail head for the hike out the next day. We hiked in with full backpacks (less a tent and stove), many of us using our snowshoes the entire way. The hike totaled about 6.5 miles from the trail head at the Ammonoosuc River up the Zealand Road (a logging road closed in winter), and then from the end of the road up the Zealand Trail to the hut (2700 feet elevation). We crossed a broad, snow covered upland meadow and frozen beaver dam bog, with surging winds, stinging snow, and some frozen creeks, reminiscent of a winter hike in Dolly Sods, West Virginia. The cold and freezing wind was doing a number on us. Light was beginning to wane and the last half mile was a surprisingly steep climb, gaining perhaps 400 feet, and leaving us all out of breath and glad to arrive

The hut was staffed by Ryan Wilford, the caretaker, a youngish twenty-something, who was a 2007 Appalachian Trail through hiker. He and his Dad, Perry, had cross X skied past us on the trail when we were on the upland meadow. Caretakers work a one week duty shift. Seven other guests, mostly hikers from New England, were there also. The hut is somewhat like TATC's cabin in the basic amenities, including wooden tables, chairs, and a wood stove, the only source of heat. An outdoor large, two gender, two-seater, ecologically advanced privy connected by a deck provides the "necessaries". The amenities of the hut also included a large propane stove and propane lighting fixtures. The caretaker lit a fire in the wood stove at 4:00 p.m., which warmed the hut to about +20 F inside. We could easily see our breaths. The outside temperature, as the sun dropped out of sight, began its slide to an overnight low of minus 20 F! The bunkrooms were somewhat warmer from captured heat from the dying wood fire in the stove, maybe +10-15 F. A full moon hung over the nearby mountain ranges, and provided a beautiful evening setting.

Saturday, the group again divided. Some elected to return by the same Zealand trail to the cars and others decided to tackle the AZ and Avalon Trails. The AZ trail was more of a steep, uphill cross country bush-whacking experience. It was poorly maintained with multiple blowdowns from prior years and sporadic, infrequent and all but disappeared faded yellow paint blazes. The New York system employed in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks, which uses color coded plastic disks placed high on trees to account for snow fall elevating the trail higher, is a superior system for winter trail marking. It was obvious the AZ had not seen much maintenance for a long time. No one had recently traveled the route, and Brian Richie and Duncan Fairlie did most of the trail breaking on snowshoes in very deep snow. Frequently we became lost, and all of us would fan out looking for signs of a trail, a blaze, or even an opening in the heavy forest. Bob Adkisson, once again disdaining his warm and comfortable 100% cotton 7-11 gloves, was usually the first to spot some sign of the trail and get us back on track. Eventually we hit the top of the range and a trail intersection with the Avalon Trail, where we paused.

Bob, now posing as "Snow White", clucked and chirped, luring a plump Canadian Jay down from a tree and on to his hand for a gorp snack, as the rest of us burst into a "Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off To Work We Go" chorus of song. We then plunged down a really steep descent of the better blazed Avalon Trail, at times literally sitting on our butts and glissading on our snowshoes. After many frozen crossings of the Crawford Brook, we arrived at the take out point at the AMC Highland Center, a total hike of approximately five miles, rejoined the other group, and returned to the Four Seasons Motel and a pizza supper.

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It was now show time on Sunday for our summit attempt on Mt. Pierce. While we ate our "All American Breakfast" at Shakespeare's Restaurant, we canvassed our overnight recovery and our assorted aches, pains, blisters, and frozen parts. We noted the minus 10F outdoor temperature, and thought about our 50 pound backpacks and the plan (conceived in balmy Tidewater) to tent out at the Nauman tent platforms near Mizpah Spring Hut high on the slopes of Mt. Pierce. We had imprudently claimed we were going to tent out, so in a procedural, back room, unrecorded vote, from which the press was barred, we unanimously and ingloriously opted to day hike up to Mt. Pierce and abandoned the tenting out plan.

Relieved, we drove to the trailhead off the Clinton Road, donned our snowshoes, and hit the Crawford Path, the oldest continuously maintained hiking trail in the United States (1819). It may once have been a "bridle path", but since 1870 it has reverted to one steep climb. Fortunately, the trail was well defined and blazed, and with our snowshoes on, we made steady progress. Unlike the AZ Trail, we never strayed off the Crawford Path. The grade going up loosely followed Gibbs Brook and seemed to be at a pitch more or less slightly steeper than the AT climb from the Tye River up the Priest in Virginia. We gained 2400 feet in 3.2 miles one way. As our group of seven pared down to five, the trees began to thin out and get smaller. Eventually, we saw a sign announcing we were entering the "alpine zone", and by now we were taller than the trees and we could catch glimpses of many of the Presidential Mountains.

As we broke out on the summit of Mt. Pierce (4310 feet) we encountered strong winds blowing at what I'd estimate to be 40 mph or higher. The summit is partly bare rock with the tiny spruce trees encrusted with huge amounts of snow and rime ice. With a little imagination, the trees took on characteristics of crazy and contorted creatures. We took a brief snack break-- huddling and partly sheltered in a stand of these tiny, dwarfish, and twisted conifers--and admired the breathtaking views north of Mtns. Eisenhower, Monroe, and Washington. Snow White Bob encountered a mouse, which appeared out of nowhere on the snow by our feet. This time, Snow White was too cold to look for food in his pack, and we last saw the mouse in a tiny hole in the trail, shivering pathetically.

Brian "The Beast" and Duncan "Haggis Basher" still had their game on, although by now it was well past noon. The cloud ceiling seemed to be at our elevation. Off in the distance, swirling in and out of the clouds and along a mile and a half connecting saddle, was Mt. Eisenhower (4780 feet). After weighing the weather and assessing the safety considerations, they wanted to attempt the summit, as Bob, Mark and I decided to snowshoe back down the Crawford Path. We passed the cut off trail to the Nauman tent platform, grateful that we'd decided not to tent out! We arrived uneventfully and safely back at the trail head. Brian and Duncan did successfully battle winds fiercer than the 40 mph on Mt. Pierce and places where the trail disappeared in drifts so high even the cairns were covered and they reached the summit of Mt. Eisenhower. On the hike back from high on Mt. Pierce, Duncan used his cell phone to reach me at the bottom of the mountain to report success and to announce his and Brian's projected arrival time as 4:30 at the AMC Highland Lodge, our rendezvous location with the other hikers. Literally within a minute of 4:30, Duncan and Brian strode through the doors, faces still numb, but with a good adrenaline high going! They'd bagged Eisenhower!

We all celebrated our day's activity that night at Rosa Flamingo's, a restaurant in Bethlehem, N.H., which a stranger in a gas station recommended to us. [Go with the locals for advice.] Turns out, Rosa Flamingo's was a cheery sports bar, with a hidden side entrance, which we had to walk around the building to find. The cheesy curly fries and other assorted adult beverages helped replenish our seriously depleted fat supplies.

The final day for the Freezerees, Monday, we rented cross country skis at Bretton Woods Nordic Ski Center and enjoyed great skiing weather for about 2/3 of the day. Bretton Woods is the historic site of nearby Mt. Washington Resort, a huge and beautiful white hotel, where in 1944 diplomats met to form the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. We skied an old railroad bed, known as the Boston and Maine Trail to a warming yurt five kilometers away, and then returned by various trails. The Bretton Woods Nordic Ski Center is somewhat similar to the White Grass Cross X Ski Center in Canaan Valley, West Virginia, but upscale and not rustic.

Finishing up skiing, we returned to the motel, packed up, and started the long drive home. Calls back to Tidewater revealed that instead of driving 720 miles to get to Crawford Notch, we could have stayed home, and snowshoed and camped out in our own back yards in Tidewater's own winter snow storm. But, then, we wouldn't have been able to get those really cool White Mountains refrigerator magnets!



Cabin Report

By Bob Adkisson

For fiscal year 2009 (which ran from March 1st, 2009 until Feb. 28, 2010), the TATC Douglas Putman Cabin had a fairly normal year, usage-wise. Out of 52 weekends during this period, the cabin was rented 32. Unfortunately, 15 weekends went unused. The remaining 5 weekends were work trips, 4 of those scheduled and one (in early April last year) more or less spontaneous. Week-night usage of the cabin (Sunday night thru Thursday) fell off a little bit, down to 32 nights. The last few years this number has been as high as 58 nights, but usually closes out somewhere in the mid-40 range.

All in all, the cabin was occupied (only) 101 nights last year. This is just slightly lower than the last few years (but well below the record breaking year of 2001, when the cabin was used 144 nights). In spite of the near normal usage, cabin income, at \$1850, fell about two or three hundred dollars below recent years. We just barely covered the annual cost of insurance and taxes. With some of the supplies we purchased, we went just a bit over-budget. Again, the slightly lagging cabin income, as compared to 5 or so years ago, I attribute to fewer groups renting the cabin, and thus smaller rental fee checks. It used to be there were about 4 boy scout troops that regularly used the cabin, and several club members who hosted large groups of family and friends a couple of times a year. Combined, these groups provided perhaps a third of the total annual cabin income.

To encourage more group usage, about 2 years ago we changed the rental policy—group trips that were fairly open to all club members were no longer limited to reserving the cabin 8 weeks in advance; the trip leader for such a group could call and reserve it **anytime**, thus getting an advantage over the more traditional private group usage (which is still limited to reserving the cabin within the 8-weeks-in-advance window). So far this has produced only limited success—which is to say, few club members are taking the opportunity to host or lead group trips to the cabin. **Think about it-- think about reserving the club cabin and hosting a trip there.** Other members have used such weekends to visit local wineries, or to go hiking, or to visit nearby attractions. There is a world of things to do in the area, including just kicking back and relaxing, letting everyone do their own thing. There are still 2 scout leaders taking scouts to the cabin. Hooray for them! Maybe some of these boys will graduate into adulthood, join the club on their own, and become long-time club members and cabin users.

Last fiscal year the most popular months for cabin rental were April, May, and Oct.—perennial favorites (the cabin was rented 12 weekends in a row in the spring months, and 10 in a row in the fall). But also, this year, Nov., Dec., and Jan. saw high usage as well (even if several of the people that rented (and paid for) the cabin decided not to go at the last minute-- because of the exceptional winter weather). In fact, an unprecedented late season run occurred—from mid Sept. thru late Feb. the cabin was rented 21 out of 23 weekends. Least favorite months were July and Aug.—when usage was miniscule (in an 11 week stretch, including the first 2 weeks of Sept., the cabin was only occupied a total of 10 nights—and my wife and I accounted for 4 of those!). Perhaps club members are afraid it is too hot or too buggy at the cabin in the summer months. This is not the case—the area is shaded and definitely cooler, especially at night. One summer long ago, figuring to pack light, I went up with no sleeping bag, just a sheet—and practically froze 3 nights in a row!

Besides the spur of the moment work trip in April (to replenish the wood supply), there were 4 scheduled maintenance / orientation weekends last year: In May Steve Babor led a trip that concentrated on spring cleaning chores, like painting and chimney sweeping; the cook stove was also cleaned and some stones on the hearth were mortared. In June the main goal of the work trip was weed whacking around the cabin and the spring. The Sept. work trip, led by Greg and Carol Hodges, featured a hike and some light maintenance work on the nearby Nat'l Forest trail our club is responsible for—the two and a half mile long White Rock Falls Trail. In Nov., with Steve again leading the trip, piles of firewood were consolidated and moved closer to the cabin, some general clean up work was done, and then most folks spent the afternoon enjoying the perfect weather by going on a hike. Altogether, in 2009 twenty three new club members came up on one of the 4 cabin work trips, put in a few hours of work, learned some of the history of the cabin, learned how to care for and operate it, and thus qualified themselves to rent it all on their own. Anyone with questions about the cabin, or to inquire about a reservation / openings, can call me anytime—at 627-5514.

Also of note this year: last summer the National Park Service suddenly paved (well, almost) a bit of paradise and put up a parking lot! There in the meadow at White Rock Gap, where we park our cars to access the cabin (and other, non club folks park to access two different trailheads), the Park Service cut down 2 or 3 large trees, bulldozed over the site of an old homesteaders well (?), and put in what at present is a gravel parking area. In the future they may or may not pave the lot; this summer they may put up a few signs, and perhaps even hang a trash can. The last I saw the area, in Nov., it looked raw and violated. It will take some getting used to, take some time for the flowers and weeds that weren't covered with dirt and gravel to spring back up and protest mere 'progress'. At least it is an official parking area now, and thus we can't easily be denied using it. Over the years, we have purposely tried to keep the entrance trail to the cabin obscure and narrow, unmarked and unnoticeable there near the Blue Ridge Parkway. This may be slightly harder to do now, with an expanded parking area that invites parking and exploration by the casual traveler.

To new TATC members: this year again there will be 4 scheduled cabin maintenance / orientation trips. See the club calendar, web site, or newsletters for the exact dates, then make plans to join us for one (or all!) of them. Work trips are free, and ride sharing is sometimes available. You don't need a lot of gear, as it is only half mile walk to the cabin from where you park. There is a spring and an outhouse on the property. The TATC cabin, on 15 acres of wooded, club owned property, surrounded by National Forest land, nearly half mile above sea level in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mtns of Virginia, is the greatest asset (and sometimes I think the greatest secret) that our club has to offer. It is but 3 miles, as the crow flies, to our section of the A.T. It is about the same distance to the St Mary's River Wilderness area. Shenandoah Nat'l Park is about 20 miles to the north; Crabtree Falls about a 10 mile drive in the other direction. There are hiking trails galore, and back roads, and trout streams that sometimes have canoes on them. There is swimming at the nearby Sherando Lake Nat'l Forest campground, and waterfalls with deep pools of refreshing water scattered here and there in the nearby woods.

There is a world of outdoor activities and adventures just outside the door of our beautiful cabin, our club's most special place. Discover it for yourself!



Thanks for your early support of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's effort to establish a specialty A.T. license plate in Virginia!



Because of you, the specialty tags are on the road and are already helping to generate awareness for the A.T. in Virginia. We hope that funds raised through this program will benefit the A.T. long into the future.

But, we're not receiving funds to help the Trail yet. The legislation authorizing the plates requires us to have 1,000 fully paid license plates issued before ATC can begin sharing profits of the specialty plate fee. We're still shy of 1,000.

Can you help us get there?

Here are some suggestions:

E-mail friends and family and let them know about the Virginia A.T. license plate and that it's so easy to sign up!

(Direct them to www.appalachiantrail.org/valicenseplate or the [DMV](#))

We know the license plate is a conversation starter! Next time someone wants to talk trail, be sure to encourage their support of this resource by getting a license plate themselves.

Distribute information about the specialty A.T. license plate through your place of work. Contact Leanna Joyner (ljoyner@appalachiantrail.org) and let her know if you have table space or a bulletin board available to share information with your colleagues.

If you have another vehicle that doesn't have an A.T. tag, consider a switch with your next renewal.

As for the snow along the Trail

The aftermath of the snowstorm will certainly amount to additional work for ATC, our A.T. clubs and volunteers, and agency partners to get the Trail back in shape. Recognizing the work ahead, we offer a great "thank you" in advance to all the volunteers who will contribute thousands of hours to benefit the A.T. in 2010. Your license plate is one way to show your support for their hard work since it will help protect the Trail long into the future. Thanks, again!

Happy Trails,

Leanna Joyner

Mailing Address:

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
PO Box 807
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807
US

Activities Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: Most hikes are limited in the number of participants. The hike leader will take reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. You can include your name on the sign up sheets available at each meeting or call the hike leader. If you sign up for an activity and then decide not to participate, please contact the leader in advance.

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| February 2, 2010 Tuesday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members. |
| February 6, 2010 Saturday | Rosanne Scott, Bill Rogers, Milton Beale 763-0859 | Low Impact Camping and Hiking Workshop - Time and location: First Landing State Park Visitor Center, 9:30AM – 3:30PM. This one-day workshop will explore ways in which we can minimize our impact on the world around us, and increase the enjoyment of the experience while camping and hiking. The class will consist of a mix of classroom instruction and hands-on practice. This is a great introduction for those new to hiking and camping and an informative addition for the more experienced outdoor enthusiast. Participants should bring a bag lunch and should dress with regard to the weather, as the hands-on portion of the class will be conducted outside. The workshop is FREE, but pre-registration is required since space is limited. To register, please email your name and phone number to Education@tidewateratc.com or call 763-0859. |
| February 10, 2010 Wednesday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Program: Presentation on Alaska by Richard Tarr (Part I). |
| February 14, 2010 Sunday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | THE Chocolate Hike - Annual hike of the 5-mile Noland Trail around the lake near the Mariners Museum and PFAC in Newport News at the south end of J. Clyde Morris Blvd. Take your Valentine for a walk in the woods, and take your chocolate treat to enter into competition for the winning recipe to be determined by our impartial judge. Whether or not you present an entry, expect to be sampling some of the chocolate-related goodies available in this tournament of treats, this marathon of morsels, this ultimate contest of confections. Lunch afterwards for those who have to temper their chocolate with something else. Meet at the Mariners Museum parking lot at 10:30AM. |
| February 27, 2010 Saturday | Jim & Chris Sexton 484-2827 | False Cape State Park TerraGator Ride and Hike - Get a ride on the ultimate swamp- and beach-buggy, the TerraGator. This trip is by reservation only, and limited to 28. Meet by 12:45PM at Little Island City Park in Virginia Beach. The transporter LEAVES Little Island City Park in Sandbridge at 1:00PM and returns there at 5:00PM, with a 45 minute ride each way on the beach. Get in some strenuous hiking on soft sand. See some of the wildlife and environment in this quiet and beautiful state park. Bundle up for cool beach winds, and bring ear plugs for the ride. Call Jim or Chris to make your reservation.. |
| March 2, 2010 Tuesday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members. |
| March 10, 2010 Wednesday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Program: Installation of new Board of Directors/Officers and affirmation of proposed TATC Budget Also: Presentation on Alaska by Richard Tarr (Part II). |

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Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 10)

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| March 28, 2010 Sunday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | New Quarter Trail Maintenance - Meet at 9:30AM at the inner parking lot for a morning of light maintenance. Bring gloves, comfortable footwear, water and snacks. Tools will be provided. Possibility of lunch afterwards, courtesy of Appomattox Canoe and Kayak, featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue, condiments, and drinks under a shelter as part of "New Quarter Park's Cabin Fever Sunday." You could take a big dish to share with the group: chips, beans, pasta salad, veggie tray, deserts, etc. Kiosks will be manned by other outdoor activities and businesses 10:00AM to 1:00PM. Come to explore other groups' offerings. For more info, check out: < http://www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=4626 >. |
| April 6, 2010 Tuesday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Open to all members. |
| April 10, 2010 Saturday | Bill Buck 989-1928 | First Landing State Park Maintenance - Meet at the parking lot of the Visitors' Center off Shore Drive for some light maintenance on the Osmanthus Trail. Bring gloves, water, and a snack. Tools will be provided. Share some walking and talking, and maybe a little trimming with your fellow members for some helping out on our local trails. Possible lunch out afterwards. |
| April 14, 2010 Wednesday | Phyllis Neumann 566-4584 | TATC General Meeting - 7:00PM at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave., Norfolk. Program: New Zealand Highlights by Steve Ralph. |
| April 16-18, 2010 Friday-Sunday | Scott Hilton 625-6052 | Spring Walk-Through - Here's your chance to get a look at our section of the AT and assess a winter's wear on the trail. You can get an idea of what we will work on later in May on the Spring Maintenance Weekend. Share some trail time with your friends on the AT somewhere between Reeds Gap and the Tye River as the spring's earliest growth is revealed. |
| April 23-25, 2010 Friday-Sunday | Steve Babor 588-7501 | TATC Cabin Maintenance Weekend Qualify for a cabin rental on your own by participating in a cabin maintenance weekend. Provide some elbow grease for making the cabin ship-shape for the Spring-Summer. Share some camaraderie with other cabin maintainers: bunk inside or tent outside. Inside bunks limited. Call Steve for more info. |



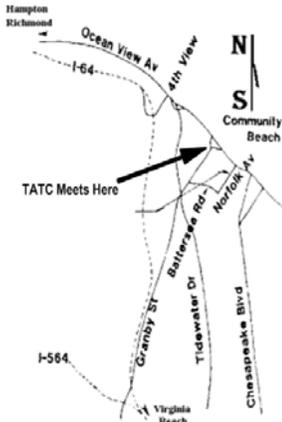
Hikes and Activities. Please call Hikemaster Mark Connolly 623-0764 to leave a message or e-mail at Hikemaster@TidewaterATC.com with all hike and activities information to be included in this listing. If you e-mail them, be sure to identify yourself by full name and that this is a TATC event. Sign-up sheets must be returned to the Hikemaster after the event, and will be saved for a period of several years. You may bring sign-up sheets to the board or general meeting following the event, or mail them to the Hikemaster: Mark Connolly, 1721 LaSalle Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23509

Weekday Activity Group: If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of local hikes, bicycle rides, and paddles taking place during the week (usually on **Tuesdays**) please send e-mail to Ellis Malabad malabad2@gmail.com requesting to be added to the "Tuesday Group" e-mail distribution list.



Tidewater Appalachian
Trail Club
P. O. Box 8246
Norfolk, VA 23503

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TATC Meetings are held at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA

From Peninsula: Take 64 East to 4th View Exit 273. At bottom of ramp, turn left at stop sign, turn right onto Ocean View Ave and follow over Tidewater Drive to Granby St. Take right onto Granby St., take next right onto A View Ave, and then immediately turn right onto Portview Ave., bear right around the Library into the Library parking lot, meeting is held in Meeting Room #2

From Norfolk and Virginia Beach: Take 64 West toward Hampton/Richmond. Take the Chesapeake Blvd. exit. Go to end of Chesapeake Blvd., then turn left onto Ocean View Ave. and take left onto Granby St., take next right onto A View Ave, and then immediately turn right onto Portview Ave., bear right around the Library into the Library parking lot, meeting is held in Meeting Room # 2

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

It's ATPO Volunteer Hours Time Again

It's time for the TATC official Bean Counters to tally the volunteer hours that will qualify you for 2009 Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) Awards.

You can claim credit for the hours you spent in 2009 ...

Leading a club activity such as a hike, a bike ride, or a kayak trip ?, (Tuesday Group activities also count)

Conducting workshops

Working on club committees such as the Biennial Planning Committee, the Nominating Committee, or the Holiday Party Committee (including set-up and clean up)

Leading any other non-trail activity?

Please tally your time and report hours to the timekeepers, John and Jane Oakes, by February 15, 2010 at timekeeper@tidewateratc.com. The report form can be found at [www.tidewateratc.com/Vol Activity Report.doc](http://www.tidewateratc.com/Vol%20Activity%20Report.doc) or off our club's homepage www.tidewateratc.com

*Remember, the Appalachian Trail Park Office created this awards program to recognize and reward all of the work that Volunteers do supporting activities other than trail maintenance. **You don't have to be a hiker or trail maintainer to be appreciated.** Rewards are: a pin for 10 hours of service, a patch for 100 hours of service, a cap for 500 hours of service, and a vest for 1000 hours of service. 2009 hours carry over to 2010 to help you qualify for higher level awards next year.*

Questions? Call John or Jane Oakes at (757) 467-9633 or send e-mail to the timekeeper@tidewateratc.com