Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com

Prez Sez

It is with some melancholy that I arrive at my last Prez Sez. I want to say that as I wind up my second term, that it wouldn't have been as successful without the great assistance of the Officers, Counselors, Committee Chairs, and other Members. The spirit of working together is strong both up and down the line. As we start the new year we have a strong membership base. We have activities covering trail maintenance as well as various other activities such as; backpacking, cycling, kayaking etc.. We have in recent years begun maintenance of the St. Mary's Wilderness trail systems as well as a number of local trail systems. We have become a resource for local groups in designing and building of new trails. All in all, the club is moving forward with a can-do spirit of not only what is possible, but what we should strive for. Again, all of this would not be possible without the support of the entire membership. You are the reason that we are so successful and for that I am thankful...

Mark Wenger (Animal)
TATC President
president @tidewateratc.com

TATC Election Results

The following Club Officers and Club Counselor were elected at the General Membership Meeting, held on January 14, 2009, and will take office at the March General Membership Meeting:

- President Phyllis Neumann
- Vice President Mark Connolly
- Secretary Laura Bontems
- Treasurer Bill Lynn
- Trail Supervisor Scott Hilton
- Assistant Trail Supervisor Bruce Julian
- Counselor Sandy Butler

Rosanne Scott and Jane Oakes will continue to serve out the balance of their three year terms as Counselors.

February 2009 - March 2009

Membership

TIME TO RENEW, TIME TO RENEW

Our membership renewal period is March 1 to April 30. The membership form is included in this newsletter, please mail it to the address indicated on the form. If you have any questions, please contact me at 627-2392 or at my web address:

membership@tidewateratc.com.

New membership cards will be available at the Feb. 11 membership meeting.

Welcome to the following new and returning members: Cindy Halliday, Bruce Davidson, Katrina Rogers, Randy Arends, Judy Doty, Richard & JoAnn McGrew, James & Diane Carson, J.C. & Erin Douglass, Robert & Marian Safford.

Mary Hormell Membership Committee Chair membership@tidewateratc.com

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(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)



Visit our website at www.tidewateratc.com

TATC Club Officers

President	Mark Wenger president@tidewateratc.com	253-0056
Vice Pres.	Phyllis Neumann vicepres@tidewateratc.com	566-4584
Secretary	Laura Bontems secretary@tidewateratc.com	425-1156
Treasurer	Bill Lynn treasurer@tidewateratc.com	867-6753
Trail Supervisor	Scott Hilton trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com	625-6052
Assistant T.S.	Bruce Julian assistantts@tidewateratc.com	484-0975
	Counselors	
	Rosanne Scott counselor@tidewateratc.com	583-5960
	Jane Oakes counselor@tidewateratc.com	467-9633
	Dan Cheche counselor@tidewateratc.com	497-0666
	Committee Chair	
Cabin	Steve Babor cabin@tidewateratc.com	588-7501
Cabin (Rentals)	Bob Adkisson cabin@tidewateratc.com	627-5514
Calendar	Jane Martin calendar@tidewateratc.com	363-8464
Education	Bill Rogers education@tidewateratc.com	484-6001
Historical	Bob Adkisson historical@tidewateratc.com	627-5514
Local Trails	Jim & Chris Sexton localtrails@tidewateratc.com	484-2827
Land Mgt.	Bob Giffin landmgt@tidewateratc.com	495-7002
Membership	Mary Hormell membership@tidewateratc.com	627-2392
Newsletter	Jim Sexton newsletter@tidewateratc.com	484-2827
Programs	Kevin DuBois programs@tidewateratc.com	621-2564
Outreach	open position	
Social	Nancy Babor social@tidewateratc.com	588-7501
Timekeeper	Steve Babor timekeeper@tidewateratc.com	588-7501
Merchandise	merchandise@tidewateratc.com	n/a
Web Master	Jim Sexton webmaster@tidewateratc.com	484-2827
	ATC RPC	
	Ned Kuhns rpcrep@tidewateratc.com	552-0292
	Bob Giffin rpcrep@tidewateratc.com	495-7002



2009 Trail and Cabin Maintenance Trips, Classes, and Events

Data	Cita	Contact
Date:	Site:	Contact:
April 17 th - 19th, 2009	Spring Walk-Through	Scott Hilton 625-6052
May 15 th - 17 th , 2009	Spring Maintenance & Family Campout	Scott Hilton 625-6052
July 2 nd - 6 th , 2009	Konnarock Project	Scott Hilton 625-6052
July 9 th - 13 th , 2009	Konnarock Project	Scott Hilton 625-6052
October 16 th - 18 ^{th,} 2009	Fall Maintenance & Family Campout	Scott Hilton 625-6052
Local Maintenance Trips		
Date:	Site:	Contact:
March 14 th , 2009	Sandy Bottom Nature Park Maintenance	Pat Parker, 851-9252
March 23 rd – 26 th , 2009	False Cape State Park Maintenance	Bruce Julian, 484-0975
March 29 th , 2009	New Quarter Park Maintenance	Phyllis Neumann, 566-4584
ТВА	Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge	Steve Babor, 588-7501
April 18 th , 2009	First Landing State Park (FLSP) Maintenance	Chris Sexton, 484-2827
June 20 th , 2009	First Landing State Park (FLSP) Maintenance	Jim & Chris Sexton, 484-282
September 12 th , 2009	First Landing State Park (FLSP) Maintenance	Jim & Chris Sexton, 484-282
September 26 th , 2009	Sandy Bottom Nature Park Maintenance	Pat Parker, 851-9252
November 1 st , 2009	Merchants Millpond Maintenance	Bill Lynn, 867-6753
November 21 st , 2009	First Landing State Park (FLSP) Maintenance	Jim & Chris Sexton, 484-282
Cabin Maintenance Trips		
Date:	Site:	Contact:
May 1 st – 2 nd , 2009	TATC Cabin	Steve Babor, 588-7501
June 26 th - 28th, 2009	TATC Cabin	Steve Babor, 588-7501
September 18 th - 20 th , 2009	TATC Cabin	Steve Babor, 588-7501
November 6 th - 8 th , 2009	TATC Cabin	Steve Babor, 588-7501
Other Events		
Date:	Site:	Contact:
March 21 st – 23 rd , 2009	Chainsaw Certification Class	Scott Hilton 625-6052
March 29 th , 2009	Cabin Fever Multi-Club Event – New Quarter Park	Jim & Chris Sexton, 484-282
April 3 rd - 5 ^{th,} 2009	ATC Southern Partnership Committee Meeting	Ned Kuhns, 552-0292
May 1st – 2 nd , 2009	Crosscut Saw Certification Class	Scott Hilton 625-6052
July 17 th - 24 th , 2009	ATC Biennial Conference in Vermont	Ned Kuhns, 552-0292

Fisherman Island NWR Tours

By Reese Lukei

Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge is only open to the public on Saturdays from October through March, and visitors must sign up for tours in advance. The refuge is closed the rest of the year because of nesting birds. Tours are usually led by volunteers. All individuals and groups must register by phone at 757-331-2760. The tours begin at the Visitor Center for Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR add begin at 9:00am and last 2 to 3 hours. Tour limit is 25 people. Because parking is limited, visitors will be asked to carpool to the entrance and the Refuge pays the Bridge-Tunnel toll to FI.

Allegheny Passage/C&O Canal Bike Trip

By Rick Hancock

Early October found us intently viewing the Weather Channel for reports concerning the big Nor'easter. We (Wayne and Mary Lou Mortimer, Richard Tarr, and I, Rick Hancock) had planned a 125 mile ride along the Allegheny Passage Rail Trail/C&O Canal Towpath. The skies opened and the rains indeed came down, and kept coming for 3 days! We rescheduled and Oct. 16th found us heading for the Trailhead in Meyersdale, Pa. After a long ride in my truck we arrived in Meyersdale, billed as the "Sweetest Little Town" due to it's Maple Syrup industry, in the cold rainy dark. That's when the fun began! Our lodging was in the towns Community Center, \$15.00 for a bunk and shower, the only problem was it was closed in preparation for a Halloween Haunted House. After scanning the Trail Guide, we realized our choices for accommodations were slim and almost none. A ride back to the Interstate was about 30 miles and the thought of all 4 of us sleeping in the truck was a very real possibility. We found one place, Dungees, and called, the man stated "I've got good news and bad news, we have 8 rooms and 8 beds, but all 8 are taken." We rode by the place and found it to be 20 feet long by about 12 feet wide with 4 rooms up and 4 down. Not sure if you'd want to stay in a place with the word Dung in it anyway. About that time my phone rang and a grizzled old voice shouted in my ear "You the one lookin' for a room?" We were, and within minutes we were all ensconced in our very own private rooms complete with, in the words of Mr. Darling "A bed and a bible." Andy Griffith fans will know who Mr. Darling is. After a good nights sleep (I'm leaving out some of the details here get with me for the facts) We ate at a small coffee shop called the G.I. Day Room. Everyone in the place was dressed for cold weather hunting and we walked in wearing spandex bike clothing, we sat down and ate a wonderful breakfast while the waitress kept calling us "you'se guys." They talk kind of funny up there North of the Mason Dixon Line.

Our ride began and while the trail climbed up to 2392 feet we cruised along at 9/11 miles per hour thanks to the gentle rail grade that never exceeded 1.5 %. In short order we reached the crest of the Eastern Continental Divide and rolled down to the 3294 ft. long Big Savage Tunnel. This whole area was very scenic from the 200 ft tall wind mills along the ridge to the 909 ft Keystone Viaduct, not to mention the peak color change we were treated to one beautiful view after another. We stopped in Frostburg for a Hot Chocolate break and talked to 2 guys who had traveled on bikes through some pretty rough weather. Frostburg is the turn-around point for the Western Maryland Steam Engine Train Ride. At Frostburg the engine is uncoupled and driven onto the turn-table where it is reversed and recoupled to the passenger cars for the return trip. This whole process takes just a few minutes. I have biked this area several times and knew that a train would be heading up the tracks soon. We left and headed for our lunch destination, Cumberland, Maryland along a swift downhill route. I knew that we were approaching the 914 ft Brush Tunnel, (the bike trail shares space with the rail trail, you can reach out and touch the train as it passes, not suggested, but you could do it.) If timed just right, you can enter the tunnel while the train is passing through and the smoke, cinders, and sparks make quite a sight! We choose to be outside. I had talked to a lady back in Frostburg and knew that the train would pass us in about 15 minutes I also knew how many cars and people (a rather large retirement group) was aboard. I knelt down and placed my ear on the track, Indian style. After listening for a moment I stated, "1 engine,9 cars, 500 gray hairs", another listen, "10 minutes." Sure enough, 10 minutes later the engine rounded the bend in a great show of steam, sparks, and loud whistles complete with 9 cars full of gray headed tourist snapping our pictures as we snapped back at them. 32 miles from our starting point we arrived in Cumberland, Md.; the eastern end of the 150 mile Passage Trail and the beginning of the 180 mile C&O Canal. After a visit to Tow Path Visitor Center and an outdoor lunch in the cool Fall air we started on the final 18 mile leg of the days journey. That's when the terrain took a turn. We had enjoyed a smooth pathway for 32 miles but the C&O is known for it's ruts, potholes, and other assorted obstacles, including a lethargic copperhead that we didn't see until the last second. An interesting stop at the gravesite of a Confederate Soldier gave us the chance to rest our butts before continuing to our trailside campsite. Wayne and Mary Lou tented as did Richard, while I setup my tarp along the back fence line. A nice fire broke the chill of the evening and we retired for the night. We did not pick the best spot as there was an area across the Potomac that served as a train storage yard with all night activity.

Anyone who hikes with me knows I rise early, and this group was likeminded. We awoke to temps in the mid 30's with frost on bikes and gear. Other than cold fingertips we were fine and within 10 miles or so we were entering Paw Paw Tunnel. The tunnel was built to avoid 5 miles of twisty terrain called the Paw Paw Bends. 3,118 feet long it took 14 years to complete. There were several altercations between boat captains when they met in the middle and neither would backup. We had no such problem although we did proceed on foot through the tunnel. Along the route we passed numerous Locks and Lock Tenders Cabins that are still standing as well as various methods of transferring and diverting water. If you ever get the chance you should read about the Canal. It was the wonder of its time allowing boat traffic to travel inland uphill towards the mountains. Elevation gain from Georgetown to Cumberland is 605 feet in 185 miles. The idea of a canal system in America was based on the systems in Europe and was presented to George Washington as early as 1785 by Elkanah Watson. Work was begun in 1828 and took over 22 years to complete. We arrived in Hancock, Maryland after 47 miles of travel. Our lodging for the night was at the rear of the C&O Bike Shop, \$10.00 per person for a bunk and outdoor hot shower. After cleaning up we headed over to Weaver's. Now Weaver's is the kind of place that should be at the end of every long bike or hike, good food/plenty of it! We strolled back to our plush sleeping area (plywood bunks with all the ensolite pads you could stack.)

After breakfast at Weaver's we hit the trail for the last day of our trip. We stopped at Fort Fredrick, a Colonial Era Fort built in the 1755's, then proceeded along a much improved Tow Path. The trail was well graded past Fort Fredrick and we maintained a 10/12 mile per hour pace for the last 12/15 miles of our trip. We continued to encounter Locks and Tenders Cabins along the route as well as historical areas from the Civil War and earlier time periods. We arrived in Williamsport, Maryland and my truck which had been shuttled for us. It was a great trip and I believe that everyone had a grand time, good weather, beautiful views, not too crowded. I am planning another ride along the route next Fall with the addition of one extra 30/40 mile day. I have been on several overnight self contained bike rides but this was the first time traveling more than 45 miles in a day. I learned a lot and am looking forward to my next trip on this jewel of a trail.



Be kind, have fun & do the right thing.



Preparation for a trip is essential, but time to prep can be hard to come by. Before you travel abroad or hike the trail for a couple of days, call your local Blue Ridge shop and schedule an appointment with one of our knowledgeable staff memebers.

- ★Let us outfit you for your international trip
- **★** Take time to be properly fitted for boots
- ★ Need to gear up for that thru-hike? Give us a call.

Hilltop North Shopping Center, VA Beach • 757-422-2201 Marketplace Shoppes, Williamsburg • 757-229-4584

patagonia













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.

February 11, 2009 Wednesday	Mark Wenger 253-0056	TATC General Membership Meeting - 7:00pm at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Program: Roy Hutchinson, "Alone in the Woods". This program is designed to teach children how not to get lost in the woods and what to do if they do get lost
February 14, 2009 Saturday	Phyllis Neumann 757-566-4584	The Chocolate Hike - What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day?! Meander the wooded paths of the Noland Trail at the Mariners Museum in Newport News and rejoice in nature, winter's peace and the many joys of CHOCOLATE!! Grab your sweetheart and your favorite home-made sweet and join in this annual outing. Bring enough goodies to share because this isn't just another walk in the park. This is your chance to compete in the ultimate contest of confections, tournament of treats and marathon of morsels. You think American Idol is big? Well, this is BIG! A team of judges (or maybe just one) will decide on the most deliciously unique confection(s) and fabulous prizes will be awarded. Meet at the Mariners Museum parking lot at 10:30am. Lunch afterwards for the true chocolate warriors.
February 14-16, 2009 Sat-Mon	Steve Babor 588-7501	"No Broken Bones" Cabin Trip - Contact Steve for details.
February 28, 2009, Saturday	Bill Rogers 484-6001	Backpacking Seminar - The first seminar of the year. Come and get yourself and your gear ready for spring hiking and backpacking. Seminar from 9:55 to 4:30 in Norfolk. Call Bill to sign up and get details
March 3, 2009 Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7pm. Pretlow Library 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Open to all members
March 11, 2009 Wednesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC General Membership Meeting - 7:00pm at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Program: 1) Induction of 2009 Board members. 2) Kyle McDonald of Blue Ridge Mt. Sports will talk about packing light. Copies of "Lighten UP" available for purchase.
March 14, 2009 Saturday	Pat Parker 851-9252	Sandy Bottom Nature Park Maintenance - Contact Pat for details.
March 21, 2009 Sat-Sun	Steve Babor 588-7501	Roanoke River Canoe Trip - Contact Steve for details.
March 21-22, 2009	Scott Hilton 625-6052	Chainsaw Certification - Classes to be held at Sherando. Your First Aid/CPR certification must be current. Class space is limited. Contact Scott for details.
March 23-26, 2009 Mon-Thur	Bruce Julian 484-0975	False Cape State Park Maintenance Trip - Contact Bruce for details. Space limited.
March 29, 2009 Sunday		2nd Annual Cabin Fever Sunday - Learn about local outdoor clubs at New Quarter Park. Visit www.meetup.com/newquarterpark
March 29, 2009 Sunday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	New Quarter Park Maintenance - Meet at 9:30am (inner parking lot) for a morning of light maintenance. Bring gloves, comfortable footwear, water and snacks. Tools will be provided. Possibility of lunch afterwards or stay for the multi-club event that New Quarter is also planning for that day. Call Phyllis for details
April 3-5, 2009 Fri-Sun	Ned Kuhns 552-0292	ATC Southern Partnership/Regional VA Partnership Meeting - Meeting of the AT maintaining clubs in the southern region. Business and fun!
April 4-5, 2009 Sat-Sun	Bill Lynn 867-6753	Merchants Millpond Canoe Trip - Contact Bill for details
April 7, 2009 Tuesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC Board of Directors Meeting - 7pm. Pretlow Library 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Open to all members
April 8, 2009 Wednesday	Phyllis Neumann 566-4584	TATC General Membership Meeting - 7:00pm at the Pretlow Library, 111 West Ocean View Ave, Norfolk. Program: Backpacking the Pyrenees with Ned Kuhns.

Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 6 ...)

April 17-19, 2009 Fri-Sun	Scott Hilton 625-6052	Spring Walk Through - A chance to walk our section of the AT and see what's needed for Spring Maintenance. Contact Scott for details.
April 18, 2009 Saturday	Chris Sexton 484-2827	First Landing State Park Maintenance If you've never been to this piece of heaven in the middle of VA Beach-here's your chance! Meet your fellow club members for light maintenance on the trails of this wooded wonderland. Bring gloves, water, snacks and comfortable walking shoes. Tools will be provided. Probably eat lunch out afterwards. Contact Chris for details.

LOOKING AHEAD.....ATC will be offering Chainsaw (March 21-22) and CrossCut Saw (May 1-2) Certification Classes to be held at Sherando. Class size is limited so if you are interested in becoming a certified sawyer please contact Scott Hilton (625-6052) to sign up!

SAVE THIS DATE!!!!! July 17-24, 2009 ATC Biennial Conference - hosted by Vermont's Green Mountain Club to be held at Castleton State College in Castleton, VT. VISIT www.vermont2009.org for more info

<u>Canadian Rockies</u> - Planning for a trip to Banff, Jasper, and Yoho National Parks in Canada in July 2010, contact Jim Sexton at club meetings for more information. We will be staying at Hostels and will mostly be doing day hikes and sightseeing.

Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club. We work closely with our neighbor club in Richmond. Please go to the attached web site for some of their offerings: www.odatc.net

<u>Tidewater Weekday Local Trails Group</u>. If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of late breaking local hikes taking place during the week please send e-mail to Ellis Malabad <u>malabad2@gmail.com</u> requesting to be added to the e-mail distribution list

The <u>TATC/Douglas Lee Putman Memorial Cabin</u> is available for rent. You must be a member and first attend an orientation / work weekend in order to rent. The cabin can be reserved 8 weeks (56 days) in advance.

Please call Bob Adkisson at 627-5514 if you have any questions, or to check on availability / make reservations.

<u>Hikes and Activities</u>. Please call Hikemaster Phyllis Neumann at 566-4584 or e-mail at <u>VicePres@TidewaterATC.com</u> with all hike and activities information. If you e-mail then 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.

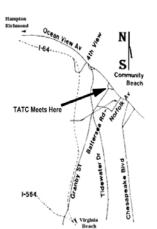


TATC General Membership Meeting Programs 2009

January 14 th	Elections
February 11 th	Alone in the Woods - Roy Hutchinson
March 11 th	Packing Light - Kyle McDonald from Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
April 8 th	Backpacking Trip through the Pyrenees (France) - Ned Kuhns
May 13 th	Alaska - Richard Tarr
June 10 th	Transecting the Dismal Swamp - Susan Gail Avery & Trail Awards
July 8 th	Silent Auction TATC member Debbie Belluci)
August 12 th	Virginia Beach Trails Club - Jenilee Harris Lynnhaven River Waterway Access - Karen Forget or Whit Pease
September 9 th	Photo Contest - Jane Martin .
October 14 th	Hiking Yellowstone - Kevin Du Bois
November 11 th	Trail Awards & 15 Minute Program (TBD)
December 5 th	No General Membership Meeting - Holiday Party

Please contact Kevin DuBois at Programs@tidewateratc.com to arrange for a program...

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

<u>From Peninsula</u>: 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

