

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Appalachian Hiker

www.tidewateratc.com



October 2015 - November 2015

Prez Sez

Fall is now upon us and winter not far behind. Our big fall trail maintenance weekend is front and center as well as the many other local opportunities. With that said I would like to suggest one more opportunity for all members. That is the opportunity to volunteer for TATC. There are so many places your talents could be used. We will soon be putting together a slate of officers and we are looking for members to step up to the plate and take a leadership role. The only real requirement is a desire to help. There are committee positions and service on committees available. We need volunteers to help with the meeting and as you heard we are looking for members to lead an event or function or activity on behalf of the club. I know any of this can seem to be overwhelming but it is not. We who have done this are more than ready to assist and show you the ropes so to speak to give you the support to do a great job the first time. Let me know if there is anything I can do and I do hope I can count on you to be one of the many volunteers we need for TATC. All the best.

Mark Wenger
TATC President
president@tidewateratc.com



Visit our website at
www.tidewateratc.com

TATC CABIN AVAILABLE

For information on the TATC Cabin
contact: Bob Adkisson (757-627-5514)
or (cabin@tidewateratc.com)

(banner photo by Mark Ferguson)

Membership

We are sending out blast e-mails with weekly activities to your e-mail address. If you are not getting them, please check your e-mail address with me. We also use the blast e-mails for changes in meeting dates if there is a problem with the library.

Welcome to the following new and returning members: Chandler Parker, Larry LeMasters, Eric & Amanda Christensen, Katherine Rickerson, Susan Roher, Kristin Dillard, Jay Sanchez, James McCarson, Charles Jenkins, Donna Wooley, Tsvi Katz-Hyman, Brad & Libby Carmines, Brad Peron, and Megan McKinley.

Mary Hormell
Membership Chair
membership@tidewateratc.com

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A Couple of Paragraphs for Trail Maintenance

As you read this, we've either put most of our preparation into planning for our TATC Fall Maintenance Weekend, on October 16-18th, or we're just in the wake of the event. If the weather is nice, we tend to have over 60 members and others go out to Sherando Lake U.S. Forest Service Recreation Area for the weekend. Sherando is about 20 miles south of Waynesboro, VA, and our website, www.tidewateratc.com, has a map to get to Sherando from the Hampton Roads area. It's under the button that reads, "Trail Maintenance." The October 14th TATC General Meeting provides an opportunity to get additional info, or arrange carpooling to Sherando.

At Sherando on October 17th, Saturday morning at 7:40AM, is when we assemble for a safety briefing, splitting up into teams for the various trailheads, picking up the tools assigned to each team, and getting carpooling arranged. Then off to do the work!

In the afternoon, when we've accomplished all that we can, we return to Sherando to prepare for the club-sponsored buffet dinner on Saturday night. This year it was planned to have a Baked Potato Buffet, with all kinds of toppings, from crumpled bacon to minced scallions, to several cheeses, etc. Also a salad. Attendees have been asked to provide some potluck desserts to add additional calories to keep us warm on what sometimes can be a chilly Saturday night out in the tents.

If you've chosen to go, I hope that you will. If you did go, thanks from the membership for your efforts!

Mark Connolly

TATC Trail Supervisor

trailssupervisor@tidewateratc.com



Results of 2015 TATC Photo Contest

- 1st Place: Photographer: Tony Phelps, Photograph of Jones Run Trail to Pinefield Gap (Skyline Drive).
- 2nd Place: Photographer: Bob Atkinson, Photograph of TATC Cabin Sunset from Front Porch (November).
- 3rd Place: Photographer: Malcolm Higgins, Photograph of TATC False Cape State Park Paddle (Rest break w/Bruce Julian).

Anthony Phelps

TATC Calendar Committee

calendar@tidewateratc.com





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For Sale & Wanted

This section represents camping related items where members can sell one-off items or items you purchased in bulk to get a better price, and when they do not need the excess. This is also a section for items you may be looking for (Wanted). This is not to be used as a business-related selling for profit site, etc. When your items no longer need to be posted, then please inform the newsletter editor to remove.

For Sale:

The following items are being sold by Greg 757.636.3877

- * O'Tom Tick Twister. \$5 per pack. (Have 20 new excess). Pull and twist ticks of humans and animals. Search YouTube video.
- * LuminAID Solar-Powered Inflatable Light. \$15 (Have 3 new excess).
- * See thru aluminum foil pouches 5 3/4 wide x 7 3/4 high. These pouches can be used just like the "Mountain House" freeze dried meals only you can make your own! I have a lot of excess. .30 cents each.
- * MSR Nano Packtowel - Small, blue. Brand New. \$8.00
- * Exped Synmat 7MW Sleeping Mat 26 x 72 x 2.5. R 4.9. 35.6 oz. Excellent Condition. \$125
- * Exped Downmat 9 LW Sleeping Mat 25.6 x 77.6 x 2.8 R5.9 38.8 oz. Excellent Condition. \$230
- * Thermarest Neoair Xtherm Max Sleeping Mat. 20 x 72 x 2.5 R 5.7 17 oz. Excellent Condition. \$170
- * The North Face Green Kazoo Sleeping Bag - Mens Regular. 600+ FP. Eastern European Goose Down Fill. 15 Degrees. Excellent Condition. \$220
- * Outdoor Research Airpurge Compression Sack - 10L. Rugged and waterproof. Excellent Condition. \$25
- * Sea to Summit Event Compression Dry Sack - Large/20L. Waterproof storage. Excellent Condition. \$30

Wanted:

(Send your 'For Sale' or 'Wanted' items to the newsletter@tidewateratc.com for inclusion in the next newsletter)

Guide to Suffolk Walking Trails

Bill Rogers

Suffolk Parks and Recreation, Suffolk Partnership for a Healthy Community, and Obici Healthcare Foundation, have teamed to develop and publish a handsome, color, twelve-page 'Guide to Suffolk Walking Trails.' It lists sixteen walking sites within Suffolk's boundaries.

Not including the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the longest included trail is 2-miles out and 2-miles back. This makes the guide suitable for those residents desiring a short walk within easy reach, but not in their own neighborhoods.

The guide is posted on line at: (1) <http://www.suffolkva.us/parks/parks> located as a link towards the bottom of this web page; (2) and at <http://suffolkpartnership.com/suffolk-walking-trails/>.

Suffolk Parks & Recreation was nice enough to send me a .pdf copy of the guide which I'll be glad to e-mail to anyone requesting it. E-mail education@tidewateratc.com with the subject SUFFOLK WALKING GUIDE.

According to the local newspaper copies are available at: Suffolk recreation centers-libraries- parks; the Suffolk Art Gallery; the Suffolk Seaboard Station Railroad Museum; City Hall, Suffolk Visitor Center; Health and Human Services Center building; and the Hilton Garden Inn.

Whether in Suffolk or elsewhere, get those legs going and take, or lead, a nice walk or hike, or other activity.

No Harm, No Foul

By Bob Adkisson

Two short stories about human / animal interactions in this overcrowded, crazy world:

Along the lower Colorado River, maybe 50 miles or so below Hoover Dam, the canyon country is stark, rocky desert, blazing hot in the summer and near about tolerable in the winter. Some of the river, which forms the boundary between either Nevada or California (on the west side), and Arizona (on the east), is administered by the National Park Service; there are a few campgrounds, boat ramps, and ranger stations scattered here and there along the protected section of river.

One summer day a man burst into one of the ranger stations and excitedly told how he and a friend had just been in their boat on the river, fishing, when they noticed another boat come drifting around a bend towards them, a boat with no one in it. They grabbed hold of the boat, noticed fishing rods, a cooler, and lots of assorted, abandoned gear scattered all about inside of it. They also noted, with alarm, a 3 or 4 foot long rattlesnake coiled up at the back of the boat, shaking its rattle and full of menace.

They towed the boat behind them, back down the river a few miles to the nearest ramp, then one of them had run up to tell the ranger. "What do you suppose happened to the people in the boat, ranger? How do you think that rattlesnake got in there anyway?"

Having seen this before, the ranger had a pretty good idea what had happened. He grabbed his hat, got another ranger to come along with him, and they followed the man back down to the ramp. With a long, special snake handling pole, they carefully removed the agitated snake, carried it a 100 yards out into the brush and released it, unharmed and no worse for the experience.

They did a quick survey of the deserted vessel, then, making sure it was secure on shore, thanked the two fishermen and took off upriver in their Park Service motorboat. About half an hour and several miles upstream they rounded a bend in the desert river, and found what they were looking for-- three men sitting on the steep, rocky shoreline, their clothes long dried by the baking sun.

They rescued the men from their stony perch and headed back downriver to the ramp and their boat. On the way, they got the story:

The men had been enjoying a day of fishing on the river when they noticed what appeared to be a dead rattlesnake floating near their boat. It was as stiff and lifeless as a metal rod when they poked at it with their fishing poles. They decided to take it on board—one of them said he'd carry it home, keep the skin and rattle as souvenirs. They laid it in the back of the boat and forgot all about it.

But..... the snake wasn't dead, not really.

The ranger had responded to similar situations and knew that sometimes snakes fell into the ice cold water that flowed out of the base of Hoover Dam (the water is draw from near the bottom of Lake Mead). The water almost instantly shocks the cold blooded snakes into a kind of coma or stasis. The three fisherman had assumed the snake was dead, not knowing that, after about half an hour lying in the sun at the back of their boat, it would recover, would be magically resurrected.

And, when it did, when they heard it suddenly rattling at them from just a few feet away in the confines of that small boat, they knew what course to take and didn't hesitate—leaving everything behind, all three dove overboard and swam for their lives.

That was one snake that wasn't having any part of hanging on someone's wall as an ornament or trophy. Those were three men who, at least for a moment, saw the light, the error of their ways.

Late one summer night in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountain area a woman pulled into her driveway, too tired to check-- as she usually did-- for wandering animals that sometimes roamed the neighborhood of her half deserted housing development (there were many rental units, most occupied less than half the year). The area was surrounded by state game land and occasionally she'd seen deer, smaller animals like skunks or porcupines, even bears alongside (or crossing) the unlighted streets, or wandering through her yard. Often too, some of the local dogs would be out, running free.

She opened the car door and put her left leg out; with her right arm she reached into the passenger's seat for her purse and a small box with some pizza. She immediately felt her neighbors large, friendly dog come up and push its warm, wet nose against her leg. Distracted, without looking, she used her left hand to push it away.

As tired as she was, she quickly realized the fur of this animal didn't feel like that of her neighbor's dog. Pushed away once, the 'dog' immediately was back, its head now wedged between her and the steering wheel—it was definitely smelling, and wanting, the box with the leftover pizza in it. And it wasn't a dog, she now realized, but a yearling black bear, climbing part way up into the car and halfway across her lap.

She was only too glad to let the young bear have the pizza—it gently pulled the box from her unresisting right hand. Without panic or hurry, the bear carefully eased back out of the car, carried its prize about 30 yards away to a sheltered spot beneath a tree, and chowed down with a happy 'whoof'.

The woman quietly exited the car, went up the sidewalk to the front door of her house. She was amazed that, before she knew what it was, she had pushed the bear away, pushed its face away with her hand, and it hadn't reacted in any negative or aggressive way—it had simply, gently come forward again to get the food it smelled, never growling or clawing or injuring her in the least.

The loss of the pizza was a minor thing—she had gained so much in exchange!

In the following weeks she noticed that the bear would drag towels and other yard items from her neighbor's yards, play with them, and leave them under the same tree where it'd enjoyed her pizza. She went out and bought a stuffed teddy bear and left it beneath the tree, a play thing for the real bear.

[The first story was from a book titled, HEY, RANGER, a series of true anecdotes written by National Park rangers. The second story is from a book called, BEAR ENCOUNTERS, a series of short, first-hand accounts and experiences gathered from all over the United States (the stories were sent to and collected by bear researcher Dr. Lynn Rogers at the North American Bear Center in Minnesota)]

Second Three Day Paddle Trip

August 21, 22 & 23, 2015

By Bruce Julian

About two months ago, I was asked to do another overnight paddle to False Cape State Park, paddling on Back Bay. I had finished one such trip on the first weekend of June, and that was all I had planned to do for this year. After 3 or 4 people started asking me why not have another one this year? We put an additional trip out in the Activity Schedule, and within one week; we had 17 people that wanted to fight the wind and waves of Back Bay's waters, and fight we did! We would not have our cook on this trip, because he was on vacation and wasn't sure when he would return. So, I took on the task of figuring out how much 17 people would eat in 3 days, and what to buy that everyone would eat. It's not easy, with 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches that we would eat while out paddling, and two evening meals. Me, not being a cook took the simple way out, and had hot dogs and cheese burgers for the evening meals and bagels, cinnamon buns and fruit for breakfast, with ham, turkey, cheese and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for lunch (not altogether of course). This worked out pretty well for everyone, mainly for me, because everyone was use to having steak & baked chicken and pancakes, eggs and bacon, but everyone said that the food was good, and we had plenty to go around; so nobody went hungry.

I told everyone to meet at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, but on Wednesday the forecast for Friday was Rain and Thunder Storms around 3:00 P.M.. I called everyone to see if they could meet at 11:00 A.M. and we would try and beat the rain. Well, we did because there was no rain or thunder storms for the 3 days that we spent paddling the waters of Back Bay. Wind, now that was another story, it started blowing right before we got to Little Island City Park on Friday, and was still blowing on Sunday as we pulled our boats out of the water. I won't say who by name, but we had 5 different kayaks turn over because of the wind. This was my fourth trip and we have never had any boats turn over, but on Friday two went over and on Sunday three went over along with one broken Paddle, and it was a high dollar paddle.

On the way down on Friday, the wind was behind us as we paddled out from the Put-in. I wanted to go down the Westside of Long Islands, and this plan started out well, until about half-way across Shippo Bay, when the winds picked up a few knots with 3 or 4 foot waves. We all made it safely to the lagoon, with calmer waters, but this is where we had our first 2 boats go over. When paddling in Back Bay, if you turn over your boat, the best thing to do is stand up because most of the water that we paddle in is only between 1 to 4 feet deep. Nobody was hurt, except for their pride, and we righted their boats and pumped out the water, and were off again. We had a park truck take all our food and gear down for us so we had very little in our boats to get wet.

Reaching Barbour Hill, in False Cape State Park, we pulled our boats up onto the sandy beach and had our lunch. Some had trouble, getting out of their kayaks with the wind, but others enjoyed the roughness of the bay, and had a great time playing in it. We stayed at this location almost an hour, and then got back into our boats; we then headed for Wash Woods and the Environmental Education Center, where we would be staying for two nights. Dottie, who had agreed to ride in the truck with our food and gear, and help the park person to unload everything, was super. She not only unloaded, she put everything in the refrigerator, put cold bottles of water and drinks in coolers and iced them down and made two dishes of brownies to eat Friday and Saturday. This is not an easy task because the kitchen is on the second floor and this is where the food and drink for 17 people needed to be stored. She was out in the yard as we approached the EEC Building from the north, and we were all glad to be there after a 10 mile plus paddle. Around 6:30 P.M. we had our hot dogs, and after cleaning up, 14 of the group went for a hike out to the beach, and they didn't get back until about 9:30 P.M. After all of the fun that we had on this beautiful day, we turned in and slept very well.

Up at 6:00 A.M., the next morning, we had our breakfast and talked about the weather and the strong winds that were forecast for the day. After long discussions, some decided to hang around the EEC Building and forgo the 14 mile paddle that I had planned for the group. Out of the 17 we only had 7 hardy kayakers to take up the challenge of the 15 to 20 M.P.H. winds and paddle with me to Carova. Leaving the sheltered water behind the Boathouse, we started across the Bay heading southwest. It was a long quarter of a mile with the north wind blowing from our right side, but we all made it within 20 minutes to calmer waters on Deal Creek. Protected by Big Bald Island and Horse Island, we had an easier paddle for almost 2 miles. As we crossed the State Line, Deals Creek opened up to a very large body of water and we had the north winds against us once again. Here at Mann's Island, we had our first out of boat break and we talked about what we should do, go back or go on, everyone said go on. From here the Creek got smaller and the wind didn't blow as hard and it wasn't long before we reached Knott's Island Bay. As we broke out into the Bay we saw five Wild Ponies eating the Marsh Grass, and we paddled over to them and took pictures. Paddling about 1 mile further we reached the first of many canals going up into Carova and to the Fire Station. We left our kayaks here and headed down Ocean Pearl Rd. to Ernie Bowden's house where we decided to have our lunch out on his deck. We found Ernie out in his garden tending his tomato plants, not a hard job for most people but Ernie is 90 years old and he worried about them dying because of the lack of rain. We all climbed his steps to the deck as he sat down in his chairlift and road up. He had told me earlier that the chairlift had been donated to him from a group there in Carova along with a basket that is electric and can bring his heavy loads up and down. This makes life a lot easier for him. After an hour of eating and listening to him, we decided it was time to leave and head to the Fire House for, you guess it, ice cream. No one was interested in walking to the beach so with the ice cream eaten at the station; and we then headed back to our boats, thinking of the 7 mile paddle back against the strong north wind as we paddled out into the bay.

The trip back was full of surprises, yes the wind was still blowing, but that's not one of the surprises. We headed up the canals, south, then west, then north, and finely west again. Now we were back in Knott's Island Bay and turned north with about 15 M.P.H. winds in our faces. The first surprise, was that the ponies that we had seen on the trip down, were out in the Bay walking around and some of us got up close to take more pictures. After about 30 minutes we were back in the small creeks and sheltered from that endless wind, that never seemed to stop blowing. As we reached the State Line and Deal Creek, two of us were out front when we saw something big and black crossing the creek.

(Continued on Page 8 ...)

(Continued from Page 7...)

We started paddling faster trying to see what it was. At first we thought it could be a Black Bear heading back towards the Great Dismal Swamp, but it turned out to be a 250 to 275 pound boar hog. With feet as small as a pig's are, I would have never believed that he could swim as fast as he did. We were able to reach him just about 10 second before he jumped into the tall grasses on Horse Island, with no time for any pictures. The rest of the group then paddled up to us within a few minutes, and we told them of the big hog that we had seen swimming over 100 yards across the creek, and then disappearing into the grasses. We were only about two miles from the EEC Building, and knowing that we had to cross over the open water in the bay with about 20 M.P.H. winds; no one was looking forward to it. With the EEC Building in sight we paddled into the wind and were there in a matter of minutes. We all rested and told the ones that had stayed back of all that had happened to us on this great paddle, and they too told us of their day. The nine who had stayed back, said that they did go on a short paddle along the bay staying close to the Marsh, down to Big Bald Island and up a short creek and then paddled back. They also went on a hike to the Church and Graveyard Site and some even hiked out to the beach and looked for shells. Around 6:00 P.M. we started cooking our hamburger and cheese burgers on the grill outside, and boy they were good after a long day of paddling. We all turned in early, hoping the next morning that the wind would not be quite as strong as it had been for the last two days.

The last morning came, and the wind was down just a little, but still blowing from the north. After our breakfast, we started cleaning the building and packing our gear to be ready for the park truck to take our gear out along with Dottie and her Kayak. We paddled along the shoreline all the way to Barbour Hill where we stopped for a break and some ate their lunch while others held back so that we could go to Pungo Pizza & Ice Cream Parlor for ours. The paddle was slow, but we all stayed together and finished the trip as we had started two days earlier. The wind had blown the water out, and for the second time we had to walk our boats in for the last 100 feet. Dottie was waiting at the parking lot with cold drinks and watermelon and everyone enjoyed that greatly. Everyone had lots of fun on another great paddle. Eight decided to head to the Pizza Parlor after everyone loaded their boats, and we all said goodbye to one another. Thanks to all that made this trip memorable in one way or another. Thanks to Margaret, Jane, Gayle, Melissa, Christine M., Christine W., Faye and for Dottie for her extra work that helped us all. I can't leave out the guys: Thanks to Mark, Richard, Aubrey, Buck, Bruce D., John, and to Frank and Bob for cooking the hotdogs and hamburgers on the grill.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy Launches Redesigned Website

Harpers Ferry, W.Va. (Sept. 23, 2015) – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has launched a redesigned version of its website, www.appalachiantrail.org. Key features of the site include a cleaner and more attractive design with fresh photo and video content and updated information that helps individuals explore the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and prepare for hikes of any length along its 2,190 miles.

The redesigned site presents information about the Trail in a simple yet inspirational way, allowing both novice and advanced hikers to responsibly prepare for any type of adventure on the A.T. Users will find not only basic information on hiking and Leave No Trace principles, but also a breakdown of what it is like to experience the A.T. as a day hiker, as someone who is hiking for multiple days at a time, or as someone who chooses to walk the entire length of the Trail at one time. An interactive map of the Trail is also available for people to peruse, giving shelter locations, parking options, and more. The site also highlights each of the 14 states that the Trail passes through, presenting a mileage overview, an elevation profile, fun facts and an image gallery.

"Providing people with the necessary tools that allow them to enjoy their hikes is a critical component of the redesigned site," said Javier Folgar, the ATC's director of Marketing and Communications. "In addition, it is vital that hikers are well prepared and understand the importance of correct Trail ethics."

The redesigned site represents the ATC, but it also highlights the A.T. community as a whole. Real-time photos from the Trail are streamed to the site when social media users utilize the hashtag #AT2015, allowing the site to be an immersive experience. The website also highlights the ATC's official blog, the latest news from the Trail, and the events that take place in the Trail communities from Georgia to Maine.

There are numerous ways for visitors to give back to the Trail in the form of donations, volunteer opportunities, and an online store that contributes all proceeds to the A.T., and the redesigned site streamlines the process of giving. With the recent release of the film "A Walk in the Woods," and the expected increase of Trail users, contributions are even more critical at this time.

"In order to increase awareness about the challenges the Appalachian Trail faces, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy recognizes the need to modernize," said Folgar. "The redesigned website is easy for all to use and will generate greater interest in the Appalachian Trail and the work the Appalachian Trail Conservancy does to keep the Trail in exceptional condition."

About the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The ATC was founded in 1925 by volunteers and federal officials working to build a continuous footpath along the Appalachian Mountains. A unit of the National Park System, the A.T. ranges from Maine to Georgia and is approximately 2,190 miles in length. It is the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. The mission of the ATC is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come. For more information, please visit www.appalachiantrail.org.

Contact: Javier Folgar

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Tel: 304.885.0481

Email: jfolgar@appalachiantrail.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ATHike

FYI: Rerouted Trail, Realigned Road

(Be Aware & Be Warned!)

By Bob Adkisson

The Long Creek Trail is one of the longest, most scenic, and varied trails in First Landing State Park, and it is a great trail to take if you want to make a big loop hike.

On a walk there a few months ago I discovered that, in two places, the trail had been re-routed. The re-routed sections occur where each end of the paralleling Osprey Trail join it.

The eastern end of the Long Creek Trail starts directly from 64th street, about half a mile inside the park. The first bit of the trail stays fairly low and appears to be following a very old dirt roadway. It used to be that, just after you passed the Osprey Trail (which forks off to the left), the Long Creek Trail was especially low lying and prone to flooding; after a rain there would be trail-wide mud puddles that could be ankle deep and all but impossible to avoid. This went on for a hundred yard or more, and, with the edges of the trail full of thick underbrush and briars, it wasn't a very pleasant section to try and walk.

Now over 300 yards of the trail have been moved northward, to run along the side or top of a line of small, forested sand dunes. The new route is more open, will never flood, and is a much better choice for a trail. The re-route effectively moves / changes the location of the junction of The Long Creek Trail and the Osprey Trail-- the junction is now about 150 yards east of where it used to be.

The old section of the Long Creek Trail is now abandoned and closed off; soon you won't even know it was there.

The other re-route is just over a mile farther to the west, where the west end of the Osprey Trail joins with the Long Creek Trail atop a high dune, with Broad Bay just visible to the left side and White Hill Lake more or less out of sight to the right. Before the change, at the point of the old junction, the Osprey Trail descended very steeply down a sandy slope to the foot of the big dune next to Broad Bay; several 2 x 10 boards stand on edge across the trail, forming steps or erosion check dams. This short, overly steep section was eroded by years of use, had turned into a gully of sorts, and again a re-route was much needed.

Now the junction of these two trails has been moved about 150 yards farther to the east along the route of the Long Creek Trail, and the Osprey Trail takes a gradual, side-hill path down to the bottom of the big dune. This new section of trail is much nicer, and maybe three times the distance of the older, steeper route.

Both of the new trail junctions are well signed and there is no question which trail is which.

All in all, the Osprey Trail is now maybe 2/10's of a mile longer than it used to be, because of the re-routes at each end of it (on the eastern end, what used to be part of the Long Creek Trail is now, presto-chango, part of the Osprey Trail). The Long Creek Trail is maybe 50 yards longer now-- simply because it isn't following the straight section of low roadway anymore, but winds along the sides of the line of dunes, just north of its former route.

Many people who've hiked these two trails in the past might hike them today and not notice any change at all, especially since the old routes have had tree limbs thrown across them to block further use and to make them look like they never existed. This is not the case with the 2nd part of this article: the case of the re-aligned road.....

For all TATC members who use Interstate 64 to get from Tidewater up to the Blue Ridge Mountains-- and that is just about all of us, just about all of the time--there is a fairly new, fairly short, but out-of-this-world extraordinary section of road that I think everyone should be made aware of and warned about. It is confounding and confusing and counter-intuitive; there is nothing like it that I know of, anywhere, and it could cause people using it for the first time, especially at night or in marginal conditions, to have an accident. Maybe you've already encountered it. I have been on it twice and still can't adequately describe it.

It is located between Richmond and Charlottesville and is called the Zion's Crossroads interchange, or, more simply, exit 136. The interchange is actually much closer to Charlottesville than Richmond, and the area around it has grown up and been developed extensively in the last dozen years or so. This exit is one of the few between Richmond and Charlottesville that has any services close to the Interstate-- gas, food, restrooms, groceries, even motels. Route 15, formerly a 2 lane state road running north to south, has now been widened to at least 4 lanes there where it crosses over Interstate 64 (I was too confounded to count the number of lanes—it could now be as many as 8 lanes wide on top of the overpass).

For years now there have been several fast food restaurants / convenience stores / gas stations, and at least one small truck stop, doing business on Route 15 just to the south of the interstate, but a few years ago the land north of it was also developed: a large motel or two appeared, a couple more restaurants went in (including, I believe, an IHOP that is open 24 / 7), a huge Wal-Mart fell from the sky and took root, and at least one extra-large gas station / convenience store came into being. All of this 'development' is within ¼'s of a mile of the interstate. Ten years ago there were no stoplights anywhere near this exit; now there are 3 or 4 within a mile.

(Continued on Page 10 ...)

(Continued from Page 9 ...)

The one-of-a-kind and oddly aligned road situation can be found when (and if) you exit the interstate and turn left onto Route 15-- there on top of the overpass..... I am not sure I can describe it because I have been so busy having my mind blown the two times I've driven it that I don't know exactly what I was seeing or doing-- mostly I was trying to follow the traffic in front of me, stay in my lane, and not freak out or crash. There seems to be 4 distinct and separate lanes of traffic, and at times you are, English-style, driving on the 'wrong' side of the road!

Both times I have navigated the interchange I was east bound on Interstate 64; I got off on the ramp and turned left (north) on Route 15 to get gas from the inexpensive Sheetz gas station about half mile in that direction. At the stoplight at the top of the ramp, when I turned left onto Route 15, I found myself to the far left of the bridge over top of Interstate 64. There was south bound traffic to my right, just like in merry old England, where they drive on the 'wrong' side of the road. If I am not mistaken, to the right of those southbound lanes there were a couple of northbound lanes and then, on the far side of the overpass, a couple more southbound lanes. It sounds confusing and crazy only because it is, but I was too astounded and flummoxed to give it too much attention because, like I said, I was just trying to get thru it in one piece.

At some point, with the help of stoplights, within maybe just 100 yards or so, the 4 lanes of alternating north and south bound traffic somehow join up or sort themselves out to become more or less 'normal' -- 3 or so northbound lanes next to maybe 3 southbound lanes, all on the proper side of the road. I think..... (don't quote me, please).

Don't take my word for it-- check it out for yourself, try to figure it out if you can. Also: flag it in your mind and remember this: there is something unusual about EXIT 136—anytime you exit the Interstate there, especially at night or in rain or when tired, expect the unexpected, don't be surprised if cars are passing you on the 'wrong' side of the roadway!

I wonder who it was that came up with this design? I wonder if it has been the cause of any accidents? I wonder if more sober traffic engineers will go in there one day and completely re-do it all? Stay tuned, and be careful!

Roots and Wings

Greg Seid & Rosanne Cary

It's all hands on deck! Rosanne Cary and Greg have teamed up to spearhead the effort to drive membership and everyone's help is needed. Many who have been with the club for many, many years have given so much to this club and the time has come to raise a new generation to carry the flag.

So how do we get there? The basic concept is for members to do one recurring activity each year. Members can go it alone or team up with a partner. Activities can be a partial day, day, weekend or extended trip. Most folks can easily do a weekend or less so that's where we are asking members to focus their chosen activity. Activities can be as simple as a class on knots to an extended backpacking trip. Each member would decide on an event they can sustain year after year as long as possible.

We want to have this ironed out by the end of February 2016. For transparency and to negate the duplication of effort, there will be an excel spreadsheet on the back table at each club meeting so you can add your activity, update and/or see who is doing what. We'll also include this information in our club newsletter but be sure to close the action by getting your activity information to Juliette who will insure it gets on the club calendar for meetup and our club website as the time draws near.

As far as events go, the sky's the limit. You can search the internet for parks for just about any type activity and go from there. If you've never led an activity then please get with someone who has. It's not as difficult as it might seem. You may choose to start with something easy like a class or an activity in the Hampton Roads area. There will also be a list of suggested activities at each meeting on the back table.

Winchester ATC Biennial Conference: Hiking Through History

By Mal Higgins

About thirty members of TATC traveled to Winchester, Virginia in mid-July 2105 to participate in the biennial Appalachian Trail Conservancy conference, hosted by the Potomac A.T.C. and the Mountain Club of Maryland. The theme this year was "Hiking Through History" and the conference was staged from the campus of Shenandoah University, a liberal arts college with about 4000 students. I was among the thirty TATCers who participated in the conference.

PATC took the active lead in organizing many of the workshops, excursions, hikes, entertainment, and other events throughout the six day event. PATC was saddled with an obnoxious software online registration system called "CVENT", owned by the A.T.C. and first debuted to everyone's torture with the 2011 biennial at Emory & Henry, hosted by TATC and the other six Virginia clubs. It hasn't gotten any better in the intervening four years.

Early PATC notices stated that Shenandoah University was only making available 90 dormitory rooms for what was expected to attract about 950 registrants. Other options included camping and nearby motels which PATC provided links to. Later, apparently, Shenandoah released more rooms, but the die was cast. A cost comparison by some TATCers quickly revealed that the cost of a motel room at Best Western right across the street from the campus was only about \$10.00 more per night, and so many of the attendees opted for that, over the "bring everything you need including all your bedding, waste basket, towels, and fans" un-air conditioned dorm rooms.

Early arriving TATCers kicked off the conference with a celebration of Chris Sexton's birthday the first Friday night in the university dining hall. Jim Sexton arranged for some cake and Jim Newman acted as the concierge for the party. Jim Newman also was TATC's mule who transported and set up the TATC display board with all our photos in the exhibit hall on campus. We owe Jim a debt of gratitude for that chore. Other TATCers volunteered at registration and other venues, and Ned Kuhns let four hikes on the A.T. during the week.

I shared a room with Jim Newman and Bruce Davidson at Best Western, and it worked out quite well with our refrigerator to hold the requisite adult beverages at the end of the day. Each of us did different things, with Jim bringing his bike and taking several bike tours with the PATC hike leaders of civil war battlefields, such as Manassas and Antietam. I opted to hike a lot, and Bruce and I often were on the same hikes. I did my first hike the first Saturday to the summit of Big Schloss with Bruce; Big Schloss was also hiked to throughout the week by Bob Adkisson and Jim Newman, and no doubt other TATCers too.

A favorite hike to me was a bushwhack through the woods near Harpers Ferry, WVA to pass through an old strip iron mine from the 1800s on our way to locate the earthen beams of Fort Duncan, an earth and wood fortification first controlled by Union soldiers and subsequently surrendered to General Stonewall Jackson in the first year of the Civil War. Our hike leader, Larry Broadwell, a member of PATC and quite the historian of the civil war in that area of Virginia, having just published a book about Civil War hikes, expertly let us up a steep slope to the only remaining signs of the fort: large earth berms to which the artillery guns were rolled to fire down on Harpers Ferry. Now, these earth berms lie in the middle of a forest, but at the time the forest was cleared to allow a full range of fire. Quite somber to experience.

That same hike Larry led us to an old abandoned farm house, near its fields and showing a great deal of decay. As we approached, a large turkey vulture flapped out of the upstairs window, startling the heck out of us. Someone had placed a child's rubber doll in a broken out window, lending an eerie, haunted house kind of feel. Bruce, my son, Matthew, who joined us on that hike, and I later in the day walked up the street in Harpers Ferry to the A.T.C. national headquarters to visit there and discuss the A.T. conference with the desk staff.

In subsequent days I hiked with Ned Kuhns on three days, as he led hikes on the A.T. originating both in Maryland at Pen Mar County Park, and along the famous "roller coaster" stretch of the A.T. north of Snickers Gap. We saw beautiful views, meadows, wild flowers, kudzu overcoming a forest, streams, shelters, and some iconic places, including the Blackburn Trail Center and the Bear's Den Hostel on these hikes. These hikes were classified as "strenuous/restricted" with good reason, as each had lots of elevation gain and with Typhoon Ned, no one dilly dallies. Bruce and Bob joined me on these hikes, which were "key swaps" with another group of hikers moving toward us from the opposite end of the trail.

(Continued from Page 11 ...)

I re-learned a lesson as old as they come on my last hiking day. It began at the Blackburn Trail Center, where within the first 100 yards of hiking the lead hikers kicked a hornets nest (well, they didn't mean to, and it was actually ground bees), so about four of us got stung as we ran down the trail. About an hour later as I hiked along lost in thought and watching my feet on a rocky section of the A.T., I walked head first—wham—into a low hanging branch extending across the trail! I stopped a bit stunned, instantly realizing what I'd done, but waiting for the pain to arrive as I stared at the branch. Got my wish. No real damage done, but Kathleen, a co-leader with Ned, got to justify carrying the first aid kit by applying a bandage to my forehead. The lesson? "Look up from your feet"! At the end of the day, right before reaching the cars we paused at some "cascades" (tiny waterfalls) off the A.T. and many of us stuck our heads under the falls.

The biennial conference was many things to the attendees. I didn't do any workshops but did attend a lecture one evening by a hiker, Matthew Kirk, who holds the speed record of 59 days for an "unsupported" hike of the A.T. (north to south). He was quite humble about it and clearly loved the A.T. and spoke emotionally about his experience then and now. Others from TATC did workshops, explored historic old Winchester, and hung out. Many of us took our meals in the dining room of the campus, which offered very tasty food, lots of it, and provided an opportunity at breakfast and at dinner to socialize with other TATCers as well as folks we knew from prior biennials.

The next ATC biennial will be at Colby College in Maine in August 2017, hosted by the Maine ATC, a club that maintains 267 miles of the A.T, an event that no one should miss. We TATCers are already thinking about extending that trip to include a post or pre-trip to maybe include a bit of canoeing or other hiking. Don't miss this chance to enjoy a remote and beautiful part of the A.T. and all that Maine has to offer.

Club Activities and Opportunities:

- **Local Trails Maintenance:** If you would like to receive E-mail notification about TATC Local Trails Maintenance activities, please send an E-mail to Bill Buck at LocalTrails@tidewateratc.com requesting to be added to the Local Trails E-mail distribution list. Trail maintenance may include weed cutting, brush and tree trimming, removal of small blown down trees, painting of trail blazes, repairing walkways and creating trails. Other special projects may be performed, such as building water bars to prevent erosion, building and repairing foot bridges, as well as building benches and other structures. Skills used in these efforts are also useful for AT maintenance.
- **Tuesday Group** - If you would like to receive e-mail notifications of the Tuesday Group's 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.
- **The TATC/Douglas Lee Putman Memorial Cabin** 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 want to check on availability, or want to make reservations.

Information for Hike & Activities Schedule, TATC website listings and Meet up postings are collected & edited by the Hikemaster. Contact Juliet Stephenson at hikemaster@tidewateratc.com for publication.

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.

Roaring Plains West Wilderness, WVA Backpacking Monongahela National Forest - Mal Higgins (905-9150)

Contact: Mal Higgins (905-9150)

When: October 2 - 5, 2015, Friday - Sunday

Where: Roaring Plains West Wilderness, WVA

Link: <http://www.midatlantichikes.com/id121.html>

Description: Strenuous, full backpacking, 3 tent camping nights; on marked and unmarked trails in a rugged wilderness area of the Monongahela National Forest. Approx. 13-15 total backpacking miles, about 5 miles per day. Primarily in Roaring Plains West, designated as wilderness in 2009, a 6792 acre area 3 miles SW of the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Elevations range from 3000 to over 4700 feet. Camp Friday night at Red Creek Campground, Dolly Sods, and day hike area before nightfall. (1) Saturday, drive short distance to trailhead. General route will be the east branch of the South Prong Trail (TR 517) (TH on FR 19); through Red Creek Plains, through Hidden Passage to stop for night at dry campsite at "Seneca Meadows" high above rim of Allegheny Front with great views; (2) Sunday, hike Grassy Jeep Trail to Pipeline Swath, locate/bushwhack to Canyon Rim Trail (not an official trail) to gain spectacular views of the valley below and peaks in the distance, as we follow cairns marking the Canyon Rim, crossing several boulder fields, passing through rhododendron thickets and red spruce stands, and camping for the night at one of several dry, unmarked forest campsites, possibly junction with Tee Pee Trail. (3) Monday, complete Canyon Rim Trail, and hike out via Roaring Plains Trail (TR 548) and Boars Nest Trail (TR 518), or alternatively, FR 70 to cars. NOTE: although campsites are dry, numerous refills from streams exist each day; weather in October can be chilly and rainy, but hopefully we'll have sunny with great fall colors! Conditions will determine exact trails/campsites; limit 10 backpackers. Depart 8:30 a.m. Friday, October 2, Burger King, at I-64 and Rt. 17.

Poison Outing at Sherando - from Wild Virginia

Contact: Bette Dzamba (betedaveystone@gmail.com)

When: October 4, 2015, Sunday

Where: Sherando Lake Recreation Area, 96 Sherando Lake Road

Description: "Join us on an amazing Poison Outing COME AND LEARN! We will be joined by Dr. Chris Holstege, Medical Director of the Ridge Poison Center and Professor of the UVA School of Medicine, will lead a walking tour around the Upper Falls of the Shenandoah National Forests. He will both identify on the hike and bring samples of various poisonous plants and mushrooms found within the forest. Dr. Holstege cares for patients poisoned in Virginia, has performed research pertaining to natural toxins, and has numerous personal anecdotal case stories of errors made in the wilderness during hikes and with foraging."

905-9150)

New Quarter Park Maintenance

Contact: Phyllis Neumann at phyllisneumann@hughes.net

When: October 11, 2015, Sunday

Where: New Quarter Park, 1000 Lakeshead Dr, Williamsburg, VA, United States ([map](#))

Description: New Quarter Park Maintenance. Meet at New Quarter at 9:00 AM for light maintenance on walking trails constructed by TATC. Bring gloves, comfortable walking/hiking shoes, snacks and water. Tools will be provided. Eat out afterwards. Contact Phyllis to sign up!

TATC General Membership Meeting

Contact: Mark Wenger (253-0056)

When: October 14, 2015, Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Where: Public Library: Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503 ([map](#))

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting - Guests Are Always Welcome! Come a little early to socialize, purchase new TATC merchandise, and buy your 50/50 raffle tickets! General Business and Program by Ned Kuhns on his Coast to Coast Hike.

TATC Fall Maintenance & Family Camp-Out

Contact: Mark Connolly, 757-623-0764 or trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

When: October 16-18, 2015, Friday-Sunday

Where: Williams Branch Picnic Area - Sherando Lake, USFS Campground ([map](#))

Description: TATC Fall Maintenance & Family Camp-Out. This is a weekend for us to do what the club was set up to do: Maintain our assigned section of the Appalachian Trail, the Mau-Har Trail, and possibly some trail in St. Mary's Wilderness Area. Come on out to our base camp at Sherando US Forest Service Campground on Friday, if possible, to set up your tent at the Williams Branch Picnic Area at Sherando, keeping in mind that the gate is locked at 10PM and opens on Saturday morning at 6AM. The map and directions are available at our website www.tidewateratc.com. For questions/further info, Contact: Mark Connolly, 623-0764, trailsupervisor@tidewateratc.com

Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 13...)

TATC Fall Maintenance/Sherando Weekend— Cabin Rental

Contact: Bob Adkisson (627 5514 or cabin@tidewateratc.com)

When: October 16-18, 2015, Friday-Sunday

Where: Douglas Putnam Cabin, Nelson County, VA

Map: http://www.tidewateratc.com/tatc/pages/cabin_map.html

Description: Sherando Weekend Cabin Rental—The TATC cabin is open-to-all this weekend if club members (or guests) want to stay there instead of camping out at Sherando. Contact Bob Adkisson if you are interested, and to get your name on the list. The cabin sleeps 12 and at this point 5 spaces have been claimed. It is a half mile walk from the trailhead / cars to the cabin. NOTE: the usual cabin fee of \$5 per person per night will apply. Also: Bob will be leading a work detail on the nearby White Rock Falls Trail and, if you choose, you could walk from the cabin and join his work crew; we will be joining the larger group for dinner Sat. night at Sherando. The cabin is also open and available Sunday night, for those who might be walking our A.T. section and staying over an extra night

One Day Hike on TATC's Section of the Appalachian Trail

Contact: Stephanie Stringer (stephaniestringer15@gmail.com) or Ned Kuhns (757-552-0292)

When: October 18, 2015, Sunday

Where: TATC's Section of the Appalachian Trail

Description: After (or in conjunction with) the Fall Maintenance Weekend, we are offering TATC members the opportunity to hike all (or a portion of) TATC's 11 mile section of the AT from Reid's Gap to VA Route 56 (the Tye River bridge). This will be a one-day hike. We will meet at Sherando Lake Campground's Williams Branch Picnic Area at 7:30 AM on Sunday so plan to attend the Fall maintenance weekend and enjoy a delicious dinner and friendship on Saturday evening. For those hiking the entire 11 mile section, we will shuttle a vehicle to the Tye River parking lot and then travel by car to begin hiking from Reid's Gap at approximately 8:00 AM. Those wanting to hike a shorter distance will then likely hike into Maupin Field or the Harper's Creek shelters and return to their cars. Plan to wear sturdy hiking boots and hiking clothes appropriate to the October weather. Bring a day pack with water, lunch or snacks, rain gear if needed, hiking poles if you use them, and your personal first aid kit. After the hike(s), those wanting to avoid a late drive back to Tidewater can return to Williams Branch Picnic Area and stay overnight until Monday. Bring your own food for supper or we can arrange to go to a local eating establishment. After hot showers of course!!

This is an excellent opportunity to experience all (or a part of) our trail section. Please sign up for the hike at TATC's general meetings or call Ned Kuhns (757-552-0292) after 29 September or email Stephanie Stringer. Other hike leaders may be Bob Adkisson, Juliet Stephenson, and Mal Higgins. If you are interested in leading one of the hikes, please advise Stephanie or Ned.

TATC First Landing Trail Maintenance

Contact: Jacquie Whitt (jacquie@adiosadventuretravel.com)

When: October 24, 2015, Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm

Where: First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA

Description: Trail maintenance in First Landing State Park. Enter park on land side from Shore drive. Meet at the picnic parking lot. Turn Right immediately after the check point. Contact: Jacquie Whitt (jacquie@adiosadventuretravel.com) **TATC**

Autumn Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) Meeting

Contact: Ned Kuhn. ATC Vice-Chair, RPC Central and Southwest Virginia , (757-552-0292)

When: October 24, 2015, Saturday

Where: Buena Vista Conference Center, Buena Vista, VA, United States ([map](#))

Description: The RPC serves as a communication link between the Trail-maintaining clubs and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Annual Fall Beach Camping

Contact: Greg (bushrod3333@gmail.com or 757.636.3877)

When: October 30 - 31, 2015, Friday - Saturday

Where: First Landing State Park, 2500 Shore Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, United States ([map](#))

Description: Annual Fall Beach Camping at First Landing State Park – Virginia Beach. Join us for a new annual event for TATC! First Landing is on the beach nestled among gnarly low growing trees, bushes and sand. The main park is across the street and provides plenty of hiking or biking activities while where we are camping there is plenty of beach to enjoy. We got this one in late this year so will go simple for the first run. Only one tent campsite reserved which can accommodate 6 people and 2 vehicles. This campsite is nestled among the sand dunes. This is a non-electric site with no running water. There are bathhouses and bathrooms available at the campground. Additional vehicles can be parked in the main parking lot for a daily fee. Dogs must be on leash and attended to at all times. Once everyone arrives we will add up the total cost and split it per person so bring cash. There are no planned activities at this time. Just come out and have fun. Bring bikes or sea kayaks if you have them. When you sign up please make sure your email is legible as this will be the primary means of communication. Contact the Activity Leader (Greg) to sign up. Assistant Activity Leader: Marsha Miller

Activities Schedule

(Continued from Page 14...)

Bubba Fest 2015

Contact: Susan Rohr (757-496-9424) or (rohr7@cox.net)

When: October 31st - November 7th, 2015, Saturday-Saturday

Where: Florida Keys, FL

Description: Bubba Fest 2015 is a biking/camping trip in the Florida Keys starting at the top of the Keys to Key West and back. Cost to sign up is \$735. This event fills up quickly so make your plans now. More Information on this event can be found at: www.bubbaspamperedpedlers.com/bubba-fest

Fall Trip to False Cape State Park

Contact: Bruce Julian (757-604-3099)

When: November 1 - 5, 2015, Sunday - Thursday

Where: False Cape State Park, 4001 Sandpiper Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, United States ([map](#))

Description: Fall Trips False Cape State Park November 1 - 5 Trying something new this year and if it works out we may do it again next year. As you can see I have 3 trips lined up for 2015 and each is 5 days long starting on Sunday and ending on Thursday. If you can sign up for all 3 then please sign up for all 3 or if you can only sign up for one then sign up for one or the other. No emails, No texting, only phone calls in order to keep the list of who signs up straight. My phone No. 604 - 3099. Not sure what we will be doing for our projects during the day, but we will have night hikes so come on and sign up today. As always you will need a sleeping bag, wash cloth & towels, work shoes, leather gloves, warm clothes and your on personal items. We will work out the meals at a later date, we will have coffee and tea provided, but you will need what ever you like to drink. The building we stay in has plenty of good drinking water just bring your water bottles. In the building is a full kitchen and we have 1.5 bathrooms with 2 outdoor showers. Each trip will only have 14 people so sign up ASAP ! Bruce Julian 604 - 3099

BBQ & Oyster Roast with Live Music

Contact: Richard Kavanaugh (757 638-0199)

When: November 7, 2015, Saturday

Where: Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve - 4510 Twin Pines Rd, Portsmouth, VA 23703

Description: BBQ & Oyster Roast with Live Music Richard Kavanaugh - 757 638-0199 3pm to 7:30pm, at Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve. Purchase tickets online at hofflercreek.org or call 757 686-8684 See you there! Buying early saves. Tickets now \$35 & \$45 after October 31st.

TATC General Membership Meeting

Contact: Mark Wenger (253-0056)

When: November 9, 2015, **Monday**, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Where: Public Library: Mary D Pretlow Anchor Branch, 111 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503 ([map](#))

Description: TATC General Membership Meeting - Guests Are Always Welcome! Come a little early to socialize, purchase new TATC merchandise, and buy your 50/50 raffle tickets! General Business, the Silent Auction, and Trail Maintenance Awards.

Note - Date Change !!!

TATC Cabin Maintenance Orientation Trip

Contact: Bob Adkisson (627 5514) or (cabin@tidewateratc.com)

When: November 13-15, 2015, Friday-Sunday

Where: Putnam Cabin, Nelson County, VA ([map](#))

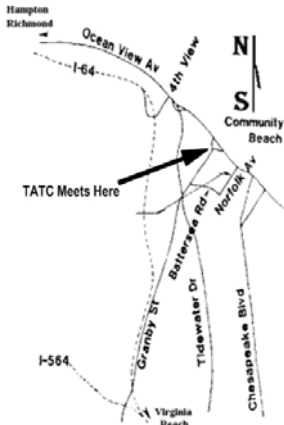
Description: Come join us at the club's rustic cabin in the Blue Ridge Mtns. for a day of moderate work (cutting and stacking firewood, working on the access road, and perhaps the nearby White Rock Falls Trail, general clean up, etc.). All are welcome, and first timers will get instructions on how to care for and 'operate' the cabin-- qualifying themselves to rent it on their own in the future. It is a half mile hike to the cabin from the Blue Ridge Parkway; you can stay inside the cabin, on wooden bunks, or camp out on the club property nearby. If you can only come for part of the weekend, that is fine. It may be possible to arrange for a ride-share with other participants-- let me know if you are interested-- I will need details like where you live in Tidewater, when you can leave town, etc. Bring: work gloves, ear protection in case you are working near the chainsaw, normal camping gear (pack, sleeping bag and pad, extra clothes), food for breakfasts and lunch and snacks. We may have a community meal Sat. night. I will also request that all participants bring / donate an item or two for the weekend, like a roll of paper towels, or propane canister for the lantern, etc. Sign up sheet will be at the Oct. and Nov. meetings, or call / email me to get on the list, or if you have questions.



Tidewater Appalachian
Trail Club
P. O. Box 8246
Norfolk, VA 23503-0246

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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 for 1.1 miles and turn right 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. Continue for 0.8 miles and turn left onto Granby St. and then directly right into the Library parking lot, meeting is held in Meeting Room # 2

