

## TATC Activity List for August 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

- This listing is current as of the date of the meeting, see the Google calendar and/or the TATC web site for up-to-date information as new items get added, and occasionally published schedules get modified.

### See also the TATC Google Calendar for information

- It is viewable at the bottom of the TATC Home Page or can be added to your Google calendar on your computer or phone using the following link –

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y2hqMjdudGM1Y201cWwyamZzMWVvZDhwc2tAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

**Tuesday Group** - More information on the TATC Tuesday group can be found at - [TATC Tuesday Group\(google.com\)](#). Many of their events are planned only a week or two prior to the event date, and thus do not get listed in this General Meeting snapshot of events. Also, they do not get copied onto the main TATC Google calendar until details have matured, but some advance info is available on the Tuesday Group website prior to being included on the main TATC calendar. They have an event almost every Tuesday morning.

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### TATC General Meeting (Norfolk)

What: Meeting

When: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

### Swingblade and Lopperfest #3 (Sherando)

What: Maintenance

Camping: Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>

Work Day: Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

Where: Camping in Sherando, working our sections of the AT.

Join us for a single day, or for the weekend, from Friday, July 14-16 and enjoy helping out with some fun filled and satisfying essential trail maintenance during one of the TATC annual Swingblade & Lopperfest events! The primary focus will be working on the section of the AT between Reids Gap and the Tye River, camping will be at Sherando (CCC Kitchen) and will be free of charge (let the folks at the gate know you are with TATC for the maintenance event).

Swingblades & Loppers (also known as trimmers) are cutting tools that are often used for removing grasses, branches from trees and are the quintessential tools for removing overgrown vegetation from the sides of the Trail. This essential work, and so much more, is performed by volunteers and helps to keep the Appalachian Trail alive.

All are welcome to join this event. Enjoy the satisfaction of spending time outdoors alongside experienced volunteers and seeing the positive impact you are making on the Trail right before your eyes. Camping accommodations for Friday and Saturday night can be made available. Participants will need to provide their own camping gear including but not limited to a tent or hammock, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and plenty of food and snacks for the weekend. We will be working on Saturday only (but feel free to stay and hike on Sunday!!)

*Please be sure to wear long pants and sturdy boots. Bring plenty of water and snacks for the day, lunch, sunscreen, bug spray, a rain jacket and personal work gloves.*

To sign up or for more information on maintenance, contact:  
John Sima - TATC Trail Supervisor - Supervisor - [trailssupervisor@tidewateratc.com](mailto:trailssupervisor@tidewateratc.com)  
Brittany Collins - TATC Asst Trail Supervisor - [assistantts@tidewateratc.com](mailto:assistantts@tidewateratc.com)

## **Tuesday Group – Hampton River Paddle (Hampton)**

What – Paddle

When - Tue, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time - 9:00am with launching time as soon afterward as possible but NLT 09:30am.

Where – Sunset Creek Public Boat Ramp, Marina Road, Hampton, Virginia.

DESCRIPTION: The Hampton River (aka Hampton Creek) is located entirely within the city of Hampton, and yet still has a little bit of everything to offer paddlers of different interests. Not only does it have a very interesting history (think Pirate Blackbeard's severed head for one), but paddles can include views of downtown Hampton, Hampton University, Hampton's Air and Space Center, Hampton Yacht Club, fish/crab unloading docks, and lovely waterfront private homes. For more adventurous paddlers, even for the less adventurous, with good weather, Hampton River paddlers also can easily paddle out into the open waters of Hampton Roads where, if they turn right they can visit a Southampton neighborhood boat marina, or if they turn left they can paddle along the shoreline to Fort Monroe's Mill Creek, or they can make a rather short straight paddle into Hampton Roads for a front row view from their kayaks of the HRBT's on-going Interstate highway upgrade. Just being in a "vehicle" that permits you to leave this construction site anytime you wish is a huge plus right now for our area.

The river is 3.2 miles long so the round-trip paddle, without any ventures into open water, will be approximately 6 ½ miles. This paddle is in protected waters and can be shortened easily to any length should someone need to break away. We will not paddle out into the open waters of Hampton Roads unless it is a group decision.

All participants must wear a personal flotation device (PFD) when paddling, and don't forget to also bring any other paddling gear you'll need along with water, sunscreen, and lunch, or money for lunch in one of the restaurants located nearby.

The Surf Rider restaurant is right next door to the put-in ramp, and Vancosta's is just a couple of blocks away on Kecoughtan Road. Vancosta's is one of Hampton's few remaining, yet still very popular, local Greek neighborhood restaurants.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Sandra Canepa, [canepasa@cox.net](mailto:canepasa@cox.net) (or [icanewsac@gmail.com](mailto:icanewsac@gmail.com)); Phone 757/478-7374 (Cell)

To see who has signed up click here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jUjhb9a8K6reDw-bOVZKgtGFmrlkqtzjwUTsba1tTYA/edit?usp=sharing>

More information on the TATC Tuesday group can be found at - TATC Tuesday Group (<https://sites.google.com/site/tatctuesdaygroup/>)

## **West Neck Creek Clean-up (Virginia Beach)**

What: West Neck Creek Clean-up

Location: Dozier's Bridge Kayak Launch

Date: August 19th

Duration: 4 hr, 9 AM – 1PM

Help keep West Neck Creek open to paddlers!

The Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club Amphibious Trail Crew (TATC ATC) will cooperate with Lynnhaven River Now and paddlers from the Kayak Enthusiasts of Hampton Roads Facebook group to clean up a 5-mile section of West Neck Creek on Saturday, 19 August.

Nearly four years of work spread over 30+ work trips prior to the COVID pandemic cleared the creek of obstructions all the way from the North Landing River to Lynnhaven Bay. Although regular maintenance trips largely ceased in 2020, survey paddles over the past few weeks have shown that there are no current no bank-to-bank obstructions and very little trash along the creek banks. There are some partial obstructions that paddlers can get around quite easily.

HOWEVER, there are snags, floating and water-logged branches and tree-trunks, branches dangling from blowdowns on the banks, and slowly expanding patches of alligator grass that are gradually trapping debris to form "trash rafts" that may potentially block the creek in the future if they are not cleared.

A few hours of work by a few hearty souls on Saturday, 19 August will clear out the creek to prevent future obstructions. We will put-in at the Dozier's Bridge kayak launch to work 2 miles north to the fork in the creek that leads to Lynnhaven Bay and 3 miles south to Indian River Road. If we can obtain a landowner's permission, there will be a second put-in point at Indian River Road so that those working the southern section have a shorter paddle to their worksite.

Canoes with two person crews (because of their greater stability and greater capacity for hauling out trash) are better for this work than kayaks.

If you come, bring loppers, grabbers, handsaws and grappling tools (ordinary garden rakes are very effective) to haul out debris and clear existing and potential obstructions. Bring trash bags for trash and lines to use for hauling larger items to the banks where a few brave souls who are willing to get wet and muddy will haul them out of the water and far enough away from banks that they won't float again at the next high water.

There are tentative plans for a stop at New Realm Brewery after the work is complete for those that are interested.

Feel free to contact John Oakes by phone at 757-748-8560 or by e-mail ([john.oakes@1970.usna.com](mailto:john.oakes@1970.usna.com)) if you want any more information about this event.

### **General Meeting (Norfolk)**

When: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location – Episcopal Church of the Advent, 9629 Norfolk Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503

### **Other Future Activities (see linked calendar for details) –**

- First Landing State Park Clean-up – September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Cabin Maintenance & Orientation Trip – September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Fall Walk Through – September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Newport News Fall Festival – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- General Membership Meeting – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Fall Maintenance – October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
- First Landing State Park Fall Festival – October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- CBES 30<sup>th</sup> Between the Waters Bike Ride – October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- General Membership Meeting – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Cabin Maintenance & Orientation Trip, November 10<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>.
- General Membership Meeting – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023