

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting
September 4, 2024

Members Present:

Bill Bunch, Sandra Canepa, Bruce Davidson, Katherine Fowler, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Mike Martin, Kaci Midgette, Kama Mitchell, Jim Newman, Greg Reck, Peg Seriani, Rich Seriani, Jim Sexton, John Sima, Lelia Vann and Don Williams

Also Present: Chris Butler

Members Absent:

John Barnes, Brittany Collins, Kevin Dubois, Greg Hodges and Sharon Salyer

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting, with a quorum, was called to order by President Vann at 6:55 p.m.
2. **Proceedings of Previous Meeting:** The August 2024 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
3. **Finance Report - Andy Grayson, Treasurer:** Andy presented the Treasurer's report. Our August financial shows the club continuing to be in good financial condition. Overall spending remained below income and our balance is up by a little over \$1000. The only account that looks on track to be above its budgeted value is for Affinipay expenses which as of August has basically spent the year's budget. It is worth noting that both Raffle and Merchandise income look on-track to be above our original goal. Additionally, the awards program has not yet submitted receipts and those are expected to hit the books in the next month or so (but no indications yet that will be an issue).
Balance: July balance is \$39,404.53. **Current August balance is \$40,617.00.**
[-Jim N. will give Andy the Award Ceremony receipts soon.](#)
4. **Membership Report - Sharon Salyer/Kama Mitchell, Membership:** Kama presented the Membership report. July 2024: 327 members. **Current August membership is 331 members.**
5. **Reported/Discussed:**
 - A. Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor**
 - Lopperfest 3 Lesson's Learn -[Moved to Discussion Section.](#)
 - October 11-13: Fall Backpacking Walk thru
 - October 25-27: Fall Maintenance
 - B. Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges/Kevin DuBois, Cabin Committee**
 - August 29: Broad Approval via email re: wood stove purchase using \$1200 donated by Gary Fourney (relative of Douglas Putman).
 - September 13-15: Cabin Maintenance
 - November 1-3: Cabin Maintenance [Still needs a volunteer.](#)
 - [He would like to combine the two categories within the Cabin Budget "Tools & Equipment" and "Maintenance" into one category. However, after communicating with Andy, he has agreed that waiting until the next budget cycle to implement is acceptable.](#)
 - C. Local Trails Report - Paul Heymann, Local Trail Supervisor**
 - Planned for First Landing Live Oak / Cedar Swamp Trails. Subject to change / additions upon request of First Landing State Park.
 - Thursday, September 19, 2024 Paul Heymann
 - Thursday, October 17, 2024 Bob Mooney
 - Thursday, November 21, 2024 Paul Heymann
 - Thursday, December 19, 2024 Dave Plum

D. Safety Report - Bruce Davidson, Safety Committee Chair

-Moved to Discussion Section.

E. Program Report - Lee Lohman, Program Chair

-September 11 GMM: Guest Speaker - Pam Northam on Ryan Resilience Lab/Elizabeth River Project

[NOTE: Our meeting will be at the Resilience Lab and start at 6:30 instead of 7 pm. Also, no merchandise sales or raffle tickets.](#)

-October 9 GMM: Awards Ceremony - [Led by Jim Newman after intro of new attendees and near-term events.](#)

[No merchandise sales but 50/50 Raffle still on. - Moved to Discussion Section.](#)

-November 13 GMM: Auction

-December 14th: Holiday Party - [Moved to Discussion Section.](#)

-January 8: Election

-February 12: Guest Speaker - Ned Kuhns: Part II of Hadrian Wall

-March 12: Budget Presentation

-April 9: Guest Speaker: Sherri McQueen on Kayaking

F. Tool Shed Report - Rich Seriani, Tool Boss

-Returned unused Lopperfest #3 tools to the tool shed. This includes the signs and first aid kits.

-Received two first aid kits, a box of Tyvek suits, and one Silky Saw during the August Board meeting.

-Cleaned and lubricated the 42" one-man saw.

- Found that Goo Gone Pro Power and a green scouring pad work well to remove rust and sap from the 42" saw.

-Cleaned four Silky Saws.

-Washed five loppers, two shears, four swing blades, and two grass whips.

-Completed the First Aid/CPR/AED course.

G. Outreach Report - John Barnes, Outreach Committee Chair/Kaci Midgette, Co-Chair

-September 28, Great Outdoor Provision Company (Chase Christianson) table set up [John will lead.](#)

-October 5-6, Fall-O-Ween Festival (NN Fall Festival): Registration Accepted on 4/18/2024. [Kaci will lead.](#)

-October 12, REI (Nelson Bruni) table set up [John will lead.](#)

H. Education Report

-We will be producing new articles every two months in alignment with newsletters. This project will be ongoing for many months.

I. Social Events Report - Sharon Salyer, Social Events Committee Co-Chair

-Cathrine Fowler has agreed to co-chair the Social Events Committee with Sharon. [-See Approved Request to become Social Events Committee Co-chair below.](#)

J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper

- The Fed agency's volunteer reports are due in about 4 weeks. I've received over 200 time reports from the TATC scheduled events.

- The forms data take some manipulation, but the system works well to provide the necessary data.

- The TATC Sept schedule is relatively light except for the extended North Bend excursion. Please submit any outstanding reports ASAP.

K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator

- Progress report for October 9 GMM dedicated to our Awards Ceremony -- [Moved to Discussion Section.](#)

-August 7: Met and agreed on final ordering quantities for TATC Trails and Local Trails awards. There are 32 water bottles for awards, 30 for TATC Trails, and 2 for TATC Local Trails. We agreed to only use one design for the water bottles for TATC Trails, Local Trails, and the Cabin Awards. We will order at least 50 water bottles - or more if we can get a break in quantity pricing.

There are 52 caps for awards, 35 for TATC Trails, and 17 for TATC Local Trails. We agreed that we should order 3 extra caps for each type of award.

We agreed to order 100 of TATC Trails patch which includes 100 of John's special Three Ridges Patch and 50 of TATC Local Trails patch.

-August 23: Received ATC awards from ATC Main Office

-August 29: Patches ordered

L. Hikemaster Report - Kaci Midgette, Hikemaster

-Looking for event leaders or event ideas.

-Not highlighting Tuesday Groups event because the number of participants is getting too large.

M. Merchandise Report - Mike Martin, Chair

-\$85 in cash sales at the August GMM. \$28 in credit sales at the August GMM.

-No new online sales.

-Both July online sales were cancelled.

-Spoke with 4imprint. The club's account# is 3859818. We do not have an assigned rep. Last order was in 2019.

Names on file are Mark VanZant and Lee. Minimums and pricing vary based on the item being ordered.

Tshirts start at \$4, polos at \$10. They do still have our stitchfile.

-Reached out to our AARD contact. No response to date.

-Spoke with Michele Cobb. She suggested surveying the members on what they would be interested in buying. Mike likes this idea. Approval requested to move ahead with creating a survey. [Moved to Approval Section.](#)

N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor

-Oct/Nov will be sent out on October 1st, so the next deadline for articles/photos will be [Monday, September 23rd.](#)

O. Webmaster Report - Jim Sexton, Webmaster

-Jim S. sent out eight blast emails in August. He added a couple of items to the website, one for Tim Kaine's ATC Webinar and one for Walkabout Outfitters in Williamsburg. He corrected introductory web pages to remove mention of rappelling and other activities we no longer do. He loaded the Tye River Ridgerunner Reports to the website. He attended a meeting to discuss membership recruitment.

P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master

-TATC Facebook group page now has 599 members.

-If you ask for a post to promote an event, please consider posting pictures of the activity. Posting about our activities lets viewers know that we are active, and the activity may influence others to seek out more information about the club. (Some of our most "liked" posts have been about maintenance activities) If you watched the webinar ["Social Media: Better Engagement, Less Effort"](#) and would like to discuss how the information could be applied to TATC social media, let's talk. If you have interest in helping with TATC social media, please let me know.

-Special thanks to Rich Serani for a post about Lopperfest #3 and a post about Crabtree falls.

Q. ATC RPC Report - Ned Kuhns/Jim Sexton, ATC RPC Representative

-ATC Club Vitality Checklist reminder and hand out. Ned will collect responses on 9/11 at September GMM and summarize results at October RPC meeting. **Checklist to be handed out.**

-In addition, Club Vitality Checklist emailed to Board on 9/1/2024.

R. Counselors Report - Bill Bunch/Sandy Canepa/Jim Newman

-Nothing to report this month.

S. Prez Report - Lelia Vann

2025 TATC Elections: Nomination Committee Chair - [Need a Volunteer.](#)

- President: Lelia
 - Vice President: Kaci will pass the torch to run for Asst Trail Supervisor
 - Treasurer: Andy
 - Secretary: Peg
 - Trail Supervisor: John Sima plans to pass the torch after 2025.
 - Asst Trail Supervisor: [Brittany will pass the torch to Kaci.](#)
 - Counselors: Bill Bunch's term expires. [Please think about potential people.](#)
- All the other positions are appointed by the Board. Please let me know if you are an appointed Board member and you do not plan to continue in your position on the Board. (And/or if you are interested in any of the other Board positions or elected Board positions above.)
- Outreach: John Barnes will pass the torch. [Please think about potential people.](#)
 - Cabin: Greg Hodges will pass the torch but willing to serve as Vice Cabin Chair if elected. [Please think about potential people.](#)

6. Approval Requests:

A. Approved the September GMM Agenda - Lelia Vann

B. Approved Katherine Fowler as Social Events Committee Co-chair - Lelia Vann

C. Approved Holiday Social Planning - Katherine Fowler

- Venue is The Cove (cost \$550)
- Local band (free)
- Date and time are 12/14/24, 5-9 pm
- potluck dinner and BYOB

D. Approved creation of a Merchandise Survey to find out what types of merchandise members are interested in purchasing (colors, sizes and material) - Mike Martin

7. Discussion Items:

A. Lopperfest #3 Lesson's Learned - John Sima, Bruce Davidson (safety), Rich Seriani (toolboss)

- InReaches: August 14: Bruce has deactivated the clubs' 4 InReaches. John Sima's remains active. Charge each month to maintain is \$5.00 per unit. [-This arrangement is working well.](#)
- A test InReach message was sent by users after safety briefing. No message sent at lunch. [This worked well.](#)
- First aid kits: Bruce recommends that we purchase 2 new Logger first aid kits prior to October Maintenance. We currently have 8. John has suggested that 10 are needed. [-John S. will buy the 2 new "metal case" kits when they go on sale.](#)
- Tools: Based on feedback and personal experience, Rich stated he needs to improve my lopper sharpening skills. The Blue Hawk loppers we used from Tye River to Harpers Creek did not cut as well as they should. He would appreciate feedback on the other tools used during the Lopperfests. [-Some BOD members stated that the tools they used had work fined.](#)

B. Status of Awards Ceremony at October 9th GMM - Jim Newmann (Awards)

- ATC Awards Received on August 23
- Progress report for October 9 GMM dedicated to our Awards Ceremony
 - Golden Pulaskis ready – [They have all been purchased, painted, and inscribed.](#)
 - 1,000-hour plaque updated
 - PowerPoint presentation in drafting stage
 - Reward items will be bagged with awardee's name inscribed
 - Email awardees a week or two before the ceremony to let them know that they will be obtaining an award. If they can't attend the meeting and pick up award, they can have someone else pick it up for them or pick up their award at some future meeting/event.
 - Bags will be filed alphabetically in cardboard trays
 - Committee members will help reward recipients secure items from trays marked "A-L" "M-Z" or most practical division of tray organization
 - Come forward for awards episodes likely to number four with musical entertainment to minimize boredom of those seated

C. Fall Maintenance Dinner- Lelia

-Dinner 10/26 -Leader Needed. Catherine will contact Lee to find out more details on how the dinners are run.

D. Ad Hoc Membership Planning Committee: Bill Bunch/Chair

-First meeting on August 21 (Bill, Jim S., Greg R., Lelia)

- Jim S. presented a new contact card that he created with QR codes that when scanned will take a user to the TATC website, TATC Facebook group page and directly to the membership tab on the TATC website. The cards are to be given to new/prospective members by Counselors and others. -Jim S. handed out the contact cards to the BOD members at the meeting.
- We agreed to target empty nesters and to increase efforts to provide more maintenance and recreational activities scheduled on weekends for those working during the week.
- We would like to encourage and to seek commitments from Board members to lead activities and to help recruit other volunteer activity leaders. See file "TATC Weekend Event Leaders Needed".
- We hope that an increase in activities will increase the number of renewing members.
- Jim S. would like to end any published limits on participation to make the TATC more inclusive.
- TATC needs to be more inclusive in social and recreational events to provide a more welcoming environment for guests and interested non-members.
- Improve our use of Meetup.
- We can do a better job with social media by posting about our successful activities.

E. Other Awards

- Michelle Cobb for designing badges -Jim N. made suggestions for a gift.

Additional Topics Discussed

- Don will start to hold "101 Backpacking" hikes twice a year (Spring and Fall) for the new beginner backpackers. There will also be local practice hikes which will include how to set up your tent and what clothes, food and gear to pack.
- Ned announced that Kathryn Herndon-Powell has been appointed as the new interim ATC's Senior Regional Director South replacing Andrew Downs.
- Ned said there will be 2 upcoming sawyer crosscut classes at Sherando, Nov 9th-10th (first certification) and Nov 16th (recertification).
- Ned handed out the A.T. Club Vitality Checklists to the BOD members to provide comments and return to Ned at the September GMM.

Reported Later:

- September 2024 GMM had 68 people in attendance.

Adjournment: President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.