

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting
October 2, 2024

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Brittany Collins, Catherine Fowler, Paul Heymann, Greg Hodges, Sharon Salyer, Rich Seriani and John Sima

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting, with a quorum, was called to order by President Vann at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Proceedings of Previous Meeting:** The September 2024 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.

3. **Finance Report - Andy Grayson, Treasurer:** Andy presented the Treasurer's report.

Our September financials show the club continuing to be in good overall financial condition. As of this month, spending is now slightly above income and our balance is down this month by about \$3000. We had about \$1200 in award expenses this month, about \$1300 for the new cabin stove, \$550 for the holiday party and \$180 for MeetUp. The two accounts that are currently running above budget are Affinipay expenses that have basically spent the year's budget and new to this month, the MeetUp expenses that will end up at about three times the budgeted level and will be discussed.

Balance: August balance is \$40,617.00. **Current September balance is \$37,891.36.**

-Discussed hurricane Helene damage and the closing of the AT trails south of Rockfish Gap and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

4. **Membership Report - Sharon Salyer/Kama Mitchell, Membership:** Kama presented the Membership report. August 2024: 331 members. **Current September membership is 335 members.**

-Kama noted that Sharon had reported a problem with retaining new members two years ago.

5. Reported:

A. Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor

-October 11-13: Fall Backpacking Walk thru

-October 25-27: Fall Maintenance - [Moved to Discussion Section](#)

>Sharon Salyer/Catherine Fowler and both spouses have agreed to lead the Fall Maintenance Dinner

>File "2024 TATC Fall Maintenance Dinner" was attached with meeting agenda for BOD review.

>Would like several members to volunteer to bring dessert

B. Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges, Cabin Committee Chair

-September 13-15: Cabin Maintenance. -[Extremely successful.](#)

-November 1-3: Cabin Maintenance -[Still needs a volunteer.](#)

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, 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

-October 9 GMM: Awards Ceremony

- Led by Jim Newman after intro of new attendees and near-term events. No merchandise sale but 50/50

Raffle still on. - Moved to Discussion Section

-November 13 GMM: Auction - Led by Lee

-December 14: Holiday Party - The Cove from 5-9 pm.

-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

-May 14: Guest Speaker - Lance Deaver/resident EMT: Severe Wound Management

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.

As of 9/28...

- Finished sharpening and lubricating the Lopperfest #3 tools and returned everything to the tool shed
 - Five Swingblades
 - Two Grass Whips (lightweight swingblades)
 - Two Hedge Shears
 - 5 Loppers of various makes and sizes
 - One 42" saw
 - Four Silky Saws (650, Big Boy, two red handles)
- Delivered the box of Tyvek suits and two first aid kits to the shed. We now have ten first aid kits in the shed.

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.](#)

-October 19, Fall Festival (FLSP) table set up. [Kaci will lead.](#)

9/26/2024: John provided the following response to Amanda Tripp/REDFIN/Apartment Guide writer regarding an article about exciting fall events in Norfolk.

"Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club? That's right! There's a club in Hampton Roads, that meets in Norfolk, that not only maintains a section of the AT, but also helps to maintain local parks and does other clean ups. But it's not all work because the club also hikes, bikes and paddles in some of the coolest parts of the region you never knew existed. Join us at tidewateratc.com."

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/Cathrine Fowler, Social Events Committee Co-Chair

-- [Moved to Discussion Section.](#)

J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper

- I appreciate everyone's efforts to complete the timekeeping forms, and constructive feedback is welcomed. Lee did an amazing job, essentially all of the form data was used.
- The FY24 TATC report to the USFS is complete and will be sent on Oct. 1. Plinio Beres (USFS) has been very helpful with the report.
- The report to ATC is in progress (on-line) and due Oct 7, I presume all of the FY 24 Fed Lands & Corridor Monitoring data has been submitted.
- I'm requesting a meeting of the Awards Committee to discuss the process and lessons learned (to be scheduled after the awards ceremony).

K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator

- [Moved to Discussion Section.](#)

- Progress report for October 9 GMM dedicated to our Awards Ceremony
 - All ATC items are ready for distribution at the meeting. I will soon be choosing two team of 2 people each to help on Oct 9.
 - The PowerPoint slideshow presently has 154 slides with more to be added. With 154, the show runs 13 minutes before repeating.
 - Peg was most helpful solving a few snags with the show, but I am now independent.
 - Michelle will provide me with her items at or before this board meeting.
 - All of Michelle's things are not received yet but she has been assured all items will be in by Friday (9/27).

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

- No September GMM sales because of location (Ryan Resilience Lab).
- 1 online order.
- "MerchandiseSurvey" was attached to meeting agenda for BOD review. Survey's purpose is to gauge members' interest in merchandise. Comments welcome.

N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor

- Thanks to everyone who submitted articles for the Oct/Nov Newsletter.
- Dec/Jan will be sent out on December 1st, so the next deadline for articles/photos will be Saturday, November 23rd.

O. Webmaster Report - Jim Sexton, Webmaster

- Sent out five blast emails in September.
- Posted the last Ridgerunner report to the website.
- Added a map of the Maupin Fields campsites to the website
- Added some articles on a raffle, a clean-up, and a festival to the website
- Wrote/rewrote an educational article on activity leadership
- Added five educational articles to the website
- Attended the September Board meeting.

P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master

- As of 9/27/24, we have 623 members on the group page.

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

- Lelia, Jim Sexton and Ned will be attending the Autumn Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC)

meeting in Troutville, Va on Saturday, 19 October 2024. Results to be provided verbally at TATC's Board meeting on 6 November 2024.

-No ATC Club Vitality Checklists were returned to Ned at the September GMM. If anyone wants to submit one, please return them at the October Board meeting. They are needed to present TATC's analysis of the new ATC Program at the RPC meeting.

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.](#)

-Vice President: Kaci will pass the torch to run for Asst Trail Supervisor

-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 to Kaci unless someone else would like the torch.

-Cabin: Greg Hodges will pass the torch but willing to serve as Vice Cabin Chair if elected. [Please think about potential people.](#)

-Program: Lee Lohmann will pass the torch. [Please think about potential people.](#)

6. Approval Requests:

A. Approved the October GMM Agenda with the following additions: Raffle, Special Award, Mike's Merchandise Survey, and Don's Beginning Backpacking event - **Lelia Vann**

B. Printing note cards and business cards -- No approval needed since "printing" is already an approved budget item. Agreed to have note cards and business cards printed for publicity to hand out to outfitters and at events - **Jim Sexton/ad hoc Membership Planning Committee member**

7. Discussion Items:

A. Are we ready...Fall Maintenance - John Sima, Bruce Davidson (safety), Rich (toolboss), Sharon/Catherine (dinner)

-InReaches: (Bruce) [-started new InReach Plan, professional account.](#)

-First aid kits: (Bruce) [-ordered 2 new](#)

-Privy Cleaning: (Bruce)

Recommendation for cleaning fecal material in latrines following ATC guidelines. We recommend that 2 packages be constructed to be carried to Maupin field shelter and Harpers Creek shelter when cleaning any fecal material.

Package contents:

1. Tyvek suit
2. Nitrile rubber gloves
3. Booties to cover shoes
4. Goggles- not glasses used by trail crews
5. KN-95 mask

-Tools: (Report from Rich)

- One of the swingblades has a cracked handle that someone taped over. It's still functional, but shouldn't be used until I replace the tape.
- Disposed of one fire rake handle that was broken during the Chippokes trail work. I salvaged the metal rake part. We just need to decide if we're going to replace the handle.
- Signed up for the November 9th and 10th crosscut training in Sherando and John sent a list tools/equipment that I'll bring for club members to use. 10 hard hats, Safety glasses, work gloves, 2 full size buck saws, 2 felling saws, wedges, and 4 Axes (3 1/2Lb).

- Below is a list of most of the tools and supplies we brought to the Spring maintenance. Some things that aren't captured on this list are the hard hats, privy cleaning supplies, WD40, and slings. I figure we can build on this list for the Fall Maintenance. Full disclosure – I'm not 100% sure they were bucking saws.

Item	Spring Maintenance
Axe, single blade	2
Bucket, 5-gallon	4
First Aid Kits	9
Gloves, leather, pairs	3
Hedge shears	8
Hoe, Rogue type	6
Loppers, 16 inch	1
Loppers, 20	2
Loppers, 28 inch	4
Mattocks (pick/hoe combination)	2
Pulaskis	3
Rake, Firerake	4
Saws, one-man, cross cut (42")	1
Saws, Silky, Big Boy Red Folding	1
Saws, Silky, scabard	1
Saws, two hand, bucking	3
Shovels	5
Shovels, small	1
Sign, Trail Work Ahead	4
Tarp	1
Wedges, 7" Aluminum	2
Wedges, 8" Plastic	25

-Dinner: (Lelia for Catherine). We need about 10 volunteers to bring a dessert to share and volunteers to help with cleanup. "2024 TATC Fall Maintenance Dinner" was attached to agenda for BOD review.

-Advised monitoring temperature of raw chicken (must be kept 40°F or below) and cooked chicken (must be at 165°F).

B. Are we ready for Awards Ceremony on October 9th at GMM - Jim Newman

Discussed emailing all awardees about their reward

The upcoming newsletter provided basic information without naming names.

Doing nothing about this would likely fill the capacity of the meeting room. I would say that an individual email would result in a standing room only situation, that could produce unrest while I am taking care of business.

Whatever we do, there will be left-over items that will take some time to reach all with their reward.

I am flexible on all this but would find individual emails to be a frustrating task, entering hundreds of emails to find my provider challenge for suspicion of being a spammer!

Here's an idea: An addition to my newsletter, saying, "We have awards from Albuquerque (Carl) to Zareski (Robin) or from as few volunteer hours from 3 to as many as 1,000 hours! Come to the meeting to see where you fit in the scheme!

-Michelle saved us money by volunteering to buy patches and sewing them onto the T-Shirts

-How can we help Jim at the Awards Ceremony? -4-6 people to help hand out awards.

- Should we bring our own chairs to sit? -There are enough chairs at the church.
- Will hold raffle, but not merchandise sale due to limited space in room.
- Will set out merchandise survey for attendees' feedback.
- Lelia will update GMM agenda.
- Mike and Kama will take photos.

C. Ad Hoc Membership Planning Committee - Bill Bunch/Chair

2nd Membership Committee Meeting, September 19, Bold Mariner Happy Hiker Hour

Attendees: Bill Bunch, Kaci Midgette, Greg Reck, Lelia Vann

We appreciate Jim Sexton's strategic contributions of the hike list and the contact cards to help us make progress toward our goals. We also appreciate Don Williams scheduling his beginner backpacking instruction on both the south side and on the peninsula and for scheduling a beginner backpacking trip for those that participate in the classes. We appreciate Don's other comments and will keep them in mind as we move forward.

We discussed having another First Day Hike like last year's at the 64th street section of FLSP. It would be nice if we could run a First Day Hike on the peninsula if a leader can be found. Last year's First Day Hike was very successful and with a little luck and decent weather, we may be able to have another successful hike this year. We may also consider a "Black Friday Hike" if a suitable hike location can be found.

A local hike could be scheduled to support outreach efforts. For example, schedule a local hike in Newport News Park that would occur shortly after the Fall-O-Ween festival to give those at the outreach table a scheduled activity to offer to the festival attendees. This could become part of our outreach efforts as we go to other locations.

We can improve our use of social media especially when it comes to a membership drive. Create an Instagram account and share new, original from Facebook to Instagram. We could also use a photo repository and a YouTube channel. We have discussed these last two items previously. With these changes we would need to look for additional people interested in helping with TATC social media.

D. MeetUp -Andy

-Two things of note with our MeetUp costs; a) we had only budgeted \$101.71 in the TATC budget and when I paid \$98.94 earlier this year, I was assuming it was an annual charge, it was not. Additionally, MeetUp did send (in late July) a notice of the cost increase, but it got lost in the deluge of emails I get from MeetUp. I have included this email below. With the cost increase, MeetUp will end up running about \$360 per/year. I would recommend that you and or the Hikemaster give the value of this service some thought and potentially bring it up for discussion with the Board sometime in the next few months (or at least prior to setting the next budget).

-As a sidenote, MeetUp can be effective; I had 18 people on the Ft. Monroe hike, and I think at least two-thirds of them were there based on it being posted on MeetUp. I have no idea how many might end up joining the club. In conversation along the hike, 4 or 5 of them talked about also hiking with the "Hampton Roads Hikers" (another MeetUp Group) so maybe are not looking to join anything. To me, this kind of ties into our ongoing issues with getting folks to sign-up as hike leaders locally.

Action items:

- **Mike Martin:** Place Merchandise Survey on each chair at October 9 GMM for people to fill out.
- **Jim Sexton:** Will resend blast email with respect to Walk-About raffle and add that people can call them to purchase a raffle. They do NOT have to visit the store in Williamsburg.
- **Jim Sexton:** Will purchase 500 note cards and 500 business cards for TATC outreach.
- **Kaci:** Will print new Injury Report Form for Fall Maintenance packets and let John Sima know about them for Safety Brief.
- **Jim Sexton:** Will send blast email re: Don Williams Beginner's Backpacking requesting that people sign up, etc.
- **Jim Newman:** Will hold a January 1st History Hike at NN Park.

Reported Later:

- October 2024 GMM had 79 people in attendance.

Adjournment: President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.