

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting
November 6, 2024

Members Present:

Bill Bunch, Bruce Davidson, Catherine Fowler, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Mike Martin, Kama Mitchell, Greg Reck, Peg Seriani, Jim Sexton, John Sima, Lelia Vann and Don Williams

Members Absent:

John Barnes, Sandra Canepa, Brittany Collins, Greg Hodges, Kaci Midgett, Jim Newman, Sharon Salyer and Rich Seriani

- 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 October 2024 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
- 3. Finance Report - Andy Grayson, Treasurer:** Andy presented the Treasurer's report.
Our October financials show the club continuing to be in good overall financial condition. Spending continued to be high, but no new categories seem to be trending high. The Affinipay expenses continue to run high, but the club has enough cash to continue to cover the expenses.

Balance: September balance is \$37,891.36. **Current October balance is \$36,547.16.**

-Discussed the remaining budget for Christmas Party. Also discussed money raised from the Walkabout Outfitters Raffle (\$750) and recent other donations (\$125).

- 4. Membership Report - Sharon Salyer/Kama Mitchell, Membership:** Kama presented the Membership report.
September 2024: 335 members. **Current October membership is ~~345~~ 439 members.**
-Discussed a correction of the membership number to 439 members when counting family memberships as 2 people instead of 1.

5. Lightning Round Reported:

A. Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor

- October 25-27: Fall Maintenance - 68 attendees, NO injuries reported. Beautiful fall colors and excellent weather the entire weekend. Many positive remarks including the dinner provided. ALL TIME SHEETS have been SUBMITTED. [See "Lesson's Learned for Fall Maintenance" under Discussion](#)
- November 9-10: Sawyer Training - [See "What's Next for 2025 AT Maintenance Events" under Discussion](#)
- November 16: Sawyer Recertification Training

B. Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges, Cabin Committee Chair

- November 1-3: Cabin Maintenance 12 attending. Thanks to John Sima and Lee Lohman for helping Greg!
- [See "November 2024 Cabin Report" attached](#)

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. [See "How to Help Local Maintenance Events" under Discussion](#)
- Thursday, November 21, 2024 Paul Heymann
- Thursday, December 19, 2024 Dave Plum

D. Safety Report - Bruce Davidson, Safety Committee Chair

- Nothing to report this month.

E. Program Report - Lee Lohman, Program Chair

- November 13 GMM: Auction - Led by Lee [See "Silent Auction" under Discussion](#)
- December 14: Holiday Party - The Cove from 5-9 pm. [See "Holiday Party" under Discussion](#)
- January 8: Election [See "2025 Board Election" under Discussion](#)
- 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
- June 11: Guest Speaker - Don Williams/TATC Education Chair: Food on the Trail (description of foods and cooking methods useful on the trail --not car camping)

F. Tool Shed Report - Rich Seriani, Tool Boss

- Met John at the tool shed and picked up the Fall Maintenance tools.
- Supported Fall Maintenance.
- Cleaned, lubricated, and returned to the shed these items from Fall Maintenance:
 - 6 Trail Work signs
 - 4 Pulaski
 - 2 Pick Mattocks
 - 4 Shovels
 - 6 Hoes
 - 6 Fire Rakes
 - REI Backpacks
 - 9 First Aid Kits (6 are unopened)
 - 3 Tourniquets

I still have all the loppers, shears, and stuff for the Sawyer training.

[See "Lesson's Learned for Fall Maintenance" under Discussion](#)

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

- I don't envision any additional outreach events for the rest of the year, which is typical as the year winds down and folks get busy inside. Doing this many outreach/display events together and just ahead of our signature event, was new and a bit different. I can't say it was successful at least based on new members showing up at fall maintenance, but we certainly talked with a lot of people.

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

- [See "2024 TATC Fall Maintenance Dinner.pdf" attached and "Holiday Party" under Discussion](#)

J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper

- The volunteer time reports were submitted to the ATC and the USFS near the beginning of the month, and I received confirmation of receipt.
- I plan to meet soon with the Awards Committee to discuss data archival and the 2025 schedule milestones.

K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator

- I now have everything reduced to two boxes containing the following left-overs:
 - 3 ATC Vests (two XXL for Bill Rogers & Ellis Malabad. Also, a size M for Etta Burch)
 - 4 ATC caps
 - 2 ATC pins
 - 100 ATC stickers
 - 22 ATC patches
 - 33 TATC local trails patches Local Trails caps\

28 TATC AT Crew patches

5 TATC local trails caps

14 Water bottles

-I will keep all these items safely in my truck until springtime deadline for claiming. Will be present for next week's GM

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 October GMM sales.

-No online orders since our last Board meeting.

-Survey distributed to membership in attendance at the October GMM along with a brief explanation. 9 were returned that evening. I'll have more blank surveys on hand to distribute to members during or November GMM.

N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor

-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 eight blast emails in October.

-Attended a membership committee meeting.

-Ordered 1,000 TATC business cards and am in the process of passing out business cards, note cards, and some ATC promotional items.

-Created "publicity packs" and in process of delivering to: Walkabout Outfitters, REI, LL Bean, Great Outdoor Provision, and Spares

-Attended the October Board meeting.

-Organized and printed the lists of Awardees for the October Awards Ceremony.

-Attended the Fall 24' Virginia Regional Partnership Meeting on 10/19/2024 in Troutdale, VA.

-Conducted a survey walk-thru of my section of the trail, Tye River to Mau-Har, on October 11, 2024

-Signed up for the crosscut saw recertification course being held on November 16

P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master

-654 people have joined the group page AS OF 11/6/2024

-Additional info for the Lightning Round:

Please wear the required personal protection equipment for all Facebook posts. We do not want document unsafe practices or activities.

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

-Ned, Jim Sexton, Greg Reck, and Lelia attended the Autumn Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) meeting in Troutville, Va on Saturday, 19 October 2024. Obtained updated Volunteer Injury Flowchart to replace other items in Leader Injury Packets. Jim Sexton has the lead to update these Packets for John S. [See "ATC Partnership" under Discussion](#)

-Kathryn Herndon-Powell continues as the interim VARO Senior Regional Director until a new selection is made.

-Updated information and guidance will be coming out on privy replacement by mouldering privies as well as a revised Stream Crossing and Bridge Policy.

-The 2025 Southern Partnership Meeting (SPM) and spring Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) Meeting is scheduled for March 21 - 23, 2025 at the Blowing Rock Conference Center in NC.

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 - Lee Lohman [Moved to Discussion](#)

The following chairs of the following appointed board positions have indicated that they will "pass the torch"

- Outreach: John Barnes will pass the torch to Kaci
- 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 November GMM to be a Silent Auction - Lelia Vann

B. Discussed December GMM to be a Holiday Social - Lelia Vann – [Does not need BOD approval](#)

[-Also discussed: Going forward, Award Ceremonies will be held in October.](#)

7. Discussion Items:

A. November GMM: Silent Auction - Lee Lohman/Program Chair [-need 3 cashiers, people to help setup and small bills to make change. Kama, Mike, and Lelia will be cashiers and Andy will bring cash to make change.](#)

B. 2025 Board Election Status - Lee Lohman/Chair

2025 TATC Elections: Nomination Committee - Lee Lohman/Chair, Bill Bunch, Cecil Salyer

-President: Lelia Vann, Vice President: Jim Sexton, Treasurer: Andy Grayson, Secretary: Peg Seriani, Trail Supervisor: John Sima, Asst Trail Supervisor: Kaci Midgette, Counselor (rotating 3-year Term): tbd

[-Note that we are required to announce the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates at least 20 days before the election. Let's call that December 19th. Lee, as Nomination Committee Chair, will send out an email blast on December 19th. If the committee doesn't have a nominee for each position, I'll simply note that. Nominations can be accepted from the floor at the GMM, so we'll have a bit more time to find someone.](#)

C. Lesson's Learned for Fall Maintenance - John Sima, Bruce, Rich, Catherine

-InReaches, First aid kits, Privy Cleaning

-Tools: Tool Maintenance:

1. John Oakes repaired 1 Pulaski sheath Saturday after the Fall Maintenance. He and Jane offered to ask their shoe repairman how much he would charge to repair the other sheathes that need repair. Do we need prior approval to incur those charges? [-Not enough funds remaining in budget for "Tools". Need to wait to do these repairs until next year's budget.](#)
2. Many of the tools I returned still need to be sharpened or deburred and may need minor repairs. I intend to at least evaluate every tool in the shed between now and Spring Maintenance.
3. Jim Sexton returned two 2-man crosscut saws and two 1-man crosscut saws during Fall Maintenance.

-Dinner: (Catherine). See "2024 Fall Maintenance Dinner Assessment" attached

[-Next time look to donate leftover food to Sherando volunteers.](#)

[-John gave the dates for the 2025 maintenance events schedule.](#)

D. What's Next for AT Maintenance Events...Training

-November 9-10: Sawyer Training:

1. TATC attendees: [Tom Meree, Mike Martin, Bruce Davidson, Thomas Heenan, Carl Albuquerque, Tom Miano, Luis Betancourt, Rich Seriani, Paul Heymann, Bob Veverka, Kaci Midgette and Katherine Katie Steele.](#)
2. (Rich) [Do our folks need to sign an activity signup form for the training?](#)
3. Rich will bring club tools: Hardhats, Safety Glassed, Gloves, two first aid kits, two small axes, three 3.5 lb. axes, five 2-man crosscut saws, one 1-man crosscut saw (just in case), four red Silky saws, a bucket of wedges, and two underbucking tools.

-November 16: Sawyer Recertification Training

-ATC will reimburse required Sawyer certification First Aid / CPR training - <https://www.tfaforms.com/4873445>.

E. How to Improve AT Maintenance Events including Sign Up, Advertising, etc

- Simple "Expression of Interest" Sign Up Form (Jim S. created new form) [See "Expression of Interest Form" attached.](#)
- Advertise via ATC (Lelia providing information to Jessie Johnson/ATC) [-recommend continue advertising via ATC.](#)
- Update Volunteer Injury Leader Packets (Jim S. taking the lead)
 - [-add what 3 words](#)
 - [-add land manager information](#)
 - [-add simple map to ER Augusta and Charlottesville](#)

>~\$42 is needed to redo the TATC Injury Instruction Packets

>I will provide the ink and make the copies for 30 packets, but I will need to buy the following:

- Office Depot® Brand 6-1/2" x 9-1/2" Catalog Envelopes - \$22.99/box of 100
- Scotch® Long-Lasting Moving & Storage Tape with Refillable Dispenser, 2" x 22.2 Yd., Clear - \$6.99
- Office Depot® Multi-Use Printer & Copy Paper, 1 Ream, White, Letter (8.5" x 11"), 500 Sheets Per Ream, 20 lb, 92 Brightness - \$8.99

(I won't be reusing any of the old envelopes. Removing the present labels on the envelopes by ripping off the 2" tape is not worth it.)

- Metal container for shelter Notebook needed.
- Need volunteer section leaders for a few sections of our Trail and St Mary trails

F. Holiday Party on December 14 - Catherine Fowler/Chair See "Winter Holiday Party 2024" attached.

- Venue is The Cove (cost \$550)
- Local band "The Bright Rhodes Band" (free) – [will provide a Tip Jar for the band.](#)
- Date and time are 12/14/24, 5-9 pm
- Budget for Holiday Party: \$850 -550 =\$300 but we had \$612 as income.
- Michelle Cobb has agreed to update Notices and Invitation
- Save the Date Notice out by 11/15. [Sent out on 11/3/2024. Thanks Jim S.]
- Approximately how many people should we plan will attend? [80](#)
- Potluck dinner and BYOB
- Format for the evening: socialize (light appetizers) and then dinner, and finally dessert, music will be playing while all of this is going on.
- Activities: Do the members like to participate in games or gift exchange? [No planned games or gift exchanges.](#)

G. Membership Planning Committee - Bill, Jim S., Kaci, Greg, Lelia

What's been done wrt publicity so far...

- TATC Publicity Packs: Jim Sexton/Membership Planning Committee
 1. [Walkabout Outfitter](#): AT. Pamphlets, ATC Stickers, AT Business Cards in a Card Holder, TATC Note Cards in a Note Card Holder and extra Note Cards, TATC Business Cards in a Business Card Holder with extra Business Cards
 2. [REI](#): AT. Pamphlets, AT Business Cards in a Card Holder, TATC Note Cards in a Note Card Holder and extra Note Cards, TATC Business Cards in a Business Card Holder with extra Business Cards [-Lelia will visit REI or may write a letter to company requesting approval to display TATC Business Cards/Pamphlets.](#)
 3. [L.L. Bean](#): AT Business Cards in a Card Holder, TATC Note Cards in a Note Card Holder and extra Note Cards, TATC Business Cards in a Business Card Holder with extra Business Cards
 4. [Great Outdoor Provision Company](#): TATC Note Cards in a Note Card Holder and extra Note Cards, TATC Business Cards in a Business Card Holder with extra Business Cards
 5. [Spares](#): TATC Note Cards, TATC Business Cards in a Business Card Holder with extra Business Cards

From our last membership committee meeting:

- The success of the membership committee might be best judged by any increase in the number of activities added to the schedule. [It was discussed briefly at the meeting, since time was short by this point in the](#)

meeting, that the goal of the committee is to increase membership. Increasing the number of activities is a strategy to accomplish this goal.

- We need to add more weekend maintenance activities to the schedule. We need to have Local Trails help with this.
- We think that we should have some membership services at the meetings. For example – allow a prospective member to fill out an application and pay for a membership at the meeting.
- Make sure to provide blank activity sign-up sheets at the meetings and guide new leaders on how to set up an event and put procedures in place to improve member notification of all scheduled events.
- Considering creating a new slide show and a new video for TATC publicity. A committee could be set up to discuss collecting material for this project, where the photos and videos will be stored, and who will produce the slide show and video from the collected materials, and how to publicize them. One opinion I have on how to do this is to keep the slide show down to no more than 24 slides and the video down to only 7 or 8 minutes in length.
- Jim Sexton will set up a Google drive folder for photos and videos.
- Need a new TATC video.
- Considering an Activity Coordinator position on the Board - Bill Bunch -Discussed this role may be part of the hikemaster job.

H. ATC Partnership Report/Information - Ned Kuhns/RPC Rep:

- Although it is well known, the photos we saw of the major damage in TN and NC will require extensive work. NPS and USFS have many expert teams working in the area. There will be no requests for sawyer and other help from northern clubs until the damage assessments are complete.
- An ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting (VLM) is scheduled for August 15 - 17, 2025. We can expect to have **two attendees funded by ATC** with our club able to send more if we fund their attendance. Board members who haven't attended a VLM previously and intend to be TATC leader in the future should plan to let Lelia know.
- Conner McBane gave a very good presentation on sawyer programs, certification and safety. I requested a copy of his presentation to send to those that plan to attend the Sawyer Training. (Presentation sent to Kaci, Bruce, Rich, and Paul.)

I. How to Improve Local Maintenance Events - Paul Heymann

- I could use one, and perhaps two, more folks to help lead the monthly First Landing trail maintenance events. Currently there are five, but I would like six, so that each person leads two per year. The five are Paul Heymann, John Iglodi, Kaci Midgette, Bob Mooney and Dave Plum. Bob Mooney advised he might be getting too busy to lead the events.
- Some people have said they can't attend FLSP on Thursday, but they could make Saturday. We moved to Thursday, because the trails are so busy on Saturday. However, we could do some Saturdays in Q1 2025, since the park is not as busy in winter.
- Any volunteers? Greg Reck and Lelia volunteered to help lead a Saturday in Q1 2025.
- Paul will ask Tanya at FLSP how she got volunteers through the Navy.

J. TATC Scholarship Program - Paul Heymann

- Is there any interest in setting up a scholarship program? If yes, maybe we could establish an Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee to develop a plan to present back to the board. *Although some thought this could be a good idea, we did not agree to setting up a scholarship program nor a committee at this time.*

K. Lesson's Learned for Beginner Backpacking Trip - Don Williams/Education

- Don helped the new hikers and answered their beginner questions such as different types of sleeping bags, lighting camping stoves, and concerns for hiking in the dark. Don plans to have another beginner's backpack trip in the Spring which will include a couple of local preparation hikes.

Reported Later:

- November 2024 GMM had 60 people in attendance.

Adjournment: President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.