

PATH WAYS

PIEDMONT APPALACHIAN TRAIL HIKERS

CLUB NEWSLETTER • MAY 1997

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From the (New) Editor's Desk

Robert Rubin, who has very capably edited this newsletter for the past few months, has heard the call of the wild and decided to thru-hike the AT. So I'll be taking over the reins until Robert returns from Mt. Katahdin, Maine and has time to air out his sleeping bag and get the pine needles out of his hair. Word has it that he started from Springer Mountain, Ga. around April 1 (see story on Page 6). If so, he will have plenty of other hikers to talk to. He left during one of the busiest periods of the year for north-bound thru-hikers. Since I'm not as high-

tech as Robert is when it comes to putting together a newsletter (he has some nice computerized page-building and graphics software), I'm happy to report that Tony Roberts has graciously accepted the assignment of designing each page, using the articles, calendars and other pieces I provide him.

But the actual words are my responsibility, so if you see any factual errors, omissions, misspellings, etc., I'm the one to contact. After Tony builds the pages, I'll
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Forest Service Honors Members for Volunteerism

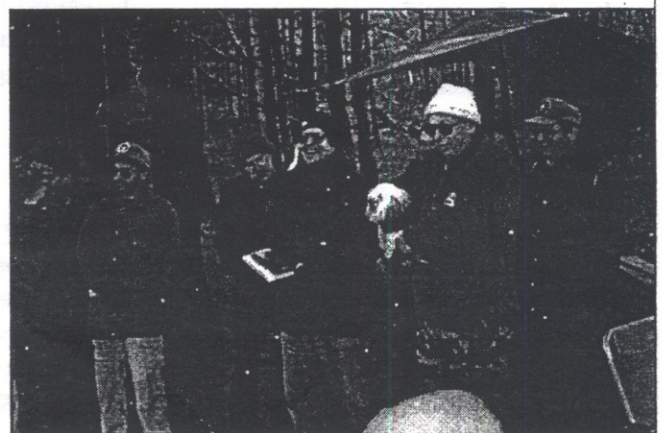
PATH's Trail Monitor, Gorden Burgess, was honored at the March worktrip for his more than 2,000 hours of volunteer work on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service and the AT.

In recognition of Burgess's efforts, Mike Antalosky, a forester in the Wythe Ranger District of the Jefferson National Forest, presented Burgess with a 2,000-hour rocker, a plaque, a certificate and a canvas briefcase. Burgess's accomplishment was especially noteworthy, Antalosky said, because the Forest Service has only been keeping track of volunteer hours since 1992. Burgess is the only known 2000-hour volunteer.

On the AT as a whole during the year ending Sept. 30, 1996, the 32 AT maintaining clubs reported volunteer trail work totalling 173,837 hours, a 15 percent increase over the previous year.

Contributing to that impressive total, 98 PATH members volunteered 4,420 hours during the year.

At the ceremony, held at Stony Fork Campground following a chilly workday, Antalosky also recognized



PATH members watching the ceremony include Ralph Meeks, Richard McDanel, Bobby Bass, Bill Boudman, John Hartpence, and Jeff Brown.



Mike Antalosky congratulates Gorden Burgess.

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From the editor's desk

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photocopy them and mail them to Don Childrey, who will mail them from Troy. I'm supposed to edit this newsletter, not author it, and I want all PATH members to understand that I welcome any journal entries, funny stories, mountaintop scribbles and observations, hiking and backpacking tips and, of course, any thoughts regarding trail maintenance that will improve PATH's efforts. We'll find a place for them.

So, drop me a line any time.

— Karl Kunkel

Forest Service Honors PATH Volunteers

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the efforts of several other PATH members.

Bill Boudman and Ken Rose each received a 1,000-hour rocker, a plaque and a certificate.

John Hartpence was awarded a 700-hour rocker, Bobby Bass received a 500-hour rocker, and Paul Clayton, Bill Medlin, and Steve Williams each received 400-hour rockers.

Betsy Truscott and Parthena Martin earned 300-hour rockers.

Gene Greer and Clint Kawanishi earned 200-hour rockers.

Jeff Brown, Marsha Cope, Andy Sowers, and Trudy Whitney earned 100-hour rockers.

Forest Service Volunteer patches, signifying a volunteer's first 50 hours of volunteer work were presented to Sherman Bamford, Worrel Campbell, D. Edwards, Valerie Everett, Alice Johnson, Marvin Kirkland, Karl Kunkel, Harrison Marks, Mike Mason, Richard McDanel, B. Mitchell, John Mitchell, Jim Mulholland, C. Mummert, Beverly Robinson, Maria Schroeder, Katherine Shauble, and Karen Worthington.

What is PATH?

PATH is a nonprofit club that maintains a 50-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail, a 2,160-mile footpath that runs from northern Georgia to Maine. The Trail was constructed in the 1920s and 1930s by volunteers.

PATH's responsibility encompasses the AT in the Virginia counties of Smyth, Wythe, Bland and Tazewell, from S.R. 670 at the South Fork of the Holston River north to S.R. 623 atop picturesque Garden Mountain.

PATH members meet every third Saturday from March through November at Stony Fork Campground for work projects, such as weed-whacking, removing fallen trees and branches from the trail, building foot bridges and re-

blazes (trail markers). Most members are from North Carolina, so many the night before and campground has heated restroom showers. Stony S.R. 717, which is



painting white (ers) on trees. are from North drive to Stony Fork camp out The tent sites and a area with hot Fork is located on 8 miles north of

Wytheville off Interstate 77 north (Exit 47). Turn left. The campground is about 5 miles on the left, just before the intersection with U.S. 52.

Annual dues are \$15 for adults, \$17.50 for a family and \$10 for students. PATH and the ATC are 501(c)(3) charities, so all donations are tax-deductible. If you drive your vehicle to a PATH worktrip, you can deduct round-trip mileage from your home to the worksite at a rate of \$0.12/mile.

For questions on equipment and clothing, call one of the people on the contact list. Hiking boots and work gloves are recommended.

Contacts:

- President: Parthena Martin, 919-967-4449, Chapel Hill, cnp@mindspring.com
- Vice President: Paul Clayton, 910-723-5470, Winston-Salem, pmclayt@ibm.net
- Secretary: John Hartpence, 919-839-8623, Raleigh
- Treasurer: Harrison Marks, 910-768-8698, Winston-Salem
- Editor: Karl Kunkel, 1508 Waverly St., High Point, N.C. 27265, 910-882-8711
- Trail Supervisor: Ken Rose, 910-299-4046, Greensboro
- Trail Monitor: Gordon Burgess, 910-723-9819, Winston-Salem
- Don Childrey, 910-439-6204, Mt. Gilead
- Betsy Truscott, 910-605-3588, Summerfield, btrus@nr.infi.net
- Steve Williams, 704-541-1652, Charlotte
- Hazel Monroe, 704-694-3084, Wadesboro
- Bobby Bass, 919-893-5892, Lillington

Mailing Address: Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers,
P.O. Box 4423,
Greensboro, N.C. 27404-4423

PATH has an electronic mail calling circle for publicizing impromptu outings and making announcements. To join, send an e-note to PATH's e-mail coordinator Betsy Truscott (see contact list). If you have a message of general interest, Betsy will forward it to the e-mail list. PATH also has a Web Home Page: <http://www.editorialservice.com/path> The page links to other organizations and to current and past PATH newsletters.

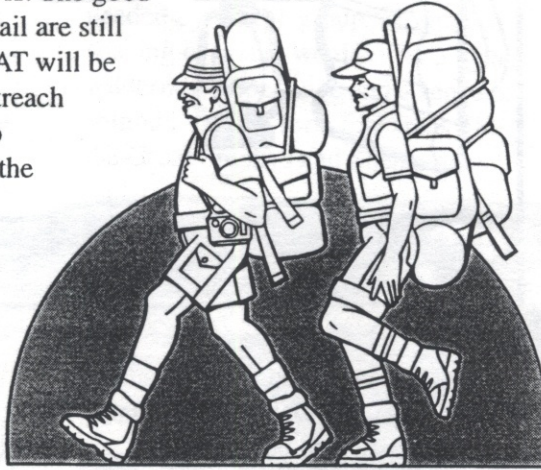
Board Members and Foresters Meet in Greensboro

Members of the Appalachian Trail Conference's Southern Regional Management Committee met March 21-23 at The Summit on the outskirts of Greensboro for its annual meeting.

Representatives from all 13 clubs in the southern region were there, including several people from PATH. Officials from the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, servicing the forests in the region, gave updates on land acquisition efforts along the AT. The good news is that only about 30 miles of trail are still not secured, but officials believe the AT will be complete by the year 2000. Some outreach money from the ATC is being used to familiarize urban young people with the AT and the enjoyment of hiking, in order to help develop a new generation that will respect and maintain the AT. In 1996, volunteers along the AT put in 173,000 work hours, up 16 percent from 1995. PATH President Parthena Martin gave a presentation on ATC Development Programs. One organization, the Environment Federation of N.C., encourages people to donate their estates and corporations to contribute to the federation, which helps the ATC.

During much of Saturday's session, conference participants divided into four break-out groups to discuss issues of concern for the ATC's future. Thru-hiker impact is taking its toll on some of the environment, mainly in the

campsite and shelter areas. Many of the younger hikers are traveling in large groups, which crowds the sites. One suggestion was to encourage thru-hikers to consider flip-flopping their trek, possibly starting at Harper's Ferry and heading south. They also suggested that thru-hikers avoid leaving Springer Mountain on weekends and to check out the ATC's new website (<http://www.atconf.org>) for the latest information before starting.



ATC officials said they are starting to become concerned with commercial activity such as guided hikes by professional, paid guides, on the AT. They were not sure to what extent this was occurring and were not totally clear exactly what constituted "commercial," since there are so many circumstances in which money can change hands. Some people felt a concession system in which paid guides take people on the AT to designated areas would not be bad, since the guides would be more conscientious about cleaning up and would be buying a permit each trip.

As the AT becomes more crowded and people want a taste of the outdoors, the ATC will probably have to address this issue in more depth. The ATC will also need to come up with a set of guidelines that can be used to determine if a non-hiking activity on the AT is compatible to the trail's intended use.

PATH Member Traveling the Lecture Trail

Bill Irwin shared his adventures as a blind hiker of the AT with at least two groups in the Triad in March. Students at High Point's Florence Elementary School, learned about the challenges of overcoming a disability and succeeding at life, the "High Point Enterprise" reported (Mar. 18, 1997).

Irwin, a Burlington resident, is the only blind hiker to traverse the entire 2,100 miles of the AT. He completed the south-to-north trek in November, 1990, with Orient, a German Shepherd guide dog.

Irwin, 56, brought Bronnie, his newest German Shepherd guide dog

to show the class. Orient, who retired a few years ago due to old age, died in late February. Prior to Irwin's school visit, the students read *Orient—Hero Guide Dog on the Appalachian Trail*, a children's book written by Tom McMahon from the dog's point of view. Irwin, who lost his eyesight when he was 32, decided to tackle the AT by breaking the journey into 12.4-mile intervals, trying to hike that amount everyday. He recommended that the students do the same when it comes to trying to reach their goals. "Just think about what you've got to do today to be the best," he said. "If you do that, the big stuff

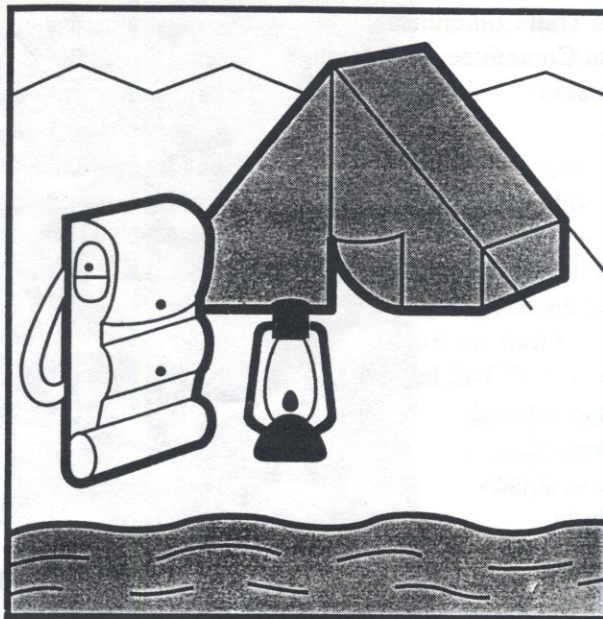
will take care of itself."

Irwin chronicled his adventure into a book, *Blind Courage*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies. He told the students that his only preparation for the long hike was strolling the streets of downtown Burlington, a training program that did not prepare him for the rigors of the trail. He estimated that he fell more than 7,000 times during the journey.

He also spoke March 23 at the Sedge Garden Methodist Church in Kernersville in a more religious-oriented lecture. Irwin said he found God only after he became blind and was addicted to alcohol and drugs.

Trail Notes

- *Backpacker* magazine's March, 1997, issue features its comprehensive Gear Guide '97 for anyone interested in the latest in tents, boots, stoves, sleeping bags and other savings account depleting items.
- Foggy Mountain Bumper Cars: In early February, 70 vehicles were wrecked in a chain-reaction crash on southbound Interstate 77, at the top of Fancy Gap Mountain, due to heavy fog. The route is heavily used by PATH members on their way to Stony Fork. No word on whether any PATH members were involved. Eleven people were injured.
- Candlelight reading for those who can't get enough of the AT: *The Appalachian Trail Reader* edited by David Emblidge. Oxford University Press. 1996. \$27.50. 382 pages. The book includes essays, journal entries, trail diaries, and poems on the AT and the landscape through which it winds. Authors include Henry David Thoreau, James Dickey and AT founders Benton MacKaye and Myron Avery. Each of the 14 AT states has at least one entry, with Virginia and North Carolina well represented. One entry describes "Trail Days," an annual celebration for AT hikers held each May in Damascus, Virginia. A parade is held along its main street, which doubles as a stretch of the AT.
- An encyclopedia of life along the Appalachian mountain range is in the works. The reference book, *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, is expected to be 1,800 pages and cost \$50-\$70 when completed and will be available in a children's version, on the Internet, and on CD-ROM. The book will be published by the University of



Tennessee Press and will contain entries by more than 200 contributing writers, yet to be assigned. Editors of the \$1.2 million project had their first formal meeting in March. Publication is scheduled for 2001.

- Plastic Gatorade bottles filled with

Pinnacles of Dan Hike Derailed

By David Craft

The March 29 hike to Pinnacles of Dan did not go on as planned because the trails were closed due to power plant maintenance in the area. Instead we went to the Birkhead Wilderness near Asheboro.

I had not been to this area in a number of years. I was amazed at how scenic and rustic the area was only a few miles from downtown Asheboro. We (John Lynam, Jean Frazier, Jeff Cape, and myself) started at the north trailhead just below the Asheboro Airport and hiked into an impromptu campsite littered with beer bottles.

We bypassed them since we could take care of the problem on the way out. After two miles and a nice 300 foot ascent we turned west on to the Robbins Branch Trail. We immedi-

water for backpacking are practically indestructable, according to Don Childrey. He found they hold up well under freezing conditions, just as well as the fancy bottles sold in outfitter shops and are easily just as durable — and don't cost near as much.

- June 7, 1997 (Saturday) is the annual Varmint Half Marathon at Burke's Garden, Va. Some PATH members will be running in this 13.1-mile foot race,

which winds its way throughout this scenic — and flat — rural valley. PATH maintains a section of the AT overlooking the valley. This is not a PATH or ATC-sponsored event. Call Charity McDaniel at (540) 988-2460 for entry form.

ately saw a pink Piedmont Azalea in full bloom, the only one. The redbuds and dogwoods were also in full bloom with the trees just coming out. We followed the trail to junction with the Hannahs Branch Trail (just in from the parking lot that many use as an access) and up to Birkhead Trail again. After two miles or so we came back to where we were before and hiked the two miles back to the car. We picked up the beer bottles and other debris and deposited in a dumpster up the road.

We found out that Randolph Co. is still dry (you wouldn't know it from the litter) and our thirst would have to wait.

We hope our new prospective members, Jeff and Jean, will soon join us and all hope we can hit the trail again, be it here or on the AT.

A Shelter Construction Challenge

By Paul Clayton

A recent night at Raccoon Branch shelter (1½ miles north of the AT crossing of VA 650 near Hwy. 16 at Dickey Gap), north of Hurricane Campground, got me thinking about the principles of shelter design and location. Raccoon Branch is about .2 miles downhill off the trail, with a water source directly in front. It is a standard three-sided shelter of light construction with plenty of room for four hikers, or six in a pinch. We spent several daylight hours in the shelter, and I was surprised to note that every stud and board used, with the possible exception of the ridge beam, was small and light enough to be carried in by a single person. The construction was extremely simple. I would estimate that an eight-person crew could erect such a structure, once the materials were on location, in two or three days.

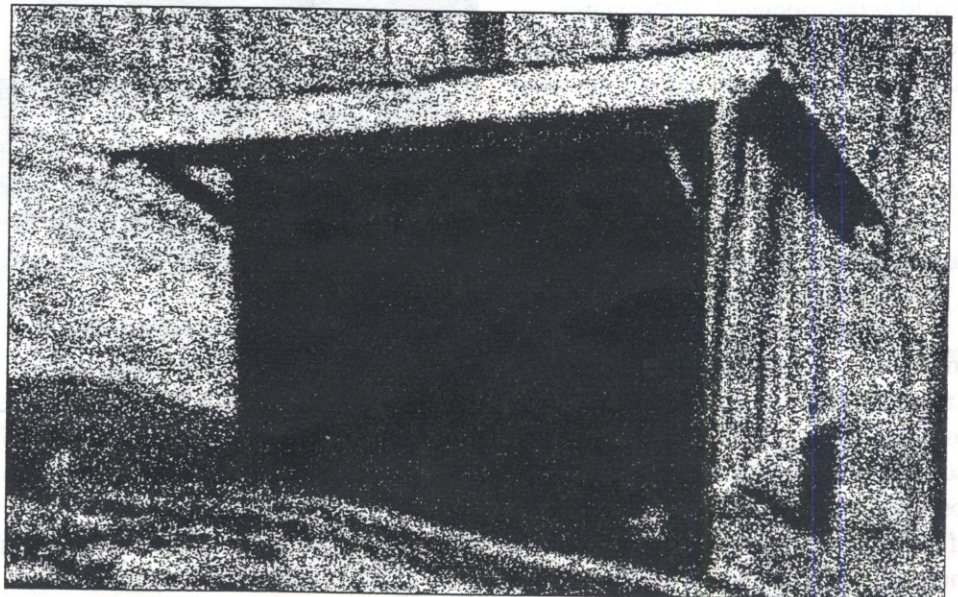
The portability of the materials means that a club could build a similar shelter in almost any location without going to the lengths of cutting roads, arranging for airlifts, felling trees and milling them on-site, or spending laborious days sledging in heavy beams. Use of the Raccoon Branch design frees us from many of the constraints that have resulted in shelters too close to roads and shelters that never got built because the logistics were too complex.

I envision a sequence of small, simple shelters at three to four-mile intervals all along the AT. Hikers would have more flexibility. If they were going strongly, they could skip forward to the next shelter. If bad weather set in, they could stop early. If a shelter was full, hikers would know that there was another one just a few miles up the trail.

Much of the environmental damage that occurs around heavily

used shelters would be obviated if hikers had a choice of numerous small shelters. The impact of large groups hiking together would be mitigated as small shelters simply would not offer the accommodations needed by a large group. More even spacing of hikers would offer a better wilderness experience and a sense of solitude. Except for a few areas like the Great Smokys and Shenandoah,

Chestnut Knob shelter or the proposed facility at the Forest Service Visitors Center on Highway 16. These provide a welcome respite after days of wilderness living. However, I would be wary of overdeveloping the trail with shelters on this pattern. They tend to cluster hikers, as there is no alternative place to stay. They also often become "destinations," places where long-distance



the trail could support a much greater usership without negative impact if hikers were spaced on the trail, rather than grouped up.

Free from the logistical constraints of building large structures, we would have many more siting options. When a new shelter is a year-long project, we must look for an optimal location close to water, accessible by road, and in an area where the impact of a large shelter with heavy use will not cause too much degradation. On the other hand, a small, simple shelter that could be erected in a couple of weekends would allow us to use many more sites.

I am not suggesting that there should be none of the large, elaborate structures along the trail, like our

hikers stay for several days, which causes even more congestion and environmental damage. They sometimes attract groups of non-hikers, such as ATV riders and hunters, which can result in misuse of the facility. A continuous string of primitive shelters would at least allow hikers looking for solitude a chance to bypass the developed sites.

I would like to know what the membership thinks about this idea. Write me at 2513-C Miller Park Circle, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103, or e-mail me at pmclayt@ibm.net. (Editor's note: We also would like to get members' ideas about this challenge into an upcoming newsletter to share with other PATH members. Please drop us a note, too.)

Cook's Plan Left A Bitter Taste

By Clint Kawanishi

An Easter Weekend hike of the McAfee Knob-Tinker Cliffs-Tinker ridge section of the AT was enjoyed by a group of PATH members. The wonderful sense of spiritual well being engendered in Tony Roberts, Karen Worthington, Dave Branson, Bill Medlin, and Clint Kawanishi by the outstanding views of McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs, Tinker Ridge, and comet Hale-Bopp, was, however, nearly catastrophically destroyed by the recommendation of trip cook and gourmand, Gene Greer.

Luckily, a last minute, transient attack of sensibility dissuaded our connoisseur from leading us to Chuck E Cheese's in Roanoke, VA, for our hike-ending meal.

The excitement and enjoyment of the trip were accentuated by the comraderie, good food, flora (spring flush of leaves and flowers, briars), and fauna (Boy Scout troop, "Old Log Greer" and his faithful companion slumbering in the forest, hordes of biting flies, copperheads, and deer that stalked us all night long).

We each gained valuable insights on this trip. Tony learned the efficacy of prehydration expounded by the hiking sage Bill Medlin. Bill in turn established that his metal parts functioned as were intended, and that ostriches can teach us a thing or two when face-biting flies are abundant. Karen learned not to fear the man-eating deer of Lambert's Meadow. Dave gained confidence in the knowledge that he could snore with the masters. Clint found that old age does nothing for heat tolerance. "Old Log" deduced that the "higher plane" is not far away when you lead hungry hikers astray. The experience was insightful, enjoyable, and has greatly impacted our philosophies of life.



Rachel "Solophile" DuBois and her traveling companion, Micah, on Springer Mountain at the start of their AT thru-hike.

PATH Hikers Making Tracks

Robert "Rhymin' Worm" Rubin was approaching the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in mid April after having started his thru-hike around April 1.

Robert's wife, Cathy, reports that Rhymin' Worm has a few aches and pains and has suffered a few cold nights during the early stages of his trip. Basically, she says, he's keeping his schedule and things seem to be progressing normally.

Rachel "Solophile" Dubois, had tried to arrange a shuttle from the trail in the Elk Park, NC, area to Stony Fork for the PATH worktrip, but apparently logistical problems

THRU-HIKER UPDATE

couldn't be overcome.

According to her journals, which are being published on the web at <http://www.webcom.com/markham/at-hike/>, Rachel is having a great time, and is making a special effort to identify and enjoy the wildflowers along the way.

John "Duffbusster" Locke, who was forced off the trail by injuries last year, is reportedly back on the trail in Pennsylvania. We understand that John hopes to hike for several weeks this year, then to finish up the trail during the 1998 season.

A Gathering of the Tribes

The 31st biennial Appalachian Trail Conference for all ATC members will be held August 1-8, Sunday River Ski Resort, Bethel, Maine. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club will host the event, which will offer 55 workshops and 75 hikes or excursions.

Workshops include "AT boundary management," "Women and Hiking", "Chainsaw Safety for Maintainers" and "Sweet-Smelling Toilets." Details

and registration materials are in the March/April edition of the "Appalachian Trailway News."

Parthena Martin, PATH president, also has copies of the registration package, which she will send to any interested PATH members.

Early registration must be postmarked by May 15 to qualify for the \$25 early-bird rate. The cost is \$35 after that date. Single-day registration is \$15.

Get-Acquainted Events

PATH members in the Triad and Triangle hosted get-acquainted meals in early March to introduce potential new members to the group.

The Triad group met at Ronni's Restaurant in Kernersville for dinner on Wednesday, March 5, and attracted 14 people interested in the group. Nine PATH members were there to explain PATH's goals, share experiences and offer practical advice on gear and clothing.

The Triangle group met for a Saturday, March 1, lunch at the Golden Corral Steakhouse in Durham. They entertained 13 people. Some of the visitors from both regions of the state participated in the March blow-down worktrip.

Worktrip Report

Forty-four PATH members, including eight new members, showed up at Stony Fork for the March worktrip. The weather was on the cool side, but most kept warm on Saturday by clearing branches and debris from trail.

On Sunday, Clint Kawanishi led a relaxing hike up over Chestnut Knob. Parthena Martin, Ralph Meeks, Nancy Pate, Tony Roberts, Robert Rubin, Maria Schroeder, Vaughn Thomas, and Karen Worthington all went along for the walk.

Relo Planning Uncovers Indian Chert Mine

Our Konnarock project for the summer is rehabilitating a section of trail, starting in Crawfish Valley. The relocations have been flagged, but when the Forest Service archeologist examined the flag line, he found evidence of an old Indian chert mine. Gordon and others went out a couple of weeks ago to reflag the the relocation so it won't damage the remains of this cultural and historical site.

1997 Membership Form

Please clip out this form and mail it with your check to the address at the bottom of the page.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

e-mail address _____

New ☐ Renewal ☐

1997 Membership Dues:

Individual—\$15 \$ _____

Family—\$17.50 \$ _____

Student—\$10 \$ _____

*Optional—ATC Dues \$18 \$ _____

Donations \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

PATH is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Member information (optional)

Are you interested in :

☐ Backpacking

☐ Day hikes

☐ Trail Maintenance

☐ Other _____

How did you first learn about PATH _____

Age _____ Sex _____

Occupation _____

Are you an Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) member? _____

** ATC dues are normally \$25 per year. However, members of trail maintaining clubs, such as PATH, can join the ATC for \$18 per year. If you are paying ATC dues, please include a separate check made out to "ATC."*

Send this form with your payment to:

PATH Treasurer
2595 Griffith Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Schedule of Events

May 10, 1997

Raven Rock State Park. Day-hike 5-6 miles in Raven Rock State Park, near Lillington, NC Views of Raven Rock and Cape Fear River. Call Jim Wood (919) 469-0820 by May 7.

May 17, 1997

May Worktrip. Flowers will be in bloom, and the bugs will spread their wings to welcome PATH members to this scenic, monthly worktrip. Members will start gathering Friday night at Stony Fork Campground for Saturday's tasks. Get there by 8 a.m. Call Gordon Burgess, Ken Rose, or Parthena Martin.

May 23-26, 1997

Kathy Bobseine will lead a north-to-south **backpack/day hike** of the whole 50-mile PATH section of the AT, starting on VA 623, with a 2-day/1-night backpack and then hike over the next 2 days to VA 670, camping at Stony Fork. Backpacking limited to 4 and day hiking to 8. At press time, one person has signed on. Call Kathy at (919) 542-5356 by May 16. Kathy can be reached at (919) 542-5356.

June 12-16, 1997

Konnarock work crew. PATH members are welcome to volunteer by the day or for the whole project. Contact Gordon Burgess.

June 21, 1997

June Worktrip. Briar patches and other invasive forms of vegetation are starting to feel their oats. Meet at Stony Fork Campground by 8 a.m. Call Gordon Burgess, Ken Rose, or Parthena Martin.

July 19, 1997

July Worktrip. Haven't gotten campfire smoke in your eyes in a while? Members will start gathering around the campfire at Stony Fork Campground Friday night for the Saturday worktrip. Groups depart starting at 8 a.m. Call Gordon Burgess, Ken Rose, or Parthena Martin.

July 15-29, 1997

Kathy Bobseine will lead a **backpacking trip** to Trinity Elks, Lassen Peak, northern California. Call (919) 542-5356.

August 1-8, 1997

31st ATC Biennial Meeting, hosted by the Main Appalachian Trail Club. Sunday River Ski Area, Bethel, Maine. Contact Parthena Martin.

August 7-11, 1997

Konnarock work crew will be working on the Tilson Gap rehabilitation. PATH members are welcome to help. Call Gordon Burgess.

August 16, 1997

August Worktrip. Meet at Stony Fork Campground by 8 a.m. Call Gordon Burgess, Ken Rose or Parthena Martin.

August 30-31, Sept. 1

PATH and the Outing Club of Virginia Tech will co-host the annual **Labor Day Multiclub meeting** this year at Stony Fork Campground. Members of southern AT groups from Georgia to Virginia will be in attendance for camping, hikes and other activities. Host members will be leading hikes for the visitors along stretches of PATH's section of the AT.

Responsibility for Safety

Certain risks are inherent in any Club activity. Each PATH member, guest or non-member hiker agrees to accept responsibility for his or her own safety and the safety of minors accompanying such person.

The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant on hikes. Each person agrees to hold harmless and free from blame the hike leaders, and PATH Inc., its officers and members, for any accident, injury, or illness which might be sustained during participation in hikes or other Club activities.



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