

ODATC Transitions To The 21st Century

As we strive to keep pace with the communication tools of the 21st Century, we will be transitioning from our current website to the new and improved interactive website hosted by Wild Apricot. Tentatively we plan to go live with that website on Wednesday, January 19th.

The new website's interactive capabilities allow for:

- Application or renewal of membership
- A listing of activities with online signup to participate
- Discussion forum for members to share thoughts on topics of interest
- Purchase of our merchandise on-line.
- As a member, you can contact other members

Some information is available to everyone while other information is available to members only. You'll find useful links to other related web sites. Information about our meetings, events (activities), information about upcoming conferences, and a link to the club's newsletter, *The Walker*, will be included.

Developing a great website is a work in progress as we expand its capabilities. To get you started here are some frequently asked questions. These are also included in the help section on the web site:

1. What do I do if I forget my password?

In the login area, enter your e-mail address and then click on the **forgot password** link. This takes you to a page where you are asked to enter your e-mail address where instructions on how to reset your password are sent. Check for this e-mail and follow the instructions once they are received.

2. I changed my e-mail address. Can I still log into the ODATC web site?

Yes you can. Just use your old e-mail address and your current password to log on. Just remember that you need to update your profile with the new e-mail address. To do this click on the

view profile link. Once your profile is displayed click on the **edit profile** button. This will allow you to change your e-mail address and any other personal information that has changed. Remember to **save** your updates.

3. How do I edit my profile?

First, log in. Then click on the **view profile** link that appears in the upper right hand corner of the screen. Once your profile is displayed, click on the **edit profile** button. You can now change the information in your profile. Remember to **save** any changes you make before exiting the screen.

4. How do I renew my membership?

First, log in. Then click on the **view profile** link. Once your profile is displayed, find the **Renew until day month year** button on the right side of the page. Click on this link. This takes you to the membership renewal page. Just follow the instructions to renew your membership for another year.

5. What payment options do I have?

You can pay by check or by credit card. If you are mailing a check as payment for membership, remember to include a copy of the invoice that was e-mailed to you. The online payment mechanism goes through PayPal where you can use your PayPal account, if you have one, or your credit card.

6. How do I register for an activity?

Click on the **EVENTS** tab in the left hand frame. This takes you to a list of scheduled events. Find the event that you want to attend. Click on the **register** button. The next screen displays your e-mail address, if you are signed in, or you are asked to furnish an e-mail address. Click **next** and either verify or enter the information requested. On this screen you will see an **attendees list** check box. You need to check this box if you want your name included in a list of attendees that is viewable by others. If you don't check this box you will show up as an *anonymous user* in the attendees list.

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ODATC MISSION

- The construction & maintenance of foot trails for hikers, including the trail between Reeds Gap and Rockfish Gap
- The provision of excursions on such trails or in other areas
- The offering of educational activities related to the need for preserving the great outdoors

P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

Happy New Year!!

As my first year as president comes to an end, I thought I would reflect upon some of the accomplishments and changes that have taken place. Overall, I would say we had a pretty good year, even though not everyone has been happy with all transitions. The biggest changes involved the *Walker* format and production, the move from the Science Museum to Trinity Lutheran Church, and converting our online presence to an interactive club website. Oh, I can't forget the installation of the infamous bear poles at our shelter. That was an incredible undertaking and accomplishment by quite a number of the trail maintainers.

Two of the changes were driven by club revenues versus expected expenditures. The nuances of our budget will be discussed in more detail at the January 18th club meeting. Suffice it to say, our membership is not what it once was. Before crying the sky is falling, your board is taking a hard look at the annual budget, grant opportunities, and other cost saving measures before proposing an increase in dues. Enough of the gloom – I sound like a bureaucrat!!

I think Janet Bailey has done an outstanding job maintaining the quality of our newsletter while implementing some significant savings. We would like to eventually eliminate mailing the newsletter and have everyone access it via the website. The development of our new website has been an awesome undertaking by Greg Hambacker, Karl Huber, Jess Barton, Janet Bailey, and Lori Ando. Many thanks to those of you who participated in our pilot group giving feedback as the development process was underway. The new site will be far more interactive than the former site. Beginning January 18, the club website (www.odatc.net) will automatically take you to the new site. Refer to the article on the transition for details on accessing the new site. I hope you will find the new site informative, interesting and user-friendly. Any comments or suggestions about the site and content are always welcome.

At our November meeting, we elected a new trail maintenance chair and web master. I would like to thank Cynthia Brown for her time maintaining the current club website. She has served 2 terms in that position and did much to get that site up and running. Lori served as secretary for only one year but did a great job. I know she will do an equally fine job in the trail maintenance position. As I write this message, we are still in need for a candidate to take Lori's position as secretary.

I would like to give special recognition and thanks to Fran Leckie for her 16 years as the trail maintenance chair. She has done an amazing job and given countless hours of her time to deal with the various activities and coordination required with ATC, NPS and USFS that occurs away from the actual trail maintenance. She has been involved in so much; I can't even begin to imagine how many miles of relocation and trail rehab have taken place under her watch. I have been a member of this club for 24 years and don't remember hearing of anyone who has held that position for so long. Even though, many times over, her tenure in that position has come and gone, she has always graciously volunteered to continue when no one else would step forward. Even though she is not gone, I will greatly miss my travels with Fran to the many meetings and other events we have attended together over the years.

I know there were other great things that have occurred this past year but I have gone on too long already. You really belong to an outstanding club with many dedicated members. As the next year unfolds, I hope you will step forward to participate in one of the many projects or programs that will be coming up. We need you!!

Best wishes,
Theresa



Mileage: We are putting in the miles. As of our last meeting, club members had hiked 3536 miles! REMEMBER, report the mileage that you have hiked beginning May 1, 2010 to add to our club mileage for the year ending April 30, 2011. Ken Baker is our top miler with 731 miles, Mark Dimmick has 444 miles and Donna Edwards is our top female hiker with 281 miles.

January 5 (Wednesday) Fredericksburg Historic Trail.....C/4

Hank Harman (264-8524 or hharman8@verizon.net). Hank is ODATC's 'chronological leader' as well as co-founder of the Wednesday hike series. Honor him on his annual 5 ½ mile hike on the sidewalks of the historic City of Fredericksburg. This interesting hike includes the graves of Mary Washington (mother of George) and ODATC's Pete Tansill's Confederate soldier grandfather. Meet at the Downtown Fredericksburg Visitor's Center 706 Caroline St. at 10:00 am. Contact Hank about carpooling. Lunch in downtown Fredericksburg. (Suggested carpool donation \$10)

January 8 (Saturday) Richmond City Walk B/4

Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net; 794-7833) This will be a 10-mile loop around the city that includes views (and chilly breezes!) from both the Nickel and Lee Bridge. For this brisk walk participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and carry some snacks and water. If you're interested in this trek then please meet at Maymont Park's Spottwood Entrance (Spottwood Road & Shirley Lane) near the children's farm and Dogwood Dell, at 9:00AM (RSVPs aren't necessary). Contact Randy for more details.

January 12 (Wednesday) West End - Willow Lawn to Malvern Area.....D/4

David Gillespie (749-4438 or kndgillesp@mindspring.com). Join the first of two of our new Wednesday hike coordinators. This new hike will be 4 miles in length along quiet residential streets with sidewalks in the City's "fashionable West End". We will meet in the Willow Lawn Shopping Center near the Five Guys Restaurant on the east side at the Willow Lawn Plaza Shops at 10:00 am. Bathroom stop scheduled. Lunch in a neighborhood eatery for those who want it. Call in case of inclement weather.

January 15 (Saturday) Work Trip

Lori Ando (804-397-5306) This month instead of a work trip we will have a Maintainer's Meeting/Potluck Lunch. Please contact Lori for details.

January 17th (Monday) Dutch Gap Conservation AreaC/4

Howard Davis (434-964-1242 or howardsuedavis@juno.com) Come and hike around the James River Tidal Flats at Henricus Historical Park. 2011 is also the 400th Anniversary of Henricus. Trail length is only about 5 miles, but we will stop for Bird Crossings so bring your binoculars. What better way to commemorate the new year. Limited to 12.

January 18th (Tuesday) General Membership Meeting. 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church-2315 N. Parham Rd. See Program Article.

January 19 (Wednesday) West End - Hanover and Stuart AvenuesD-4

Jack Martin (678-8083) This new hike will be through some of the West End's classic neighborhoods not previously hiked. Meet at the intersection of Hamilton Street and Hanover Avenue (between Grove and Patterson immediately west of I-95) at 10:00 am. We'll walk west on Hanover, explore the Lexington/Albemarle Avenue couplet and Oak Lane neighborhoods, learn about "Black Dog", the vagabond canine and walk back on Stuart Avenue. Bathroom stop scheduled. Optional lunch afterwards.

January 22 - 23 (Saturday & Sunday) Calf Mountain Shelter Freezer Backpacking Trip.....C/2

Ken Baker (lightfoot230@juno.com or 804-749-3625) Tired of cabin fever? Then get out for our annual winter backpacking and birthday celebration (for anyone with a January b-day) trip. Rob may cook a pot of his infamous road kill stew over a campfire and we may even bake a cake. A good test for your winter backpacking gear and skills. About a 7 mile hike each day.

January 26 (Wednesday) Henricus Hike and Birder's Delight, Chesterfield.....D-4

Barb Carver (230-4066). Join the second of our new Wednesday hike coordinators. A new bridge on one of the hiking trails allows a 4 mile loop hike. This is # 25 in Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 miles*. Birding is available during and following the hike at the adjacent Dutch Gap Conservation Area. To reach the park, take I-95 south to exit 61, follow VA 10 East 0.2 miles, left on Route 732 (Old Stage Road) for two miles. Follow the signs to the park. Meet at the Henricus Village parking lot at 10:00 AM. Call if weather is questionable.

A C T I V I T I E S

January 29 (Saturday) Fluvanna Heritage Trail.....C/3

Jenni Pendergrass (264-1633 or jennipendergrass@aol.com). This 7 mile hike along the Rivanna River is near Palmyra, about a one hour drive from Richmond. Bring hiking boots, water and your appetite. After the hike, everyone is invited for Brunswick stew and country ham biscuits at my house in Fork Union (Vegetarian option will be available). Meet at 8 a.m. at the I-64 Rockville Park and Ride, Exit 173 off I-64. The trip is limited to 12 people. (Suggested carpool donation \$10)

February 2 (Wednesday) Cumberland Natural Area Preserve, New Kent County.....D/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364). This easy and pretty 4 mile hike in the Coastal Plain includes a bluff overlooking marshy Holts Creek, Laurel flanked ponds and mixed forest on property owned by the Nature Conservancy. It is #15 in Nathan Lott's book *60 Hikes within 60 miles*. Take I-64 east to Bottoms Bridge (exit 205) turn left onto VA 249. Pass through New Kent Court House for 0.3 miles, turn left onto Rte. 637. Go 2.1 miles and turn left at the sign for Cumberland Natural Area. Go straight to parking/trailhead. The hike is 10:00 am (www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/virginia . In the Search box type: Vandell Preserve)

February 9 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods.....D/4

Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com) One in a series of two-hour morning hikes by Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's choice: **Bellevue** in Northside, Ted's childhood neighborhood. Park on MacArthur Ave. at Laburnum Ave. at 10:00 am. Bathroom stop scheduled. Optional lunch at Dot's Back Inn.

February 9 (Wednesday) Science Museum of Virginia's Lunch Break Series.....N/A

Lynda Richardson, famed local outdoor photographer, is the featured speaker. See details below on this series.

February 12 (Saturday) Jones Mountain Loop.....B/2

David Olli (864-1461, dolli@smv.org) One of my favorite long-loop hikes includes 13+ miles of trail along and across the Rapidan and Staunton Rivers (creeks), a big overlook at Bear Church Rock and a quick stop at Jones Mountain PATC. If we're lucky mountain snows will make this a winter wonderland of hiking. Trail starts from below so no worry if Skyline Drive closed to weather. Group size limited to 12, no kids or pets please. (Suggested carpool donation \$15)

February 16 (Wednesday) Forest Hill Park to Belle Isle.....D/4

John Farmer (754-0205). John is ODATC's 'longest' member in the Club. Come find out exactly how long and honor him by meeting at the circle at the north end of 41st Street at 10:00 AM. Beautiful 4 mile hike through the Park and along the James River to Belle Isle and return. Enjoy the refurbished lake and park.

February 18 and 19 (Friday- Sunday).....N/A

Karen Marks (rivermounatin@comcast.net) Shake off the winter blahs by joining me for a weekend, in a beautiful lodge, at James River State Park. There will hiking, games and good food. \$35 -\$55 for the weekend depending on how many respond. We are limited to 16 with a minimum of 10. Deadline to let me know is 1/15/11. Choice of sleeping arrangements is first come first served.

February 19 (Saturday) Work Trip

Lori Ando (804-397-5306) Local work trip this month. Please contact Lori for details.

February 23 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield.....D-4

Mary Stahl (271-3976). This close by hike in the wooded rolling hills includes occasional vistas of two freshwater lakes and heated bathrooms. Pocahontas is on Beach Road (Rte. 655) four miles west of the Chesterfield County Government Center (VA 10). Meet at the parking lot next to the pool at 10:00 am. There is a nominal parking fee.

Science Museum of Virginia’s Lunch Break Series

Pack a lunch and come hear speakers on a variety of topics. Pre-registration is not required. Fall/spring schedule is listed below:

March 2 - DCR’s Christen Miller on outdoor journaling

March 9 - Leonard M. Atkins (Outdoors Writer and Photographer) - Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail

April 6 - local author/photographer Will Daniel on his upcoming book release *James River Reflections*

April 27 (bluebirds) and **May 25** (Identifying birds by song) - Master Gardener and docent at Lewis Ginter, Dr. Barbara Ann Wiedekehr

May 7 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail Hike Across MarylandA/2

Tired of those wimpy 10-mile day hikes around Richmond? Then try this day hike on the “AT” across Maryland - a distance of about 40 miles from Pen Mar Park, PA to Harpers Ferry, WVA. A challenging hike, but doable by those in good physical and mental condition. Need to register with the Mountain Club of Maryland by the end of January - this event usually fills up quickly

Clinics, Workshops & Other Activities

Wilderness First Aid Certification Course in Charlottesville and Norfolk:

Course details are online at www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa.htm

Flyer can be accessed at www.outdoorsocial.com/wfa_flyer.pdf

Contact is Matthew Rosefsky, Instructor and Wilderness EMT, Solo Wilderness and Emergency Medicine, and General Manager, Outdoor Adventure Social Club, 420 E. Main St. #3, Charlottesville, (434-760-4453)

January 22-23 Charlottesville (at Ivy Creek Natural Area)

April 2-3 Norfolk (at Old Dominion University)

May 21-22 Charlottesville (at Ivy Creek Natural Area)

January’s Program - January 18th

Our **speaker** for our January 18th meeting will be **Cyrus Brame**. Cyrus works at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Over the past several years, our maintenance crew and other club members have volunteered to work at two local sites, the James River Wildlife Refuge and Presquile Island. Cyrus will share information about the future development of these sites.



This month we will be having finger foods. Club members are asked to bring foods (that can be easily eaten with fingers) to share with others. Come early and enjoy the fellowship. Please do not forget to bring your mugs.

Food Box Please do not forget to bring you donation of canned food for the church’s food pantry.



See you at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Road)!

ODATC Transitions to the 21st Century continued from page 1.....

7. Are there any browsers with known problems?

Both the **Safari** and **Chrome** browsers have reported limitations. These include the inability to resize images by dragging the edges or corners; the spell check dialog box appearing larger than in other browsers; the autofill form suggestions appear in

random places on the page; and the pop-up window on right click does not always work. The only suggested fix is to set your browsers preferences to always accept cookies. To do this make the following adjustments if necessary: **Preferences -> Security -> Accept cookies: Always**. If this doesn't fix the problem then you need to try a different browser.

ODATC Hike Rating Codes

Terrain

- 1 = Very Strenuous
- 2 = Strenuous
- 3 = Moderate
- 4 = Easy

Distance

- A = More than 13 miles
- B = 9 to 13 miles
- C = 5 to 9 miles
- D = Under 5 miles

Hiking boots are strongly recommended for all hikes. Hikers must be properly equipped, aware of their limitations & hike within their ability. In the interest of safety, activity coordinators may refuse to allow participation by club members or their guests.



Please honor the following suggested donations to your driver when carpooling to and from hikes:

\$10 per rider for travel to and around the Charlottesville area (60-75 miles approx)

\$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles)

Discounts

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Appomattox River Company, Rockfish Gap Outfitters and Wilderness Adventure are big supporters of ODATC.

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports has a new location at 12020 West Broad St., Henrico, VA 23233 (in front of Hilton West of Short Pump Towne Center.) in addition to their locations at Chesterfield Towne Ctr. and 10164 Broad St.

Rockfish Gap Outfitters is on Route 250 in Waynesboro. They offer assistance with questions about hiking equipment.

Appomattox River Company extends a discount on all merchandise except boats and has locations in Farmville, Midlothian and Yorktown. Call 800-442-4837 for details or browse their website at www.paddleva.com.

Wilderness Adventure, located in the heart of Staunton, Virginia, now offering our members a 10% discount on most merchandise. Please visit the store the next time you are in Staunton. You will find Wilderness Adventure near the train station on 50 Middlebrook Avenue, or call 540-885-3200 for more information.

Congratulations!

At the Membership Meeting in November, two board positions were filled. Lori Ando is our new Trail Maintenance Chair and Kimberly Lawrence our new Webmaster. Their terms begins in January 2011.

Volunteers

We have had many people sign up to be Volunteers. The list of volunteers who have expressed an interest to volunteer in a specific area should hear from that area's board member soon.

If you would like to volunteer your talents, please contact Claudia at gregandclaudia@verizon.net Do not miss out on the fun and fellowship!

Tee Shirts

We have a variety of Tee Shirts available for purchase: the blue shirts have the round logo; the grey shirts have the green embroidered ODATC logo; the olive shirts have white embroidered ODATC logo & are tailored for women!

- blue S/S \$14.00 Gray S/S \$16.00
- blue L/S \$16.00 Olive S/S \$18.00

Contact Greg (sendit2greg@verizon.net) for more information.

2011 ODATC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(area code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	taduffey2054@comcast.net
Vice-President	Mark Dimmick	400-3108	mmdimmick@hotmail.com
Secretary	Lori Ando	397-5306	llo443022@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Hambacker	323-0513	sendit2greg@verizon.net
Programs	Claudia Hambacker	323-0513	gregandclaudia@verizon.net
Land Management	Karl Huber	355-4619	karl.huber@dcr.virginia.gov
Membership	Jess Barton	843-813-8095	jnbarton@gmail.com
Trail Maintenance	Lori Ando	397-5306	llo443022@gmail.com
Activities	Jenni Pendergrass	264-1633	japendergrass@co.hanover.va.us
Newsletter	Janet Bailey	432-8191	odatcwalker@gmail.com
Webmaster	Kimberly Lawrence	922-3731	me.kimberly@yahoo.com
Past President	David Olli	864-1461	dolli@smv.org

ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Annual ODATC dues are \$15 for individuals & \$20 for families. Lifetime membership is \$250. Renewals are due in January; forms can be found online. **The Walker** is published bi-monthly with submission deadlines by the 15th of the publication month.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesdays of September, November, January, March and May. The next meeting is on **January 18th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** at Trinity Lutheran Church, **2315 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23229**. Bring a friend!



THE WALKER

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ODATC

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Richmond, Virginia

www.odatc.net