

The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 23, Issue 4

July/August 2015

President's Message

Happy Summer Solstice!!

And boy has summer hit with a vengeance!! I obviously spend far too much time working in the office as this heat and humidity does not make me a happy hiker. But the trail still needs tending and a few hearty (or should I say Insane) souls are out hiking. So we do what we can to keep things looking good.

While the hiking schedule is not as full this time of year, there is a variety of offerings. Work trips are still planned for the 3rd Saturday of the month plus section maintainers will be busy keeping the weeds back. If you would like to participate on a maintenance trip, be sure to check out the information provided elsewhere in the Walker or contact Mark Heede, trail maintenance supervisor at (odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com). Giving back to the trail can actually be quite rewarding.

Registration is still underway for the 40th ATC Biennial Conference is being held July 17-24 in Winchester, VA at Shenandoah University. There is a link on our website for more conference information. Just a reminder that our own Hank Harmon and Leonard Adkins are presenters during the workshop sessions. Hope to see other ODATC representatives while I'm there.

I would like to thank those who took the time to provide responses to the questionnaire about the club, ATC and management of the Appalachian Trail. These were helpful in getting a sense of how information and issues are perceived. If you are interested in the results please contact me at the email address below.

It is time again to seek nominations for ODATC Board members and there are several positions open. Information is provided in the newsletter about the open positions and what the various positions entail. Please review the options to see if there is a position meant for you.

As always, your feedback and participation in club events and functions is more than welcome. Just send me an email with your ideas and comments. (odatc.president@gmail.com)

Stay cool and hydrated!!

Happy Trails! Theresa

ODATC Hike Rating Codes

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.

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

CARPPOOLING Please honor the following suggested donation to your driver when carpooling to and from hikes: \$10 per rider for travel to and around the Charlottesville area (60-70 miles approx.) \$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles).

Trips, Treks, and Talks - Ted McGarry & Jim Hunt, Contributors

July 6 (Monday afternoon) Buttermilk Loop - James River Park (C/2)

Diana Nunez-Hoyle (diana.nunezhoyle@gmail.com) Diana is leading several Monday afternoon hikes in the summer to keep us in shape. The 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north bank of the River, crosses on Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through the James River Park and the Buttermilk Trail and re-crosses the river over Belle Isle pedestrian bridge, ending at the cars. Meet at the free parking lot on Tredegar St. between the Lee Bridge and 2nd St. Bring water and snack. Meet at 5:00pm

July 11 (Saturday) Conway River & Slaughter Trail (B/2)

Jenni Pendergrass (804-264-1633 or japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov or 804-221-3226) Starting at Bootens Gap in SNP, this approximately 11 mile circuit hike takes us on an easy walk down the scenic Conway River Road and then it's a steep climb back up to the AT on the Slaughter Trail. There are several creek crossings and one wide crossing of the Conway River so bring your Crocs and Texas. Once we get back to the AT, we'll hike 2 miles north past Bearfence Mountain to the parking lot. We plan to meet at the Rockville Manakin exit off of I-64.

July 15 (Wednesday) COOL EARLY-BYRD HIKE (C/4)

Meet at 7:20 a.m. -- 5.5-mile trek through Byrd Park and nearby neighborhoods early in the morning when temperatures are cooler. Meet at the boat house on Boat Lake (also called Fountain Lake). Boat Lake is the first lake you see upon entering the park from the Boulevard. (C/4) View hike route: <http://www.plotaroute.com/route/80987> Paul Miller (ptmillerjr@gmail.com)

July 20 (Monday afternoon) Buttermilk Loop - James River Park (C/2)

Diana Nunez-Hoyle (diana.nunezhoyle@gmail.com) Diana is leading several on Monday afternoon summer hikers to keep us in shape. The 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north bank of the River, crosses on Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through the James River Park and the Buttermilk Trail and

re-crosses the river over Belle Isle pedestrian bridge, ending at the cars. Meet at the free parking lot on Tredegar St. between the Lee Bridge and 2nd St. Bring water and snack. Meet at 5:00pm

July 29 (Wednesday) Science Museum of Virginia Lunch Break Science Series - Noon
Tee Clarkson, Director, Atoka Conservation Exchange - The Value of Conservation: Matching Conservation, Wildlife Habitat, and Financial Goals Through Land, Water, and Air Assets

July 25 (Saturday) The Larry Murtaugh Memorial Hike and Swim (B/2)

Randy Wendell and Lisa Kin (randy.wendell@verizon.net; or lisa.kin1@verizon.net)

We're going to honor Larry by doing the 10-mile Rip Rap Hollow day hike. This is truly a scenic hike, but the highlight of the day will be taking a dip in a classic swim hole - just as Larry would have done. Bring your water shoes and a towel, and to keep in the spirit of this event total submersion is required. After the hike, for anyone interested, we'll dine on Mexican food (and brew) at one of Larry's favorite spots in Charlottesville. Contact Randy or Lisa for more details.

July 30 (Thursday) Powhatan State Park (C/3)

David Olli (864-1461, dolli@smv.org) Less than 8 miles of relatively easy trail but a short drive from DT Richmond and you can dip your toes or more in the James River if it's toasty hot. Group size limited to 12, pets welcome but must abide by park leash regulations.

August 1 (Saturday) Man of La Mancha at Dogwood Dell

Jenni Pendergrass (japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov or 804-221-3226) Our annual summer gathering at Dogwood Dell. Play starts at 8:30 p.m. but come early with your picnic basket and chairs. Club members are usually down front so look for us there.

August 10 (Monday afternoon) Buttermilk Loop - James River Park (C/2)

Diana Nunez-Hoyle (diana.nunezhoyle@gmail.com) Diana is leading several Monday afternoon hikes in the summer to keep us in shape. The 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north bank of the River, crosses on Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through the James River Park and the Buttermilk Trail and re-crosses the river over Belle Isle pedestrian bridge, ending at the cars. Meet at the free parking lot on Tredegar St. between the Lee Bridge and 2nd St. Bring water and snack. Meet at 5:00pm

August 12 (Wednesday) North Anna Battlefield Park / sit in the river hike (D-4)

Jim Hunt (hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com or 804-730-2364) Come join us on this 4 mile hike and sit in the North Anna River. The new trails in the North Anna Battlefield Park gives us great access to the North Anna River. We will walk 2 miles to the river, sit in the river for an hour and walk back. Take I-95 north 18 miles to Doswell exit 98. Go west on Rte 30 for a half mile, turn right on US 1 and go 1.2 miles. Turn left on Verdon Road, Rte 684, go 2.2 miles and the park in on your right. Drive into the park and park in the main parking lot. Bring water, water shoes and a change of clothing. Meet at 2 pm.

August 19 (Wednesday) Center of the Universe' Parks - Ashland D/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com). Ashland has many small neighborhood parks. We will walk through many of them as we enjoy this 5 mile hike in this small college town. Meet in the parking lot behind the Library in downtown Ashland. Coming from I-95, take Rte. 54, and after the old Ashland movie theater, turn left on Virginia Street and follow the parking signs. Meet at 7:20 am

August 24 (Monday afternoon) Buttermilk Loop - James River Park (C/2)

Diana Nunez-Hoyle (diana.nunezhoyle@gmail.com) Diana is leading several hikes in the summer on Monday afternoon to keep us in shape. The 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north bank of the River, crosses on Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through the James River Park and the Buttermilk Trail and re-crosses the river over Belle Isle pedestrian bridge, ending at the cars. Meet at the free parking lot on Tredegar St. between the Lee Bridge and 2nd St. Bring water and snack. Meet at 5:00pm

Upcoming Programs – Sue Kropp, Contributor

September 8, 2015 – This will be our first meeting at the Virginia Science Museum. Take note of the new date. We are honored to have a special guest speaker to kick off our new location. Ralph White, the former director of the James River Parks System in Richmond will be our featured guest speaker. The topic will be the Parks of Australia and other adventures from Down Under. This will be a very exciting and informative event. Come help us kick off the new season at our new location.

November 10, 2015 - Ever wonder what lies beneath the AT? The Virginia state geologist, David Spears, will be with us to give us a peek at the ‘ground level’. He will provide a view we have not seen before of what the AT geology is made of and how it came to be. Geology controls the topography, and therefore played a large role in the location of the trail. A meeting not to miss. We will also be electing the new 2016 Board members!.

All general club meetings are now being held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Virginia Science Museum located at 2500 West Broad Street, Richmond VA 23220-2057.

The meetings officially begin at 7PM, but members are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes early for socializing. Snacks to share are always welcome.

For more information contact Sue Kropp at odatc.programs@gmail.com.

Welcome to New Members

ODATC would like to recognize and welcome new members. Current club members are encouraged to welcome and get to know them better as they join us on scheduled hikes listed above.

Rose Brown

Kathy Brown

Chris Kiewra

Deborah Orr

Michael Scruggs

Chuck Shimer

Marc Veuhoff

Lisa Mattson

Susan Bain

Fran McConnell- Has books on Amazon, wants to section hike, interest in cooking

ODATC BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

Nominees are being sought for the ODATC Board positions listed below. The term for each position is 2 years and will begin in January 2016. In general, all board members are expected to attend and participate in at least 2/3rds of the board meetings which will usually be held at the Science Museum of Virginia on the second Tuesday of the month of February, April, June, August, October, and December; additional meetings may be scheduled depending on need. Time commitment will vary based on the position. Having access to email and a computer are necessary for most positions and board communications. Several positions have the flexibility to develop committees and/or solicit volunteers to assist with implementing position duties. Below is a brief summary of some of primary responsibilities.

The open board positions include:

President – individual oversees board and club activities and meetings; serves as club liaison with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and other organizations or agencies; serves as primary representative on the regional partnership committee and attends spring and fall meetings

Treasurer – individual maintains club financial accounts; collecting and disbursing club monies; reconciling the budget and expenditures

Secretary – individual responsible for keeping the minutes from Board meetings

Membership – individual responsible for maintaining membership information in the club’s online database; recruiting new members; soliciting membership renewals; developing and implementing any membership orientation programs

Land Management – individual manages the monitoring of the Blue Ridge Parkway/AT corridor boundary; reporting any land management problems, intrusions, or agreement violations to the Board, ATC VARO office and appropriate agency partners

Programs – individual arranges the program for the regular club meetings held in January, March, May, September, and November to include obtaining guest speakers, arranging for audio/visual equipment and any other equipment required for the program; providing refreshments at club meetings

Activities – individual(s) solicit and schedule recreational outings; submit outing summaries for publishing in the newsletter and posting on the club website calendar

Outreach – individual identifies events for promoting the club and coordinates volunteers for these events; responsible for the content, reproduction and availability of club publications (other than newsletter) and the club display

Newsletter – individual responsible for producing and distributing the club newsletter (Walker) up to 6 times per year; soliciting, reviewing and approving all material included in each issue; coordinating with the Webmaster to post newsletter on website

If you would like additional information please contact the current board member (names included in the Walker), Karl Huber at trail.landmgmt@gmail.com or Theresa Duffey at odatc.president@gmail.com .

2015 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
Vice President	David Grimes	833-8974	odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Leonard Adkins	275-1208	odatc.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dennis Schafer	314-2434	odatc.treasurer@gmail.com
Programs	Sue Kropp	276-0070	odatc.programs@gmail.com
Land Mgmt.	Karl Huber	355-4619	odatc.landmgmt@gmail.com
Membership	John Spindler	746-4717	odatc.membership@gmail.com
Trail Maint.	Mark Heede	364-1658	odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com
Activities	Jim Hunt (weekend events)	730-2364	odatc.activities@gmail.com
	Ted McGarry (weekday events)	218-1238	odatc.activities@gmail.com
Newsletter	Susan Kidd (acting)	784-3617	odatc.newsletter@gmail.com
Outreach	Open		odatc.outreach@gmail.com
Webmaster	Larry Kidd	784-3617	odatc.webmaster@gmail.com

Board meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting dates are occasionally changed so please contact the president for times and location. All meetings are open to the membership.

Lest we forget...

The ODATC Mission

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

ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Lifetime memberships are available for \$250. Renewals are due annually based upon the month you joined. Renewals and applications for membership can be processed online. If you prefer the USPS, forms for renewal and application may be printed from the website. If you are interested in becoming a member of the ATC you can call (304) 535-6331, ext. 119, e-mail them at membership@appalachiantrail.org or use this link to their website: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/donate/join-renew>.

THE WALKER

The Walker is published bi-monthly
with the submission deadlines by the 15th
of the pre-publication month.

Club member stories and photos are welcome!

Please send your material to odatc.newsletter@gmail.com.