



Annual Report

November 18, 2014



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John Hedrick

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PRESIDENT

John Hedrick

President: John Hedrick	Prepared by: John Hedrick
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,301
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 24, 2014

Overall 2014 has been a very good year. Our Information Technology has matured to the point where we are able to generate meaningful reports in a timely fashion. Our on-line reservation system has been automated and about 95% of all our cabin reservations are accomplished on-line. The Premium Cabin Reservation system has been automated.

The new shelter at Dick's Dome (to be called Whiskey Hollow Shelter) has been approved (finally) and work has commenced. Two crews are working to complete the shelter with an anticipated completion date of early spring, 2015.

The work on the new shelter in Pennsylvania (Charlie Irvin shelter) has been almost completed. Moving the material to the site has been difficult due to the terrain and large amount of material. We anticipate a completion date of December 2014.

The Lincoln Loggers crew continues to work on the rental cabin in the vicinity of Old Rag. The foundation has been completed and the well has been dug

and capped. The kitchen addition has been completed and the logs for the wall are in place. The roof is covered and the crew is working on "chinking" the logs.

We have continued to conduct a series of informative talks at REI stores about hiking our many trails in our geographical area. These have been well received.

Our trail and shelter system continues to receive high praise from all hikers. We are very fortunate to have such a large cadre of volunteers to oversee our many shelters and trails.

Our 87th PATC Awards Banquet was well attended. Ranger Eric Campbell from Belle Grove National Park was our guest speaker. Pete Brown, Pennsylvania District Manager, received the Myron Avery award. Henry Horn and John Shannon received the Honorary Life Award. A number of Hawksbill awardees were recognized.

The GPS Ranger Program, established by Jim Tomlin has received great support and participation by interested volunteers. This is a terrific initiative and many trails have been GPS'd by this group.

Our Headquarters has been undergoing more improvements with additional work to our heating and air conditioning system. Renovation to the downstairs bathrooms has been accomplished.

Our Chapters and Committees operate at a high level of professionalism. The Potomac Appalachian newsletter continues to provide interesting and informative articles. The Trail Talkers are quite active supporting many area events and explaining the PATC story.

Planning for the 2015 Biennial is on-going led by Lee Sheaffer and Rush Williamson. This is a major effort which will require extensive coordination and a great number of volunteers. All data necessary for the ATC reservation system has been provided and testing on the system will commence in November.

We continue to work with the National Park Service to finalize our Old Rag Parking Lot lease. We anticipate a signed lease in early December 2014.

Mike Wingart and his crew rehabilitated the Kennedy Peak Lookout Tower in the Lee District of the George Washington National Forest. This was a

major effort and required an air lift to get the material to the site and mules to move the tools. The result was greatly appreciated by the Forest Service.

The Little Cove Cabin in Pennsylvania was completed and a dedication held. The work was well done and the cabin is a great addition to our rental system.

This will be my last Annual Report as your President. The President position is term limited and I need to step aside. It has been my privilege to work with the many great volunteers and I wish everyone all the best.

VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

Lee Sheaffer; Vice President of Operations

Vice President of Operations	
Chair: Lee Sheaffer	Prepared by: Lee Sheaffer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 1	Volunteer Hours Reported: 550
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: October 24, 2014

Operations at PATC remain consistent and steady. The trail system is the standard throughout the Appalachian Trail and all trails throughout the country. Our shelters and cabins are both praised and well used. We are currently constructing a new cabin at Old Rag, have obtained a cabin through land purchase, and are pursuing another possible cabin within a Maryland state park .PATC also took a nonproductive cabin out of its system. We placed our cabin rental system on-line during the year which has made it both easier for our members and the public to rent our cabins but has led to an increase in rental and new members. We are currently constructing two new shelters, one to replace the old Dick's Dome shelter and the other a new shelter on the Tuscarora Trail. Dick's Dome shelter will be relocated to a new location. We continue to look for creative ways to finance these structures. PATC lands are well managed and are used to support our trails, shelters and cabin systems. PATC gain two new parcels in 2014, one through purchase and another through donation. Both parcels will add to our land holdings. We have a dedicated group of volunteers which makes the entire club function, there is not one area of the club's operation that is not effected or directly run by volunteers. Our staff does a marvelous job in supporting our volunteers and ensuring the day to day operations get done. We will continue to make sure that PATC operations are both efficient and to a high standard which we have come to expect.

On-Going Projects:

Work still continues to improve the Tuscarora Trail and a major reroute should be open on the Virginia/West Virginia border in 2015. As mentioned the Charlie Irvin shelter in Pennsylvania should also be complete in 2015 as well as the Whisky Hollow shelter which will replace the Dick's Dome Shelter. We expect three new cabins to come on line in 2015 and we are improving both our cabins and the rental system. As always trails will be well maintained and there is a possibility of new partnerships and expanded trail mileage in the next year. Perhaps the largest project the club is taking on is the 2015 Appalachian Trail Biennial to be held in July of 2015 at Shenandoah University. This week long event will take an extreme amount of work and volunteer help to complete. The club has risen to the occasion and we expect both an exciting

and well attended event.

Goals for 2015

PATC with the help of our partner Mountain Club of Maryland expect to host one of the best Appalachian Trail Biennials in recent memory. This will take help from every area of the club and a large number of volunteers. Planning has been productive and successful so far and we expect to have a great conference.

Regular operations will continue as expected and PATC will continue to be the envy of trail clubs throughout the nation.

On a personal note, after twelve years on PATC council and ten years on PATC Executive Committee, I will be leaving both at the end of 2014. My best wishes for the new and continuing officers of the club. I will remain active in the club and supportive of all the clubs activities. It has been a great pleasure volunteering for the club in my various capacities and I look forward to future work within PATC.

Lee Sheaffer; Vice President of Operations



Vice-President Volunteerism: Dick Hostelley

Vice- President Volunteerism	Prepared by: Dick Hostelley
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1250
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 11/10/2104

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Club recognize the traditional and crucial importance of the spirit of volunteerism to the Club's mission.

In order to insure that Club membership, outreach, education and communication programs are handled efficiently and effectively, and the Council goals are met, the VP – Volunteerism:

1. Oversees the operation of the Club's paid staff and supervises the Staff Director.
2. Oversees the implementation of volunteer staffing programs within the Club Headquarters.
3. Oversees programs developed to improve the status of volunteer activities by coordinating with the Supervisor or Membership, Supervisor of Activities, the sections and chapters, and the Trail Patrol in order to insure that Council goals are met, and tasks and obligations required of the Club are fulfilled.
4. Oversees procedures developed in coordination with relevant committee chairs to insure that volunteer opportunities and programs are shared effectively among Club members and the public.

5. Seeks out or creates suitable venues and means to recognize and reward successful volunteer participation.
6. Plans and implements the Club's overall strategy and specific programs to attract and retain volunteers

During the past year, the Club bid farewell to Pat Fankhuser who spent 23 years with the Club in many roles; most recently as the Cabins Coordinator. Pat, however remains with the Club as a Volunteer - the Supervisor of Facilities has named her Overseer Emeritus of High Acre. She is happily enjoying her grandchildren and time at home with her husband Larry.

Over the past 12 months, Attentive Accounting Group, specifically Ms. Bonnie Proch has worked diligently to bring an accumulation of accounting data and records, into an orderly accounting system (QuickBooks) permitting invoicing, payment acceptance, and expense tracking in a short period of time. Bonnie's work has been performed in a stellar manner to say the least. She will be moving on to other challenges, PATC wishes her well in her new endeavors. Her work is greatly appreciated.

With Bonnie's departure a review of the Club's bookkeeping and financial management functions was conducted. It has been decided rather than hire a new bookkeeper/financial manager, the Club would promote from within and seek a Sales Coordinator external to the Club. Mona Filchock has been promoted to Financial Coordinator effective November 03, 2014. With Mona's experience as an accountant and her knowledge of QuickBooks, it is felt she will do an excellent job as the Club's Financial Coordinator.

Training is an important aspect of employee development, therefore, Staff has been asked to look for relevant training. The following is an example of webinar, seminars and courses attended:

1. Retreat in High Acre on employee communications
2. Web Design and Cascading Style
3. Interacting with Your Website
4. Advanced Training for Microsoft Excel X
5. Intermediate QuickBooks for Nonprofits
6. Teaching First Aid
7. Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines
8. Fundraising Planning
9. Nonprofit Financial Health
10. Contracts: What Nonprofits Need to Know
11. Online Course offer through STAR 12 Digital Edition



**SUPERVISOR OF ACTIVITIES:
Rush Williamson**

Supervisor of Activities: Rush Williamson	Prepared by: Rush Williamson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 305	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1093.1
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 96	Date: October 22, 2014

In FY 2014, PATC's "Trail Talkers" participated in a total of 32 events (17 for FY 13), staffed by 30 volunteers. We had to cancel out of three events because not enough volunteers signed up to attend.

Currently there are around 300 members listed expressing an interest in participating in Trail Talker events, but over the past year only 30 actually turned out, however out of this group many did several events. The good news is that there are close to 100 new members have expressed an interest in becoming Trail Talkers this year and hopefully they will become active. There are about 60 hours not reported here as some Chapters requested to list them in their reports.

The Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter again stepped up this year and well represented PATC not only in the Valley but numerous times in Shenandoah Park. The Chapter also has been working with the newly

reinvigorated Charlottesville Chapter to help them get their Trail Talker program off the ground.

The newly revived Northern Shenandoah Chapter has participated in three events this year and it is hope this next year they take an even greater role.

Boy Scout Liaison also continued the club's involvement at several Boy Scout events. PATC has had an increasing number of requests by Scout groups, to include Girl Scout and church groups to have PATC representative come and give presentations. This year we gave a backpacking presentation to a 4H group who did the Maryland section ao the AT this summer.

The REI outreach program's success has become such that it needed its own presentation display and Activities worked with the REI presentation team and they now have their own materials and their hours are not counted in this report.

A Boy Scout "Trail talker" list to meet the rising demand for PATC to come talk with Units has been established but still needs much work.

Trail Talkers now has its own storage area and is moved in to it along with an accounting system to track who and where the display materials are.

In an effort to attract younger member there has been a significant effort to come up with games and projects for children to be displayed along with traditional Trail Talk set ups.

Goals for FY 2015:

Facilitate establishing a viable process to coordinate an interactive relationship between Trail Patrols's Hike Leaders Class and the Hike Committee with a goal to increase the hiking program to include a wider variety of hikes and to make better use of the new social media tools that are out there.

Work on getting more volunteers to come out and participate in the Trail Talker events so we can meet the demand of the requests we are getting.

Put particular emphasis on establishing Campus Chapters at a number of Colleges/Universities.

Work on integrating and including the seven AT Trail Communities within the PATC area in Club activities and trail participation.

Cabins Operations Annual Report 2014

The PATC Cabins Committee met in on April 12th and November 8th. The Committee is made up of six Regional Supervisors, the Huts Supervisor and the Cabin Coordinator. We had a few changes this year with Anne Corwith taking over as Cabins Coordinator and Jeff Testerman becoming supervisor for the Vining Tract Cabins – Mel Merritt who previously supervised the Vining Tract is now supervisor for the Piedmont District . We also held the Annual Overseers meeting on April 12th at the Blackburn Trail Center.

The two major projects in the Northern District this year were the completion of the Little Cove renovations and the reconstruction of the bridge at Silberman Cabin. As usual the North Chapter folks did an excellent job on both. New decking for the bridge was donated by Blue Ridge Lumber in Fishersville, Virginia who has supplied generous donations for other cabin projects. Charlie Gutridge, overseer of Mileburn Cabin completely replaced the old rotten cabin floor. Michener Cabin overseer Howard Seaton rebuilt the front porch there and Hermitage Cabin got a moldering privy

In the Central District Highacre House got a brand new kitchen in February. We are indebted to all those who came out to work on the project especially David Jackson who not only arranged for the donation of Antique Heart Pine flooring from E. T. Moore Manufacturing in Richmond but also did the floor finishing. David Jackson also refinished the wood floor at Glass House. While PATC gave up our lease on Catoctin Cottage this year we are expecting to lease a log house from the State of Maryland before the end of the year which should go in the system in early 2015. Olive Green Cabin which is near the new cabin in Cunningham State Park also got a moldering privy this year.

In the Shenandoah National Park District we got a new Cedar Shingle roof on Doyles River Cabin installed by the National Park Preservation Training Center. Supervisor Glen Tsaparis has been busy this past month coordinating all the annual National Park inspections with his overseers .

In the Shenandoah Valley District if the weather allows we will have the new standing seam metal roof installed on Lambert Cabin before the end of the year. Next year regional Supervisor Thomas Jorgenson is planning to rebuild the deck on the Schairer Trail Center.

The Piedmont District is looking forward to putting the newly purchased Horwitz Cabin in the System on December 1st. The Eaton Hollow Crew helped overseer, Harper Barney level the floor at Meadows Cabin this year – next year it may get a new floor. Also next year John Corwith and the Lincoln Loggers Crew hope to get the Old Rag Cabin in the system - it is currently under roof and looking good.

Finally in the Vining District Larry Lang, overseer of Wineberry Cabin recently made major improvements to the roof over the outdoor cooking area. The Vining family has decided to provide a solar panel system at the Vining Cabin which will result in a substantial decrease in our electric bills.

SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Alan Day

Supervisor of Communications: Alan Day	Prepared by: Alan Day
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 315
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: 10/14/2014

Online cabin reservation system

The 80% solution that IT Chair Lee Manning & PATC IT Coordinator Kit Sheffield discovered & put online has provided a significant improvement for members wanting to reserve a cabin. They can reserve & pay for a cabin over the Internet without having to call in to PATC headquarters & spend a long time on hold waiting to speak to a desk volunteer. The evening cabins reservation desk has been shut down. Members with special needs can have them addressed during normal working hours by a PATC staffer. Non-members wanting to rent a members-only cabin can join online & this has resulted in a steady increase in PATC membership. PATC cabin rentals represent about 1/3 of PATC revenue.

PATC has begun using the Virginia-is-for-Lovers website to advertise the club's Virginia cabins. The publicly available cabins are online & the members-only cabins are planned to be put up in the near future. This is a Virginia-funded site available at no cost to PATC.

Potomac Appalachian

Editor Rachel Levin & Co-Editor Dan Pulskamp lead an active team that continues to put out the Potomac Appalachian every month right on schedule. The online versions feature full color photos of PATC volunteers, hiking venues, & nature articles. Many members access the Potomac Appalachian via patc.net. The printed version is available in black & white, on recycled paper, & biodegradable ink as requested by the PATC membership during a survey conducted several years ago.

Public Affairs

This long vacant position has been filled by new PATC member Jessica Murphy who is spearheading the club's presence using social media. This effort has contributed to the growth in membership & has increased attendance at the monthly New Members meetings at headquarters.

Wolf Trap

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts sponsored an overnight camp out for 35 1st time campers from local elementary school 5th & 6th graders in late September 2014. Wolf Trap trail overseer Mike Moran & District Manager Alan Day led nature hikes on the PATC-constructed Wolf Trap trail. Campers also had a backstage tour & a tour of the Dimple Meadow Garden planted with native Virginia flowers, cooked their own food, & cleaned up afterward — they particularly enjoyed cooking & clean up activities. Supervisor of Activities Rush Williamson fielded questions about PATC from interested parents & he identified several possible new members. Wolf Trap Superintendent Pittleman was delighted with the outcome & Wolf Trap plans to hold these camp outs in spring & fall outside the performance schedule. The park hopes to expand the program to 48 1st time campers throughout Fairfax County & inner-city youth in the future.

In January, PATC got a mention in a Washington Post article on Wolf Trap:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/wolf-trap-beyond-the-filene-center/2013/12/30/ded2d422-702a-11e3-aecc-85cb037b7236_story.html

Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

At a New Members meeting in November 2013, Brian Heflin expressed interest in reactivating this Chapter. The Chapter has blossomed again under his leadership. Vice Presidents Lee Sheaffer & Dick Hostelley have helped Brian get the Chapter going again.

NPS Volunteer Summit

On 24 April 2014, Supervisor of Communications Alan Day represented PATC at the NPS Volunteer Summit held in the Glen Echo Spanish Ballroom. Park Superintendents & volunteer leaders from all over the NPS Capital region were represented & the meeting allowed PATC to renew connect with them. He has participated in the fund raising training sessions conducted by Compass Group President Frank Pisch, a professional fund-raiser, who outlined methods for raising money by volunteer groups. These sessions have reinforced the value of having a strategic plan to present to potential donors when requesting funding for trail-related initiatives.

National Geographic Society

PATC is partnering with the National Geographic Society to promote hiking trail related activities and education. This activity exposes a large group of young adults to PATC and many possibly lead to new members.

New Members Meetings

PATC held eight New Members meetings with 25 participants. Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter chair Brian Heflin was recruited at the November 2013 meeting.



Supervisor of Marketing: Janis Stone

Promotions & Marketing	Prepared by: Janis Stone and Larry Broadwell
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 350
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 29, 2014

2014 was another banner year in sales for PATC. We sold over 27,000 maps, almost 4,000 trail guide books, and 5,400 other PATC books plus a large number of resale items. Mona Filchock, our sales professional, developed a catalog which was sent out to our external vendors to further advertise our products. Online sales remained strong. We also updated our main advertising brochure ("Fun and Adventure Await"), including web links and updating our office hours.

Janis Stone took over the position of Supervisor of Marketing in February, which Larry Broadwell had been temporarily filling since the departure last year of Shirley Schulz. As he did last year, Larry headed PATC's REI presentations. In its third year, PATC's collaboration with REI stores continued to:

- Enhance the club's relationship with REI
- Inform the public about the club, trails in our region, what is found along those trails in various seasons, and how to prepare for a good outing
- Encourage attendees to become members
- Promote sale of PATC maps and trail guides

This year a dozen PATC speakers and volunteer assistants (who double as speakers-in-training) conducted 28 evening events at the eight REI stores in the area. Thirteen more presentations are scheduled for the last quarter of calendar 2014 (the first quarter of PATC's next fiscal year). From an average of two per month, we are moving to three or four monthly events.

As in 2013, Mona Filchuck coordinated supplies for the events, while information systems coordinator Kit Sheffield assisted on technical matters and followed up with attendees who requested membership information. Rush Williamson, PATC's chief "Trail Talker", advised on materials used in the program and occasionally loaned Trail Talker supplies.

The program's general title remains "Hiking with the Experts." 2014 presentations topics included:

- Best Trails in Shenandoah National Park
- Best Trails for Spring Hikes
- Best "Splashdown" Trails (paths with dipping and swimming holes)
- Best Trails for Fall Hikes
- Best Trails for Winter Hikes
- Best Nearby Trails (varied with store location)
- Best Trails on or near Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay (plugging "Part C" guidebook)
- Best "Unknown" Trails
- Hiking Provence and the French-Italian Alps
- Climbing Kilimanjaro
- Biking from Pittsburgh to DC on the Great Allegheny Passage and C&O Canal

Aside from the topic of the evening, speakers also explained how PATC's maps and guidebooks help plan outings, as well as the skill-building and volunteer opportunities offered by the club. The number of PATC publications sold by REI and through our website attributable to this effort cannot be calculated, but we know that:

- Total attendance at these events during the 12 months ended September 30 exceeded 500
- Over 100 attendees requested membership information
- Attendees at several events went directly to REI's publication sales area and picked up PATC guides, most often one of the "Hikes in the Washington Region" series and guides to circuit hikes.

For these presentations, most of which are now in PowerPoint form on club-owned laptops, presenters logged 1,600 miles and committed over 350 hours to take photographs, prepare slides and deliver their talks.

Other Promotional Activities

- Articles and notices on the release of new editions of trail guides are run in Potomac Appalachian
- Descriptions of REI events appear in on-line calendars on REI, Sierra Club and PATC websites
- A new tabletop display was created for use at REI and other events, with revised and updated information on the club, and new photos on all activities
- "Frontmatter" (information on the first few pages) of PATC publications was revised and updated to convey the benefits of club membership more effectively.



**SUPERVISOR OF MEMBERSHIP:
Rick Canter**

Supervisor of Membership: Rick Canter	Prepared by: Rick Canter
Number of Members/Volunteers: 3	Volunteer Hours Reported: 140
	Date: 11/1/2014

We continue to have successful New Members Meetings at the Club Headquarters on third Wednesdays of the month. The meetings provide a hands-on opportunity to learn about PATC's history and many activities. There are fascinating videos of the days of the original construction of the Appalachian Trail and other resources. PATC held eight New Members meetings with 27 participants in the last year. Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter chair Brian Heflin was recruited at the November 2013 meeting.

PATC Membership continued its steady climb in 2014. We reached 7,000 members late in 2013; as of October, 2014, our membership stood at 7,171. This uptick is a function of multiple variables. Our efforts at member retention and the improving health of the economy play a part in our success. Our efforts at expanding the Cabins system and providing online access for Cabins reservations has also improved membership as many of our cabins can be reserved by PATC members only. PATC is thriving and is an attractive non-profit to join.

We look forward to a bright and prosperous 2015.



SUPERVISOR OF TRAILS

Jon Rindt

Supervisor of Trails: Jon Rindt	Prepared by: Jon Rindt
Number of Members/Volunteers: 750+	Volunteer Hours Reported: 42,011
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 22, 2014

PATC maintains approximately 1071 miles of trails including 241 miles of the AT and 830 miles of side trails in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and the District of Columbia. PATC has over 750 volunteers overseeing the trails and shelters. PATC coordinates with approximately 40 different federal, state, and local land managers. An MOU with the Antietam National Battlefield establishing a new trail district will hopefully be signed this year and discussions with Monocacy National Battlefield concerning their trails have been initiated.

In fiscal 2014, volunteers contributed 29,800 work hours and 12,211 hours travel time for a total of 42,011 hours in 26 trail districts. Maintenance of the Appalachian Trail accounted for 13,520 hours while the remaining work hours involved the Tuscarora Trail, side trails in Shenandoah National Park, other national, state and regional parks as well national and state forests. Travel hours alone represent an estimated cost of \$50,000 for gas paid for by our volunteers.

Except for isolated ice and wind damage, there were no major system wide storm events that required extra effort for blowdown removal and trail repair during this year's hiking season. Similar to last year, the wet, mild summer has extended the

growing season resulting more than normal weeding and removal of trailside vegetation. Invasive vines, grasses, and other plants are becoming an increasing maintenance problem on some trails.

Work is just about complete on the 7-mile relocation of the Tuscarora Trail on the ridge of Great North Mountain between Capon springs and the Pinnacles area providing some exceptional views east and west of the ridge. The relocation of the AT on Loudoun Heights planned for 2014 has been delayed awaiting approval by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Phase 1 construction should start in 2015. Other new trails or trail extensions are being discussed for Prince William Forest Park, Wolf Trap Park, and the Manassas Mountain area. In a special project for the USFS Lee District, Mike Wingert and crew completed a major reconstruction of the Kennedy Peak tower platform on Massanutten Mountain. Due to the tower's location, material and tool delivery involved the use of friend's mules and a USFS helicopter.

PATC supported chainsaw certification classes and conducted the ever-popular workshops for Traditional Tool Sharpening, Rigging, and Trail Maintenance. Jim Tomlin's "GPS Rangers" have been very active this past year providing data for map revisions and verifying data for the 2015 Biennial planned hikes.

Besides normal trail maintenance, PATC's fifteen district-related and roving trail crews have tackled a number of projects requiring technical expertise and manpower to construct new trails, reduce erosion, rehabilitate tread, rebuild crib walls, and construct boardwalks. The ATC Mid-Atlantic Crew spent two weeks building rock steps on a section of the AT just south of David Lesser Shelter. The SNP North and Central District Summer Week Crews completed numerous trail improvements on the AT and side Trails. Student and scout volunteers continue to help maintain trails and build facilities including four Eagle Scout projects that replaced a number of footbridges in Prince William Forest Park.

The Front Royal/Warren County AT Community and the SNP North District Hoodlums organized separate hiker appreciation feeding stations associated with National Trails Day. Both were obviously well received.

Goals for 2015: (1) Begin construction of AT relocation on Loudoun Heights, (2) Complete Tuscarora Trail Capon Springs relocation, (4) Continue construction of the Whiskey Hollow Shelter as a replacement for the Dicks Dome Shelter, (5) Emphasize good trail maintenance for the 2015 Biennial.



TREASURER

Joseph Lombardo

Treasurer: Joseph Lombardo	Prepared by: Joseph Lombardo
Number of Members/Volunteers: 4	Volunteer Hours Reported: 350
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 3	Date: October 1, 2014

Accomplishments October 2013 – September 2014

- Successful completion of 2013 audit – PATC got clean bill of health; identified fewer deficiencies than in previous years.
- PATC's net assets increased from \$225,788 in 2012 to \$517,256 in 2013; a 129% increase.
- PATC's Endowment Fund balance stood at \$3,227,357 at the end of 2013, representing a net year-on-year increase of 16%.
- Completed first-ever separate Bears Den audit, which is contributing to improving our relationship with ATC.
- Completed conversion of accounting system to QuickBooks, which has improved efficiency.
- Established staff position of Financial Coordinator, who together with a professional accounting firm specializing in non-profit organizations, is expected to further improve the professionalism and responsiveness of our accounting and financial management.

- Established a Finance Committee to be involved in assessing unanticipated funding request outside the budget cycle, and recommend to EXCOM and/or Council options for financing priority activities. This recognizes that EXCOM and Council set policy for priority activities, and integrates finance and budget into consideration for how to fund such emergent activities that fall outside the budget cycle.
- Developed financial management policies and standard operating procedures to implement reforms designed to address the significant deficiencies cited in 2012 audit. Developed a financial management oversight program to monitor the status of implementing PATC's financial management policies and procedures; and to provide guidance for adjusting those that may need refinement and for improving policies and standard operating procedures. This led to improvements in grants management, oversight, and reporting.
- Coordinated the 2015 budget formulation review process to ensure adequate funding for PATC priorities, integration of grants into budget, as well as establishment of a contingency fund within the budget to cover unanticipated needs that arise during program implementation or for emergent needs that were unanticipated at the time the budget was approved.
- Established a quarterly or semiannual review process of budget area program and budget execution, and recommended modifications within line of activity budgets or between them to adjust to the changing circumstances.

Activities for October 2014 – September 2015

- Continue to make improvements in financial management functions.
- Improve grants management and monitoring.
- Develop link between PATC strategy and budget formulation.



ARCHIVES & LIBRARY

Tom Johnson

Archives & Library: Tom Johnson	Prepared by: Tom Johnson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 5	Volunteer Hours Reported: 260
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 4	Date: 16 September 2014

Accomplishments:

On March 22, five volunteers (including the undersigned) gathered at the PATC second floor offices to retire 20 years of PATC records. In just over six hours, the entire collection was moved into Hollinger boxes and placed on shelving in the archives storage room.

Shelter logs were pared down to the last five years, and with the approval of Excom, the earlier logs were disposed of.

Cabin logs were organized and placed in long-term storage in the High Acre barn.

Five boxes of records and correspondence contributed by former president Jack Reeder were sorted and relevant documents were stored in the archives room.



AT CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT

Tom Lupp

AT Corridor Management: Tom Lupp	Prepared by: Tom Lupp
Number of Members/Volunteers: 38	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1152.3
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 4	Date: 10/25/14

The AT Corridor Management Committee monitors and maintains the National Park Service A.T. boundary where it adjoins private property. Working closely with the Appalachian Trail Park Office and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy the volunteer monitors look for and report encroachment issues and make sure the boundary is clearly marked for those who might enter the property. Activities for the past year include:

- Work with monitors to help them perform maintenance on their boundary sections;
- Held training sessions for new monitors;
- Supplying all monitors with current segment and survey maps;
- Work with Monitors and NPS rangers to deal with hunting & encroachment issues;
- Work with ATC to determine reserved right on NPS easement property.
- Locate new and replacement monitors;
- Help new monitors with field activities;
- Work with volunteers to have entire NPS boundary monitored on an annual basis;
- Remove problem structures in conjunction with ATC;
- Continue with road closures in problem areas;

- Continue with bald management project on Calf Mountain;
- Monitoring of grazing & mowing SUP for Ridenour Property in MD
- Mowing of the open areas near Linden VA, Ovoka Farms VA and Turners Gap MD;
- Work with MDATMC to provide assistance with installation of rail fence at Fox Gap MD, as part of the overall management plan;
- Have regularly scheduled boundary maintenance work trips;
- Work with ATC staff to recover boundary using staff & volunteers



ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership

Pete Brown

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Representative: Pete Brown Alternate: Rush Williamson	Prepared by: Pete Brown
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 199
Number of New Members/Volunteers: N/A	Date: October 31, 2014

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee consists of representatives from each of the mid-Atlantic maintaining clubs that meets with representatives from the Boiling Springs ATC regional office and government partners such as the AT Park office and state and federal land managers. It meets twice a year to provide communication between organizations, voice concerns, approve Trail Community applications, and make recommendations to the ATC Stewardship Council. The next two-day Spring MA-RPC meeting will be on March 21-22, 2014, at Bowman Park Camp in Bowmanstown, PA. All meetings are open to the public, but only invited attendees are free to join the discussions, and only MARPC members are granted voting privileges.

Presentations delivered at the Spring meeting included:

- NPS Trail Assessment presented by Matt Robinson
- External Threats: Pipelines presented by Mary Krueger
- Corridor Stewardship Report given by Ryan Seltzer
- State MOU updates.

AT Community designation nominations were reviewed and the Berryville/Clark County application was approved.

There were presentations and discussions on:

- Recreation use fees along the AT

- ATC natural resource program

- ATC volunteer Resources such as:

 - Project application forms and compliance

 - Local Management Plans forms and approvals

- Community Outreach that included:

 - Kiosk design guide

 - AT Community ambassadors

 - National Trail Day and Family Hiking Day

 - AT Journeys* articles

- Trail maintenance and construction guidelines

- Walk Off the War project for military returning from war zones

The Fall meeting occurred on October 26, 2013, in Linglestown, P A.

Items that were on the agenda are below:

- Stewardship Council update

- TTEC Advisory Council report

- ATC Strategic Plan

- Berryville/Clark County AT Community Award

- 2015 Biennial

- Regional Recognition Awards with nomination forms due January 31, 2015

- Organized Group Uses Policy Draft Q

- AT Community 5-year Renewal

- Club MOUs and Structure

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Draft Policy

- NPS-AAPPA Report

- ATC Conservation Department report

- Club reports

2015 APPALACHIAN TRAIL BIENNIAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Lee Sheaffer: Steering committee co-chair

2015 Appalachian Trail Biennial Steering Committee	
Co-Chair: Lee Sheaffer	Prepared by: Lee Sheaffer
Number of Members/Volunteers: 14	Volunteer Hours Reported: 5500
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 6	Date: October 24, 2014

Perhaps the largest endeavor the club has undertaken in some time is to host an Appalachian Trail biennial. This week long event will draw 900 to 1200 people to celebrate the Appalachian Trail. The steering committee has been hard at work on this event for well over three years and much more work needs to be done to make it a success. The committee has done much in 2014 and the agenda for the event has been established and material which needs to be published, put on line and disseminated to the public has been submitted. We are still working on logistics with both Shenandoah University and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to make this an exciting event. Our sub-committees have put in a great deal of work and have a program which will be one of the most extensive of any biennial in the past. Going forward we will need to fine tune the contract with Shenandoah University, make sure that the on-line and mail in registration systems are complete, easy to use and widely available. Make sure that all the amenities such as housing, food service and other services are complete and up to our standards. We need to engage the local community to participate, embrace and support this event. We need to have the massive amount of volunteers it takes to hold this conference ready and properly trained. Finally, we need to be ready for the unexpected and be able to react in a way which will be both satisfactory and helpful to running such a event like this. The Steering Committee is excited about the biennial and look forward to your attendance and support to make this event a success.

Lee Sheaffer; Co-Chair 2015 Appalachian Trail Biennial Steering Committee



BEARS DEN LODGE & HOSTEL

Dick Hostelley

Bears Den Lodge and Hostel	Prepared by: Dana Baxter – Bears Den Lodge & Hostel
Number of Volunteers: 130	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1373 Glen Breining Volunteer Hours: 775
Number of New Volunteers: 100 (Includes Scouts Service Projects)	Date: November 14, 2014

It has been another significant year for Bears Den Lodge & Hostel. The lodge, hostel, campground and cabin remain a popular venue for hikers and other seeking a respite from the urban stresses both near and far. Under Dana's (Manager) watchful eye the facility continues to attract visitors and hikers in growing numbers.

The inspection completed last year pointed out a number of items where improvements were needed. PATC and ATC have taken steps to address those areas to keep the historic building functional. A list of those things that have been accomplished the past year can be found below, as well as a representative list of organizations, which have used the facility this past year.

With the change of bookkeeping and financial management system within the Headquarters environment, Bears Den Lodge & Hostel's financial reporting is tied into the Headquarters system. To add efficiencies to the operation, a new Point-of-Sales system has been put in place which tracks sales and other accounting data more readily.

The lease for the operation of the Bears Den with ATC has been signed and put into effect through the end or 2015.

Guests at Bears Den

Scouts:

Fall/Winter Lodge Use,

Weekends start August-November, break for holidays, finish season January-April

Camp, All year

Groups: Lodge Overnight, Lodge Day Use

Montessori Schools

Ethiopian Comm. Development Council (New group this year)

Loudoun County Mental Health (New group this year)

Northern Ruck

ALDHA

Sierra Club (New group this year)

Weddings, Day Use (2), weekend retreat (1), receiving more interest in future weddings

Hikers:

NoBo,

Began arriving in March, busiest in May & June. Late comers, arriving a lot later than the rest (August, September).

SoBo,

Starting August, most during October. Still a few coming in.

Section,

Always out, year round. Amazed at these hikers commitment to completing the trail over many years. Out for sections, ranging from a 100mi section to a 20-30mi section.

Bears Den Guests

2014	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Camp													
a. Scouts	1	1	5	5	6	5	2	1		7			33
b. Groups				5	2	3	3	3	1	4			21
c. Families		1	1	3	12	9	14	16	14	8			78
Lodge Use													
a. Scouts	2	3	1		1								7
b. Groups	1	1	2	3	2	1	1		5	3			19
c. Families	2		3	3	2	3		2	1	8			24
Hikers (total)													
a. H.Special	3	9	16	48	158	146	81	38	72	33			604
(number of H.Specials out of total number of Hikers)													
Volunteers													
	15	25	10	5	37	13	1	12	2	10			130
TOTAL	29	41	85	131	332	358	209	157	158	172	0	0	1672

Average 45%

*All quantities are based on total number of groups, not by individuals (except hikers & volunteers)

**Volunteers also include service projects done by scouts/groups

Bears Den, General

Arborist, several visits. March & June 2014, upcoming visit (possible Hoodlums work trip)
 Kohler Standby Generator. July. Pigott Electric, Fidelity Engineering, Blossman Propane
 Kitchen flooring. July. Luna Flooring, laminate
 Painting. Men's, hostel, mudroom
 Electric brought up to code
 Upgrade to 1000gal propane tank, set price for the winter fill ups
 New appliances. Refrigerators (3), deep freeze, gas range (3)
 Donations, monetary and furniture. Private room bed set, hiker television and DVD player
 New point of sale system. Revel POS, in full swing by end of November
 Attic Insulation, 14" blown in whole house
 New roofing over manager apartment and store/office
 Roofing and chimney repairs
 Glen moved to Blackburn. November 1

Project Description	Safety	Maint	S/M	\$ Save	Use	Energy	Completed	Comments
Install new standby generator/transfer switch			x	x	x	x	Summer 2014	
Grade/Repair Driveway (Seasonal)		x	x	x	x		Summer 2014	
Inspect/repair metal roof near turret (Mgr Apt)		x	x	x	x		Jan. 2014	
Reinstall underground drainage pipes			x	x	x		Nov. 2013	Volunteer work trip
Remove rubble stone around oil tank		x	x		x		Nov. 2013	Volunteer work trip
Replace old metal sink waste pipes		x	x				Feb. 2014	kitchen (volunteer install)
Upgrade attic insulation			x	x		x	Jan. 2014	
Replace kitchen sink plug with GFCI	x	x					Feb. 2014	
Inspect/Repair GFCI in basement bath	x	x					Feb. 2014	
Instali subpanel fuse cover in Mgr Apt	x	x					Feb. 2014	
Repair chimney flashing/roof sheathing		x	x	x	x		Jan. 2014	Stone Mason (chimney); Roofers (Mgr Apt)
Add switch in Dining Room for fans			x		x	x	Feb. 2014	
Install new outlets (GFCI) in Women's Dorm bath			x		x		Feb. 2014	
Instail new outlets (GFCI) in Private Room bath			x		x		Feb. 2014	
Replace wall heater in Mgr bath			x		x		Feb. 2014	
Inspect/repair slate roof		x	x	x	x		Feb. 2014	
Replace kitchen linoleum			x		x		May-14	

Safety	Has direct impact on safety
Maint	Priority maintenance concerns
S/M	Long-term sustainment & modernization
\$ Save	Cost savings, reduction, and avoidance
Use	Increases usability, access, and comfort
Energy	Improves energy efficiency

BLACKBURN 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

2014 continued to be another busy and successful year. During the summer season we accomplished several important improvements both to the Center and our property.

Under the leadership of Jack Luksic we installed a new standing seam roof on the hiker cabin. This involved several trips during which we were assisted by the Cadillac Crew and by our good volunteer friends from Stonybrook Farm in Hillsboro. The new roof is a beautiful forest green and now matches the roofs of the Main House and the Carriage House. In early May Eagle Scout Todd Pinney from Ashburn built us three new tent pads in the woods below the hiker cabin. To support that project we were able to put to use a donation of 10 tons of stone dust we had received earlier in the year from Luck Stone in Leesburg. The stone was used to backfill the pads that Todd built resulting in very fine flat pads that has been well received by both hikers and crew members.

We were able to replace one of our old dish washers thanks to donations from hikers and volunteers. We have also been able to address the problem of three dangerous hazard trees we had on the property. One of them was leaning badly towards the privy and the other two towards one of our trails and a picnic area. With a very generous donation of time and expertise, the Evergreen Tree Service, which is also part of Stonybrook Farm, dropped all three trees at no cost to us! We now have plenty of fire wood waiting to be cut up and within easy reach of the house.

As always, several hundred hikers passed through the Center this year. During the spring and early summer we saw a large influx of thru-hikers, some stopping for water or to take a break, many others staying for the night. In the spring and then again in the fall Boy Scout Troops took advantage of our group campground. Many of these Troops also performed a service project during their stay which as always was much appreciated by the manager. All year long we saw section hikers, weekenders and day hikers. It is always a pleasure for those of us who work at the Center to meet and talk with them.

As in past years, most weekends were booked by Club member families and groups or for PATC meetings. Surprisingly, in spite of the long drawn out winter, we only lost two weekend rentals to snow. I have to admit that our mountain road is not the easiest to drive up in the winter! This season we again hosted Mel Merritt and his cabins overseers for their annual meeting; PATC Naturalist, Dan Pulskamp and some of his volunteers working on invasive plants; and, PATC's Trail Patrol for a training meeting led by Courtney Trusty. Several school groups booked weekends with us including Poolsville High School's Environmental Class; The Moorestown Friends School from New Jersey; the Ambleside School from Herndon, VA; and, the Salisbury School from Maryland. In April we had an energetic group from ALDHA led by PATC member Ron Bungay. They spent several days working on the AT corridor, always a big help. Also in April we hosted a big wedding for two good volunteers and friends of Blackburn and in May caretakers, Chris and Caroline celebrated their earlier wedding with a very nice reception at the Center.

On a sad note, we lost a good volunteer and friend, Mary Gibson Luksik, who passed away earlier this year. Also, our caretakers for the last three years, Chris Looney and Caroline Murray, have finished their time with us. They have done a really wonderful job over these three years and we will certainly miss them. Fortunately, they are now living in Leesburg, and so will be able to visit often. We have a temporary winter caretaker staying to keep an eye on things and we will be hiring new seasonal caretakers for the 2015 season.

Submitted November 2015

Chris Brunton



DC Metro Trails

DC Metro Trails	Prepared by: Alex Sanders
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 2,120
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 29, 2014

Thanks to the hard work of our many volunteers, DC Metro District had another successful year. In FY 2013-14, District overseers and the trail crew volunteered over 2100 hours within Rock Creek Park in the District. After spending the first three crew outings on maintenance in Glover Archbold, Whitehaven and Dumbarton Oaks, the crew turned to their major projects of the year on the Valley and Theodore Roosevelt Side Trails.

On National Trails Day, our trail crew began a major rehab of severely eroded 200 foot section of the lower Valley Trail, and over the summer we built 155 feet of double stacked cribbing, installed several steps and hauled many tons of fill uphill to create new trail tread. In September the crew started the first phase of a two-year rehab of the Theodore Roosevelt Sid Trail by shifting the trail uphill to its original path, building 60 feet of cribbing and installing many new check dams. In our work this year, we welcomed groups from Americorps, Penn State Alumni Association, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Accenture. Accenture deserves special recognition- they joined us on five work trips in 2014.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The end-of-year fundraiser for Old Rag log cabin was the most successful fundraiser ever for PATC. The solicitation was mailed at the end of 2013 and concluded in 2014 with a net of around \$18,000. The total contribution was over \$22,000 with printing expenses accounting for slightly over \$4,000.

The Old Rag log cabin originally built in the mid 1800s was moved from its location in Hancock, Md., and is being reconstructed on land that PATC owns adjacent to the Shenandoah National Park. The land is near the beginning of the popular trail that leads to the top of Old Rag Mountain. We anticipate great use of the cabin when completed.

The solicited funds will be used to continue the reconstruction of the cabin as well as incorporate several additional features. When completely reconstructed the cabin will boast a new kitchen and bathroom that meet ADA standards and will make the cabin useable by the physically impaired . A wheelchair ramp will be built to access the cabin and there will be a roll-out porch.

A second solicitation in July to 300 of PATC's top donors netted \$12,000 to provide funds for a new roof for the historic Lambert Cabin. This cabin had been owned by Darrell and Eileen Lambert who gave the cabin and land to PATC. The roof might have been 100 years old and had begun to show its age. We hoping that the new roof will last as long.

A third solicitation by e-mail to members who had never contributed funds beyond their membership dues was less successful with donations from only four people. The e-mail solicitation will most likely be tried again in 2015 at a different time of year and with a different approach.

The plaque honoring members of The President's Club has been expanded with the addition of several more members. A second plaque is now being drawn by the same calligrapher who did the first plaque and both will hang in the club headquarters.

TheEnd

HIKING COMMITTEE

Christopher Firme, Chair of the Hiking Committee

Committee: Hiking	
Chair(s): Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 23	Volunteer Hours Reported: 540
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: September 30, 2014

Major Accomplishments:

This was still an active year for the Hiking Committee and the Hike Leaders it serves. Many hikes were held throughout the 2013/2014 season (October 1-September 30). No meetings were held due to the ability of using the internet as our base for communication among the members. Maintaining an excel sheet of hike leaders and hikes for the hiking season.

PATC's Hike Leader community continued to produce hikes of a greater variety throughout 2013. We would like to offer the following types of hikes such as Backpacking, Birding, Easy, Family, Geology, Historical, In-Between, Mid-Week, Mushroom, Natural History, Outreach, Series, Vigorous, Waterfall and Wildflower along with the usual weekend hikes covering every trail in PATC's four-state area. This year we had two hike leaders who led seven hikes, we had one hike leader who led five hikes, and two hike leaders who led four hikes. This year we had a total of 54 hikes with 22 hike leaders leading those hikes. With the website, the Hiking Sign-Up Sheet, Hike Leader Guide, and Hike Leader Pages are now readily accessible to Hike Leaders.

This was the fifth year that the hike committee assisted with the Road Scholar program (Elderhostel program) out of Shepherd's Spring in Sharpsburg, MD. The program was to hike the AT in the four state area (four hikes). They held seven programs consisting of four in the spring and three in the autumn. A total of twenty-eight hikes were held. It was quite a successful program and helped with outreach for PATC and the AT. PATC's ridgerunners assisted with the program as well.

In response to the new website we are now allowing our vetting process to accommodate the ability to submit hikes via the website.

The old policy which is as followed for Committee members to check all submitted hikes for suitability before inclusion in the *Potomac Appalachian* "Forecast" was implemented and is running successfully. With the cooperation of all PATC Hiking Groups and the editors of the *PA* and "Forecast" a new rule was established requiring all PATC hikes to appear in the *PA* for greater co-ordination and liability coverage. With the ability of the new website this policy will have to be updated and the committee to get together and discuss.

This year the hike leader chair continued to help assist PATC Trail Patrol in the hike leader course. This was very successful and will continue in the future with Trail Patrol and Hike Committee working together. Four courses were held in 2014. We are looking at holding more courses in 2015 in anticipation of the 2015 Biannual ATC meeting.

In an effort to express some of PATC's gratitude to for their efforts, the committee awarded service awards to those individuals leading four or more hikes this year. We also had an Hawksbill award given to the most hikes this year which was seven hikes. Hopefully next year, we will start with the \$10 gift certificate year toward any item in the PATC store for anyone leading four hikes or more and funds are requested in the 2015 Budget. To facilitate overnight camping hikes, the Committee will continue with the availability of preferential cabin rental.

Goals for '15

1. Support and improve hiking opportunities within PATC.
2. Respond to Hike Leader needs and concerns.
3. Decrease liability exposure of PATC and its Hike Leaders and increase safety of all PATC hikes.
4. Create a community of Hike Leaders within PATC.
5. Expand the Hiking Program to include Road Scholar program (Elderhostel program), local college outing clubs, singles clubs, ski clubs and youth groups.
6. Continue to develop and encourage greater diversity of hikes offered.
7. Reach out to the local community and the hiking community in particular.
8. Maintain updated hike and excursion "rules" and forms.
9. Continue the contact and coordination between the Hiking Program and the Trail Patrol.
10. Create and implement meaningful award and recognition programs for Hike Leaders
11. Increase new member commitment to hiking activities.
12. Update the sign-up sheet to include hours of the hike leader and to be more user friendly and possible do a small online report form.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2015

1. Create a group mailing list of PATC Hike Leaders.
2. Establish a regular (bi-monthly?) on-line PATC Hike Leader newsletter.
3. Obtain representation on the Hiking Committee from all PATC Hiking Groups and interested members.
4. Continue sponsorship, budget for advertising and request funds for AHS/PATC Congressional Hikes.
5. Promote diversity of hiking opportunities by contacting Backpacking 101 participants, placing ads and articles in the *PA* highlighting hikes with themes, e.g. local history, natural history, singles, backpacking.
6. Facilitate co-leadership of hikes and excursions with other groups by establishing co-leading rules and matching up PATC Hike Leaders with leaders from other groups.
7. Update the hike and excursion rules and forms as needed.
8. Work with *PA* and "Forecast" editors to implement agreed-upon plan for Hiking Committee vetting of proposed hikes.
9. Increase the contact and coordination between the Hiking Committee and the Trail Patrol to promote hike leadership by maintaining contact with the Trail Patrol Hike Leader Training Coordinator.
10. Continue to promote and facilitate interactive Hike Submission form project by maintaining contact with Computer Committee.

11. Establish college-based hikes and outing clubs sponsored by PATC through local contacts and advertising in college newspapers
12. Budget and maintain fund to reimburse Hike Leaders paying for a cabin rental in advance of a planned PATC excursion.
13. Implement Hike Leader Awards and Recognition Program by awarding \$10 gift certificates to 4-time hike leaders. Explore possibility of grant money for PATC caps or rocker patches. Broadcast all PATC benefits available to Hike Leader for their volunteer work.
14. Budget and fund Hike Leader Awards and Recognition Program
15. Contact local retailers to create and distribute a "Hike Leader Discount Card."
16. Follow up on all New Member Interest Forms indicating Hike Leadership interest.
17. Follow up on all Hiking Sign-up Sheets by sending PATC information packets to non-member hike participants.
18. Regularly obtain lists of Hike Leader Training and Backpacking 101 participants from Trail Patrol to encourage volunteer commitment.
19. Provide all Hike Leaders with PATC brochures to hand out to non-members.
20. Explore other club's Hike Leader requirements and tailor PATC requirements to our needs.
21. Continue to improve Hike Advertisement process.
22. Co-ordinate with the Mountaineering and Ski Touring sections to standardize excursion procedures.

RESOURCES NEEDED FOR 2015

5 Hike Leader PATC Store Gift Certificates.....	\$50.00
Excursion Cabin Rental Reimbursement Fund.....	0.00

Facilities and Equipment

1. A current, weekly-updated on-line "Forecast" of hiking activities at the PATC website.
2. An interactive on-line Hike Advertisement Submission form that allows posting with as little as one week advance.
3. An auto-messaging system that sends all Hike Advertisement Submissions to the Hiking Committee to be vetted on-line and forwarded to the Forecast editor. (see attachment)
4. An updateable Hike Leader web page at the PATC website. (see attachment)
5. Advance reservation of cabins for excursions.

Staff/PATC Members

1. A computer programmer who can implement our computer needs.
2. A webmaster who can update the "Forecast" of hiking activities.
3. Cooperation from the PA and "Forecast" editors to acknowledge Hike Leaders' submissions and automatically forward packaged attachments of Sign-Up Sheets and other information.
4. Cooperation from the "Forecast" editor to forward in a group mailing submitted Hike Advertisements for vetting by the Hiking Committee.
5. Help from the New Members Committee in sending PATC information packets to non-member hike participants.
6. Lists of participants of the Hike Leader Training and Backpacking 101 courses from Trail Patrol.

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bill Downes, Chair

Chair: Bill Downes	Prepared by: Bill Downes
Number of Members/Volunteers: 25	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,255
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: 10/1/2014

The Land Management Committee (LMC) met in March 2014. The meeting was held at the Little Cove Cabin in Pennsylvania. A total of 15 PATC members attended the meeting. Topics addressed during the meeting included: PATC land management policies and procedures, budgeting for tract management, communications, record keeping, reporting of volunteer hours, road maintenance, property boundary marking and signs, GPS and GIS implications for tract management, tract management plans, mowing, illegal dumping, hunting issues, and neighbor relations. Also discussed was the recruitment of new tract managers and the potential of developing a Land Management Crew to assist tract managers with projects and maintenance that require more work than an individual tract manager can perform.

Two large projects were completed this year. A major bridge repair was completed on the access road to the Silberman Trail Center. This project was accomplished with a significant savings due to the donation of lumber for the bridge repair. A significant road improvement project was completed on the access road to the Little Cove Cabin. These projects keep the roads passable for cabin renters and for tract, cabin, shelter, and trail overseers and crews. Other activities carried out on the tracts this year were mowing, boundary marking, posting signs, maintaining good neighbor relations, and coordinating activities with the cabin, shelter, and trail overseers.

Thanks to all of our Tract Managers, volunteers, and PATC staff for their continuing work to protect the Club's land.

REPORT OF MAPS COMMITTEE

Chair: Brian Goudreau	Prepared by: Brian Goudreau
Number of Members/Volunteers: about 120	Volunteer Hours Reported: 4774.25
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 20	Date: October 28, 2014

Major Accomplishments:

Map printing and digitization:

• Map G new edition	February 28	4050 copies
• Map 4 new edition	February 28	4050 copies
• Map 9 reprint	March 21	1250 copies
• Map N digitization	April 2	
• Map N new edition	July 11	1050 copies
• Map H new edition	July 11	1050 copies
• Map F digitization (will print in 2015)	August 18	
• Map 11 new edition	August 21	9100 copies
• Map 9 reprint	August 21	1500 copies

Map mobile apps:

- *No maintenance in 2014*
-

Committee Highlights:

- In September 2013, five licenses of ArcGIS for Desktop Advanced were purchased to run through September 2014 from ESRI to support GIS data maintenance, new map layouts, and other database development projects. Five licenses were again renewed on 9/16/2014, to run through 9/27/2015.
- On 9/16/2014, three ArcPad licenses were renewed, to run through 9/27/2015. These support the use of the high-precision Trimble Juno GPS devices donated by Jim Tomlin for use in boundary marker recovery for Lands Committee activities.
- We did not purchase ArcServer licenses or an Amazon Instance for our hosted database. This may still happen in late 2014 so that we can begin to maintain our GPS Rangers data via ArcServer.
- GPS Rangers Subcommittee: Jim Tomlin offered his training course three times from October 2013 to September 2014. There was also a winter planning meeting in January and an annual Summit Meeting in May. Throughout the year, GPS data collected by GPS Rangers volunteers. The track and waypoint data was collected in an online data storage service called Huddle. GPS Rangers data supported every map update in 2014.
- In April 2014, digitization of Map N was completed. In August 2014, digitization of Map F was completed. This completes the digitization of all PATC maps.
- New editions of Maps G, 4, N, H, and 11 were produced (see schedule above).
- Two reprints of Map 9 were ordered. Map 9 will be revised in December 2014 for printing in January 2015.

- All allocated print funds were used in 2014, leaving neither a surplus nor a deficit. At the time of this report, map sales revenues were trending over \$25,000 higher than predicted for 2014. Map app sales were also trending higher than predicted, but still not quite recouping costs of development and marketing.

Goals for 2015

- By January 5, 2015, print Map 1 Edition 12 (new), 6500 copies (4-yr supply).
- By January 5, 2015, print Map 5-6 Edition 19 (reprint), 6500 copies (2-yr supply)
- By January 15, 2015, print Map 9 Edition 19 (new), 13,000 copies (4-yr supply)
- By February 10, 2015, print Map 12 Edition 12 (new), 3500 copies (4-yr supply)
- By February 10, 2015, print Map 13 Edition 7 (new), 3500 copies (4-yr supply)
- By February 25, 2015, print Map F Edition 6 (new), 2000 copies (4-yr supply)
- By late winter 2015, develop protocols for collection of sub-meter GPS data for field work in support of Lands Committee activities such as boundary maintenance. Carried forward from previous year's plan.
- By late winter 2015, migrate GPS Rangers data to a single geodatabase to be housed online.
- Implement and market a map app name change from *PATC-Maryland-Northern Virginia-West Virginia* to *PATC-Potomac*.
- By spring 2015, release iOS8 compatible versions of *PATC-Shenandoah* and *PATC-Potomac* for sale on the iTunes App Store.
- By spring 2015, release Android app *PATC-Potomac* for sale on the Google Play store.
- By April 1, 2015, print Map 10 Edition 23 (reprint), 8000 copies (2-yr supply)
 - Note that we may decide to update the alignment of trails based on GPS Rangers data and consider this new edition 24. To be determined.
- By May 1, 2015, print Map 7 Edition 16 (reprint), 5500 copies (2-yr supply)
- By May 1, 2015, print Map 8 Edition 15 (reprint), 5500 copies (2-yr supply)
- In July 2015, members of the committee will host two separate themed hikes for the ATC Biennial event.
- By September 1, 2015, print Map 2-3 Edition 12 (reprint), 4000 copies (2-yr supply)
- By September 1, 2015, print Map 4 Edition 11 (reprint), 4000 copies (2-yr supply)
- Yearlong - continue efforts to engage GPS Rangers volunteers in GPS data collection for the Appalachian Trail and other trails.



MARYLAND AT MANAGEMENT

Rick Canter and Tom Lupp

Maryland AT Management: Rick Canter & Tom Lupp	Prepared by: Tom Lupp
Number of Members/Volunteers: 11	Volunteer Hours Reported: 92
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: October 23, 2014

The Maryland Appalachian Trail Management Committee is a consortium of public and private agencies tasked with maintenance and management of the 41-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail in Maryland and the associated 17,000 acres of buffer land known as the Appalachian Trailway.

- Work with MD DNR, NPS and CMHL to develop a comprehensive management plan for Fox Gap.
- Work with CMHL to provide support for plans to clear trees on their property to return land to 1862 appearance.
- Continue discussions and planning of additional fencing and parking management in Fox Gap.
- Continue discussions with DNR & SHA on improvement and modifications to the parking area at US RT 40.
- Working with Washington County Parks to improve signage at PenMar Park.

- Continue to respond to old and new occurrences of graffiti, in multiple areas.
- Work with MD DNR and Club Ridgerunner program to ensure the hiring of two ridgerunners.
- Work with Annapolis Rocks overseer to ensure all needed supplies and materials are available to maintain the campground.
- Work with MD DNR to identify and mark hazard trees for removal at several shelters and campgrounds.
- Work with ATC & MD DNR to find solutions to land ownership issues at Thurston Griggs Trail Head.
- Work with MD DNR to locate and acquire lands to buffer the trail.
- Continue annual assistance to NPS for the safe running of the JFK 50 race
- Work with ATPO and City of Hagerstown to find a viable solution for the removal of the Devils Racecourse Shelter.
- Keep abreast of various utility activities that will/may affect the AT in MD.
- Continue to work with Catoclin Mtn Park and City of Hagerstown to find a suitable route to connect the AT to the Catoclin Trail.
- Begin working to identify property boundary at trash dump north of RT 77.
- Begin discussions with MD DNR in regards to proposed hunting between Cramptons Gap and Weverton.



Naturalist: Dan Pulskamp

Naturalist	Prepared by: Dan Pulskamp
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported:
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 29, 2014

The Naturalist Committee focused on two areas in 2014. The first is in the area of invasive species removal. A successful work trip to Blackburn Trail Center was organized and executed, removing four trash bags of garlic mustard. A follow-up trip will be conducted next year to make sure that as much of the threat is removed as possible.

The second area of emphasis was in cultural heritage site monitoring. These are sites along the Appalachian Trail that contain rare and/or endangered plants. These sites require monitoring on at least an annual basis. Particular care must be taken at these sites as all of the rare species need to be identified and counted. After a long period of dormancy, 2014 marked the second consecutive year that all PATC's sites were successfully monitored.

The Naturalist Committee's focus in the future will shift toward two things. The first is an emphasis on education. The Committee is working on educational programs to educate the public about the threat of invasive species. The second item is a focus on coordination. PATC works with numerous land management partners. In order to help combat the threat of invasive species, the Committee is looking to help coordinate between the various agencies (like the Forest Service, state wildlife management agencies, etc.) and come up with broad strategy.



POTOMAC APPALACHIAN Rachel F. Levin, editor

Potomac Appalachian	Prepared by: Rachel F. Levin, editor
Number of Members/Volunteers: 16	Volunteer Hours Reported: 425
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 4	Date: 10/9/14

In FY 2014, the PA had a volunteer staff of 16 people, which included several new volunteers as well as some departures. We produced one full color issue this year, a wrap-up of the Annual Dinner and Meeting. We tried to encourage reader involvement by asking for reader submitted images of favorite hikes. So far this has not brought as much engagement as we hoped but we will continue to try to give PA readers the opportunity to contribute their own stories and images, truly making the newsletter by, for and about PATC's 6,000+ members.

Goals for 2015

Pending our budget for 2015, we will produce at least one full-color issue.

Solicit and receive more reader submitted content

The PA will present a workshop at the 2015 Biennial on how to produce a newsletter



TRAIL PATROL

Christopher Firme

Trail Patrol: Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 45	Volunteer Hours Reported: 2,886
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 2	Date: September 30, 2014

Patrols. Continued distributing electronic newsletters to Trail Patrol members providing information on trail conditions, PATC and partner patrol needs, upcoming training opportunities, and upcoming events. Patrolled a total of 1,886 miles of PATC maintained trails. Provided a total of 1,423 volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 5,465 hikers by providing information to hikers and other visitors on safe and responsible use of the backcountry, conducting light trail maintenance, and providing information on conditions to trail, shelter, and cabin overseers.

Member training and coordination. Brought 2 probationary members into active status during 2014. At the end of 2014 there was a total of 45 active members still down from the 72 at the end of 2012. This reduction was the result of cleaning up our membership roster and eliminating names of members that have stopped attending meetings or stopped participating in patrols or activities.

Ridgerunners. Hired and supervised five Ridgerunners in 2014 to educate hikers and backpackers on safe and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail and backcountry; reported trails, shelters, and cabin conditions; conducted light trail maintenance; and assisted public and private partners on special projects. Helped ATC in Ridgerunner recruitment. The Ridge Runners performed a total of 3,592 hours on the trail, patrolled 2,744.6 miles, plus an additional 890.75 hours of travel to and from the trail. During this time they observed, interacted with, or assisted 23,861 hikers.

Leave No Trace. Conducted two Leave No Trace (LNT) trainer courses for the mid-Atlantic region and hosted a NOLS LNT Master Educator course with support from Shenandoah National Park (SNP), for a total of 20 new Trainers and 8 new Master Educators.

Backpacking. Conducted 1 introductory backpacking class (Backpacking 101) for the public and trained 20 students.

Hike Leadership Training. Conducted 4, 1-day, classes for 45 participants. Topics included backcountry medical information, LNT ethics, hike planning, personal gear, map reading, and leadership skills.

CPR/AED/Wilderness First Aid. Conducted 5 classes of CPR/Basic Wilderness First Aid and 6 classes on Wilderness First Aid for a total of 61 students trained.

Provide Partner Support. Provided support for one SNP partner program: National Trails Day. For National Trails Day we interacted with approximately 165 park visitors providing information about PATC, safe and responsible backcountry use, and lead 6 hikes.

Charlottesville Chapter, PATC

Co-presidents – Dan Ralston and Iva Gillet

Vice President – Andy Willgruber

Treasurer - Marian Styles

Past President – Ken Moss

Current contact membership (email list)- 200+

Members within 30 miles of Charlottesville- 389

Number of consistently active participants- ~40

During the past year, the Charlottesville Chapter has focused on expanding our contributions to a greater audience and coordinating expanded work trips. We communicate through our blog, posting upcoming activities, hike reports, helpful information for new hikers, and links to help hikers. We send information about special events (like our two meetings this year) to all people on our email list.

One way we chose to refocus our internal chapter energy this year was by having two chapter member get-togethers. The first one in March at Dunlodge was attended by John Hedrick, Steve Bair, and Mark and Betty Gatewood, and provided guidance for our new chapter officers. The second one in September was a Chapter picnic at Dunlodge. Several new community members came, and two new people asked about becoming trail overseers. These events have allowed for potential members to appreciate the opportunities in renting cabins like Dunlodge, allowed for interaction with active members, and raised the appreciation of what the PATC does in the community.

Trail Maintenance- *reported in online system

At least one Saturday a month is dedicated to trail maintenance in our hike schedule. The Charlottesville Chapter trail section of the AT- Rockfish Gap to McCormick Gap- is the priority and John Shannon spearheads the maintenance of this critical first section of the SNP for through hikers. Andy Willgruber also coordinates another AT section near Calf Mountain, including the tremendous challenge of keeping the bald mown during the busy summer months. Marit Gay and Jeff Monroe maintain yet another section of the AT up to twice a month during the busiest growing season. Marit coordinated waterbar work near Turk Gap with 11 members this summer. Several work trips have focused on invasive plant removal, as we try to help combat this challenge. Bill Holman, as the District Manager of Trails in the Mutton Hollow District, oversees several of our members on their own trails there including Geoff Manning-Smith, Dan Ralston, Marit Gay, and Iva Gillet. A trail maintenance weekend was combined with a hike of new trails in June in Mutton Hollow. John Shannon, Jeff Monroe, Marit Gay, and Emerald Young attended south district trails workshops and Flying McLeods/Acme Treadway work trips. In addition we have participated in three combination trail work/ hikes with the SSSVC, where we carry loppers and clippers to clear while we hike.

Leading Hikes- 3377 hours

Our ten active hike leaders have been able to lead over 50 hikes this year so far, on all Saturdays, and new this year mid-week trips. Both Jeff Monroe and Marit Gay have offered mid-week hikes which have been well attended. So far we have had 416 hikers on the offerings to date. Hikes continue to be what our chapter is most popular for locally, and how we recruit new members, overseers, and volunteers of all sorts.

Cabin Work- 70*hours

Our chapter continued to provide significant support for the Dunlodge cabin in Charlottesville. Don Davis is the main cabin overseer at Dunlodge, spending more than 50 hours annually on the repairs to keep this premium cabin in good shape. Emerald Young has assisted at the new Old Rag cabin.

Outreach-

Community events included Marit Gay giving a talk for Charlottesville Parks and Rec on hiking and trails in the area. Jeff Monroe and Iva Gillet also encouraged participation for National Trails Day by making an informative pitch on the radio about getting out in the local parks and SNP. We staffed a table with the Shenandoah Valley Chapter at Waynesboro Riverfest, and at an SNP event at Big Meadows. Marit Gay has volunteered at the AT hiker hostel in Waynesboro and shuttled thru hikers several times in addition to putting out trail magic food to assist thru hikers. Jeff Monroe is Scoutmaster and has led multiple hiking and camping overnights on the Appalachian Trail utilizing LNT principals. He is a Wood Badge adult leadership course Patrol Mentor, encouraging colleagues to obtain LNT training through the PATC. He has taught Lightweight Backpacking, integrating LNT, to adult Scout volunteers.

Dan Ralston was able to procure a 20% discount for all PATC overseers at the Great Outdoor Provisions stores in Charlottesville. We will be hosting a hike leader training class for the PATC in Charlottesville, and six of our members will attend. John Shannon and Dan Ralston attended a meeting with the superintendent of the SNP in which community involvement and special interest groups activities in the SNP was the topic of discussion.

Maps- 400* hours

Several members of our group have joined the GPS Rangers including Jeff Monroe, Pete Fink, and Dan Ralston. Jeff worked extensively with PATC Maps Chair to provide data suggestions and edit revisions to PATC Maps 11, 12 and 13. He submitted GPS reports during FY 2013-4 to the GPS Rangers totaling 411.2 trail miles, with 2173 photos submitted.

NORTH CHAPTER

North Chapter	Prepared by: Robert Wise & Rick Canter
Number of Members: 355	Volunteer Admin Hours Reported: 766
Number of Volunteers: 334	Date: 10/12/2014

The members of the North Chapter maintain trails, shelters and cabins in Maryland and Pennsylvania. The chapter also leads hikes on a regular schedule during the year. There are two general meetings in the year – one in spring and one in the fall. Officers are elected in odd numbered years at the fall meeting. Between chapter meetings a board composed of the elected officers and committee chairpersons conducts business. The chapter sponsors an annual corn roast to which all PATC members are invited. There are two trail crews in the chapter, the South Mountaineers in Maryland and the Yankee Clippers in Pennsylvania. The South Mountaineers trail crew sponsors two volunteer appreciation meals, on National Trails Day, and another in August.

The trails maintained by chapter volunteers comprise about one fifth of the total mileage of trails that PATC maintains. That mileage includes at least 23 bridges. Chapter members also maintain eighteen trail shelters and eight cabins. North Chapter continues to get "blue ribbon" reports from hikers who stay in the shelters of southern Pennsylvania and Maryland that are maintained by our volunteers.

This year has been a stellar year for the North Chapter. The Little Cove Cabin, which is close to Reese Hollow Shelter and about a mile from the Tuscarora Trail, was purchased in 2010 and construction began on refurbishing the cabin. Reconstruction of this cabin has been completed this year and the cabin was dedicated this last August. Little Cove cabin has now been transformed into one of the Clubs premier cabins. To date, a new floor in the kitchen has been installed, a porch with roof, skylights, and picket railing surround the cabin on three sides and two new entryways have been installed. New wood siding has been installed to the outside and improvements to the bathroom, kitchen and interior have been completed.

This summer, in addition to regular trail work trips, and work on Little Cove cabin, the North Chapter completely rebuilt the bridge over Aughwick Creek on the road leading to the Silberman Cabin. This bridge is 40 feet long and made to withstand the weight of a dump truck loaded with shale for road repairs. The timbers for this bridge were donated by Blue Ridge Lumber Company and pre-stained and treated by volunteers prior to placement on the bridge.

Construction on the shelter dedicated to Charlie Irvin is near completion. Work on the privy is underway and dedication of this shelter is slated for the summer of 2015. The shelter is at a site overlooking the Cumberland Valley just off the newly relocated Tuscarora Trail west of Waggoners Gap in Pennsylvania. Work parties transported all the materials for this shelter 0.4 miles over a very rough and rocky trail on the ridge of the mountain.

This year a North Chapter volunteer designed a website for us which is informative, creative, and should prove to be an effective recruiting tool for the club. Also, our newsletter will be distributed through the website electronically, which will save the club money. The web address is: "www.patcnorth.net"

This past June, the North Chapter participated in a joint thru-hiker picnic with the York Hiking Club at the AT Museum at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The club received many fine reports from the hikers on the maintenance performed by the North Chapter. This picnic has been a very fine recruiting tool for PATC.

In Maryland, the Crampton Gap Shelter fire in December, 2013 forced multiple cold-weather work trips to repair the shelter and deck. This ambitious repair effort, led by overseer John Coffey, was successfully completed for the springtime arrival of hikers. There was also a ground fire near Pine Knob Shelter, the emergency response of which damaged the AT nearby. The South Mountaineers led several work trips on that hillside to repair damaged tread.

Spring was wet in Maryland and there was a locally heavy flood on May 16. The South Mountaineers spent much of the balance of 2014 mitigating erosion damage from the wet Springtime.

Late in 2014, Maryland DNR proposed a new hunting zone for 7 miles of the AT between Gathland Park and Weverton. Opinions are mixed and we continue to monitor this issue as of press time.

Work on the Catoctin Trail continues by the Old Scouters Crew that works on Thursdays. Rush Williamson leads these events and has made major improvements on the tread, and other aspects, of the Catoctin Trail.

In 2015, we look forward to a proposed new cabin along the Catoctin Trail in Cunningham Falls State Park. The spacious Catoctin Hollow Cabin would be accessed by a 0.3-mile long spur trail from the Catoctin Trail in the same area as Olive Green Cabin.

Information about volunteering and additional information about the North Chapter is available on PATC's web-site. <http://www.patc.net/PublicView/>

Administration- 783 hours

We continue to improve our online Chapter presence with a blog, which lists upcoming hikes and trail reports, an online photo album, and a repository of past hikes with directions. In order to recruit new local members, Dan Ralston has sent out welcome emails, from the lists provided by PATC central office, to all new members within an hour of Charlottesville with information about our work trips and hikes. Bill Holman, the web site manager, has added these names to our current member lists so that now we have 200+ people on our email list provided by our monthly reports from central PATC. Dan Ralston calls into the monthly meetings at headquarters. A core group has spent significant time responding to emails, welcoming new members, updating the website, and planning events.

Goals for 2015

- Recruit volunteers for the ATC Biennial
- With recent knowledge that we have 389 local members, but only a fraction of these active, we will email all local members to reintroduce our blog which lists local opportunities to participate
- Add leader training in First Aid, CPR, and WFA
- Submit budget requests and help improve hike leader knowledge

*these numbers are tough to gather, as hours are reported in the online systems, so these are minimum, approximate numbers



Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

<p>Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter: Malcolm Cameron</p>	<p>Prepared by: Malcolm Cameron</p>
<p>Number of Members/Volunteers: Chapter e-mail list: 154 ,+ 5 snail mail SSVC new member interests provided by PATC: 54</p> <p>Volunteers reporting hours: 22</p>	<p>Volunteer Hours Reported: *1209; Includes 382 Hr. planning and leading hikes in G.W. National Forest</p> <p>*Includes Administrative work, leading hikes, outreach, etc. Does not include AT work hours reported separately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Attachment w/ details
<p>Number of New Members/Volunteers participating in hikes or work days: 24 , 6 of these attended 3 or more outings</p> <p>Those expressing interest in SSVC: 54</p>	<p>Date: October 29, 2014</p> <p>2 Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 Volunteer hrs. / Activity Summary • 2015 SSVC Goals



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2014 Annual Report Submitted to the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Section: Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)	
Chair: Steve Weiss	Prepared by: Steve Weiss
Number of Members/Volunteers: 123	Volunteer Hours Reported: 10,802
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 51	Date: 10/25/2014

SMRG 2012 Elected Board of Directors:

Office	Office Holder	Email
Chair	Steve Weiss	Chair@smrg.org
Vice Chair	Charlie O'Connell	Vicechair@smrg.org
Secretary	Joanna Wray	Secretary@smrg.org
Treasurer	Robert German	Treasurer@smrg.org
Operations Officer	Trisha FitzGerald	Operations@smrg.org
Group Training Officer	Tom Loftus	Training@smrg.org
ASRC BOD Representative	Andrew Hower	ASRCrep@smrg.org
ASRC BOD Representative	Padraic Hughes	ASRCrep@smrg.org

Operations Summary (Nov 2013 through Oct 2014)

Search and Rescue (SAR) mission callouts/requests: 29

SAR missions responded to: 24 (for other callouts, mission was suspended or subject was found before mobilization)

Volunteer hours: 3,481

Volunteer travel miles: 29,533

Training Summary

Training events: 54

Volunteer hours: 4,521

Volunteer travel miles: 31,344

Organizational Admin

Meetings: 26

Volunteer hours: 2,800

Volunteer travel miles: 16,000

*a member group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
a section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club*

Priorities for Calendar Year 2014:

As our new Board of Directors began their work, our Chair reasserted some priorities:

- Engage on missions
- Train toward certifications
- Manage our organizational relationships

As specific goals for the organization, our officers agreed to the following:

- Improve alert system
- Improve dispatch system
- Increase number of ASRC FTLs
- More missions
- Increase member engagement

Highlights for the Year:

Operations

Since June, SMRG has had the most mission-demand in the history of the organization. Among the 29 callouts for the year, there were several high-visibility missions: a hot-air balloon crash in Caroline Co (May), an F-15 crash in Augusta Co (August) that generated a huge multi-agency response over two days, and the search for Hannah Graham in Charlottesville that ran over nearly 5 weeks (Sept/Oct). All but one of our searches was resolved with a find. Four callouts were for searches in Fairfax County. Developing a close relationship with the Fairfax County Police Department has been a high point of this year's operational activities.

Finally, our members continue to be an part of an innovative effort to develop, field, and support search planning using GIS mapping and analysis tools.

Training

We executed a full training schedule in the spring and are well into the second cycle of training this fall. Our training calendar this year had two highlights. In June, we planned and executed this exercise at the Elizabeth Furnace Recreation Area, with the full support of George Washington National Forest. Inviting members from across Virginia and the entire mid-Atlantic region, we hosted roughly 100 SAR personnel by putting them into the field to search for "lost" hikers. In August, 45 SMRG members participated in an "Advanced Rescue" field exercise at Hemlock Overlook Park. This exercise is essentially a capstone exercise for a full cycle of training. As a result of this training, a member was able to achieve the certification of ASRC Field Team Leader.

Administration and Outreach

For outreach, we initiated strong engagement with several potential SAR partners. We continued to increase our engagement and visibility in the Virginia SAR Council; supported activities at both SNP and Sky Meadows State Park. Most notable was the development of close working relationship with

