



# **POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015**



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### **Officers:**

**President**

**Dick Hostelley**

**Vice-President Operations**

**John Hedrick**

**Vice-President Volunteerism**

**Steve OConnor**

**Supervisor of Activities**

**Rush Williamson**

**Supervisor of Cabins**

**Mel Merritt**

**Supervisor of Communications**

**Alan Day**

**Supervisor of Marketing**

**Emeline Otey**

**Supervisor of Membership**

**Steve McLaughlin**

**Supervisor of Trails**

**Wayne Limberg**

**Treasurer**

**Joe Lombardo**

## **Standing Committees**

Archives and Library	Tom Johnson
At Corridor Management	Tom Lupp
ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership	Pete Brown
ATC 2015 Biennial Steering Committee	Lee Sheaffer
Bears Den Lodge and Hostel	Dick Hostelley
Blackburn Trail Center	Chris Brunton
DC Metro Trails	Alex Sanders
Hikes	Ric Francke
Lands Management	Bill Downes
Maps	Brian Goudreau
Maryland AT Management	Rick Canter
Naturalist	Dewey Clark
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Publications	Emeline Otey
Trail Patrol	Chris Firme
<b>Chapters:</b>	
Charlottesville	Iva Gillet
North	Robert Wise
Southern Shenandoah Valley	Malcolm Cameron
<b>Sections:</b>	
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group	Steve Weiss



## 2015 Annual Report

President	Prepared by: Dick Hostelley
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1750
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date:

First of all, let me thank the volunteers that came forward and dedicated their valuable time to many PATC projects and activities. Without their continued efforts and support, PATC would not be able to do what it does so well.

The total number of volunteer hours reported this year to NPS and the Forest Service is 272,477 from 6,827 Volunteers. Of that, PATC contributed 103,938, which included 12,663 or 6+ man-years of effort toward the 2015 ATC Biennial. Taking out the Biennial from the total of 103,938, PATC contributed 91,275, 44.5 man-years. And, PTC volunteers performed 35,426 hours or 17 man-years of volunteer service in the Shenandoah Park.

This year (January 1 – December 31, 2015) has been another productive year for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Through the many efforts of Staff and Volunteers, the Club has reached a diverse audience, be they members or non-members through the many activities this Club is involved in, ranging from scouting, universities and businesses. The reach has been broad. Accomplishments were many.

Staff and Volunteers worked the greater portion of the year on a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines a disciplined approach to produce fundamental decisions and

actions that shape and guide what PATC is, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. The Committee worked with two consultants whose process “...enable[d] PATC to develop a integrated, forward looking plan that sets the direction for PATC,” at the same time “...providing flexibility to review and refine the direction...” the Club is going in a changing environment. “*The Plan... include[s] an alignment of the mission, vision and values along with goals, objectives and action plans to move the Club forward.*”

We are grateful for the work of Patricia Adelstein and Cathleen Szebrat who guided our work.

During this busy year a number of policies have been either re-written or written to bring us up to date and meeting the Internal Revenue Service requirements for a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Plus, those policies that apply to normal every day business of the Club, this is an ongoing effort that is expected to continue with time.

The following policies have been re-written or written to be reflective of present operations:

- **Volunteers under VIP & VIF Programs**

The work on trail, boundary, shelter and cabins maintenance requires the use of heavy and often sharp tools, which carry the risk of injury. Congress passed the Volunteers in Park Act (VIP) in 1969 and the Volunteers in National Forest Act in 1972 (VIF) to provide injury compensation and other protection for volunteers working in National Parks and Forests.

- **Whistleblower Policy**

The Occupational Safety and Health Act is the foundation for mandatory whistleblower protections. It provides protection from retaliation if employees complain about a hazardous or hostile work environment.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy**

A conflict of interest policy requires those with a conflict (or who think they may have a conflict) to disclose the conflict or potential for conflict, and prohibit interested board members from voting on any matter in which there is a conflict.

- **Document Retention Policy**

The Document Retention Policy will assist PATC in determining how and what will be stored in the database as an active document and one that will be placed in the library for members and others to view, and some will be archived.

- **Email/Telephone Privacy Policy**

PATC is committed to safeguarding the personal information entrusted to us by our membership. We manage personal information in accordance the Privacy Act and other applicable laws.

### **Key Use Policy**

A Committee composed of Staff and Volunteers is looking at a Key Use Policy and cabin use which will address rental of cabins, the pricing of rentals, offering holiday packages, and many other opportunities for our renters. In the future the same committee will be investigating Cabin use where we are experiencing for weekends (Friday and Saturday) about an 89% occupancy rate. While the weeknights have been about 31% of the time. They will look at ways to increase weeknight occupancy through planned hiking outings or rentals that do not exceed one week.

PATC will create policies and procedures that define regulate and inform the membership how the organization operates. Several of the policies to be identified will result from PATC obligations in managing people and running the enterprise known to staff, volunteers and membership, but as time goes forward, they are also to be systematically reinforced in a variety of context.

### **2015 ATC Biennial**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy held its biennial conference at Shenandoah University, in Winchester, Virginia, on July 17-24, 2015. The weeklong event included 80 different hikes, and 35 excursions to historic sites, as well as numerous opportunities for kayaking, canoeing, caving, rock climbing, zip lining, biking, horseback riding, and much more. There were informative workshops in 11 different tracks and each evening there was stellar entertainment and inspirational presentations. During the first two days, there was an exhibit hall where outfitters, national and state parks, trail clubs, and other organizations involved with the A.T. and outdoor recreation interacted with conference attendees. The Club along with the Mountain Club of Maryland hosted the event.

### **Information Technology**

The PATC web site is one of the most important images PATC provides to the public. It is the heart of our organization. The web site is composed of web content that is managed directly by staff and volunteers. The IT Committee has worked diligently to put a new face on the web site. The improvements that were accomplished are outstanding.

### **Maps Committee**

The Maps Committee is responsible for scouting and compiling changes to all PATC maps changing them to GPS format. PATC GPS Rangers have worked diligently using GPS technology in their efforts. Maps covering the entirety of PATC trails have been surveyed or will be surveyed in the near future.

### **Credit Union**

PATC shares the values of the Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) with respect to service, excellence and integrity and believes that NWFCU would be a great service provider for PATC employees and members. Through our shared values of people who care about the environment and preserving natural resources, have access to the financial services, education and benefits offered by the Northwest Federal Credit Union. This opportunity has been made available to PATC through the NWFCU Community Partner Program.

### **Cabins**

And of course, talking about cabins, Old Rag Cabin will be coming into the rental system in this next year. The Lincoln Loggers have all worked very hard to make this a reality. In addition to

Old Rag 2 new cabins have been add to our inventory, the Horowitz Cabin and Huntley Cabin. That makes a total of 40, not counting Old Rag

### **Potomac Appalachian**

The PA is the newsletter of PATC, and with the advent of a redesigned website, the PA is being looked at to determine if a more efficient and cost effective way to publish and distribute the newsletter is possible. There are approximately 4,700 copies printed and distributed each month, at a cost of \$4,000.00 monthly or \$48,000.00 annually, which does not include postage and handling.

This has been an exciting time at PATC, and I hope that we will continue on the same path as before. We must look to the future as opportunities arise and take advantage of them. I am interested in hearing from individuals who would like to volunteer and provide assistance from time to time in preparing policy and procedures. Time spent on projects would be project dependent once the project is completed the committee's work is finished. I hope there are volunteers who are willing to dedicate a small amount of time in our efforts. These volunteers will work with Staff and other volunteers to see things in a different perspective.



## 2015 Annual Report

Vice President of Operations	Prepared by: John Hedrick
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 1,123
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 31 October 2015

**Overall 2015 was a very interesting and busy year. The main focus of the year has been on the planning and execution of the ATC 2015 Biennial held at Winchester, Virginia. Many meetings were held and extensive coordination with ATC and volunteers were accomplished. The execution of the Biennial was superb with many favorable comments received. There were some coordination issues with ATC personnel that were eventually resolved.**

**Construction on the new Whiskey Hollow Shelter commenced, but wet weather made accessing the shelter difficult, delayed the completion. It is now scheduled for completion early next spring. The Charlie Irvin Shelter in Pennsylvania was completed.**

**The Lincoln Loggers continued work on the Old Rag shelter and completion is estimated to be next spring.**

**Our trail and shelter system continued to receive high praise from all hikers. There is concern that there will be an increase in Appalachian Trail (AT) hikers because of the release of the film, "A Walk in the Woods". We have requested additional funding for another Ridge Runner in Shenandoah National Park to assist in educating all hikers. All the fireplaces in Shenandoah National Park were rehabilitated by PATC volunteers.**

**The Appalachian Trail Park Office (APPA) has been tasked to inventory all trail assets (water bars, steps, etc.) of the entire AT and to include the assets in a Federal data base. We have coordinated with APPA and have begun the survey. This is a huge task that should have been accomplished years ago. We have until mid-**

**2016 to complete the inventory along our 240 miles of the AT, but hope to accomplish it in a few months.**

**We were able to purchase two pieces of property that adjoin Shenandoah National Park. Both properties have cabins that were incorporated into our rental system.**

**We are awaiting final approval from the state of Maryland for a cabin in Cunningham Falls State Park. The state will lease the cabin to the club. The cabin is in excellent shape and will be a great addition to our rental system.**

**There is concern about the Club's capability to maintain the Tuscarora Trail in Pennsylvania. The trail is difficult to access and is quite rocky. We will continue to explore better ways to perform maintenance in that area.**

**The GPS Rangers continue to accomplish an amazing number of tasks and have contributed greatly to the accuracy of our maps. Our maps have all been digitized so future changes will be faster and require less effort by our Map Committee.**

**Our Headquarters building has been undergoing additional work to our HVAC system with additional work planned next year.**

**There are always challenges in the coming year including improving of our Grant program, bringing our existing agreements with our numerous partners up-to-date and enhancing our outreach initiatives.**



## 2015 Annual Report

Vice President of Volunteerism	Prepared by: Stephen O'Connor
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 450
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 11/2/2015

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 of 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 of 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 this past year, I have had several productive and enjoyable meetings with the Staff Director and the entire Headquarters Staff. The Headquarters Staff continues to be a strength of our Club and are relied upon to accomplish many of the details that allow our goals to be met. Continued efforts will be made to ensure that staff needs are met to the best of the Club's ability and to ensure the continued high level of professionalism the Club expects and receives from its Headquarters Staff. We welcomed Diane Yang this year as the Club's Sales Coordinator. Diane comes to us from the Department of the Army where she ran the Customer Service and Sales Department. Diane is also an avid hiker and leads hikes for the Korean community every Sunday. Welcome Diane!

We also welcomed Glen Breining as the manager at Bear's Den who replaced Dana Baxter and Chris Brunton as the caretaker at the Blackburn Trail Center who took over from Chris Looney. One of our excellent Ridge Runners, Max Mishkin, has been hired as the caretaker at Blackburn for the winter season.

The staff hit the trail for their annual retreat and hiked Bull Run Mountain north preserve for a well-deserved nature break.

Anne Corwith and I worked together to gather information from the Sales Desk volunteers regarding their views on how to improve this position. A subsequent meeting was held with many of the volunteers present. Many good ideas were proposed that will be worked on and phased in during the next year to improve the level of experience for both the costumers and the volunteers.

The Hike Leader Training course is also being revamped to upgrade the quality of the course. A very committed group of volunteers led by Courtney Trusty, Ric Franke and Chris Firme, and supported by Edna Baden and myself, have worked hard to elevate this course to be the gold standard in the DMV area.

A very important section of the Potomac Appalachian is undergoing a transition. For the past few years Rick Canter has been responsible for the Volunteer of the Month article and has done an excellent job in highlighting some of the many volunteers we have. During this past year Rick has decided to step away from the VoM article and a plan is in place to keep it running and to expand its efforts to give all supervisors a chance to celebrate volunteers.

A Youth and Diversity Outreach Committee is being formed which will build on the outreach partnerships we currently have and to expand the breadth of what we currently offer. This committee is being formed with mostly new faces to PATC committee life and bringing with them fresh ideas and experiences. Our ongoing pilot program with Capital City Charter continues and will be strengthened by this committee's efforts.





**SUPERVISOR OF ACTIVITIES:  
Rush Williamson**

Supervisor of Activities: Rush Williamson	Prepared by: Rush Williamson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 305	Volunteer Hours Reported: 765.80
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 96	Date: October 13, 2015

**In FY 2015, PATC’s “Trail Talkers” participated in a total of 37 events (32 for FY 14), staffed by 19 volunteers. We had to cancel out of two events because not enough volunteers signed up to attend. A number of other events could have been attended but because the Club was hosting the 2015 ATC Biennial there were not enough resources to cover everything so had to decline participating in them.**

**Currently there are around 300 members listed expressing an interest in participating in Trail Talker events, but over the past year only 19 actually turned out, however out of this group many did several events. The low number of volunteers willing to help out is becoming a serious concern. The good news is that there are close to 100 new members which have expressed an interest in becoming Trail Talkers this year and hopefully they will become**

**active. A number of events and the associated hours are 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. Charlottesville now has its own display materials so will be able to do Trail Talker events on their own now.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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 2016:**

**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. During the biennial talked with the Outdoor Programs Director for Shenandoah University about a Student Chapter and have very positive feedback.**

**Work on integrating and including the seven AT Trail Communities within the PATC area in Club activities and trail participation. A.T. Community Summit will be held in November which will be a good kickoff event to start working**

**relationships with the seven AT Trail Communities in PARC's operating area.  
The Supervisor of Activities hopes to attend the ATC's**





## 2015 BLACKBURN TRAIL CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

In April of this year my wife Sandi Marra and I moved into the Blackburn Trail Center as the full time 2015 caretakers. I'm sure that most of you know that we have been the volunteer managers of Blackburn for over 30 years and have hired literally dozens of caretakers so we were pretty sure we knew what we were doing and what to expect. And it has indeed been a wonderful and enlightening summer experience. As managers we would come up on weekends and the odd weekdays to help out but now living up here on a full time basis we can really see just how popular the Center really is and I can tell you that there are a lot of hikers out there! This includes not just those that we expect to see, thru and long distance hikers, but literally hundreds of local people who use our trailhead parking. Some come out for an overnight backpack, to take a day hike, or to bring the family to walk up to the view for an hour or so. What has been particularly exciting is the number of teens and young adults coming up to the center for a quick walk or an overnight camp out. There is no way that we can count these day visitors but, since the beginning of April through the end of October, we have counted some 800 plus AT hikers staying overnight.

In keeping with our mission we have hosted many groups coming up for meetings, training seminars, events and work crews. These included the following:

- Two Master Leave no Trace classes by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)
- One Master Leave no Trace class by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
- An Appalachian Trail assessment class by ATC
- Mel Merritt's Cabin Overseers meeting
- A PATC Hike Leader training class
- Leadership training hike and luncheon for 40 US State Game Wardens
- PATC Ridge Runner meeting
- Two work groups from AmeriCorps
- One Student Conservation Association (SCA) volunteer group
- Two AT corridor monitoring trips by the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA)
- Three trail work trips by the Mid Atlantic Crew
- Two trail work trips by PATC's Cadillac Crew
- An annual picnic/meeting by The Friends of The Blue Ridge Mountains
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Nature Walk

This season we also hosted three schools groups, the Poolsville High School Environmental Class from Montgomery County, The Waldorf School of Baltimore, and The Salisbury School from Salisbury, MD.

Every summer these schools bring their students up to learn about the outdoors and the Appalachian Trail.

We offered housing to three Appalachian Trail Conservancy interns.

During this season we have accomplished several important tasks (with two trips by the Cadillac Crew to support our efforts!):

- Completed the installation of a new standing seam metal roof on the hiker cabin and whitewashed the inside of the cabin
- Repainted inside of both privies
- Completed a major repair to our commercial Garland kitchen stove
- Installed a new counter top in the caretaker's apartment
- Removed eight hazard trees in the group campground
- Refreshed blazes on both blue blaze trails
- Cleaned out campground fire rings
- Stained outside of main house porch and power washed porch on caretaker's apartment
- Significantly improved informational signage around center and campground, including membership marketing for PATC and ATC and Leave No Trace information

In addition, as we do every year we had our two mile gravel road re-graded and new gravel applied. A final project for this year will be to replace the water pressure tank.

As we wrap up 2015 we have started our rental season and so far the cabin is reserved through the end of the year with a 2016 rental already on the books.

This has been a wonderful experience for Sandi and me and we look forward to many more years of managing and enhancing the Center.



## 2015 Annual Report

Cabins Operations Chair	Prepared by: Mel Merritt
Number of Members/Volunteers:	Volunteer Hours Reported: 10,100
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 22 2015

**2015 was another year of improvement and expansion for the PATC Cabins System**

**One of the biggest projects was the redesign and reconstruction of the deck at Schairer Trail Center. Thomas and Mary Jorgensen organized an intensive six week program of over 1500 volunteer hours to remove the old deck and replace it with a much improved design by PATC member and Architect Bruce Berberick. The results of their efforts will be enjoyed for many years to come. Thomas and Mary also organized work trips to get the new Huntley Cabin into the system only a month earlier which involved another 500 hours of volunteer time. Other projects in Thomas' Shenandoah Valley Cabins Region included a new roof and exterior painting at Lambert Cabin.**

**On the Eastern side of Shenandoah National Park in the Piedmont Region the new Horwitz Cabin overseen by author Sue Eisenfeld and her husband Niel**

entered the system and is proving to be Very Popular with renters. The new overseers at Rosser-Lamb Cabin, Bruce and Alison Berberick are working on the type of detailing which make our cabins such special places. Bruce and Alison also spent a lot of time doing drawings and taking pictures, which will appear in the new Cabins Book due out next year. The Piedmont Region is looking forward to the completion of the new Old Rag Cabin by the Lincoln Loggers Cabins Crew sometime next year.

The big news on the Vining Tract this year was an event hosted by Jeff Testerman , the Vining Cabins Regional Supervisor, for Blue Ridge Heritage, a group which celebrates the Genealogy and Heritage of the historic inhabitants of Shenandoah Park and it's surroundings. The Butternut Hut is now being overseen by John Hobler, whose other volunteer job is producing the many signs which enhance PATC Facilities and Trails. Jeff and the overseers of Johnson Cabin, Billy Lancaster and Melanie Wilson who help keep our cabin woodstoves and fireplaces in good condition are looking forward to replacing the roofing on Johnson Cabin next year.

SNP Overseers under the guidance of Regional Cabins Supervisor Glen Tsaparis have been doing an excellent job of maintaining all the National Historic Register cabins within the Park. Overseer Clark Dixon, of Range View Cabin, is looking forward to getting a new moldering privy built as soon as we get final approval from the Park. Bill Wentz, overseer of Corbin Cabin, also expects to be taking on that job next year.

In the Central Cabins Region the biggest improvement was at Highacre, where Al and Barb Black built and installed a meticulous replica of the original railings on the front porch. Ben Mayock Regional Supervisor and Dennis and Sandy Staiger, overseers are ready to move on getting the new Catoctin Hollow Lodge in the cabin system as soon as the State of Maryland finishes the paperwork. We are hoping it will go into the system next spring.

**In Pennsylvania Milesburn Cabin overseer, Charlie Gutridge is working on getting two new woodstoves into the Cabin in time for the winter season and overseer Travis Eby is working on getting new siding donated to be installed on Dawson Cabin next year.**

**As usual the Cabin Overseers held their annual meeting at Blackburn Trail Center in April and the Cabins Committee met in April and September.**





## **SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: Alan Day**

Supervisor of Communications: Alan Day	Prepared by: Alan Day
Number of Members/Volunteers: 3	Volunteer Hours Reported: 400
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 2	Date: 10/31/2015

### **Public Affairs**

Janice Cessna volunteered to help PATC with press placements and social media. She has gotten a couple of items in the Connection and Patch on-line websites in Fairfax County. It is a real challenge to interest local general-interest media about trail & hiking activities.

### **Potomac Appalachian at the ATC Biennial**

Potomac Appalachian Editor Rachel Levin & Co-Editor Dan Pulskamp conducted an excellent workshop on the mechanics of running the Potomac Appalachian to a near capacity audience. The PATC newsletter is published twelve times a year. The Potomac Appalachian staff is distributed over about five states & uses Internet/Cloud capabilities to keep the process under control.

Participated in several workshops that have provided excellent background to support PATC activities.

W1802 - Connecting Young and Diverse People to the A.T. (ATC)

W1809 - A Beginner's Guide To Facebook (VCM)

W1817 - The Essentials of A.T. Cooperative Management (VCM)

W1825 - Recruiting Volunteers – Optimizing Your Efforts (VCM)

W1933 - News That's Fit to Print! (VCM)

W1941 - Public Relations and Working with the Media (VCM)

W1949 - Finding and Procuring Grants (for your Trail Club) (VCM)

#### Wolf Trap

PATC helped Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts put on a spring camp out for 5th & 6th grade 1st-time campers. The campers were from local Fairfax County elementary schools & they had fun, learned about nature, the basics of cooking with Dutch ovens, pitching tents, & other camping skills. Mike Moran & Alan Day led the campers on hikes on the PATC-constructed & maintained trail around the Park, provided planning, and logistical support. They also participated in the planning for the fall camp out held 9-10 October. In addition to setting up tents, and cooking their own meals using Dutch ovens and camp stoves, the campers were taught archery, fly fishing, gardening, yoga, about insect pollinators and went on a back stage tour. PATC donated \$1K that funded nine camperships for needy campers and provided two slightly used sleeping bags in good condition. 20 girls and 22 boys participated. A press release has been drafted and is in editing.

#### Information Technology

IT Chair Lee Manning & PATC IT Analyst Kit Sheffield are working on a new design for the PATC website.

#### NPS Partnership Summit

Supervisor of Communications Alan Day participated at NPS Partnership Summit held in Fredrick MD on 19 October. This was an opportunity to discuss the PATC youth outreach activities and connect with NPS staff.

Participated in the Virginia Trails Advisory Committee meeting on 19 August 2015. This Committee was mandated by the Virginia General Assembly to provide input to the trails and waterway recreational planning. There was a lot of interest expressed in the PATC Youth outreach program & PATC may have an opportunity to make a more formal presentation at a future meeting.

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Executive Director Paul Gilbert suggested that a First-time Campers camp out might be held at Pohick Bay & Bull Run Regional Parks. Supervisor of Activities Rush Williamson & Boy Scout Scoutmaster Gary Pan are presenting the concept to the Boy Scout National Capital Area Council to connect with possible Scout troops in the metro area.

#### New Members Meetings

PATC held twelve New Members meetings with 50 participants. Some of these participants may be able to help PATC connect with youth & to improve its member diversity.

#### PATC Strategic Plan

Served as a member of the team that has developed the Strategic Plan for PATC's next three years. This plan was approved at the October PATC Council meeting. A major segment of the plan is to increase PATC involvement with youth and to improve PATC diversity.





## 2015 Annual Report

Supervisor of Lands	Prepared by: Bill Downes
Number of Members/Volunteers: 25	Volunteer Hours Reported:
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: November 5, 2015

PATC made a major land acquisition this year. The Huntley Tract was acquired in April of 2015. The tract consists of 102 acres that borders the Shenandoah National Park and PATC's Shaver Hollow tract. The property included of 2 bedroom cabin which is currently available for members to rent.

The Land Management Committee (LMC) met in March 2015. The meeting was held at the Horowitz Cabin in Rappahannock County, Virginia. A total of 14 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.

One large project was completed this year. A major road improvement project was completed on the access road to the Schairer Trail Center and Argow Cabin on the Eaton Hollow Tract. This project included the rehab of existing water bars, construction of 4 new water bars, grading, and the placement of 60 cubic yards of gravel. This project keeps the road passable for tract, cabin, shelter, and trail overseers and crews, and the propane delivery truck. 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.



## 2015 Annual Report: Maps

Maps Committee Chair	Prepared by: Brian Goudreau
Number of Members/Volunteers: about 130	Volunteer Hours Reported: 5639.5
Number of New Members/Volunteers: about 10	Date: November 1, 2015

### Major Accomplishments:

#### Map printing:

• Map 1 new edition	January 5	6550 copies
• Map 5-6 reprint	January 5	6500 copies
• Map 9 new edition	February 25	13050 copies
• Guidebook to 70 Unique Hikes	May 27	1900 copies
• Map 10 reprint	June 8	8000 copies
• Map 7 reprint	June 26	5500 copies
• Map 8 reprint	June 26	5500 copies
• Map 2-3 reprint	August 26	4000 copies
• Map 4 reprint	August 26	4000 copies
• Map 12 new edition	Nov 2 (planned)	2500 copies
• Map 13 new edition	Nov 2 (planned)	2500 copies
• Map F new edition	Nov 30 (planned)	2000 copies

## Map mobile apps:

- *Summer 2015: Limited updates were made to both apps for OS compatibility*

## Committee Highlights:

- The GPS Rangers continued their excellent work. See separate subcommittee report below.
- On 10/6/2015, five licenses of ArcGIS for Desktop Advanced were purchased to run through 10/1/2016 from ESRI to support GIS data maintenance, new map layouts, and other database development projects.
- On 10/6/2015, three ArcPad licenses were renewed, to run through 9/27/2016. These support the use of the high-precision Trimble Juno and Trimble Geo X 6000 GPS devices donated by Jim Tomlin for use in boundary marker recovery for Lands Committee activities and for special storm-related surveys. In October 2015, Jim Tomlin and Brian Goudreau were trained in the use of Trimble Positions and ArcMap. The hardware and software are now available to begin recovery of PATC boundary markers.
- New editions of Maps 1, 9, 12, 13, and F were produced (see schedule above).
- Reprints of Maps 2-3, 4, 5-6, 7, 8, and 10 were ordered (see schedule above).
- All allocated print funds are expected to be used in 2015, leaving neither a surplus nor a deficit. In September, Council approved a transfer of \$6000 from Maps to Publishing to help cover the cost of the *Guidebook of 70 Unique Hikes*. At the time of this report, map sales revenues were trending almost \$30,000 higher than predicted for 2015. The extra sales are attributed to larger than expected wholesale purchases. Map app sales were also trending higher than predicted, but still not recouping costs of development and marketing.
- Throughout 2015, the GIS Subcommittee met four times to develop a plan for the architecture of a GIS system. That system is designed to manage the following data: GPS Rangers GPX tracks and waypoints, reference data for map updates, and land parcels. The subcommittee has developed a database schema and is currently loading all GPS Rangers GPX data into a geodatabase. We will begin to stand up an online data service in early 2016. The online system is estimated to cost \$4000 in 2016.

## Maps Committee Goals for 2016

- By early 2016, complete loading GPS Rangers data to a single geodatabase to be housed online. Implement an online data service, initially to demonstrate basic online map functionality.
- By April 2016, print Map N Edition 5 (reprint), 1500 copies (4-yr supply).
- Implement and market a map app name change from *PATC-Maryland-Northern Virginia-West Virginia* to *PATC-Potomac*.
- By spring 2015, release new versions of *PATC-Shenandoah* and *PATC-Potomac* for sale on the iTunes App Store and Google Play. New versions will have updated base maps.
- By August 2016, print Map 10 Edition 22 (reprint), 4000 copies (1-yr supply)
- By October 2016, print Map 5-6 Edition 19 (reprint), 1500 copies (0.5-yr supply)
- By December 2016, print Map 8 Edition 16 (new), 6000 copies (2-yr supply)
- Yearlong - continue efforts to engage GPS Rangers volunteers in GPS data collection for the Appalachian Trail and other trails.

## **GPS Rangers Subcommittee Report, Jim Tomlin, Chair**

The GPS Rangers performed 4,836 volunteer hours in 2015, up from 4,264 hours in 2014.

This included 237 individual GPS surveys by 31 volunteers. The 2015 surveys tended to be farther away (Maps 13, F, K, J) and more grueling (200 more hours spent in the field, and more driving hours).

The primary focus in 2015 to support PATC maps was Map F, Great North Mountain, with 84 surveys, 410 hours of surveying. This was in preparation for a significant revision of Map F in 2015. This year also saw the completion of surveys for Maps 12 and 13, our most difficult maps to survey.

Another focus was to finish all surveying of all trails and all fire roads in Shenandoah National Park. This was accomplished and celebrated in December 2014, capped by 40 surveys in reporting year 2015 for Map 10.

GPS Rangers provided significant support for surveying trail routes in advance of the 2015 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference.

GPS Rangers collected GPS coordinates for two new PATC cabins (Horowitz, Huntley) and their parking areas, as well as supported the Cabins staff with suggested routes and coordinates for several existing cabins.

One free GPS Rangers training weekend class was held for new volunteers. The next class will be on November 21 & 22. An Annual Planning meeting was held at Dunlodge in January to discuss, decide, and lay out the schedule for the year.

GPS Rangers assisted a local historian with his research on Knoxville, Maryland industrial facilities of the 1700s and 1800s. Working from an archaic text description, GPS Rangers performed both cartographic and field support and provided him with a map of a plot of land that once contained an iron works factory.

The GPS Rangers performed six major special surveying projects:

- C&O Canal National Historical Park and the C&O Canal Association requested that the GPS Rangers take over their sign survey project. Every sign on the 184 miles of C&O Canal was visited, photographed and GPS coordinates acquired. This was completed in January 2015.
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park asked the GPS Rangers to complete GPS surveys of the new Bolivar Heights trail system. These surveys were completed in October 2015.
- C&O Canal NHP and the C&O Canal Trust requested that the GPS Rangers find and acquire GPS coordinates for 600 features along the Canal, including present visitor amenities (water pumps, rest rooms, picnic tables, etc.) and historical features (sites of river fords, old forts, houses, locks, aqueducts, etc.). This involved significant research. This project was completed in May 2015.
- State of Pennsylvania GIS Staff asked the GPS Rangers to locate and survey all trails and current and former roads on State Game Lands Parcel 124. This required some research and 2 weekends of surveying. This project was completed in August 2015.
- PATC ExCom requested that the GPS Rangers survey the entire length of the Tuscarora Trail for evaluation of its condition. This was completed in June 2015.

- Shenandoah National Park requested that the GPS Rangers visit approximately 80 scenic vistas on side trails in the Park to collect compass headings describing the width of the view, take panoramic photos, and acquire accurate GPS coordinates for each view. GPS Rangers were the ones to locate these vistas during their routine trail surveys in SNP. This project has begun and is ongoing.

Expected in 2016 are more special surveying projects like the above, including property boundary surveys of PATC and Park properties.

Collaborations with the University of Maryland Terrapin Trail Club and the University of Virginia Outdoor Club occurred in 2015. Both schools sent volunteers to help with surveying Map F. GPS Rangers have also built a strong collaboration with the C&O Canal Association and C&O Canal Trust. All of these collaborations are ongoing.

### **GPS Rangers Goals for 2016**

- Finish surveying of all trails and fire roads on all PATC maps. Maps 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, D, F, G, and N are completed. Maps 2-3, 4, H have a few trails remaining to be surveyed. The main effort in 2016 will be to finish the side trails on the Tuscarora Trail maps (J, K, and L), with significant effort also going into Map 5-6.
- Perform more accurate and comprehensive surveys of the Catoclin Trail and Appalachian Trail in Maryland and Northern Virginia.
- Assist with Appalachian Trail assessment surveying.
- Support PATC GPS, map, and compass training classes.
- Support PATC Lands, Publications, and District Managers with special projects as needed.
- Provide support for PATC GIS efforts to produce online maps for viewing trail maintenance and surveying data.

Many thanks to all GPS Rangers 2015 volunteers, who made all of the above possible, and with magnificent success.



## 2015 Annual Report

Title: Supervisor of Marketing	Prepared by: Emeline Otey and Larry Broadwell
Number of Members/Volunteers: 13	Volunteer Hours Reported 548
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 2	Date: November 3, 2015

The highlights of the marketing and promotional activities for FY2015 centered on the 2015 Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference, held this past summer in Winchester, VA, and hosted by PATC; and the continuation of the extremely well received "Hike with the Experts" series hosted by area REI stores. Other notable marketing activities included the publication and distribution in September a fall 2015 edition of the PATC Wholesale Catalog to all vendors who have ordered from PATC in the recent past; and the establishment of a Sales Committee to provide advice in a number of areas related to marketing and publication strategies. Each of the areas of activity is described in more detail below.

The **ATC Biennial Conference** provided a unique opportunity to showcase PATC publications and maps as well as other PATC activities and programs. PATC published two new hiking guides in 2015 consistent with the conference theme, *Hiking through History*. The first is the *Guidebook of 70 Unique Hikes*, which included maps, profiles, hike descriptions and photographs, and parking directions for each hike offered at the conference. The second is the *Hiker's Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region*; this guidebook, which includes accounts of the history that occurred along the trails, is designed as much for history buffs as it is for hiking enthusiasts. All PATC maps and guidebooks were on sale at the vendors' shop during the first three days of the conference; individual maps and the guidebook of conference hikes were on sale each day at the hike departure area.

PATC's **collaboration with REI stores** in the area, now in its fourth year, continued to be the high point of marketing and promotional effort. Through this effort, organized by Larry Broadwell:

- the club's relationship with REI is enhanced;
- the public is informed about the club, trails in the region, what is found along those trails in various seasons, and how to prepare for a good outing;
- the club also is promoted as a useful reference on out-of-region adventures (climbing Kilimanjaro, hiking Provence and the Cote d'Azur, trekking the Pacific Crest Trail, biking from Pittsburgh to DC);
- attendees are encouraged to become members; and
- the sale of PATC maps and trail guides is promoted.

This year PATC speakers conducted 38 evening events at the eight REI stores in the region. After several months of low activity around midyear as REI reorganized its coordinating staff to focus on fee-based, staff-led

classes, the pace picked up. There were seven presentations in September, and REI has requested 13 PATC offerings for October-January.

PATC's marketing/fulfillment staff (Mona Filchok at the start of the year; followed by Diane Yang, staff sales coordinator, who succeeded Mona) 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, occasionally loaned Trail Talker supplies, and was one of nine active presenters during the year. PATC's newest presenter, Barbara Nash, had her first REI event on September 30, the last day of FY2015. Her talk was very successful, attracting 26 attendees and several signups for membership information. Barbara is already booked for two more presentations in FY2016.

The program's general title remains "Hiking with the Experts." 2015 presentation topics included:

- Best Trails in Shenandoah National Park
  - Best Trails for Spring Hikes (to find/identify wildflowers)
  - 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)
  - Hiking Provence and the French-Italian Alps
  - Trekking up Kilimanjaro
  - Hiking the Appalachian Trail
  - Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail\*
  - Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region (plugging PATC's new trail guide)\*
  - Biking from Pittsburgh to DC on the Great Allegheny Passage and C&O Canal
- \*New topic this year

Additional topics have been offered for 2016, and organizer Larry Broadwell would welcome more, such as presenters from PATC's climbing, mountain rescue, and ski-touring sections. Whatever the topic of the evening, speakers explain 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 the following is known:

- Total attendance at these events during the 12 months ended Sept. 30 was 649, more than 20% higher than the total for FY2014;
- 153 attendees requested membership information, nearly 50% more than the prior year;
- And 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 and/or PATC's "Dropbox," presenters logged 2,180 miles (110 hours of travel time) and committed over 350 hours to take photographs, prepare slides, and deliver their talks.

#### Associated Activities

- Articles and notices on the release of new maps and publications are run in Potomac Appalachian.
- Descriptions of REI events appear in PATC, REI, and Sierra Club on-line calendars, as in 'FY2014.
- More recently, two MeetUp group websites are used to attract hikers to outings that promote the new "Hiker's Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region." The most recent of these hikes, in mid-October, drew 32 participants for a hike and book-signing at Manassas Battlefield. Most of the hikers were either Sierra Club outings leaders or members of the "Capital Area Hikers and History Buffs" MeetUp.
- In connection with the Civil War hike series, and apart from it, park rangers and historians who contributed to the guide have been contacted to thank them, to show them the new book, and to explore

sales opportunities. Apart from efforts to produce the book, the writer/editor reports that he travelled 786 miles and accumulated about 40 hours of volunteer time to promote it by phone, visits with park staff, and leading hikes during the last quarter. (Sales to NPS shops at battlefield visitor centers appear to be a potential major outlet, but a tough nut to crack. PATC's current relationship with ATC may be a complicating factor.)

- The tabletop display created last year has been used at all REI events, along with inexpensive "giveaways" and display samples of maps, books, and other sales items. Attendees are urged to peruse the display table before and after each presentation. When they do, a few usually fill in the form to request membership information.
- Since attendees began reporting that they could not find various PATC guides on REI shelves after the presentations, the PATC coordinator for REI events has been checking the shelves himself. Sometimes, the guide most likely to appeal to those in the neighborhood served by the store have been missing. Such lost sales opportunities are reported to REI staff.

Larry Broadwell currently coordinates REI presentations and prepares calendar and newsletter entries about these events. He also prepared the section above describing these activities.

The Fall 2015 Edition of the **Wholesale Catalog**, first developed by Mona Filchok, is an important way to get out the news about our two new publications and to remind our wholesalers of the wide range of maps, hiking guides, and history books published by PATC. In concordance with the catalog, we have renewed our effort to make personal contact with existing wholesalers and establish new contacts. ATC, who serves as the wholesale distributor for PATC maps and some publications, for reasons that are not entirely clear, has declined to distribute the two newest publications. Strategies for addressing concerns about the distribution of our products are being considered.

The recently established **Sales Committee** is proving what an essential part of planning and implementing a marketing and publication approach it is. The three primary areas on which the Committee is asked to provide advice are: (1) new publications and revisions of existing publications to be undertaken by PATC; (2) "resale" publications and other items to be carried by PATC; (3) pricing of new and existing publications and resale items, as well as other issues related to marketing, publications, and sales. The Committee transacts much of its business through conference calls and email conversations, but finds face-to-face meetings every several months to be especially effective. The members of the Committee are Jean Golightly, Alan Kahan, Diane Yang (staff sales coordinator), and Kyler Nierson until his recent move to the southwest. The chair of the Committee is Emeline Otey.

Plans for coming year are to continue the successful association with REI through the "Hike with the Experts" series and to look for opportunities to broaden this relationship. We will also look for similar opportunities to introduce PATC and its programs to parts of our community with whom we have no established relationship. One recent example of such opportunities is PATC's participation as a vendor in The Gathering, a Native American harvest festival and multi-cultural celebration in Berryville, VA October 30 through November 1, 2015.



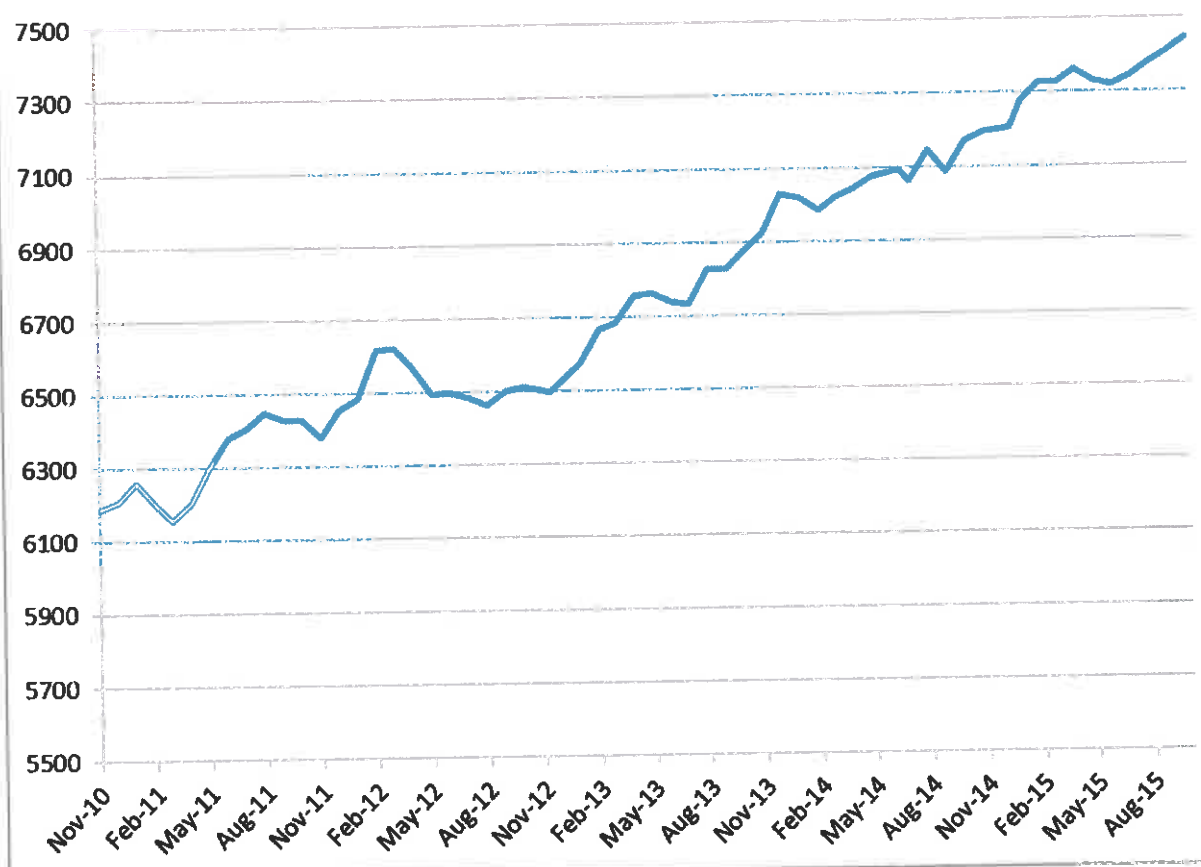


## **Membership Report November 1, 2015**

During the last year, I spent most of my time participating in the Strategic Planning process as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and reviewing membership data so I could gain an understanding of the challenges we face as an organization. The data on membership show steady increases from a strong base. The state of membership is strong.

From Nov. 1, 2014 to Oc. 31, 2015, membership grew steadily from 7,196 to 7,448. Over the last five years, membership has grown by over 20 percent (see chart below).

# Total Members - Five Year Trend



The 7,448 members results in 4,369 dues paying memberships. The difference between these two numbers is attributable to the large number of couple and family memberships (1,768 memberships consist of more than one member).

The composition of memberships, and the income derived from membership, is summarized in the table below:

PATC Dues-Paying Memberships			
As of:	10/9/2015		
Dues-Paying Memberships: 4369			
Membership Type	Members	Dues	Revenue
Individual	1,958	\$35	\$68,530
Couple	933	40	37,320
Family	367	50	18,350
Senior Individual	586	30	17,580
Student	16	20	320
Senior Couple	468	35	16,380
Spouse of Life Member	7	10	70
Subscription Only	9	9	81
Non-Profit Youth Grp	24	50	1,200
Organization	1	250	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,369</b>		<b>\$160,081</b>

For 2016 and beyond, the challenges for the Membership Director include expanding the number of membership renewals, converting members into volunteer contributors to the accomplishment of the PATC's mission, and outreach to the diverse communities in our area.

Regarding membership renewals, the data show that over 200 members drop out every month, but about 80 delinquent members are reinstated every month. This suggested to me that about 1/3 of the drop outs were inadvertent. To remedy this situation, we are going to implement an automatic renewal option that would charge membership fees on an annual basis via the stored credit card information. This would eliminate the inadvertent delinquencies and shore up our income stream. Unless a member opts out, their renewal would be automatic.

Turning new members into new volunteers poses a more difficult challenge. Some membership turnover is inevitable in our area due to the transient population in our region. Others often join just to take temporary advantage of membership privileges. This is especially true when it comes to cabin rentals. Many people join just to get access to member only cabins. The low membership rates compared to cabin rental rates make this an attractive option for many potential cabin renters. The key challenge in this area is to get people who join for the cabins to stay for the mission.

While we will always have members who are not volunteers, we all know that the future of the organization is dependent on our ability to generate the next generation of volunteers from our membership base. In my view, there is nothing particularly alarming in having a large number of passive members. New members are often younger and have family commitments that preclude significant volunteer activity. As they age, and children grown and leave home, volunteer activity increases. My experience at PATC to date bears this out. I suspect that those who volunteer the most are older than the average member and often are retired. The key then is to engage the members after they join, sustain their interest in the PATC over time, and reap the benefits once they have the time to contribute more as a volunteer.

Diversifying membership is the most difficult challenge and was identified as a priority by the Strategic Planning Committee. This will take a commitment from all of us. New methods of outreach will need to be developed and new partnerships will have to be forged. There is no avoiding the demographic changes in our region. In my view we must embrace the change and engage with all of the different communities in our region to insure that we broaden the base of stakeholders in our mission.



## 2015 Annual Report

Supervisor of Trails: Wayne Limberg	Prepared by: Wayne Limberg
Number of Members/Volunteers: 750+	Volunteer Hours Reported: 38455
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: October 17, 2015

More than 750 PATC volunteers put in over 26,000 hours on trail work in 2015 and just under an additional 12,000 in travel time for a total of 38455 hours on the nearly 1100 miles of trail the club maintains in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. On the 241 miles of the Appalachian Trail PATC maintains volunteers put in 8271 work hours and 3920 hours in travel.

The ATC Biennial Conference accounted for many of these hours. With 150 hikes on over 70 different trails, District Managers, overseers and trail crews in Northern and West Virginia and Maryland were hard at it from March to July, ensuring that their trails were ready, logging in hundreds of hours. Two ND SNP summer crews spent their weeks working on Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail in preparation for the Biennial. More than one crew was working right up to the opening day of the conference and a summer storm in the Shenandoah Valley that weekend meant some last minute blowdown removal and trail work. Several crews also volunteered to oversee events or services at the Biennial. Cadillac Crew, for example, was responsible for parking while the ND Hoodlums hosted three receptions.

The Biennial did not mean other work stopped. 2015 saw the start of a major relocation of the AT at Loudon Heights. Two Mid-Atlantic crews put in week each working the project in September; a third worked another week in October. Work

is progressing nicely but it will probably be another two years before the project is completed.

The AT at Blackrock in SNP was another focus this year. Tread needed some major rehabbing. Three crews worked the project over three separate days this summer; one included youth volunteers from Groundworks who moved a lot of gravel. Trail needs one more day of work which is already scheduled for the spring. The effort was more than worth it as the Blackrock loop is a very popular SNP hike and on May 29 the NPS designated it a TRACK trail under its Kids in Parks program. on by NPS. TRACK trails are self-guided excursions aimed at getting kids involved in the outdoors and parks complete with prizes for trails hiked.

Another high priority this year was the Tuscarora in PA, sections of which had been without overseers and fallen into disrepair. The Tuscarora in PA is a tough trail with few trailheads and long hikes and tool carries before work can even begin. North Chapter organized 4 midweek crews that made a real difference, clearing whole sections, but much work remains to be done, and keeping the trail up to PATC standards may require some rethinking and possibly relocation of some of the harder to access sections.

2015 was a year of growth. A new district--Maryland National Battlefield Parks--was up and running with nine new overseers and sections at Antietam battlefield and discussions underway to incorporate Monocacy battlefield into the district. Discussions are also underway to build and maintain trails at Cedar Creek National Battlefield in Virginia. Greater Manassas Area opened a new 4.2 mile section of trail and built a 0.3 mile connector trail in Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve while Massanutten North District added two new trails to the PATC inventory. Over Memorial Day weekend, Cadillac Crew completed the eight mile relocation of the Capon Springs trail in Tuscarora Central District. The crew had been working on that project for over four years. The Pacific Heritage Trail, SNP Central BB and Tuscarora South Districts got new District Managers and PHT re-instituted its Thursday work crews. Several districts brought on new overseers, including Tuscarora Central, SNP North BB, SNP North AT and Maryland Metro. September saw the return of an great tradition in the revival of the Massarock crew.

2015 was also a year of outreach. Several districts--Wolf Trap, Massanutten North, DC Metro, Spotsylvania Battlefield, Prince Williams Forest, and Tuscarora Central--had successful Eagle Scout projects with more in the works. Wolf Trap District also hosted two DC youth campouts. In June and July, the ND Hoodlums hosted two Groundwork youth crews, working on the AT on Pass Mountain. Central District's Blue and White crew once more worked with a group of entering freshman from Princeton University. Prince William Forest relocated a trail with the help of graduates of the USMC's Basic Officer program and did some trail maintenance work with students from Prince Williams County schools on Earth Day and again hosted the general public on National Trail Day and National Public Lands Day. In the course of 15 work trips, The Rock Creek Filibusters worked with the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy on a trail rerouting and with the Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy in Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia.

Other trail-related work continued apace. The North and Central Districts fielded three summer crews in SNP. The ND also hosted its annual overseer workshop in September and CD ran their popular traditional tools and rigging workshops in the spring and fall. Work continued on the Whiskey Hollow shelter that is replacing Dick's Dome, and the Denton Shelter got a new metal roof and what amounted to a major facelift. PATC again conducted chainsaw certification courses with its federal and ATC partners, and developed a new club policy statement on the federal Volunteer in the Parks/Forests programs.

ATC and the NPS rolled out an AT infrastructure inventory at the close of the year. This is an ambitious project aimed at cataloging all important infrastructure—shelters, privies, bridges, checkdams, steps, waterbars, parking, viewpoints, etc.—on the entire AT and will involve hundreds of volunteers. The goal is to make the AT—a National Park in its own right—more competitive when it comes to budgets and policy in the NPS system. Working with ATC, it has already had three training sessions for DMs and overseers and is aiming to complete its part of the survey by next spring at the latest.

**Goals for 2015:** 1) Complete the AT infrastructure inventory; 2) continue the AT relocation on Loudon Heights; 3) complete construction of the Whiskey Hollow shelter to replace Dick's Dome; 4) finish rehab of the tread on the AT at Blackrock; 5) continue work on Tuscarora in Pennsylvania and develop a sustainable plan for its maintenance; and 6) expand outreach to develop greater volunteer diversity.





<b>TREASURER</b> <b>Joseph Lombardo</b>
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Treasurer: Joseph Lombardo	Prepared by: Joseph Lombardo
Number of Members/Volunteers: 4	Volunteer Hours Reported: 350
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 0	Date: October 30, 2015

**Accomplishments October 2013 – September 2014**

- Successful completion of 2014 audit – PATC got clean bill of health; identified fewer deficiencies than in previous years.
- PATC’s financial position remains very strong.
  - PATC’s net assets increased from \$8,697,898 in 2013 to \$9,260,502 in 2014; a 6.5% increase.
  - Net assets are highly liquid, with restricted funds representing only 1% of net assets.
  - Total liabilities remained low at \$75,512 in 2014; and represented less than 1% of net assets.
  - PATC’s cash flow situation remains strong, with \$662,153 cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of 2014 – a 96% increase from cash/cash equivalents on hand at the end of 2013.

- PATC's Endowment Fund balance stood at \$3,206,368 the end of 2014, representing a net decrease of 0.7% from the balance at the end of 2013. The decrease was due largely to a withdrawal of \$219,225; which went toward the purchase of the Huntley property in Rappahannock County.
- Contributed to development of PATC's first strategic plan, which includes goals and objectives for improving financial management, program monitoring and evaluation, and targets for increasing donor funding.
- Held quarterly Finance Committee meetings to review progress in budget implementation, and financial and accounting services management.
- Contracted with a new accountant who specializes in non-profit accounting and we paired that outsourced accountant with our in-house bookkeeper. Our auditors noted that this resulted in significant improvement in the Club's overall accounting and financial reporting functions. The auditors further noted: "The Club has significant volume of transactions with complex revenue streams that require higher level expertise and knowledge of nonprofit accounting specifics." The auditors recommend that the Club continue to maintain the services of the outsourced account in combination with our in-house bookkeeper.
- Coordinated the 2016 budget formulation review process to ensure adequate funding for PATC priorities, drawing on all available resources, particularly grants.

## **Activities for October 2015 – September 2016**

- Continue to institutionalize financial management functions.
- Introduce cost-efficiencies in areas such as account management and inventory services.
- Improve grants management and monitoring.
- Link PATC's budget formulation to the new strategic plan goals.
- Promulgate a board-designated reserve policy.



## 2015 Annual Report

Archivist/Librarian	Prepared by: Tom Johnson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 3	Volunteer Hours Reported: 146
Number of New Members/Volunteers:	Date: 4 October 2015

The time this year was evenly divided between archives and library tasks.

1. We are working toward digitization of our library card catalogue, and, working with two volunteer professional librarians, we have a plan to digitize and put the entire catalogue on the website. The next step is to engage our IT/website group to cost out any staff time that would be involved. Then we will recruit a volunteer crew to download the book titles from the web and insert them into the library software. Finally, the catalogue will be placed on the website. There is minimal cost involved in this project and enough left in the archives budget to handle it for this fiscal year.
2. Most archives work was spent incorporating new files that PATC members have donated. A large donation came from the 2015 biennial. All new files are being stored in file cabinets in the archives office. Several donations have come in from New York New Jersey Trail Conference, and these have been sorted by date and donated to the ATC archives. These files have come in because NYJTC knows that I am working on a history of the AT, and will be using them as reference files.
3. The future: A. The library project will be pursued through this FY and into the next. B. I will work with our IT section on a project to scan documents into the PATC server, rather than just accepting paper files. This would take care of the future, but there is also a need to do large-scale scanning of vital historical documents in order to

preserve them. This could require a substantial budget, the amount to be worked out later.



## 2015 Annual Report

ATC Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee	Prepared by: Pete Brown
Number of Members/Volunteers: 2	Volunteer Hours Reported: 118
Number of New Members/Volunteers: N/A	Date: October 26, 2015

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 take place at Catoctin Mountain Park on March 11-13, 2016. 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.

The 2015 Fall meeting occurred on November 7. Items on the agenda are below:

- Stewardship Council Report
- Club MOU Draft for Review
- Broader Relevancy Update
- AT Community Updates
- Conservation Leadership Corps
- Regional Landscape Initiatives
- NPS Report
- Hazard Tree Workshops and Reporting

TTEC Update  
Listening Session Updates  
ATC Report  
Trail Ambassador Presentation  
Major Regional Visitor Use Issues  
2015 Biennial Recap  
Future of the Biennial  
Leave No Trace Hot Spot Program  
Reassignment of Palmerton Area Trail Section

The 2015 Spring two-day meeting occurred on March 21-22 in Bowmanstown, P A.  
Some of the items that were on the agenda are below:

ATC Strategic Plan  
AT Listening Session plans with each club  
Stewardship Council report  
NPS Reported  
Penn State Summer 2014 Hiker Survey report  
Draft ATC Policy on Pipeline Crossing of the AT  
ATC Conservation Department report  
Trail Assessment & Project Planning  
AT Community Designation for Wind Gap/Slate Belt was approved  
Corridor Program  
Garlic Mustard Challenge  
2015 Biennial  
Baxter State Park Issues due to abuse on Mt Katahdin  
Organized Group Use Policy  
Proposed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Policy  
Leave No Trace  
Palmerton Relocation  
ATC Crews



## **AT CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT**

### **Tom Lupp**

AT Corridor Management: Tom Lupp	Prepared by: Tom Lupp
Number of Members/Volunteers: 35	Volunteer Hours Reported: 788.8
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: 10/25/15

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 Biennial Conference: Rush Williamson & Lee Sheaffer**

ATC 2015 Biennial Conference Co-Chairs: Rush Williamson, Lee Sheaffer	Prepared by: Rush Williamson
Number of Members/Volunteers: 406	Volunteer Hours Reported: 12662.71
Number of New Members/Volunteers: N?A	Date: October 30, 2015

**ATC's 2015 Biennial Conference/Membership Meeting held at Shenandoah University located in Winchester Virginia July 17 – 24. This event was the culmination of five years of work by very dedicated members of the Steering Committee and other volunteers made up of members of PATC and MCM.**

**The conference has received excellent comments and reviews during the event from the post survey and ATC Staff. Numerous comments said that it was the best in many years.**

**A total of 940 attended the Conference and it is expected there will be about \$5,000 profit, but this will not be known until a final accounting is received from ATC. There were 76 different hikes offered for a total of 179 since quite a number were offered multiple times. Workshops had eleven tracks which offered a total of 88 sessions. 35 excursions were planned and only one had**

**to be canceled because of lack of participants. 610 went on these trips, but a number of people who went on excursions went on more than one – there is a small but dedicated following of excursion participants! Excursions took an extremely large amount of time and effort and it has been recommended that the next Conference reduce the number by 15 – 20%.**

**The Committee is very proud of the fact there were no T-shirts left over, the last couple had 100s left over, actually we could have used about 40 more if we had had some smaller sizes. This year it was decided to go with a Micro-Fiber shirt which was a big hit, many shirts were sold on site and many people came and bought one for themselves and/or as gift(s).**

**In spite of a great deal of effort and money in marketing specifically aimed at a younger audience, and for that matter excursions and workshops, there was no increase in younger participation. This was very disappointing especially since the Washington D.C. area has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest 25 – 35 demographic in the US.**

**Lee and I thank all of you who helped make this Conference the great success it was to reaffirm PATC's standing in the AT community.**



## **MARYLAND AT MANAGEMENT Rick Canter and Tom Lupp**

Maryland AT Management: Rick Canter & Tom Lupp	Prepared by: Tom Lupp
Number of Members/Volunteers: 10	Volunteer Hours Reported: 67.5
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 1	Date: October 25, 2015

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 Volunteers to disassemble and remove the Devils Racecourse Shelter, for future relocation to the AT Museum.
- Work with all agencies to improve communication and response regarding serious incidents impacting the Trailway.
- Support MD DNR in its efforts to reduce shelter use by non-hikers.
- Collaborate with MD DNR, NPS and the Central Maryland Heritage League (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 its 1862 appearance.

- Continue discussions and planning for additional fencing and parking management in Fox Gap.
- Negotiate with MD DNR regarding a proposed hunting area between Cramptons Gap and Weverton. An agreeable compromise was reached.
- Continue discussions with MD DNR & MD SHA on improvement and modifications to the parking area at US RT 40.
- Work with MD DNR to identify and mark hazard trees for removal at shelters and campgrounds.
- 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, training and supervision of two ridgerunners.
- Collaborate with the Annapolis Rocks overseer to ensure all needed supplies and materials are available to maintain the campground.
- Partner with ATC & MD DNR to find solutions to land ownership issues at the Thurston Griggs Trailhead.
- Work with MD DNR to locate and acquire lands to buffer the Trail.
- Provide annual assistance to NPS for the safe running of the JFK 50 race.
- Keep abreast of various utility activities that will/may affect the AT in MD.
- Continue to work with Catocin Mtn. Park and City of Hagerstown to find a suitable route to connect the AT to the Catocin Trail.
- Begin working to identify property boundary at a trash dump north of RT 77.



## 2015 Annual Report

Title: Chair, Publications	Prepared by: Emeline Otey
Number of Members/Volunteers: 29	Volunteer Hours Reported: 2141
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 6	Date: November 3, 2015

This has been an active and productive year for PATC with regard to publications. The following were published in FY2015:

- **Hikes in Western Maryland (4<sup>th</sup> edition):** edited by Judith McGuire; maps edited by David Pierce; cover design by Christina Lin; layout by Lauren Walsh;
- **Hikes in the Washington Region, Part B: Northern Virginia (5<sup>th</sup> edition):** written and edited by Larry Broadwell and Emeline Otey; maps by David Pierce; layout and design by Annette Rebellato; cover design by Christina Lin;
- **AT Guide to Maryland and Northern Virginia (18<sup>th</sup> edition):** edited by John Hedrick; maps edited by David Pierce; layout by Alan Kahan;
- **Hiker's Guide to Civil War Trails in the Mid-Atlantic Region (1<sup>st</sup> edition):** written by Larry Broadwell; maps designed by David Pierce; layout, design, and proofreading by Lauren Walsh;
- **Guidebook to 70 Unique Hikes (1<sup>st</sup> edition):** maps, profiles, and layout and design by Brian Goudreau; hike descriptions, indexes, and most photographs by Jayne Mayne.

In addition to the above, one guidebook, Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park, was reprinted.

The following books are in revision at this time and will be ready for publication in FY2016.

- **AT Guidebook # 7, SNP (14<sup>th</sup> Edition):** edited by John Hedrick; layout and design by Alan Kahan (revision almost complete);

- **Cabins Book (2013)**: edited by Anstr Davidson and Alan Kahan; layout and design by Alan Kahan (extensive revision in process).
- **Hikes in the Washington Region, Part C (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)**: edited by Emeline Otey; maps by David Pierce; layout and design to be determined (initial field work under way).
- **Tuscarora Trail North (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)**: edited by Pete Brown; layout and design to be determined (revision in process).
- **Tuscarora Trail South (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)**: Edited by John Spies and Rick Rhoades; layout and design to be determined (revision in process).
- **Shenandoah Mountain Trail Guide Book (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)**: written by Tin Hupp; layout and design by Robert Yerex (design and formatting well underway).
- **Great Eastern Trail Guide Book (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)**: written by Tim Hupp (awaiting final Forest Service review before beginning design and formatting).

There are also two new history books that are expected to be completed, or at a minimum well underway, in FY2016.



## TRAIL PATROL

Christopher Firme

Trail Patrol: Christopher Firme	Prepared by: Christopher Firme
Number of Members/Volunteers: 56	Volunteer Hours Reported: 3,501.19
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 6	Date: September 30, 2015

**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. 33 trail patrol members did 291 trail patrol hikes giving us a total of 1,531.55 miles patrolled on PATC maintained trails. Provided a total of 1,070.39 hiking volunteer hours where members observed, interacted, or assisted 14,147 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. Volunteer travel time was 527.3 giving us a grand total of 1,597.69 volunteer trail patrol hours.

**Member training and coordination.** Brought 6 probationary members into active status during 2015. At the end of 2015 there was a total of 56 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. In the administration end including our courses and meetings we had a total of 1,903.5 volunteer hours.

**Ridgerunners.** Hired and supervised five Ridgerunners in 2015 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. The Ridge Runners performed a total of 3,656 hours on the

trail, patrolled 2,617 miles, plus an additional 201.1 hours of travel to and from the trail. During this time they observed, interacted with, or assisted 24,140 hikers.

**Leave No Trace.** Conducted three 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 30 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 1, 1-day, classes for 20 participants. Topics included backcountry medical information, LNT ethics, hike planning, personal gear, map reading, and leadership skills. Currently we are in the process of updating the curriculum for the 2016 season.

**CPR/AED/Wilderness First Aid.** Conducted 3 classes of CPR/Basic Wilderness First Aid and 5 classes on Wilderness First Aid for a total of 80 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 4 hikes.



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CHAPTER**

**Iva Gillet**

Charlottesville Chapter: Iva Gillet	Prepared by: Iva Gillet
Number of Members/Volunteers: see below	Volunteer Hours Reported: 4772
Number of New Members/Volunteers: unknown	Date: 11/4/2015

**Current contact membership (email list)- 500+**  
**Members within 30 miles of Charlottesville- 400**  
**Number of consistently active participants- ~50**

**2015 Annual Report**

**Charlottesville Chapter, PATC**

**Co-presidents – Dan Ralston and Iva Gillet**

**Vice President – Andy Willgruber**

**Treasurer - Marian Styles**

During the past year, the Charlottesville Chapter has focused on increasing our local visibility, made easier with recent public interest from hiking movies *Wild* and *A Walk in the Woods*. We communicate mainly through our blog- posting upcoming activities, hike reports, helpful information for new hikers, and links to help learn about safe outdoor experiences. We have also stepped up our use of Facebook, and that has reached a new audience to raise the appreciation of what the PATC does in the community.

This year we had three increasingly popular chapter get-togethers- our annual Holiday Party in December; a Spring Potluck; and a Fall Open House, all at Dunlodge on Sunday afternoons. These events have allowed for potential members to learn more about the PATC as a whole, the contributions of the local chapter, experience of the club's premier cabins, and to interact with active members and chapter leaders.

Activities during these events have included:

- Slide show by Marit Anderson of hiking the PCT and AT
- Short talks about trail overseeing from Don White
- Update on the ATC Biennial by Jayne Mayne
- Chances to interact with president Dick Hostalley and past president Tom Johnson
- Celebration of volunteer efforts of trail/cabin overseers and hike leaders

### **Trail Maintenance- \*reported in online system**

We have dedicated one to two days a month to group trail maintenance posted in our hike schedule. This year John Shannon, Andy Willgruber, and Bill Holman were each able to oversee a group of college students for trail work. All 3 groups were from the University of Virginia, and one group stayed for Alternative Spring break, working on the Mutton Hollow trails for a week in March. These premier trail ambassadors continue to promote this essential effort and make it enjoyable enough to encourage college age students to return.

The Charlottesville Chapter section of the AT- Rockfish Gap to McCormick Gap is our top priority. Our trail overseers include: John Shannon, Andy Willgruber, Marit Anderson, Jeff Monroe, Geoff Manning-Smith, Dan Ralston, Iva Gillet, Mark Walkup, and new members Jodi Frederickson and Dave Abdullah. Bill Holman, as the District Manager of Trails in the Mutton Hollow District, combined a hike with overnight stay at Butternut Hut in June for National Trails Day. Several work trips have focused on invasive plant removal, as we try to help combat this challenge. In addition we have promoted several "Loppin' and Hikin'" events to encourage new hikers to consider trail work as part of their responsibility as trail users.

### **Leading Hikes- 3452 hours**

Hikes continue to be the chapter's most popular activity, and one we use to recruit new members, overseers, and volunteers of all sorts. Our 12 hike leaders have led 470 hikers on 68 hikes/work trips this year, on most all Saturdays and some mid-week. In addition, 6 of our hike leaders volunteered for 14 hikes and workshops for the ATC Biennial in Winchester this summer. It was a terrific chance to interact with leaders of other trail organizations, PATC staff, and ATC members from all over the East Coast. Finally, Jeff Monroe has led several hikes with the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, forming another great connection. Almost all of our hike leaders have taken PATC's hike leader training course and/or Wilderness First Aid. The chapter continues to contribute half the cost of WFA to those leaders taking the course.

### Cabin Work- 50\* hours

Our chapter continued to provide 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.

### Outreach- 120 hours

With the public focused on the AT from recent movies releases, we were contacted by local media several times. Jeff Monroe and Iva Gillet were interviewed for local magazines about popular hikes in the area. Marit Anderson and Andy Willgruber both had television and internet interviews about the Appalachian Trail and trail work. Briana Taylor and Andy Willgruber staffed a table at the Rivanna Outdoor Gear and Film Festival and Barbara Martin staffed one at the Waynesboro, Va. Tourism Fair. Dave Borszich and Marit are currently finalizing a new Chapter display to be used at future events. Marit 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 a Boy Scout Scoutmaster and has led multiple hiking and camping overnights on the Appalachian Trail utilizing LNT principles.

All PATC leaders and overseers continue to enjoy a 20% discount at the Great Outdoor Provisions stores in Charlottesville and Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, as Dan Ralston has continued to keep positive contact with these top outdoor vendors, who advertise our Club and keep copies of old PA newsletters for those interested. We hosted a hike leader training class for the PATC in Charlottesville, and eight of our members attended.

We were also pleased to have an Honorary Lifetime award presented to John Shannon for his tireless efforts in trail maintenance, leading hikes, and developing our Chapter.

### Maps- 60 \* hours

Several active members of our group are also GPS Rangers including Jeff Monroe, Pete Fink, Barbara Martin and Dan Ralston. Jeff continues to work extensively with PATC Maps Chair to provide data suggestions and edit revisions to PATC Maps 11, 12 and 13.

### Administration- 1200 hours

We continue to promote our activities on our blog, which lists upcoming hikes and trail reports, an online photo album, and a repository of past hikes with directions. Iva Gillet was included as a member of the Strategic Planning Development Committee, which met 4 weekends at Headquarters. In addition to helping define future direction of the Club, this committee allowed for interaction with many current officers on EXCOM and contacts with PATC staff. In order to recruit new local members, Dan Ralston has sent out welcome emails, from the lists provided by PATC central office, with information about our work trips and hikes. Bill Holman, the website manager, has added these names to our current

member lists so that now we have 500+ people on our email list. They receive emails in advance of large, public activities like our Open Houses. Dan Ralston calls into the EXCOM monthly meetings at headquarters when possible. A core group has spent significant time responding to emails, welcoming new members, updating the website, and planning events.

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



## 2015 Annual Report

North Chapter	Prepared by: Robert Wise & Rick Canter
Number of Members: 355	Volunteer Admin Hours Reported:
Number of Volunteers: 334	Date: 10/3/2015

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.

Construction on the shelter dedicated to Charlie Irvin is now completed. Work on the privy is finished and rain barrels have been installed to catch water for fire prevention. The shelter was dedicated prior to this publication on September 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 over 2000 lbs of materials for this shelter 0.4 miles over a very rough and rocky trail on the ridge of the mountain. Construction took place over a period of 2 years.

The Yankee Clippers were at it again in late August, with a weekend work trip to replace a damaged bridge on the Tuscarora Trail over Aughwick Creek, not far from Cowan's Gap State Park in PA.

A permit had to be obtained before construction could begin because the creek is a Class A trout stream. So while we waited for the permit we debarked, stained and treated the two huge oaks that were felled for stringers. The late August work trip involved digging and pouring footers for the bridge piers and laying the block. Construction continues as of this writing.

Last year a North Chapter volunteer designed a website for us which is informative, creative, and has proven to be an effective recruiting tool for the club. Also, our newsletter is distributed through the website electronically, which will save the club money. The web address is: "[www.patcnorth.net](http://www.patcnorth.net)"

This past June, the North Chapter again 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 South Mountaineers Trail Crew enjoyed an active spring season of erosion control work along the Appalachian Trail, capped by a huge turnout for National Trails Day. The crew teamed with a large church group to dismantle the defunct Devils Racecourse Shelter, perform a relocation of the Catocin Trail in Cunningham Falls State Park and weed many miles of trails and all of this work occurred on Trails Day. The crew spent the balance of the year removing blowdowns and performing seasonal trail work. The crew expects to build the 0.3-mile trail access to the Catocin Hollow Cabin by year's end.

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



## Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter 2015 Annual Report

<p>SSVC President, Malcolm Cameron</p>	<p>Prepared by: Malcolm Cameron</p>
<p>Number of Members/Volunteers: Chapter e-mail list: 215 + 5 snail mail</p> <p>SSVC New Member Interests provided by PATC: 66</p> <p>Volunteers reporting hours: 19 members</p>	<p>Volunteer Hours Reported: *1573; Includes 562 hours planning and leading hikes and 813 hours of trail work in the G. W. National Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Includes administrative work, planning and leading hikes, outreach and trail work on the National Forest. Does not include AT work hours reported separately.</li> </ul>
<p>Number of New Members/Volunteers participating in hikes or work days: 16, 5 of these attended 3 or more outings</p>	<p>Date: November 2, 2015</p> <p>2 Attachments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014-2015 Volunteer Activities</li> <li>• 2016 SSVC Goals</li> </ul>

## 2016 SSVV Goals

### \* Chapter Meetings

Annual Meeting at a cabin or campground in early November

Hike planning meetings; 2-3 times at homes

### \* Outreach / Recruiting

PATC display at Staunton Earth Day, Waynesboro Riverfest & other events

Welcome calls to new PATC members with SSVV interests

Encourage new members to join trail work days

Maintain Facebook page and website

Outreach opportunities at local outfitters, especially Walkabout

### \* Training

Hike Leader, Wilderness First Aid Training, etc. as needed and available

### \* Trail Maintenance

Maintain Chapter's AT section; Ivy Creek Overlook to Pinefield Gap

Support Flying Mcleods

Support chapter member overseers on AT and other trails, Shenandoah Mtn., Massanutten

Complete any needed work/maintenance on Carr Mtn./Great Eastern Trail

### \* Hikes / Work Trips

Maintain 2 month scheduling for hikes, work trips, etc. (website & e-mail)

Continue mid-week short hikes with various leaders

Continue some joint hikes/work trips with Charlottesville Chapter PATC; also hikes for Va. Native Plant Society, Va. Master Naturalists Shen. Mtn. Wildflower Tournament; maybe other groups.

### \* Guidebooks to GET and Shenandoah Mountain Trails- assist with final preparation

Meet or correspond with Tim Hupp and Tom Johnson as needed. Promote sales

## Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter PATC : 2014-2015 Volunteer Activities

This has been both a challenging and rewarding year for SSVV and I think we've managed to both increase our membership participation and broaden our activities.

We met with local Forest Service personnel to see how we can better coordinate our volunteer efforts with them. Chapter member Tim Hupp is putting the finishing touches on his trail guidebooks for the local section of the Great Eastern Trail (GET) and Shenandoah Mountain Trails. These guides will be published by PATC in 2016. We met several times working through the guide details with the local GW National Forest Ranger. Tim Hupp has spent many hours this past year on scouting and writing the guides with maps, and has done over 150 hours of maintenance work on the GET. The section of the GET between Rte. 250 and Rte. 33 is in better shape than ever.

We had 49 hikes, 17 were all or partly on the AT with the rest being in the G.W. National Forest in either the Shenandoah Mountain area or on the Massanutten and on side trails in SNP. We have 12 members who have led one or more hikes. Theme hikes this year included a geology hike in the Reddish Knob area of Shenandoah Mountain and several wildflower hikes in the spring. Several members helped lead hikes for the Shenandoah Mtn. Wildflower Tournament, organized by the Headwaters Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists. We also led hikes for the Va. Native Plant Society annual conference, Staunton Parks and Recreation Department, Eastern Mennonite University and several members assisted with the Biennial ATC conference in July. We offer a mid-week short ( 2-4 mile) hike series for those who don't wish to tackle the longer trails and these have been quite popular.

We conducted 18 trail work days; 5 were on the chapter's AT section and the rest were on either the GET Carr Mtn. section or our members adopted Forest Service trails, mostly Shenandoah Mtn. Construction on the 6 mile Carr Mtn. /GET trail, coordinated by Tom Johnson, Tim Hupp and Lloyd McAskill was completed in June to hiker standards ( a bit rough in spots) with tread work and blazing. Assistance has been coordinated with both mountain biking and equestrian groups as needed. Mark Gatewood worked many hours in the South Section of SNP with the Flying Mcleods crew, worked with the Mid-Atlantic Crew at Loudon Heights, coordinated trail work with youth groups from UVA and NPS camp , helped various overseers in SNP with vegetation removal and assisted SSVV during work days on our AT section from Ivy Creek Overlook to Pinefield Gap. Even on regular hikes, we often clip back vegetation or remove small blowdowns as we encounter the need. Chapter member Stephanie Morris worked 101 hours on surveys with the GPS Rangers.

Training has included new certification in Wilderness First Aid for 2 members and recertification for 1 other.

Public outreach included information booths at Staunton Earth Day, Waynesboro Riverfest and Xtremefest, Green Scene in Harrisonburg and National Trails Day at Big Meadows. Mark and Betty Gatewood, with assistance from Mike and Karen Waterman, always do a fine job at these events. Betty Gatewood is involved with the Trail to Every Classroom program. We have information displayed at 3 local outfitters.

We did a series of hikes last fall, with more this year, focused on the threat of the proposed Atlantic Coast natural gas pipeline planned by Dominion and other interests. The pipeline would cross several of our favorite trails in the Shenandoah Mtn. area of the National Forest as well as the AT south of Rockfish

Gap. The interest in this situation ( and potential damage to trails) is very high. We have written to FERC and other officials in opposition to the pipeline and have filed with FERC as an intervenor.

Respectfully submitted November 2, 2015, Malcolm Cameron



# SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

*Dedicated to Saving Lives*

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## 2015 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: 167	Volunteer Hours Reported: 8,889
Number of New Members/Volunteers: 51	Date: 11/01/2015

### SMRG 2015 Elected Board of Directors:

Office	Office Holder	Email
Chair	Steve Weiss	Chair@smrg.org
Vice Chair	Debbie Stanley	Vicechair@smrg.org
Secretary	Jordan Gottfried	Secretary@smrg.org
Treasurer	Travis Widder	Treasurer@smrg.org
Operations Officer	Trisha FitzGerald	Operations@smrg.org
Group Training Officer	Mark Creighton	Training@smrg.org
ASRC BOD Representative	Andrew Hower	ASRCrep@smrg.org
ASRC BOD Representative	Padraic Hughes	ASRCrep@smrg.org

### Operations Summary (Nov 2014 through Oct 2015)

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

SAR missions responded to: 11 (for other callouts, mission was suspended or subject was found before mobilization)

Volunteer hours: 1,066

Volunteer travel miles: 11,421

### Training Summary

Training events: 57

Volunteer hours: 5,023

Volunteer travel miles: 32,701

### 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 2015:**

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

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

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

- Improve the number of alert officers
- Increase number of ASRC FTLs
- Maintain mission engagement
- Complete some administrative improvements

## **Highlights for the Year:**

### ***Operations***

This past year, SMRG has seen slightly higher than normal demand, though a high proportion of our callouts have resolved prior to SMRG members arriving on scene. Several of our callouts were for evidence searches in missing-persons cases. Most of the searches were resolved with a find. Once again, on the Fourth of July weekend and three weekends in October, we provided stand-by search-and-rescue and medical support to Shenandoah National Park.

Our members continue to be instrumental in 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 included coordination with other volunteer and law enforcement agencies for our training. More of our members were able to take advantage of training opportunities with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

### ***Administration and Outreach***

Administratively, we have initiated work on an updated web-site (the new version is expected to be forthcoming any day now) and improved our technical support for various administrative functions, such as roster keeping and maintaining the dispatcher's log during callouts. We also began to identify gaps in our administration policy that may be needed to clarify and document our administrative practices.

For outreach, we continued strong engagement with potential SAR partners. We continued to increase our engagement and visibility in the Virginia SAR Council.