

1	Friday	Josh Silverman	Shawl Gap hike	Shawl Gap/Sherman Gap, 8.25 miles, 1800 feet elevation: a loop that begins at Elizabeth Furnace, goes up to the ridgeline via the Botts and Sherman Gap Trails, goes about 2 miles north along the ridgeline to Shawl Gap, and then descends back to Elizabeth Furnace. On the way down we will take in the Pig Iron and Charcoal Trail, which provides an overview of how iron was historically mined and smelted.
2	Friday	Susan Collins	Copericus Ridge hike	This is 3.5 section of the Massanutten Mountain Trail that leads to several outcrops with incredible views of Edinburg Gap and Waonaze Peak on Powell Mountain. Elevation gain is 900 feet.
3	Friday	Howard Davis	Kennedy Peak	
4	Friday	Mills Kelly	A Hiker's History of the Appalachian Trail	PATC archivist Dr. Mills Kelly recently published a book that tells the story of 100 years of hiking and backpacking on the Appalachian Trail. PATC and its members played and still play a central role in the story Mills tells in the book. Come listen to his descriptions of what hikers ate back before freeze dried pre-packaged meals, what they wore, what they carried, and why they hiked. Mills will show dozens of photos and some archival video that help tell the story of a century of hiking on the trail we love.
5	Friday	Jim Fetig	A Sawyer Experience	So you're an A-certified Sawyer looking for hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced Sawyers? Join our PATC President and other experienced Sawyers for some real-world experience. This is in the forest, doing actual work on blowdowns as you find them. Sign up and bring your A card and PPE. Let us know if you need PPE...we may have limited PPE. <i>NOTE: Pre-registration through our meet up is required. See our website for futher information.</i>
6	Friday	Kristin Kinsey	First Aid/CPR Certification	Priority is given to hike leaders, trail maintainers, sawyers, and other volunteers who require current certification. <i>NOTE: Pre-registration through our meet up is required. See our website for futher information.</i>
7	Friday	Jodi Fredericksen	AT/ PATC Trivia	Meet new and current friends, form teams, and learn fun facts about the AT and PATC! Prizes to the winning team. Think Sports bar trivia with AT and PATC information. Bring your dinner and come have some FUN!
8	Saturday	Jim Fye	Sunrise Hike	A hike on Caroline Furnace property to start the day
9	Saturday	Pete Minderman Charlie Gutberlet	PATC Lands	Learn about the essential components of PATC tract and land acquisition.
10	Saturday	Dan and Ellen Feer	Cadillac Crew Trail Maintenance	Join the PATC Cadillac Crew for a work trip in the local National Forest. The work is educational, challenging, and fun. Learn how a well-run crew works. There will be two-hour sessions limited to 15 participants each. We'll cover identifying issues, safety, tool use, communication, structures (grade dips, side hill, water bars, check dams, nicks), and hands on techniques. <i>Wear close toed shoes.</i> Materials, tools, and safety gear will be provided.

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13	Saturday	W. Scott Schroth	An Introduction to the Ecology of the Shenandoah Valley Region	A curated walk through the trails of Caroline Furnace will highlight the ecosystems common to the Shenandoah Region. We will discuss the local geology, forest and meadow environments, and common flora and fauna. The process and stages of ecosystem succession will be reviewed along with man's impact on the region and the consequences of environmental disruption and renewal.		
14	Saturday	Jim Fye	Trail Blazes	Come learn the art of Trail blazes. Continue the work that PATC has done with the Caroline Furnace trails.		
15	Saturday	Jeff Monroe	Planning trips with Avenza and Gaia	Have you ever wondered about using trail maps on your phone? This class will go over a couple of the best trail mapping apps – Avenza and GaiaGPS. Avenza carries PATC's Shenandoah maps, and the Club will be adding more maps in the future. It also carries free USGS topos for areas not covered by PATC maps. GaiaGPS is the app I've used on multiple Spanish Caminos and as a tourist in Italy and Copenhagen, but also on local trails in Virginia. And I've helped other hikers set up their own routes in Japan, Switzerland and the Dolomites. You won't get lost with this app. The class will go over how to use each app and how to craft GaiaGPS maps with waypoints and tracks specific to your own needs.		
16	Saturday	Thomas Jorgensen Lee Howard	Cabins	What is involved in maintaining cabins. Cabin renovation activities to include: COMRADERY - we eat, laugh, enjoy evenings, tell lies, exaggerate stories CHINKING - what a labor of love - nails, chicken wire, scaffolding and homemade cement - is there anything "funner" in the world? CONSTRUCTION - build a deck, replace a floor, swing a hammer, doesn't everybody want "privy builder" listed on their resume??? FAMILY TOGETHERNESS- Share work with the whole family! OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - pull weeds, cut trees, make sidewalks, build bridges - your home yard skills put to the real test. Bring Lunch		

17	Saturday	Tim Muzzio David Manning	Hike Leader Roundtable: Sharpening Our Skills Through Shared Scenarios	Join us for a collaborative discussion designed for experienced hike leaders. •As leaders, we're comfortable with the essentials of planning and executing a successful hike. But our true test often comes from the unexpected: the challenging situations and tough judgment calls that demand more than just a map and a compass. •This roundtable is an opportunity for us, as skilled leaders, to move beyond the basics and delve into the nuanced, real-world scenarios that define effective leadership. We will pool our collective experience to discuss best practices, share diverse perspectives, and learn from one another in a peer-to-peer setting. •This isn't a training for beginners. It's a chance for us to refine our advanced skills, challenge our own decision-making, and ensure we are all better prepared for whatever the trail throws our way. We look forward to a robust and insightful discussion. •Come prepared to engage and share your expertise as we work through practical topics and challenging situations.
18	Saturday	Jim Tomlin	A History of PATC Maps	PATC has a rich 100 year history of mapmaking, along with trail creation and maintenance. Learn how PATC maps have gone from works of art to modern digital maps, and are still the very best resource to keep hikers informed and safe.
19	Saturday	Jim Tomlin	Using GPS For Data Collection-Best Practices	All GPS technology is beneficial for navigation. To collect useful field data, however, GPS must be used precisely and carefully. Learn how dedicated GPS volunteers collect the most accurate field data for a variety of uses.
20	Saturday	Kristine Villatoro	Step Into Winter: Women's Hiking & Leave No Trace Basics	An introductory program designed to help women feel confident and prepared for winter hiking. This session covers the essentials of cold-weather hiking, including layering systems, basic gear, safety considerations, and how to make smart decisions in changing winter conditions. It also introduces Leave No Trace principles and how to apply them responsibly during winter travel to help protect trails, wildlife, and natural spaces. The program is beginner-friendly and focused on building practical skills, awareness, and confidence for safe and enjoyable winter outdoor experiences.
21	Saturday	Mark Perschel	Trip Planning with Paper Maps and GPS Apps	Would you like to improve your navigation skills? Are there multiple ways to use your phone's ability to notify SAR in case you need help. Can you text your GPS coordinates in less than five minutes? Do you have questions about GPS and locating where you are without cell service? Bring yourself and all your questions and we will practice using our phones to locate ourselves on a paper map.

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22	Saturday	Kristine Villatoro	Footsteps Through Time 100 Women, 100 Stories: A Century of Women Who Shaped PATC	This 90-minute Centennial presentation will explore the history of the women whose leadership, service, and dedication have helped build PATC into the organization it is today. Through historical research, photographs, personal stories, and a panel discussion featuring women from different generations of the club, we'll honor those who maintained trails, cared for cabins and shelters, led hikes, served on committees and the Executive Council, preserved our history, protected public lands, and quietly strengthened our PATC community.		
23	Saturday	Tony Alimenti	Map and Compass Navigation Discussion	Tony Alimenti will teach navigating with a compass and map; a useful skill for many outdoor activities. Learning and practicing navigation skill basics builds proficiency and confidence. We will have a fun yet informative introductory class. Bring a compass, pencil, paper and PATC map of your choice. The local area map is PATC Map G.		
24	Saturday	Bill Holman	Hiking Apps Overview and Discussion	An open discussion of the more popular hiking apps from users' experiences. Come prepared to share your knowledge and learn with others.		
25	Saturday	David Manning	Backpacking 101	Mini-Session: Gear Up for Backpacking Are you curious about backpacking but not ready for an overnight adventure? Join our concise 2-hour mini-session designed to give you the fundamental knowledge and confidence to take your first steps onto the trail! What You'll Learn: Backpacking Essentials: The Essentials You Need. • Brief overview of critical gear categories (shelter, navigation, hydration, first aid, food). • Highlight key items and their importance. Smart Packing: What to Bring & How to Pack It. • Focus on efficient packing techniques and weight distribution. • Discuss essential vs. luxury items for a short trip. Introduction to Backpacking Gear: • Condensed gear demo, focusing on key items like highlighting different backpacks or tents • Comfort and safety considerations. Why Attend? • Gain practical tips from experienced instructors. • Learn crucial safety and planning basics. • Discover if backpacking is your next passion!		
26	Saturday	Jim Tomlin	Hilarious Moments in 50 Years of PATC Volunteering	One delight of volunteering is the unexpected and hysterically funny situations that can arise. Join 50-year volunteer Jim Tomlin for his Top Ten Moments in PATC hilarity.		

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27	Saturday	Jim Tomlin	The Subtle Art of Trail Blazing	All hikers have witnessed trails that were poorly blazed. Done improperly, trails can be puzzling, frustrating, unsightly, and even dangerous. This talk will cover the simple and subtle art of proper trailblazing so that hikers can focus on enjoying their hike.		
28	Saturday	Kristine Villatoro	Forest Therapy	Enjoy Shinrin-Yoku, the Japanese practice of “forest bathing” with Kristine Villatoro a certified Forest Therapy Guide. This simple practice takes in the woods through the senses. The health benefits are immense: boosted immunity, lowered blood pressure and heart rate, improved attention and mood, and hitting the reset button on life. Experience different aspects of the natural world on a short (under a mile) walk. Bring a camp chair .		
29	Saturday	Mills Kelly	100 Years of Making and Hiking on Trails	The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club was founded in 1927 to help make the Appalachian Trail a reality. Over the past 100 years club members have played a leading role in the AT project as trail scouts, trail builders, trail stewards, and trail advocates. Since the 1950s, PATC has become one of the leading hiking-focused clubs in America, responsible for more than 1,000 miles of trails in our region. In addition to its work on and for trails, PATC members have traveled all over the world to hike, ski, and climb mountains. Come hear PATC archivist Dr. Mills Kelly tell the story of our club and the many ways it has grown and changed over the past century.		
30	Saturday	Mark Perschel	Trail Tread Preservation and Maintenance	Come brush up on your old skills or maybe learn some new ways to mitigate trail tread erosion. With all the rain this year our trails are being tested by taxing our trail management plans. What have we done? What are we doing? And what can we do in the future to control erosion. Bring your experiences and practices that work or maybe are not working. We will hike in search of a trail that could use some help. Bring an open mind and we can learn together.		
31	Saturday	Tim Muzzio and ??	Shifting Gears: Shaping the Future of PATC Hike Leadership	Whether you are a seasoned hike leader or looking to step into the role for the first time, your voice is essential to our growth. This interactive session provides an open, collaborative space for PATC leaders to share real-world experiences, troubleshoot common challenges, and brainstorm ways to strengthen our community. Come ready to share your insights, celebrate our successes, and help build a more robust, supportive network for the trail ahead. Key Discussion Topics: Tech & Tools: Exploring the hits and misses of Meetup and other platforms for organizing hikes. Leader Support: Identifying the exact resources, training, and incentives needed to make leading accessible and fun. Growing the Ranks: Brainstorming outreach strategies, mentorship upgrades, and path-to-leadership pipelines.		
32	Saturday	Bill Holman	Hiking Apps Overview and Discussion	An open discussion of the more popular hiking apps from users' experiences. Come prepared to share your knowledge and learn with others.		

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33	Saturday	Rebekah Lawrence	Wanderlust: Fort Valley Hike History 1916 & 2026	On Memorial Day weekend 1916, a group Washington D.C. Wanderlusters spent three days hiking in Fort Valley. One hundred and ten years later, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is celebrating its centennial in this exact location. This multi-walk talk unpacks the relationship between PATC and its predecessor hiking club, the Wanderlusters. It also features historic images from that Memorial Day weekend trip, weaving in local history of the trails, specific Wanderlusters, historic Fort Valley structures and natural features of these upper reaches of the Potomac watershed. Join Rebekah Lawrence, a Fort Valley resident and PATC member.		
34	Saturday	Wayne Limberg Zoe Sollenberger	Traditional Tools Presentation	Traditional Tools Demo/presentation. In keeping with the PATC's Certified Trail Maintainer program, the Hoodlums will discuss traditional tools used in trail maintenance work and do a hands-on crosscut saw demo. Includes a special appearance of Molly, pack mule extraordinaire, and tips on working safely around pack animals and some basics of carrying trail work tools.		
35	Saturday	Curtis Bailey	Trail Patrol Members Meeting	Metrics, Updates from Leads, Open discussion.		
36	Saturday	Curtis Bailey	Trail Patrol Open House	Come, ask questions, learn what Trail Patrol is and how you can become a patroller.		
37	Saturday	Ray Stinson	Tecnology and Social Media	Join Ray "Bones" Stinson, Tuscarora Trail through-hiker and section maintainer, in a discussion of the "Use of Technology and Social Media in the outdoors"—probably destined to be a Leave No Trace component. Tech and social media can enhance our experiences in the outdoors and sharing that with others on the one hand, yet it can diminish our enjoyment of the outdoors and even lead to resource damage on the other hand.		
38	Saturday	Rob Lamar	Invasive Plants	Invasive Plant- Invasive plants present a challenge for native landscapes - posing a serious threat to biodiversity and ecological balance. For hikers and trail users, invasive plants degrade the natural beauty of the landscape and can cause additional trail maintenance problems. Join Rob Lamar, PATC's Natural Resource Advisor, for a one- hour presentation on invasive plants, their impact on our trail lands, some common invasives within the PATC's geographic area, and ways you can control these invasives and protect our trail corridors. Afterwards, there will be an optional field session, to give participants a "hands on" opportunity to identify some common invasives and practice removal techniques.		
39	Saturday	Marit Anderson	Intro to Women's Trail Maintenance	Ever wanted to try to help maintain trails but did not know where to start? Brief intro for women to learn some terms, distinguish the tools, and learn about ways to be involved in helping out on the trails that you love!		
40	Saturday	Marit Anderson Jeff Monroe	Hike Leader Class	Do you love to hike? Are you an experienced hiker? Do you want to share that love with others? Bob Malkowski and Marit Anderson provide leadership and facilitation skills for planning, organizing and leading fun and responsible hikes. The normal \$20 fee is waived for registered VolunteerFest PATC members.		

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41	Saturday	H Shindel	Tuscarora Trail	History of the Tuscarora Trail		
42	Saturday	Jim Fetig	Batttery vs Petroleum Power Tools	The North District Hoodlums will demonstrate how battery powered equipment can compete with petroleum power tools. We'll compare noise, power, usability and portability. We'll also demonstrate the wide variety of equipment that can use batteries. We will demonstrate several manufacturers equipment		
43	Sunday	William Needham Larry Broadwell Lee Howard	Hike	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove Plantation hike.		
44	Sunday	Thomas Jorgenson Anstr Davidson	Three Cabin Amble in Shaver Hollow Sunday at 9 am (meeting at Caroline Furnace)	A reprise of the popular event two years ago. View three PATC cabins as you walk on PATC land that adjoins the Shenandoah National Park. We will go to each cabin where the maintainer will give us a tour. The total walk is roughly two miles and is mostly on single track trails that connect the cabins. The cabins represent the breadth of club options: Tulip Tree--a primitive cabin built by club volunteers with loving care; Lambert--a rustic-modern cabin what was the former home of Darwin Lambert, the first full time employee of the Shenandoah National Park; and Huntley--a wonderful home in the woods with modern features and the famous "bridge to nowhere." Need to know: You must drive to this event--it's about a half hour from Caroline Furnace. The best parking requires driving over a bumpy road. Participants can avoid most bad parts of the road by parking early and walking an extra third of a mile. You can't avoid all dirt roads. Only park or drive where volunteers say you can. Participation is limited to 30 people.		
45	Sunday	Rebekah Lawrence	Wanderlust: Fort Valley Hike History 1916 & 2026	Hike near Signal Knob and Fort Valley cabin visit following talk on Saturday. This multi-walk talk unpacks the relationship between PATC and its predecessor hiking club, the Wanderlusters. It also features historic images from that Memorial Day weekend trip, weaving in local history of the trails, specific Wanderlusters, historic Fort Valley structures and natural features of these upper reaches of the Potomac watershed. Join Rebekah Lawrence, a Fort Valley resident and PATC member.		
46	Sunday	Susan Collins		short hike		