



RICH JACOBUS

nominated by Ray Stinson

Rich "Lightfoot" is a first-time Ridgerunner for the PATC in Nova. From the area, he is an avid backpacker and lover of Shenandoah NP. He is an accomplished AT thru-hiker with a long resume of other lashes and thru hikers all around the country.

Rich takes a lot of pride contributing to maintain his 50-some mile section of trail, through the infamous "roller coaster." He has the most elevation-gain per-mile of all the RRs, has arguably packed out the most trash this season, and has significantly fewer trail-side resources compared to Shen, MD State Parks, and Michaux State Forest. It is truly the "Wild West" of the PATC's territory.

In the middle of his season, Rich discovered a full load-out of abandoned hiking gear and a note from the owner, at a campground. They were in a moment of mental-crisis and self-evacuated to find help in a nearby town. Rich found a way to pack out all 75lbs of gear and trash, in addition to his usual RR gear. Going the extra mile, he then *somehow* returned the gear to the owner and had a conversation about the hiker's future plans. The hiker went against Rich's advice and was determined to continue to Springer, so Rich gave him a pack shakedown and a lot of advice.

I didn't encounter the hiker in Shen so I really think Rich's advice helped.

I think a membership to the PATC would provide benefit for Rich, who is highly interested in learning more about forestry, trail maintenance and construction, and volunteer opportunities. He has taken a strong interest in conversing with me about viable pruning techniques and learning more about sustainable trail construction.

