

The Walker

Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 20, Issue 6

November/December 2012

Jim Hunt's Two-Plane-Crash Adventure

- *Dennis Schafer, Contributor*

On October 4, Jim Hunt led an Adventure (not to be confused with a Hike) to locate both of the two airplane crash sites near the trails maintained by ODATC.

One of the crashes, a small private plane, lies just off the Jack Albright Trail on the side of Dobie Mountain. It was discovered when the Jack Albright Trail was first laid out and has been visited many times by Club members, though little is known about the plane, its origin, its pilot, or the circumstances of their demise.

The other plane, a single-engine Marine T-28 Trainer that crashed near the peak of Humpback Mountain in 1964, lies only 500 feet from the Appalachian Trail but has long been known locally as "The Lost Plane Crash." Nelson County residents knew the wreckage lay somewhere on the side of the mountain, but few knew exactly where. Jim and seven co-

Adventurers, with the aid of three GPS units, four compasses, and a custom topographical map provided by Karl Huber, succeeded in determining where. Their satisfaction shows clearly in the picture below, in which the group largely obscures the plane's tail and its remarkably intact fuselage. At least two of the participants had their first bushwhacking experiences on this Adventure. Can you tell which? (Hint: it's not Ted Nelson.)

The fascinating story of the Humpback Mountain Crash has been told recently in Nelson County Life (Magazine 44, page 12.)

Two Marine officers stationed in Washington checked out the plane for a weekend trip to visit family while logging flying hours that would maintain their pilot status. Their engine failed, losing oil pressure as they approached the mountains; they bailed out successfully, experiencing various adventures on their way to

a reunion in Lovingston; and the plane found an obscure resting place just before it would have crested Humpback Mountain.

So how was The Lost Plane Crash found by ODATC? Just as you might expect, it was rediscovered earlier this year by an intrepid team of ODATC Boundary Monitors, led by Karl Huber. On their way from the Humpback Picnic Area to the Big Levels (a large plateau down Humpback's eastern slope), they were walking slowly through the woods, soaking up the March sunshine, and quietly dreading the rock scramble they would face later



Jim Hunt and seven co-adventurers using three GPS units, 4 compasses, and a custom topographical map provided by Karl Huber found the crash site.

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President's Message

Greetings!!

Has anyone noticed that almost every one of my president messages starts with a weather forecast of sorts?! I am writing this as Hurricane Sandy is poking up the east coast. Needless to say, I'm really hoping this will be a non-event for everyone. The annual Halloween Hoot should be happening this weekend, although not certain if they are continuing. Quite the bummer actually as it is very close to being a full moon. The other "fingers crossed - please be kind to us" thought is the trail maintainers have done an awesome job keeping our trail section looking very good. Oh well, one can only hope for the best and that this storm moves on out of here soon.

So this will be the last Walker for 2012. Hard to believe the year is ending. We will have our annual business meeting on November 20th. I hope folks will be able to attend even though this is Thanksgiving week. We will be voting on new officers to the Board of Directors. There are four positions: vice president, trail maintenance chair, website chair, and outreach chair. Please see elsewhere in the Walker the list of nominees.

What is wonderful about this time of year are the hiking opportunities. For those of us fair weather, not too hot, type hikers, this is a great time to get out. There are plenty of weekday opportunities to hike. We can always use more weekend hike leaders. Nice aspect of our website, if you have missed having a hike included in the newsletter, you can still contact Jenni or Kimberly to have added to website or post it yourself as a blog or on our facebook site. There is some great information on the website if you need some guidance as to how to lead a hike. I found it very useful in preparing for the AT Family Hike held on September 29th. It really was a fun hike with 12 participants, 6 being kids!! We hiked 4.8 miles from Reeds Gap to the Dripping Rocks parking area. Nice weather and I think everyone had a good time.

The club is doing well both in membership and financially. Our monthly maintenance trips have had good participation, although we are in need of section overseers (please see Lori's maintenance update). I had the opportunity along with representatives from the Tidewater and Natural Bridge clubs to attend the dedication of Nelson County becoming an AT Community. David Grimes, our candidate for Outreach Chair, has already been laying the groundwork for some future cooperative opportunities with Nelson County. Stay tuned for more on these as we get into next year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful finish to 2012. Cannot believe I'm wishing you all Happy Holidays already. See you at our November club meeting!!

*Happy Trails,
Theresa*



(Plane Crash Adventure, continued from pg. 1)

in their heretofore-futile efforts to locate Survey Monument 35, below Battery Cliff. Looking to the left, they happened to see the plane wreckage through the trees. Being diligent Monitors, they stopped, photographed the site, took a GPS mark, and then plodded on toward Monument 35. A future issue of The Walker may feature other discoveries of our Boundary Monitors, including an Indian artifact site, vernal ponds, a fugitive hideout, home foundations, hippies hiking off trail to tend their crops, a rocky creek bed with moss thicker than a politician's skin...and, of course, the elusive Monument 35.

In the meantime, in November Jim Hunt will lead a Hike (not to be confused with an Adventure) to revisit the two plane crash sites. Jim has very exacting standards and never leads a Hike until he knows exactly where he's going and is sure he will get there. This next iteration of the trip will carry less uncertainty about the destinations, but should be every bit as much fun. If you'd like to see the two crashes, look for details on the Club's website or call Jim. ODATC members only. (Join or renew if you haven't already!) Strong hikers only. Young people encouraged. This will be 10+ miles of our Section's best ups and downs, with a vigorous little loop off-trail. ■

Trips, Treks, and Talks - Jenni Pendergrass, Contributor

These activities made the deadline for the newsletter. Please remember to check the website calendar frequently for new events and any updates to the activities shown below. Comments and/or pictures from your activities can be posted to the club Facebook page. Found a new restaurant, new piece of gear, favorite trail recipe or website? Share it with others through our Facebook page!!

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

ODATC Hike Rating Codes

Hiking boots are strongly recommended for all hikes. Hikers must be properly equipped, aware of their limitations & hike within their ability. In the interest of safety, activity leaders may refuse to allow participation by club members or their guests.

Terrain
 1 = Very Strenuous
 2 = Strenuous
 3 = Moderate
 4 = Easy

Distance
 A = More than 13 miles
 B = 9 to 13 miles
 C = 5 to 9 miles
 D = Under 5 miles

November 4 (Sunday) AT Airplane Crash (C/3)

Jim Hunt – hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com or 804-730-2364. There are two airplane crashes on our section of the AT. I know where one is located and have the GPS of the other. Both are not more than ¼ mile off the trail. Come join us on this about 11-mile adventure and see both planes. Bring lunch and water. Call Jim for details.

November 7 (Wednesday) Westview on the James – Goochland County C/3

Larry Kidd (lckiddjr@comcast.net or 784-3617) and Dave Gillespie. New hike on a 5-mile circuit through the Westview on the James Methodist camp including frontage along the James River. The site is about 30 miles west of Richmond. Take I-64 Exit 167 Oilville, follow signs to

Goochland, left on Rte. 617, right on U.S. 250 West, left on Rte. 632, left on US 522 South, (at Goochland), right on Rte. 6 West for 4 miles, to the "Rock Castle-Westview" sign, left on Rte. 600 for 6 miles, right on Rte. 643, West View Road. The camp entrance is 1/2 mile on the left. The scenic route from Richmond is Rte. 6 Patterson Av. past the Courthouse 4 miles to the "Rock Castle-Westview" sign. From here, see directions above. We will meet in front of the camp office building outside the main gate. On site toilets. Meet at 10:00 AM.

November 10-11 (Saturday-Sunday) Prince William Forest

Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242) We will be overnight camping at Oak Ridge Campground. There is a \$5.00 per car entrance fee and \$16.00 per night for Camping. (Two tents - six people per site.) Visit to Mall, Arlington Cemetery, or Mount Vernon with Day Hike(s) at Prince William or maybe Great Falls possibilities. Option for Sunday-Monday night camp over if interested.

November 10 (Saturday) Riprap Hollow Trail SNP B/3

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). This 9.5-mile circuit hike with 2030 feet of elevation change in the Shenandoah National Park connects Wildcat Ridge with the AT. Excellent views of Calvary Rocks and Chimney Rocks, descends along Meadow Run through Cold Springs and Riprap Hollows. This is hike # 30 in PATC's Circuit Hikes in SNP. Bring a lunch. Contact Bill for meeting time and place.

November 14 (Wednesday) James River Loop - North & South Banks C/3

Martha James (516-3218 or marthajames@aol.com). This 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north bank of the River, goes through Maymont, crosses the Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through James River Park on the lower trail and re-crosses the River over Belle Isle and the pedestrian bridge, ending at the cars. Meet in the parking lot adjacent to the Richmond Civil War Museum on Tredegar St. west of 5th St. Bring water and lunch and plan to be on the trail about 4 hours. Meet at 10:00 AM.

November 17(Saturday) AT Trail Maintenance Trip

Join us for our last work trip of the year on the ODATC section of the AT. Bring water, lunch and work gloves. Dress for weather. Contact Lori (804-397-5306), Fran (804-270-6908) or send an email to odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com to register and for additional information.

November 20 (Tuesday, 7PM) ODATC General Membership Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd)

The Habitual Hiker, Leonard Adkins will present "Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail." Members are encouraged to arrive at 6:30 for a half hour of uninterrupted socializing. Lastly, we'll also be conducting our annual election for the 2013 incoming board members.

November 21 (Wednesday) 'Center of the Universe' - Ashland Parks D/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com). New hike in Ashland, which has many small neighborhood parks. We will walk through many of them as we enjoy this small town. After this 5-mile hike, we may have lunch at one of the local restaurants. Meet in the parking lot behind the Library in downtown Ashland. Coming from I-95, take Rte. 54, turn left off Rte. 54 on Virginia Street after the old Ashland movie house and follow the parking signs. Meet at 10:00 AM.

November 28 (Wednesday) Deep Run Park – Henrico D/4

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). Five-mile hike in the fashionable West End suburbs. Go to the first parking area off the Ridgefield Parkway entrance west of Gaskins Rd. Meet at 10:00 AM.

December 2 (Sunday) Three Lakes Park – Henrico D/4

Hank Harmon (347-3244). Join Hank on an easy hike at his pace for 1.3 to 3 miles or two hours. The Park is a premier nature center in northern Henrico. Take Chamberlayne Rd US 301 to Wilkinson Rd. eastbound to Sausiluta Dr., which is the park access. This is Hike # 51 in Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 Miles*. Meet at 2:00 PM.

December 5 (Wednesday) Fluvanna Heritage Trail - Fluvanna County C/3

JJ Festa (839-2878 or johnfesta@comcast.net). This is hike # 20 of Nathan Lott's *60 Hikes within 60 Miles*. Hike 7.7 miles along the Rivanna River bottomland and Piedmont hillside forest with portable toilets at the trailhead. The Trail is about 50 miles west of Richmond. Meet at I-64 Exit 167 Oilville Park and Ride to carpool at 9:00 AM.

December 8 (Saturday) Hoover Camp Loop SNP B/3

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). A moderate 10.2-mile loop hike with 1200 feet elevation change in Shenandoah National Park. Starting from Big Meadows descend directly 6.4 miles to the famous Hoover Camp and return by Mill Prong Trail and the AT. This is hike # 18 in PATC's Circuit Hikes in the SNP. Bring a lunch. Contact Bill for meeting time and place.

December 12 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park, Central Section Loop Chesterfield C/3

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jefflsamuels@yahoo.com). One in a series of non-repeating hikes in Pocahontas State Park. This hike is an 8-mile loop in the park's central section. Included is a stop at the CCC Memorial Garden. Bring lunch and water. The park entrance is on Beach Road (Rte. 655) 4 miles west of the Chesterfield County Government Center at Rte. 10/Ironbridge Road. Meet in the big parking lot at the end of the main park road near the pool/picnic area. Nominal parking fee without park pass. Meet at 9AM.

December 19 (Wednesday Night) Christmas Lights D/4

Hank Harman's annual hike with Sue and Norm Kropp (276-0070 or freshair82@comcast.net). Four-mile round trip hike along Franklin St. to the James Center in Downtown Richmond to see the Christmas lights, usually with a return stop for refreshments. Meet in the Lombardy Street parking lot behind St. John's United Church of Christ located between Stuart Circle and Grace Street at 7:00 PM.

December 27 (Thursday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods D/4

Ted McGarry (218-1238) One in a series of two-hour morning hikes by Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's Choice: **Monument Avenue/Park Avenue**. Hike one of the top ten Avenues in America from the Arthur Ashe Monument to VCU and restroom stop. Return along Park Ave. Optional lunch at an inexpensive Fan eatery. Meet at the Ashe Monument at Roseneath Ave. at 10:00 AM. ■

The ODATC Mission

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

2012 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

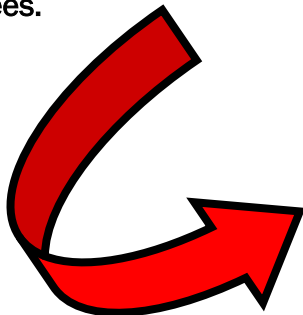
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|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|
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| Vice President | OPEN | | |
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| Treasurer | Dennis Schafer | 314-2434 | schaferdp@verizon.net |
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| Land Mgmt. | Karl Huber | 355-4619 | odatc.landmgmt@gmail.com |
| Membership | Alice Preston Tayloe Moore | 741-0049 798-4535 | tayloeg@gmail.com |
| Trail Maint. | Lori Ando | 3975306 | odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com |
| Activities | Jenni Pendergrass | 264-1633 | japendergrass@co.hanover.va.us |
| Newsletter | Katie Veilleux | 919-900-8007 | odatc.newsletter@gmail.com |
| Outreach | OPEN | | |
| Webmaster | Kimberly Lawrence | 992-3731 | odatc.webmaster@gmail.com |



BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATED



Thank you! Thank you! The following ODATC members have volunteered to serve on the Board 2013-2014. Elections are held during the club meeting November 20, (Tuesday at 7 PM). Kudos to Alice Preston, Membership Co-Chair for her diligence in finding these capable nominees.



*Vice President - David Prestia
Trail Maintenance - Lori Ando
Outreach Chair - David Grimes
Website Chair - Larry Kidd*

ODATC and the ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club as well as a hiking club. We are members of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. Lifetime memberships are available for \$250. Renewals are due annually based upon the month you joined.

Making Your Trail a Better Place

Nearing the End of the Maintenance Year - *Lori Ando, Contributor*

The year is almost over with November 17 being our last work trip of the 2012 season. We've had a wonderful maintenance year completing lots of valuable work along our little section of the AT. Weed whacking, pruning, sidehilling, waterbars, rockwork, fallen tree removal just to name a few of the maintenance tasks performed during the year. The fun is never ending working with Mother Nature and hikers who insist on making changes to the trail that we need to repair. Here's our update from the last couple of months.

September brought 18 people out to work and play, with the crews ending a little early for the day to participate in a picnic at Humpback Picnic area. Three crews set out and performed an incredible amount of work digging out waterbars, junking up stairs and redefining trail by Battery Cliffs; sidehilling and cleaning out waterbars on the Jack Albright Loop; and even more sidehilling near Glass Hollow Overlook. Afterwards, the crew enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers along with a smorgasbord of sides and dessert. The food was certainly welcome after the day on the trail.

We saw a few less participants out in October with a lucky number 13 joining in the events dividing into four crews. The crew at Dripping Rock put in a new step to encourage hikers to keep to the trail instead of going around. The sawyer crew set out to remove three trees from the west side and ended up removing more than double that amount and check out the new sign at Reeds Gap that they installed. The crew tackling the area between Glass Hollow and the Howardsville worked hard sidehilling and digging out rocks. The final crew worked between Rockfish Gap and Long Rocking

cleaning and installing waterbars, sidehilling and digging out rocks from the trail. Whew! All in a day's work!

As mentioned in the last Walker and worth repeating, the R2R (Rockfish to Reeds) area is divided into 13 sections that are assigned to individual maintainers or teams. These folks go out over and above the work trips to care for their sections doing the weed control, simple rehab and reporting downed trees and other large maintenance issues. Help, for the section maintainers, is always welcome and there are a few open sections, so if you're interested, please contact us at the email address below. Remember, it takes a club to maintain a trail.

You can finish the year off right by attending the November 17 work trip. Reserve your spot by emailing odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com. Volunteers are greatly appreciated. As always, if you can't make a work trip day, you can still help when hiking our section of the trail between Rockfish Gap and Reeds Gap and reporting any downed trees to the same email address. When reporting trees, please note location, diameter and how high it is off the ground. ■



Many thanks to all who have volunteered this year! Your efforts are greatly appreciated by all who hike the trail!

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, November 20, at 7PM

The Habitual Hiker, and ODATC member, Leonard Adkins will present "Traversing Ancient Mountains: 2,000 Miles on the Appalachian Trail." Leonard is a gifted author and speaker. His presentations are well known, particularly for their blend of beautiful photos and music. This presentation is guaranteed to rekindle your hiking spirit as you experience The Trail with Leonard.

Even though the meeting officially begins at 7 PM, members are encouraged to arrive at 6:30 to get in a half hour of uninterrupted socializing and snacking. Bringing snacks to share is always welcomed and we also ask that you consider donating a canned good or two to the church's food bank.

Lastly, we'll also be conducting our annual election for the 2013 incoming board members. However, do not worry because this is a very quick process without any campaigning or debates!

The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Road).

If you like to hike or walk, you can be a leader, too! It's easy to do!

Resources to find hikes are:

www.trails.com and **www.localhikes.com**

Search for Richmond & Central Virginia hikes.

*Pick a trail that you are familiar with or walk it ahead to know potentially difficult places. Start with an easy hike and work your way up as your confidence grows! Post your hike on the website, **odatc.net** and through **The Walker**.*

As the leader, you provide a first aid kit, carry a cell phone or other communication device, and check your groups before you begin hiking for adequate water and snacks.

ABOVE ALL - feel free to talk to any of the hike leaders listed in the activities for advice on what leaders need to know!

Weekend hike leaders are always needed!!!



P.O. Box 25283 Richmond, VA 2260-5283