



Volume 22, Issue 1

January/February 2014

President's Message

Happy New Year!!

It is hard to believe 2014 is already upon us. I hope everyone had a very pleasant and joyous holiday season with family and friends. As with so much in life these days, the holidays are already a blur of a memory. The first president's message of the New Year is typically a recap of the previous year's successes and a look forward to the opportunities of the next year.

In general, I would say 2013 was a good year for the club. Financially we are stable. Our membership remains just under 400 which is a combination of family and individual memberships. The November General Club meeting was election time again for Board positions. Individuals stepping down were Tayloe Moore, Alice Preston, Katie Veilleux, Randy Wendell, and Jenni Pendergrass. I can't thank these folks enough for their commitment to the club these past 2 years, and past 4 years for Jenni who served 2 terms as Activity Chair. Several individuals agreed to serve another term. These include Dennis Schafer, Leonard Atkins, Karl Huber, and me. New members include John Spindler, Jim Hunt, Ted McGarry, and Sue Kropp. We are still seeking a permanent newsletter editor. In the interim, Susan Kidd has graciously offered to keep the Walker alive while the ODATC Board re-evaluates the future of the newsletter.

A major action taken by the 2013 club board was to reduce the number of board meetings from monthly to 6 times per year. The meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the same months as general club meetings – January, March, May, September and November, with the summer meeting to be held based on board preference. All club members are welcome to attend the board meetings. If you would like to join us, I would appreciate knowing in advance to ensure adequate seating. As always, there are numerous items that the board addresses throughout the year so I anticipate opportunities for sub-committees and plenty of email exchanges as we adjust to this new meeting schedule. As 2013 comes to a close, I want to extend my thanks to all the ODATC Board members for their dedication and commitment to the club this past year!

An obvious key focus of our club is the care of our section of the Appalachian Trail. Despite the rainy or icy weather at always the wrong time, it was another successful year for trail maintenance. However, back in February our shelter suffered a mishap. Someone staying at the shelter seemed to think it would be okay to build a fire on the front porch. Fortunately the shelter was not significantly damaged and the crew implemented the repairs over 2 weekend trips. I believe it was also a good year for the border monitoring team, although some scheduled trips were impacted by icy conditions. If you would like to learn more about our maintenance and monitoring activities, see cool pictures of the gang in action, or read about the interesting adventures experienced while working on the trail, be sure to check out the Rockfish to Reeds Gap trail maintenance blog at rockfishtoreeds.blogspot.com or you can go to the club website to find a link to the blog.

President's Message *(continued)*

Our club contributed approximately 4,200 volunteer hours related to the AT, of which over 2,000 were directly related to maintenance and border monitoring. The remaining hours were associated with activities such as promoting the club, leading hikes, and administrative functions (membership, website management, newsletter, etc.). Over 70 individuals volunteered, many participating in multiple areas of club functions. While I view this as an impressive level of support, with a club membership of close to 400, it would be wonderful to have more members become actively involved in the club functions.

Hiking activities of the club have continued to expand, especially the weekday hikes. More weekend hikes were being offered as the year came to a close. Jim Hunt and Ted McGarry, our new activity co-chairs, have pledged to ensure hikes are offered every weekend in the spring and fall of 2014. If you are interested in becoming a hike leader be sure to give them a call or email. A new feature on the website is the "Hike Selection List". Larry Kidd has developed a list of the various hikes including difficulty rating and descriptions that have been offered by various hike leaders over the past few years. To access this list, you will need to go to the member's only section. If you don't remember how to access this section of our club website, please contact Larry or John Spindler, new membership chair. This is a great new feature that you really should check out!

So what will 2014 bring?! This year will be the 45th Anniversary of ODATC. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to participate on the planning committee. Details will be forth coming on the date and location of an anniversary gathering. Also look to future newsletters and the website for historic tidbits and tales about our club and its founders!

I hope everyone has a wonderful, safe and adventurous year!!

Happy Trails!

Theresa

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 coordinators 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

CARPOOLING Please honor the following suggested donation 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).

Trips, Treks, and Talks Jenni Pendergrass, Contributor

Welcome to an abundance of winter activities – no hibernating for this bunch!! Lots of choices to keep you busy until the spring thaw. Please remember to order tickets for the Banff Film Festival ASAP if you are interested in attending as this event sells out quickly. Details are listed under Upcoming Activities. We will have our new display board and club literature available both nights of the film festival. If you are interested in helping man our display please contact Jenni Pendergrass (jennipendergrass@aol.com or 804-221-3226).

January 8 (Wednesday) Oregon Hill / Hollywood Cemetery – RVA (D/4)

Dave Gillespie (749-4438 or kndgillesp@mindspring.com). This is a five mile walk through the rolling landscape of Oregon Hill and Hollywood Cemetery. Park on 2nd Street near the Virginia War Memorial. DO NOT PARK IN THE WAR MEMORIAL PARKING LOT. Meet at 9:50 AM.

January 11 - 12 (Sat - Sun) Paul Wolfe Shelter Freezeree Backpacking Trip (C/3)

Beth Kirwin (elkirwin@cavtel.net or 804-212-6437) Time to get out for our annual winter backpacking and birthday celebration trip for anyone with a January birthday. This is a good test for your winter camping gear and skills. Meet at the Rockfish Gap trailhead (Afton) at 1:00 p.m. for the 5-mile hike down to the shelter. Treats to share with the birthday folks and anyone else braving the cold are always welcome.

January 15 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park - South Section - Chesterfield (C/4)

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jeffsamuels@yahoo.com). Hike 5.5 miles in the park's southern section on a mix of multi-use trails and unpaved forest roads. Visit the small Gill-Dance Cemetery and Group Camp 7 Lake. Enter the park at the Bright Hope Horse Complex entrance which is directly across from the main park entrance on Beach Road (Rt. 655) 4 miles west of Rt. 10 (Ironbridge Rd.). Those without a park pass must buy and display a daily parking pass which can be obtained at the yellow metal collection box located 0.3 miles from the Complex entrance (bring \$4 cash or check). Meet in the restroom parking area one-half mile from the Bright Hope Horse Complex entrance, at 9:30 AM.

January 18 (Saturday) AT/Laurel Prong Loop aka Hoover Camp (B/2)

David Olli (864-1461, dolli@smv.org) Although 10 miles it is not that difficult a hike. Starting from Milam Gap up the AT, down the Laurel Prong to President Hoover's mountain retreat for lunch before a final climb up the pretty Mill Prong. Trip dependent on Skyline Drive being open. Group size limited to 12, no young children or pets, please.

January 21 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting

Our first meeting of the New Year promises to be a good one as long-time member, Pete Tansill, presents *Walking Across America, Part 2*. Pete hasn't completed the entire trek just yet, but he's made great progress and has plenty of stories to share, as only Pete can do! Come hear Pete tell us about the latest stretch of his walk. The meeting begins at 7PM, but members are encouraged

to arrive at 6:30 for socializing and calisthenics. Snacks to share are always welcome and we'd also like you to bring a canned good to donate to the church's food bank. Meeting is at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd.

January 22 (Wednesday) James River Park – RVA (D/4)

Martha James (883-6252 or 516-3218 or marthajames@yahoo.com) Two hour hike along the banks of the James which may include the southside floodwall with its view of downtown. Park at Tredegar off 2nd Street. Optional lunch at Bottoms Up. If weather is questionable, call before you come. Meet at 9:50 AM.

January 25 (Saturday) Walnut Creek Park - South of Charlottesville (C/3)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com). Let's take a walk on a cold winter day. The Albemarle County Park is 480 acres, located just south of Charlottesville about one hour west of Richmond. This hike will be about 8-9 miles of gentle ups and downs around the lake with the ruins of a few old homesteads to add a little interest and views of mountains. Contact Bill for time and meeting place.

January 25 (Saturday) Madison Fire Rd/Austin Mountain Trail (C/3)

Jenni Pendergrass (japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov) or 264-1633. This is an 8 mile hike in SNP beginning outside the park boundary. We'll walk up the fire road to the AT and then walk a short distance north to link with the Austin Mountain Furnace Trail to begin the descent back to the parking area. This is part of the Austin Mtn-Furnace Mtn circuit hike in the PATC guide book. Hike is limited to first 12 responders. If we can access the SNP we may start in the park instead.

January 29 (Wednesday) Rural Plains House - Hanover (D/4)

Joanne Berdall (314-2969 or jberdall@hotmail.com) and Ellie Tuck. Led by our newest hike coordinators Joanne and Ellie, we will hike the Rural Plains House site where Patrick Henry got married. The hike is in a new national park with new trails added last year. From I-295 exit Pole Green Road East, go 1/2 mile, left turn into the Food Lion S.C. at 8319 Bell Creek Rd 23116 and meet in front of the Subway at 9:50 AM.

February 1 (Saturday) Rivanna River Trail-North Extension Plus (C/3)

Day hike along Charlottesville's Rivanna River Trail System. 8-10 miles. Hike Limited to 12. For details contact Howard at howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242

February 5 (Wednesday) Fredericksburg Historic Trail (C/4)

Hank Harman's annual favorite with Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com) Hike 5 1/2 miles on the sidewalks of Fredericksburg. This historical hike includes a cemetery which contains the graves of Mary Washington (mother of George) and ODATC's Pete Tansill's Confederate soldier grandfather. Lunch downtown. Carpool from the south end of Martin's parking lot in the Ashland Hanover S.C. located at the northeast corner of Route 54 and Route 1. We leave from ASHLAND at 9:00 AM. Please plan to be there early to coordinate carpools. If not carpooling, meet at the Downtown Fredericksburg Visitor's Center 706 Caroline St. at 9:50 AM which is about one hour north of Richmond.

February 8 (Saturday) Leader's Choice – SNP (C/3)

Jenni Pendergrass (jennipendergrass@hanovercounty.gov or 804-21-3226) Check the website for details to be announced. Leaders choice for a day hike in SNP – weather permitting. Expect about 9 miles of moderate to strenuous terrain.

February 12 (Wednesday) Slave Trail and Floodwall - RVA D/4

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). Hike over the Manchester Bridge, take in a few blocks of the Canal Walk and then on to Lumpkin's Jail, the beginning of the Richmond Slave Trail. Loop back and cross the Mayo Bridge, tour the docks on the South side of the James and return to the cars via the flood wall for a total of 5 miles. Optional lunch at Legend's after the hike. Meet at the Southside floodwall parking lot at Semmes and 7th at the south end of the Manchester Bridge at 9:50 AM.

February 17 (Monday) AT: Montebello Fish Hatchery to Tye River (B/2)

President's Day AT Hike. 11.6 miles highlighted with Spy Rock and Priest. Not an introductory hike with steep downhill descent to Tye River. Hike limited to 12. For details contact Howard Davis at howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242

February 19 (Wednesday) Virginia's Newest State Park – Powhatan D/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) Rescheduled from Nov 27. Join us for ODATC's first official hike of about 5 miles in Virginia's newest state park, Powhatan State Park which is on the James River. Traveling from north of the River go to Goochland C.H. take US 522 South to Maidens, cross the River, travel 1.3 miles, look for Powhatan State Park sign, right turn at Rte. 617. From Southside, take US 60 West from Midlothian to US 522 North to left turn at Rte. 617. Everyone get on Rte 617 west, go 1.4 miles and turn right into the Park. Go 0.7 miles, right turn into picnic area. Bring water and state park pass if you have one or pay a nominal parking fee. Meet at 9:50 AM.

February 22 (Saturday) Lake Anna State Park northwest of Richmond (C/4) Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com) How about the peace and quiet of Lake Anna in the wintertime? Hike about 8 miles in mostly hardwood forest with views of Lake Anna from coves and follow creeks in the park's interior. The Park is about one hour northwest of Richmond. Bring a state park pass if you have one or pay a nominal parking fee. Contact Bill for time and meeting place.

February 22 (Saturday) Old Hotel AT Circuit - Cold Mountain (B/2)

David Olli (864-1461, dolli@smv.org) Starting from the AT crossing/picnic parking area on Route 60 get set for some fairly steep up and down trail before reaching the Old Hotel Circuit loop. Hopefully we'll have a clear day to lunch and gaze upon the valleys around us from the bald on Cold Mountain. About 11 hiking miles, little extra driving but worth the view. Group size limited to 12, no young children or pets, please.

February 22 (Saturday) Beginners Backpacking Class

Mike Shelor (trailguymike@aol.com or 337-7076) and Bob Bendl are once again offering their classroom presentation (approximately 4 hours) covering the backpacking basics of equipment, food, hygiene, first aid and clothing to get you ready for overnights to thru hikes. This is a two part class. The second part of the class will be a field exercise at a future date to experience a night in the woods. Mike and Bob have dozens of club members who began backpacking after taking this class. Contact Mike for information on time and place for the classroom session.

February 26 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods - RVA 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 with restroom stop.

Return along Park Ave. Optional lunch at an inexpensive Fan eatery. Meet at the Ashe Monument at Roseneath Ave. at 9:50 AM.

February 28 - March 2 (Friday-Sunday) Bear Creek State Park Cabin Trip

Shake off the winter blues. Join us for a Fri-Sat night weekend stay in one of the State Park Lodges. We'll have a group hike of the Willis River Trail (15 miles on Saturday) with possible option of 9 miles Sat and 6 miles Sun. Group meal on Saturday night. (Cost approx. \$36-\$40 for weekend). You will need to register as early as you can and send payment by **February 15th** to Howard to reserve your spot. Limited to 16. Contact Howard Davis at howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242 or Jenni Pendergrass at 804-221-3226 or jennipendergrass@aol.com.

Upcoming Activities

March 7 & 8 (Fri-Sat) Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour – James River High School

Experience adventure on the big screen! Explore the world's last great wild places. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate and inspire as you journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks. Different films each night. Films begin at 7:00 but get there early to get a seat. Look for other club members down front. This is always a club favorite and a chance to recruit new club members. For tickets call 804-748-1623. Tickets are \$6 for each night or \$10 for both nights. Use Course Numbers 28216 (Friday only), 28217 (Saturday only), or 28214 for both nights when you call to order. **Order ASAP. This event sells out quickly.**

March 14 - 16 (Friday-Sunday) Prince William Forest State Park Car Camping

Car camping at Oak Ridge Campground. There is a \$5.00 per car entrance fee and \$20.00 (Sr. Pass; \$10) per night for Camping. Heated Bathroom & Hot Shower available. (2 tents -6 people per site.) Option to camp Sunday night. Possible activities to include visits to DC Mall, Mt. Vernon, ODATC Day Hike at Prince William Forest, and day hike to Great Falls. Contact Howard Davis at howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-964-1242.

Upcoming Programs *Sue Kropp, Contributor*

January 21, 2014, ODATC member Pete Tansill will present Walking Across America, Part II. Your guess is as good mine as to what Pete will present, but if Part II is anything like Part I then this should be an entertaining evening.

March 18, 2014, ODATC member Marilyn Nicol will present *Hiking in Nepal*. The hikes that Marilyn did are fascinating and her photos are breathtaking.

May 20, 2014, ODATC potluck and member slide show.

September 16, 2014, Jenni Pendergrass will present Hiking on the Dingle Way. We will follow Jenni and several other ODATC members on their trek along the southwest coast of Ireland in May 2012.

November 18, 2014, ODATC members Jane and Lee Hesler are Master Naturalists. They will give a presentation on this program and how it is making an impact on our local environment and natural conservation efforts here in Virginia.

All meetings are held in Bruneing Hall at
Trinity Lutheran Church located at 2315 North Parham Rd. Richmond, Va. 23229.

The meetings officially begin at 7PM, but members are encouraged to arrive 30 minutes early for socializing. Snacks to share are always welcome and we also ask that you consider bringing a canned good to donate to the church's food bank.

For more information contact Sue Kropp at odatc.programs@gmail.com.

2014 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
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Record Year of Volunteers for the Appalachian Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail experienced a record year with over 245,000 volunteer hours being contributed. These hours are roughly the equivalent of 118 full-time workers. The total number of volunteers was 5,941, most of them members of the 31 AT maintaining clubs. This also included Trail Crew volunteers and others who work under the auspices of the ATC and other groups. The number of hours and volunteers are reported on the federal fiscal year that covered 10/1/2012 to 9/30/2013.

Lest we forget...

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 other areas
- Offering educational activities related to the need for preserving the great outdoors.

ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). 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. Renewals and applications for membership can be processed online. If you prefer the USPS, forms for renewal and application may be printed from the website. If you are interested in becoming a member of the ATC you can call (304) 535-6331, ext. 119, e-mail them at membership@appalachiantrail.org or use this link to their website: <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/donate/join-renew>.

THE WALKER

***The Walker* is published
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photos are welcome!
Please send your material to odatc.newsletter@gmail.com.**