Hank Harman's Shenandoah National Park Traverse

"Love is lovelier the second time around!" so wrote Cole Porter. But hiking the whole Appalachian Trail in the Shenandoah National Park the third time around is even lovelier. So said Hank at the end of the fifth segment of that traverse on September 25. That Skyland to Mary's Rock segment of nearly nine miles left Hank dragging a bit, however. Even the nine other (and younger) ODATC members sharing that segment were dragging a bit also.

Hank did the 105 mile section of the Appalachian Trail in the Park for the first time in 1941 at age 16. He and fellow Boy Scout, Don Palmer, of Takoma Park, Maryland, also did about an equal number of miles going up and down side trails in their three week expedition. They slept in 16 different shelters (not called "huts" then). They saw few people, a few deer and the bears were just beginning to return. During the '90s Hank accompanied elder son, Pete, on a number of day hikes as Pete completed the Park section of the A.T. en route to completing the entire Trail in 2005.

In June, four of us ODATC members and PATC member, Jane Harman, spent a night in the Range View Cabin before hiking the Mt. Marshall to Matthews Arm segment in the Northern District of the Park. PATC built that beautiful stone cabin in the '30s but Jane, the world's lightest sleeper, slept by herself with dog Jack outside. The next day's hike was hot; Jane would frequently splash water on poor eleven year old German Shepherd, Jack. On the following day, Hank, son, Richard, & Mary Stahl hiked five miles from Mt. Marshall north to Jenkins Gap.

We continued south in July as six ODATC members hiked from the Elkswallow Wayside to Beahm's Gap. Again it was hot but the Trail was well wooded & there were breezes on the ridge top. With a mile to go, we split.

Four of us took the "high road" over Neighbor Mountain to Beahm's Gap while Anne and Elsie took the "low road" slabbing the west side of the ridge. But it was Anne and Elsie who saw the only bear we have yet to see on all of the hikes.

Fifteen persons went on the August hike from Mary's Rock north to Beahm's Gap. Incidentally, Hank always plans the hikes so that the net elevation change is down. These 15 persons were ten Boy Scouts and leaders from Hank's old Troop 33 in Takoma Park; Hank's daughter, Jane; his granddaughter, Abby; Mary and David Stahl and Hank. It was a beautiful, almost cloudless day, and not too hot. After taking in the marvelous view from Mary's Rock we went down, down, down about 1,300 feet to Thornton Gap. Along that section of the Trail there were many instances of the good rock work done by the CCC boys in the 30's. About half the group cut out at Thornton Gap but the remainder were driven to Beahm's Gap and hiked back over Pass Mountain, stopping at the Pass Mountain Hut for a break.

As noted before, September's hike was the longest to date. It also included some great views west over the Shenandoah Valley. All of us took in the view from the top of Stony Man but three of us, including old man, Hank, decided not to do the extra mile that would include Mary's Rock again.

Hikes for October, November & December are planned & are in The Walker. The chances are that snow conditions on either or both the Skyline Drive & the Trail will cancel some winter hikes. But Hank plans to get to the south end of the Park at Rockfish Gap some time next year. Come & join him.
VIRGINIA TO HOST ATC BIENNIAL CONFERENCE—Planning Continues…..

Benton MacKaye hosted the first Appalachian Trail conference in Washington D.C. in March 1925, an event attended by a handful of nature enthusiasts. 75 years later, the Appalachian Trail, and Virginia are privileged to host the 38th Biennial Conference of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, with a projected participation of 800+.

Emory & Henry College, located within a few miles from Damascus, VA, the “friendliest town on the trail”, will be the center of this very exciting event. Virginia Journeys 2011 will begin on Friday, July 1, 2011 and run through Friday, July 8. Hiking, water sports, biking, workshops and entertainment will fill your week with the pleasures of the beautiful Virginia mountains and fellowship with other A.T. enthusiasts. The conference is offering a variety of activities to entertain and educate your entire family. There will be events suited for children as well as activities for thru-hikers and casual hikers. To relax after a long day of hiking and biking, the conference will be providing local entertainment every evening with a very special guest entertainer on Saturday night.

Highlights include:

- Over 60 different guided hikes to a variety of interesting and scenic areas in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and Tennessee are scheduled. Most hikes will be offered several times during the week, giving you greater flexibility in choosing your favorites.
- 72 workshops covering a wide variety of outdoor and ATC related subjects including Hiking and Backpacking Skills, Engaging Youth on the Trail, Trail Management, Environmental Issues, and many more.
- Non-hiking related excursions will offer a change of pace. Take a guided tour of historical and cultural sites in the area surrounding Emory & Henry College. Enjoy a float down a lazy river in the mountains.
- Exhibitors including conservation groups, outfitters, authors and many more. The ATC store will be on site with genuine ATC merchandise.

VJ2011 is a very special opportunity to meet so many people with similar interests in enjoying and preserving the Appalachian Trail and the natural beauty of our country. ODATC is privileged to be one of the 7 hosting clubs for the conference. Therefore, many volunteer opportunities are available. This is an opportunity to give a few hours of your time at

Best wishes,
Theresa
the conference by assisting at the registration desk during part of the first 4 days of the conference, or providing information and guidance to the participants at the Information Desk. Prior to the conference, we invite you to join us for a “stuffing party” here in Richmond, **June 18 and 25** where we will be stuffing registration packets for the pre-registered attendees. There are many other volunteer opportunities available such as leading hikes or setting up exhibit space. If you would like to know more about these opportunities, please email Sue Kropp at freshair82@comcast.net.

For more information about VJ2011, visit the ATC website, http://www.appalachiantrail.org. Enter “Virginia Journeys 2011” in the search field and select the same phrase from the list below. Visit the site often for new entries. Online Registration will be available by March 2011. More information is also available in the AT Journeys magazine.

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**Excursion Leaders/Co-Leaders Needed**

As the planning for Journeys 2011 continues, leaders are needed for the numerous excursions listed below that will take place during the conference week:

- Abingdon Ghost walk
- Abingdon Vineyard and Winery Tour
- Barter Theatre Play Only
- Barter Theatre Tour and Play
- Bristol Caverns
- Bristol Speedway Tour
- Davis Valley Winery Tour
- Gray Fossil Site
- Hungry Mother Lake Canoe and Paddle Boats
- Kil’n Time Paint your own pottery in Bristol, TN
- Mabry Mill Parkway Tour
- Museum of the Middle Appalachians Tour, Saltville
- New River Trail Bicycle Ride
- New River Trail Horseback Ride 2 hrs.

More information about these excursions is available. Please contact John Miller (john.miller591@comcast.net) if you would like to lead or co-lead.

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**Hike Leaders/Co-Leaders Needed**

Leaders are also needed for the many hikes that have been planned. Below is a list of some of the approximately 75 hikes. Please contact Pat Egan (egans@firstva.com) to help and to obtain more information.

- A.T. Section -- US 321 to Dennis Cove Road
- A.T. Section – Straight Branch to Damascus
- A.T. Section – Creek Junction to Straight Branch
- A.T. -- Elk Garden to Fox Creek via Pine Mt Trail, (includes Mt Rogers Summit)
- A.T. Section – Massie Gap to Fox Creek
- A.T., Iron Mountain Trail, Comers Creek Loop
- Dickey Knob Trail
- A.T. Section -- FS 222, to VA 42
- Lakeshore Loop, Hungry Mother State Park
- New River Trail, Lone Ash to Shot Tower
- A.T. and Virginia Creeper Loop from Damascus
- Iron Mtn. & Feathercamp Trail Loop
- A.T. Section --VA 601 to Creek Junction
- Virginia Creeper -- Straight Branch to Creek Junction
- A.T. Section -- Fox Creek to Dickey Gap
- A.T. Section US 11/1-81 to VA 42
- A.T. Section VA-615 to VA 612 (I-77 crossing)
- Historic Abingdon Walk
- A.T. Section Wilbur Lake Rd. to US 321
- A.T. Section-Cross Mtn. to Low Gap (US 421)
- A.T. Section Cross Mtn. to McQueen Gap
- A.T. hike Massie Gap to Rhododendron Gap
- Rowland Creek Falls

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**Thanks to the Konnarock Crew**

Many people volunteered to help the two weeks we worked on the trails: (July 22-July 26 & July 29-August 2)

Thanks to the first week crew: Bob Reid, John Orrock, Rob McBurney, Mike Shelor, Margaret Maslak, Elton Fauber, Lori Ando, Claudia Hambacker, Greg Hambacker, and Richard Wahlert.

Thanks to the second week crew: Dennis Jordan, Bob Reid, Barbara Stewart, John Orrock, Marit Gay, Cohen Rush, Irma Graf, Michael Arrowood, Margaret Maslak, David Wilcox, Brad Belo, Mike Shelor, Rob McBurney, Lori Ando, Roger Clifton, Randy Wendell, Lisa Kin and Royd Whedon (who was hiking our section and joined us).

You folks that didn’t work, missed out on some fine eating!

First Saturday CHEF: Ada Fauber with her helpers, Renee McBurney and Stephanie Pollard.

Second Saturday CHEF: Ann McRee with helpers, Chris Wilcox, Tom & Gretchn Cole, Renee McBurney, & Theresa Duffey.

ODATC’s CRUSTY MINSTRELS played fine music for all the first Saturday. Thanks to Mike Shelor and Bob Bendl. Thanks to ALL who helped make this Konnarock summer work!

Happy trails, Fran Leckie
Activities

November 2 (Tuesday) Board Meeting

November 3 (Wednesday) Rail to Trail – Ashland Trolley Line
Jim Hunt (730-2364) I have been doing a lot of reading about the old trolley lines in Richmond and I am looking forward to this 5-mile hike. Take I-95 north to the Ashland exit. Drive through town and across the railroad tracks. Park at the first parking lot on the right, just past the tracks behind the Ashland Coffee and Tea shop. Plan to meet at 10:00 a.m.

November 10 (Wednesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods
Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com) 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. Return along Park Ave. Meet at the Ashe Monument at Roseneath Ave. at 10:00 AM. Optional lunch at an inexpensive Fan eatery like Joe’s Inn.

November 16 (Tuesday) General Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23229

November 17 (Wednesday) Rural Plains House
Jim Hunt (730-2364) Join me for this hike in a new national park to the house where Patrick Henry got married. Exit I-295 in Mechanicsville at the Pole Green Road exit. Go one half mile, turn left into the Food Lion Shopping Center and meet in front to the Subway at 10:00.

November 20 (Saturday) Work Trip
Fran Leckie (804-270-6908) Our last trip to "our" section for this year! Come and join us. Please call.

November 20 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in SNP – Big Meadows to Bearfence
Hank Harman (804-347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net) Hazeltop and Bearfence Mtns. are the high spots on this 7.2 mile hike. Total climbs are 900 feet and descents 1,000 ft. Doing the Bearfence Rock Scramble (optional) makes it a “high” moderate. I have reserved the PATC Wineberry Cabin near Swift Run Gap for the 19th and 20th. Come stay at the cabin or meet me for the hike. Call for more information and carpooling details.

November 21 (Sunday) Powhatan Wildlife Management Area Day Hike
Ken Baker (804-749-3625 or lightfoot230@juno.com) Clockwise circumferential circuit hike through the gently rolling forest and open lands of the Powhatan WMA. Total distance about 12 miles. Meet 9 AM at Pocahontas Middle School - on the right just past the intersection of US 60 and county route 522, about 30 miles west of Richmond.

November 24 (Wednesday) Pony Pasture
Jim Hunt (730-2364) This is a great time to walk along the James River fall line when all the leaves are off the trees. At the south end of the Huguenot Bridge, exit onto Riverside Drive. The well-marked Huguenot Flatwater parking area (formerly Huguenot Woods parking area) is 1/4 mile west of the bridge. Meet at 10:00 for this 4 mile hike.

December 1 (Wednesday) University of Richmond and Surrounds
Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com) Enjoy a 5-6 mile walk around the trails and lake at the University of Richmond. Also see Civil War defenses, Bandy Road Park, the highest point in Richmond, Country Club of Virginia and surrounding neighborhoods. Meet at 10:00 am and park around the circle in front of Bill’s house at 710 West Drive Circle. From the West End’s Forest Ave. turn at Tuckahoe Elementary School on Lindsay Dr. to the first right.

December 4 (Saturday) Hazel River
Matt Powell (230-0154 or mjp20k@yahoo.com) We'll head to the central section of Shenandoah National Park for a challenging 11 mile hike with 2150' of elevation gain. As with most hikes starting from Skyline Drive, we'll descend for the first half of our journey and then we'll make a steep ascent back to our starting point. We'll have some good views and hopefully there will be water in Hazel River to make the waterfall worth visiting.
December 4 (Saturday) Paul Wolfe Shelter Backpack………………………………………C/3
Aseeyah Abdul-Karim (382-6186 or solitude1957@hotmail.com) Come out and test your cold weather gear on this backpacking trip to our shelter on the AT. Contact Aseeyah for more details.

Dec 6 (Monday) Fortune’s Cove Preserve…………………………………………………C/2
Howard Davis (howardsuedavis@juno.com or 434-1242) We will be hiking in the Nature Conservancy’s 29,000 acre Fortune’s Cove Preserve which is located south of Charlottesville near Lovingston, VA. The Preserve’s 5.5 mile trail provides a challenging hike with stunning mountain vistas. Hike takes about 6 hours and includes a 1500’ climb.

December 8 (Wednesday) North Bank of the James River……………………………D/4
Jim Hunt (730-2364) Meet under the Lee Bridge parking lot adjacent to the Civil War Museum at 10:00. This 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north side of the river, crosses the boulevard bridge, proceeds through the James River Park and crosses the river to Belle Isle, ending at the cars. Bring water and lunch and plan to be on the trail about 4 hours.

December 11 (Saturday) South River Falls Day Hike …………………………………… B/2
Randy Wendell (r.s.wendell@att.net; 794-7833) This 10-mile trek passes two small cemeteries, which we plan to visit, and of course an up-close view of the beautiful South River Falls. Randy rates this hike as strenuous because of one particularly long uphill, but it is very doable for reasonably fit hikers. Contact Randy for more details.

December 12 (Sunday) Cumberland State Forest Day Hike……………………………………B/3
Ken Baker (804-749-3625 or lightfoot230@juno.com) Loop hike along the Cumberland Multi-Use Trail including a hike around Bear Creek Lake. This is a figure 8 loop - the first section is about 9 miles with an additional 5-mile loop for those wanting to hike the complete trail. Meet at 8 AM at Pocahontas Middle School - on the right just past the intersection of US 60 and county route 522, about 30 miles west of Richmond.

December 15 (Wednesday Night) Christmas Lights……………………………………….D/4
Hank Harman (804-347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net) Annual hike to see the Christmas lights in Downtown Richmond. Meet at 7:00 pm in the parking lot of St. John’s United Church of Christ off Lombardy Street between Stuart Circle and Grace Street. Four mile round trip to the James Center usually with a return stop for refreshments.

December Work Trip:  NO WORK TRIP.  MERRY CHRISTMAS AND Happy New Year to ALL!

December 18 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail in SNP: Bearfence to South River……………C/3
Hank Harman (804-347-3744 or hharman8@verizon.net) This 6.2 mile “low” moderate hike is another segment of Hank’s traverse of the SNP. Total climbing is 700 feet and descending 1,000 ft. A 1.5 mile hike down to the South River Falls is possible if time and weather permit. Bring lunch and water. Contact Hank for more info and carpooling details.

December 29 (Wednesday) Ashland Area Winter Woods…………………………………..D-4
Martha James (martahjames@yahoo.com or 883-6252). Join me for a personal walk through the deep woods without foliage on private property in Hanover County. We’ll meet at my house, 15067 Horseshoe Bridge Road, Doswell at 10:00 AM. Directions from I-95: Take the Ashland exit (VA 54), go through Ashland. After about 4 miles you will see the sign for Poor Farm Park, take the next right, Horseshoe Bridge Road (Rte. 686). If you pass Patrick Henry H.S. turn around. Go about 2 ½ miles. The driveway is on the left across from Rehoboth Rd. Look for an ODATC sign. Optional lunch at Suzanne’s afterwards. Call that morning if weather is questionable.

Future Activities

May 7 (Saturday) Appalachian Trail Hike Across Maryland ……………………………A/2
Tired of those wimpy 10-mile day hikes around Richmond? Then try this day hike on the “AT” across Maryland - a distance of about 40 miles from Pen Mar Park, PA to Harpers Ferry, WVA. A challenging hike, but doable by those in good physical and mental condition. Need to register with the Mountain Club of Maryland by the end of January - this event usually fills up quickly.
Former park ranger, Bruce Bytnar, will be our speaker for November. Mr. Bytnar will discuss his book, his experience as a ranger and the importance of the AT volunteers. His book, which might be a great Christmas gift to yourself or others, will be for sale at the meeting. Snacks will be provided by the hospitality Committee. Remember to bring your mugs. See you at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Road)!

Also, please remember to bring the mileage that you have hiked beginning May 1, 2010 to add to our club mileage for the year ending April 30, 2011. Did you know that the mileage from May 1 until last meeting added up to almost 2300 miles!! We will be adding a new twist to our mileage accumulation and it will be discussed at the meeting.

Please bring a canned or dry food item to donate to the church’s food box.

### November’s Program - November 16th

#### Blue Ridge Mountain Sports

Contact: Nick Orrell or Percy Blackburn at norrell@brms.com or pblackburn@brms.com

- **November 7** Kayak Day Paddle at Morris Creek
- **November 12-14** and **November 19-21**: Shackleford Island Backpacking Trip

### Henrico Recreation and Parks:

**Family Climb Time**

3EJ.029621 Tue, Nov 16, 6-8 p.m.
3EJ.029622 Sat, Dec 4, 2-4 p.m.

For ages 6+. Registration of a paying adult is required with participants under 13. Spend time with your family learning the ropes at the YMCA Adventure Center Climbing Wall. During this two-hour course, participants 13 and older are instructed on belay techniques, while children younger than 13 are instructed on proper climbing procedures. A YMCA membership is not required. Instructor: Tuckahoe YMCA Rockwall Staff. Information: Hallie Boisseau, 501-5807.

Tuckahoe Family YMCA.

Ages 13+: $30 per person per session.
Ages 6-12: Free. Registration required.

**Stars and Chocolate Bars**

3EJ.029685 Fri, Nov 5, 6-8 p.m.

Deep Run Park. $7.50 per person.


**Eagle Tour on the James**

3EJ.029695 Mon, Nov 15, 8-10 a.m.
3EJ.029698 Mon, Nov 15, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
3EJ.029699 Mon, Dec 6, 8-10 a.m.
3EJ.029700 Mon, Dec 6, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For ages 18+. Experience the abundant wildlife along the James River while slowly cruising on a 24-foot covered pontoon boat. View a bald eagle swooping out of a tree to pluck a gizzard shad from the surface of the water or a great blue heron patiently fishing along the shoreline. Binoculars will be provided. Instructor: Capt. Mike Ostrander. Information: Dee Donnelly, 501-5147. Deep Bottom Park. $35 per session.
**ODATC Hike Rating Codes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terrain</th>
<th>Distance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 = Very Strenuous</td>
<td>A = More than 13 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 = Strenuous</td>
<td>B = 9 to 13 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 = Moderate</td>
<td>C = 5 to 9 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 = Easy</td>
<td>D = Under 5 miles</td>
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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.

**Discounts**

Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Appomattox River Company, Rockfish Gap Outfitters and Wilderness Adventure are big supporters of ODATC.

**Blue Ridge Mountain Sports** has a new location! **Grand Opening, Saturday, November 6,** at 12020 West Broad St., Henrico, VA 23233 (in front of Hilton West of Short Pump Towne Center.)

Rockfish Gap Outfitters is on Route 250 in Waynesboro. They offer assistance with questions about hiking equipment.

Appomattox River Company extends a discount on all merchandise except boats and has locations in Farmville, Midlothian and Yorktown. Call 800-442-4837 for details or browse their website at www.paddleva.com.

Wilderness Adventure, located in the heart of Staunton, Virginia, now offering our members a 10% discount on most merchandise. Please visit the store the next time you are in Staunton. You will find Wilderness Adventure near the train station on 50 Middlebrook Avenue, or call 540-885-3200 for more information.

**Volunteers**

We have had many people sign up to be Volunteers. The list of volunteers who have expressed an interest to volunteer in a specific area should hear from that area’s board member soon.

If you would like to volunteer your talents, please call Claudia at 804-323-0513 or e-mail her at gre-gandclaudia@verizon.net Do not miss out on the fun and fellowship!

**Election**

At the Membership Meeting November 16th, the Board will present the slate for the two board positions of Trail Maintenance Chair and Webmaster. Their term will begin in January 2011.

The nominating committee has interviewed candidates and will present the slate for the membership to accept. The candidates are: Lori Ando for Trail Maintenance Chair and Kimberly Lawrence for Webmaster.