Greetings!!

I think I can finally feel safe in saying spring has arrived. The dogwoods and red buds are looking just beautiful. True indicators that warmer weather is (hopefully) here to stay.

At our March Board meeting, we identified two key areas of focus for the coming year: first, to increase the club membership in particular attracting younger members; and second, to do a better job recognizing the hard work and club involvement of the great members we already have. It is not to say that those of us who have been around for a while aren’t still active and valuable members but now is the time to start recruiting the younger generations who will take our place in the future. I think great strides are already well underway based on the activities implemented since the first of the year.

A big event will be our 45th anniversary celebration later in the fall. Check out the ‘save the date’ notice elsewhere in the Walker. Dave Prestia, Sue Kropp and Jim Hunt have stepped up to chair the event. I know they would love to have others assist with the planning and coordination as we move forward with plans. Another approach to attract potential new members has been the social media outlet “Meet Up”. The club has a Meet Up site which can be accessed via a link on our club website. These particular hikes are being offered every other Sunday morning generally in the Richmond area. This is still a work in progress but seems to be catching on. These hikes are also listed with the other activities in the Walker as well as on the website. Be sure to take the opportunity to participate on one of the many hikes being offered in next few months. Jim Hunt and Ted McGarry have been doing an amazing job recruiting new hike leaders. Several new hike leaders have joined the weekday group. There is an added incentive as well. Recently, Jim initiated the first annual hike leaders dinner, hosting a really incredible meal at his home for those who were hike leaders in 2013. There are many ways to recognize the contributions of others; the camaraderie and fine food was certainly amazing.

Quick reminder as you get more involved in outdoor activities be sure to check for ticks. Lyme disease is unfortunately only one of several tick borne diseases so it is always a good idea to plan accordingly. On the home page of our website is a link to more information about preventing tick bites, the various types of ticks one might encounter, and the symptoms to watch out for should you get a tick bite. Not a pleasant topic but definitely a fact of life for those of us who enjoy hiking and working along the trail. Speaking of working on the trail, the maintenance crew has been busy the last few months with the 3rd Saturday maintenance trips. As I have not been able to get out there yet, I hear that several blow downs have been removed as well as numerous water bars being cleaned out. Apparently the trees are not as far along as in the Richmond area but the early wild flowers are going strong. I know there are some really pretty ones along the stretch I help maintain. Participating on a maintenance trip is a very rewarding way to give back for the wonderful hiking opportunities provided along the AT.
President’s Message (continued)

I have probably rambled long enough. So in closing, be sure to check out the website for interesting activities and news items. Sign up for a club hike or maintenance trip. The May club pot luck meeting is coming up soon. Let’s get out on the trail!!!

Theresa Duffey

ODATC Celebrates its 45th Birthday

From the ODATC Archives:

Excerpt from “Review of 1970 Activities”
It is estimated that 70.4 miles of the Appalachian Trail were hiked by the club during 1970. A measure of any organization’s success is what it does for others. The club’s project was inviting boys from the less privileged areas from Oregon Hill and Hillside community sections of Richmond. Boys from these communities participated as guests of the club on several occasions during the year.

Excerpt from “Quarterly Meeting July 9, 1971”
The question of lady membership was raised, and after lengthy discussion it was decided that this matter should receive the most complete and thorough attention. It was suggested that a special meeting be called in September or October for the purpose of discussing this proposal.

Excerpt from “Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, October 1, 1971”
The situation with respect to lady membership was discussed and action deferred until a later time.

Excerpt from “Executive Committee Meeting, December 2, 1971”
The committee adopted the following policy with respect to membership:
The policy of the Old Dominion Club shall be that club membership will be considered by the Executive Board for anyone, provided the person demonstrates an ability in hiking and camping commensurate with the standards of the club.

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.

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<thead>
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<th>Terrain</th>
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<td>1 = Very Strenuous</td>
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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**  
_Ted McGarry & Jim Hunt, Contributors_

Welcome to an abundance of Spring activities!! Lots of choices to keep you busy.

**May 1 (Thursday) Virginia Historic Garden Week - Homes and Gardens Tours and a Social -- RVA (D/4)**

Ted McGarry and Caroline Meehan (218-1238). Off scenic River Road, and west of the University of Richmond, land developers in the 1930’s created Glenbrooke Hills on rolling tree covered land. The homes provide a variety of architectural styles nestled among trees in park-like settings reached by narrow, winding roads. The tour features 5 private homes and gardens, plus an additional garden delight. We will meet at our house and walk over for the tours. Afterward we will break for lunch at our patio and return to the tour if necessary. BRING A LUNCH AS SOFT DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED. Tour tickets are $35 advance, $40 day of tour. Call me, as I need an accurate count.  
_http://www.vagardenweek.org/tours-details.cfm?TourID=128._

**May 3 (Saturday) Rivanna Trail Day Hike - Charlottesville (A/3)**

Ken Baker (572-3808 or lightfoot230@juno.com). Loop hike along the Rivanna Trail encircling Charlottesville, generally following the Rivanna River and other streams and connecting various city parks and neighborhoods. Total distance is about 19.5 miles. This is a long but fairly easy hike; don't let the distance scare you - doable by anyone in reasonable good physical condition. Call for details.

**May 3 (Saturday) Big Run Loop Trail – SNP (C/3)**

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willy10@aol.com) This is circuit hike #23 in PATC’s Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park book. This 7 mile loop begins at Big Run Overlook and travels through the upper end of Big Run Valley before swinging back up hill on the Madison fire road to join the AT. It even includes a Civil War story, most of which will be true. This is the perfect hike for someone who wants to try a Shenandoah National Park hike for the first time. Come join the fun. Call for meeting location and time.

**May 7 (Wednesday) Heart of West End Richmond -- RVA (D/4)**

Suzanne Hallberg and Jim Metz (285-8632 or suhallberg@yahoo.com). Let’s take a 5 mile walk through some of the Near West End neighborhoods on both sides of Grove-- Glenburnie, Hampton Gardens, Tuckahoe, Stonewall Court and Westhampton. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Westhampton Theatre. Lots of options for lunch afterward. Meet at 9:50 AM

**May 8 (Thursday) Rescheduled Montebello Fish Hatchery to Tye River AT- Nelson County (B/2)**

Howard Davis (434-964-1242 or howardsuedavis@juno.com) An 11.6 mile AT hike highlighted with visits to Spy Rock and Priest. Not an introductory hike with steep downhill descent to Tye River at the end. Hike limited to 12.

**May 10 (Saturday) Ramsey’s Draft and Fort Johnson - Augusta Co. (C/3)**

Jim Hunt (hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com or 804-730-2364) and Charlie Huppuch retired forest ranger. This hike includes a guided tour of the civil war Fort Edward Johnson follow by a 6 or 10 mile hike. The 6 mile hike should be easy and the 10 mile is harder and includes stream crossings. Spring is the time of year to see Ramsey’s Draft Wilderness. Bring water and lunch and e-mail Jim for details.
May 11 (Sunday, Mother’s Day - Meetup) Bridges of Richmond – RVA  (B/3)
David Prestia (389-9099 or david@prestia.us) This is a 9.33 mile hike crossing four of the James River bridges in Richmond. We will hike the Flood Wall, Pipe Line, Buttermilk, and North Bank Trails. Meet at the Southside floodwall parking lot at Semmes and 7th a the south end of the Manchester Bridge. Bring plenty of water and a snack. I recommend a good breakfast before you hike. Optional lunch at Legends after the hike. We will meet at 8:50 AM.

May 14 (Wednesday) North Anna Battlefield Park – Hanover  (D/4)
Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) Come join us on this 5 mile hike when the Mountain Laurel is flowering. It has been 150 years since the battle here and Hanover has put in many more trails for the anniversary celebration. Take I-95 north from the Bryan Park interchange for 18 miles and get off at Exit 98 Doswell. Go west on VA 30 for a half mile, turn right on US 1 and go 1.2 miles. Turn left on Verdon Road, Rte 684, go 2.2 miles and the park in on your right. Drive into the park and park in the main parking lot. Bring water and meet at 9:50 am.

May 16 - 18 (Friday - Sunday) Appalachian Trail Days Festival in Damascus, VA
Ken Baker (572-3808 or lightfoot230@juno.com) The annual Trails Days Festival is held in Damascus, VA to honor hikers of the Appalachian Trail. Major events include a high-spirited hiker’s parade, a hiker’s talent show, a variety of live entertainment, presentations on various hiking topics, and displays by gear manufacturers, outfitters and other vendors. I plan to hike part of the "AT" and other trails in the Mount Rogers area before the festival.

May 17 (Saturday) Work trip
Monthly work trip on the ODATC section of the AT. This is an all day event. 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. Please respond by May 14th.

May 17 (Saturday) Conway River & Slaughter Trail – SNP  (B/2)
Jenni Pendergrass (221-3226 or japendergrass@hanovercounty.gov) Starting at Bootens Gap in SNP, this approximately 11 mile circuit hike takes us on an easy walk down the scenic Conway River Road and then it’s a steep climb back up to the AT on the Slaughter Trail. There are several creek crossings and one wide crossing of the Conway River so bring your Crocs and Tevas. Once we get back to the AT, we’ll hike 2 miles north past Bearfence Mountain to the parking lot. Meet at the I-64 Rockville Manakin park and ride Exit 173 at 7:30 a.m.

May 20 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting (Club Night)
ODATC potluck and member slide show. Bring your favorite dish and be prepared to travel the world with your fellow club members. Members are asked to submit up to 5 slides of your favorite strip or club related activity prior to the meeting. 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. The meeting time is moved up to 6:30 pm.

May 21 (Wednesday) High Bridge Trail State Park - Farmville  (B/3)
Jack Martin (678-8083 or rjmartiniii@gmail.com) Hike 7.8 miles Rice to Farmville over the historic High Bridge with lunch at Charley’s Waterfront Café. Hike starts at 10:00 am. Contact Jack for meet-up location (car shuttle required).
May 22 (Thursday) Jeremy's Run – SNP  (A/2)
Barbara Stewart (bleafstewart@gmail.com or (h) 271-4631;  804-502-8193 (cell day of the hike). Meet at the Elkwallow Picnic Grounds, north of Milepost 25 on the Skyline Drive, at the Jeremy’s Run Trail head sign. This strenuous 14.2 mile hike has 14 stream crossings. Bring water, food, dry socks. Camping at Mathew’s Arm campground optional. Meet at 9:30 am.

May 24 (Saturday) Insanity I Blue Ridge Mountains  (A/1)
Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net) This is the first of Randy’s three-part Insanity Series. The three hikes get progressively more difficult and to start things off Randy is leading Rocky Top, a classic 15-miler with and about 2,400 feet of climbing. You do need to be in pretty good shape for this hike. Please email Randy for more details.

May 28 (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.

May 30 (Friday) Hoover Camp aka Laurel Prong Loop - SNP  (C/3)
David Olli (864-1461 or dolli@smv.org)  A moderately difficult 7.2 mile hike with a little US history thrown in. Starting from Milam Gap off Skyline Drive we white blaze up the AT, down the Laurel Prong to President Hoover’s mountain retreat for lunch before a final climb up the picturesque, babbling brook of the Mill Prong. Group size limited to 12, no young children or pets, please.

June 1 (Sunday) High Bridge State Park - Bike Ride – Farmville  (N/A)

June 4 (Wednesday) Cold Harbor National Battlefield Park – Hanover  (D/4)
Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) The National Park Service has set up 3.5 miles of very interesting trails through this major battlefield which protected Richmond during the War for Southern Independence. The battle was June 3, 1864 and this hike is 150 years and one day after that date and I am sure the national park service will have the park in top condition. From I-295, take Exit 34 Creighton Rd. (Rte. 615) east to VA 156, right turn (South) on VA 156 for 2.5 miles to the ranger station on Cold Harbor Road. Meet at 9:50 am.

June 7 (Saturday) Jones Run Trail/Doyles River SNP  (C/3)
Sue Kropp (276-0070 or freshair82@comcast.net) This popular hike is # 24 in the PATC’s Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park 2013 book. The moderate 7.0-mile option features many picturesque waterfalls in deep gorges and a 1400-foot elevation change. It is necessary to cross Jones Run so be prepared for the creek crossing. Bring lunch and your National Park Pass if you have one. Contact Sue for time and meeting place. Hike limited to 12.

June 7 (Saturday) Insanity II AT (A/1)
Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net) This is part II of Randy’s three-part Insanity Series. Here Randy has chosen to hike the ODATC’s entire 19-mile portion of the AT. Randy isn’t certain about the elevation gain, but it isn’t trivial so you need to be in good hiking shape for this one. Please email Randy for more details.
June 8 (Sunday – Meetup) ‘Center of the Universe’ Parks (D/4)
Jim Hunt (hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com or 730-2364). Ashland has many small neighborhood parks. We will walk through many of them as we enjoy this small college town. Meet in the parking lot behind the Town Library at 201 S. Railroad Av. in downtown. Coming from I-95, take Rte. 54 West, and after the old Ashland movie theater, turn left on Virginia Street and follow the parking signs. Meet at 9:50 am.

June 11 (Wednesday) Rescheduled Fredericksburg Historic Trail (C/4)
Hank Harman’s annual favorite with Bill Tennant (282-0590 or willyten10@aol.com) Hike 5 ½ 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.

June 14 - 21 (Saturday - Saturday) 29th Annual James River Batteau Festival
Ken Baker (572-3808 or lightfoot230@juno.com) A fleet of replica batteau and various canoes and kayaks navigate the James for a week from Lynchburg to Maidens Landing in Goochland. Camping is available at stops along the way. For information about the Festival check the web. I am planning a self-supported canoe trip down the James during the Festival starting in Lynchburg and finishing a few days later probably at Scottsville. Contact me if you are interested in joining me on this trip.

June 14 (Saturday) Turk Branch/Moormans River – SNP (C/3)
Bill Tennant (804-282-0590 or willy10@aol.com). This 8 mile hike is described in the PATC’s Circuit Hikes in Shenandoah National Park. We start down the easy Moorman’s River trail then climb out of the valley on the Turk Branch Trail. After lunch we come back on a pleasant section of the AT. Not too strenuous. A Saturday walk in the woods. Optional additional 1 mile hike up Turk Mountain for a great view to the West. Bring National Park pass if available. Call Bill for meeting time and location.

June 20th - June 26th Week Backpacking Across Maryland (B/3)
Aseeyah (AK) (solitude1957@hotmail.com) Please join us on our annual trek across Maryland from Friday June 20th to Thursday, June 26th. We will hike six to nine miles each day for a total mileage of approximately 42 miles. We plan to include a mid-hike repast at the Old South Mountain Inn for dinner. This hike is limited to ten participants so please contact me as soon as possible.

Jun. 21 (Saturday) Work trip
Monthly work trip on the ODATC section of the AT. This is an all day event. 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. Please respond by Jun. 18th.

June 21 (Saturday) Insanity III Blue Ridge Mountains (A/1)
Randy Wendell (randy.wendell@verizon.net) This is part III, the finale, of Randy’s Insanity Series. The best way to describe this 20-miler is to think Bald Knob, Cold Mountain, and Mount
Pleasant. The views should be spectacular, but in all honesty there won’t be much time for sightseeing given the elevation gain of this trek. This is a tough one so you need to be in good shape and be able to tolerate potential periods of discomfort for this hike. Oh, and Happy Summer Solstice! Please email Randy for more detail.

**June 22 (Sunday Meetup) Albright loop – AT** (D/3)
David Grimes (dvgrimes.54@gmail.com or 833-8974) The hike is approximately 3 miles leaving from the Humpback Rocks parking area, circling around Dobie Mountain and returning to Humpback Rocks parking area via the AT. We will take a short side trail to Glass Hollow Overlook for views of the Rockfish Valley. The hike has a minimal amount of elevation gain / loss but does some have some rocky areas so hiking boots are advised. Bring a lunch or snack and water. For those wishing to do some additional hiking, the trail to the peak of Humpback Rocks is also accessed from the Humpback Rocks parking area where we will start and end.

**June 25 (Wednesday) Wednesday Hikes Finale @ Lake Anna State Park – Spotsylvania Co. (C/4)**
Jim Hunt (hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com or 804-730-2364). Hike mostly hardwood forest with views of the fingers of Lake Anna and creeks in the park’s interior. Bring bathing suit for the lake beach after the 7 mile hike, followed by lunch in Mineral. The Park is about one hour northwest of Richmond. Meet at the I-64 Oilville Park and Ride Exit 167 to carpool as there is a car entrance fee. Meet at 8:30 AM.

**Upcoming Activities**
November 8, 2014 (Saturday 5-8 pm) ODATC 45th Anniversary Party
Deep Run Park, Ridgefield Ballroom Henrico County

**Upcoming Programs** Sue Kropp, Contributor

**May 20, 2014. ODATC potluck and member slide show.** ODATC Club Night is a chance for you to be the star of the evening as well as time to share some good food with your fellow hikers. Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert and be prepared to travel the world with your fellow club members. Members are encouraged to submit up to 5 photos of your favorite trip or club related activity to: odatc.programs@gmail.com by May 6. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. so plan to arrive early to socialize. We’d also encourage you to bring a canned good to donate to the church’s food bank. The meeting will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church (2315 N. Parham Rd)

**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. Please bring non-perishable food items to add to their food bank.

For more information contact Sue Kropp at odatc.programs@gmail.com.
40th Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference “Hiking Through History” will be held at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA on July 17 - 24, 2015. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club is the primary host. Volunteer opportunities are available for leading hikes, presenting workshops, helping on-site during the event, and many more areas that may be of interest. Volunteer forms are available at the ATC Event Page: http://bit.ly/1dcFhPU Forms can be submitted to the Volunteer Coordinator, Tom Johnson, at volunteers2015@patc.net.

A Day in the Life – Trail Maintenance – Lori Ando Contributor

The day begins by meeting at the Park & Ride at 7:15am sharp where you’ll sign in and meet the other maintainers. Crew assignments will be discussed and car pools organized. Then, it’s heading up to the tool shed near the Humpback Visitors Center. During the drive up there is usually a stop at the Everyday Café in Charlottesville. It’s a good location to pick up lunch, if you didn’t pack one, get coffee or juice (the morning is still young) and use the facilities (this may be the last opportunity for flushies in awhile). We arrive at the tool shed around 9:15am where it’s time to quickly get organized and on to the trail. You’ll meet the crew leader, get tools from the shed, hear a safety chat and everyone’s favorite group picture will be taken. Crews are assigned to various areas of the trail and may be performing such diverse chores as blazing, trimming brush, whacking weeds, side hilling, rock removal, check step or waterbar construction, shelter and privy cleaning, stocking the privy with lime, garbage collection (it’s a shame we have to do this) and working with the sawyers. You’ll be out on the trail until 5:00 or so depending on the time of the year. While out on the trail there will be time for lunch and breaks. After a rewarding day, we meet back at the tool shed and store our tools. Time to say goodbye and head home. Those that will be stopping for dinner choose a location, which is usually Tip Top in Charlottesville, where we reminisce about our days adventures and eat a delicious, well deserved dinner. Finally, home, where you can dream about your wonderful day on the trail!

Our work trips are on the third Saturday of every month. You can reserve your spot or ask questions by emailing odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com. If you can’t make a work trip day, you can still help when hiking our section of the trail between Rockfish Gap and Reid’s Gap by picking up trash, removing small branches/twigs 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.

Welcome to New Members

ODATC would like to recognize and welcome the following new members. Current club member are encouraged to welcome and get to know them better as they join us on scheduled hikes listed above.

Seth & Cathy Levy  Maureen McKay  Richard Churray
A Salute to the Border Monitors – Lisa G. Bagby, Contributor

Attached are three images from the Border Monitoring done on Wednesday, April 9, by Mike (trail guy, I don't know his last name nor the last names of the others.), Jennifer, Margaret and me. The next time I will bring a real camera as my phone lost power fast.

2014 ODATC Board of Directors
(Area Code 804)

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<td>275-1208</td>
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<td>Dennis Schafer</td>
<td>314-2434</td>
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<td>Land Mgmt.</td>
<td>Karl Huber</td>
<td>355-4619</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:odatc.activities@gmail.com">odatc.activities@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Larry Kidd</td>
<td>784-3617</td>
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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 bi-monthly with the submission deadlines by the 15th of the pre-publication month. Club member stories and photos are welcome! Please send your material to odatc.newsletter@gmail.com.