



The Walker

The Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Volume 21, Issue 6

November/December 2013

President's Message

Greetings!!

I hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful fall weather. It is hard to believe this will be the last newsletter of 2013. In general I feel the club has had a good year with some aspects of club operations having progressed very well. We have had very good participation on trail work trips; our outreach program is moving forward; and our weekday hikes are amazing. Not really inclined to mention at this time those aspects that could have gone a little better.

Before preparing my president's message I often review past newsletters to see what I have commented on in previous issues. Seems this November-December issue has almost the same plea each year. We will be holding our Board elections at the November 19 General meeting. Unfortunately, we still have some very key positions that do not have a candidate. These include: Activities, Programs, and Newsletter. Many of the other positions that are up for election are being filled by incumbents to whom I am extremely grateful. If we cannot fill these open positions, I cannot predict what will happen to these club functions as the rest of the board will not be able to absorb all of these duties. Several current board members are relatively new club members, probably 5 years or less. There are many members of this club who have served on the board in the past and some members that perhaps feel they have nothing to offer. I ask all of you to re-consider your reasons for not volunteering for a Board position.

At our November 5 Board meeting, we will be discussing the dilemma facing the club. I anticipate the discussions to cover a wide gamut of potential reasons from frequency of board meetings to lack of information as to what the board actually does. The board has also discussed holding a planning session early next year to help establish future goals and direction of the club. Opportunities for hiking and backpacking are very different today compared to when the club first began. While trails still require maintenance and rehabilitation, even those techniques have changed significantly over time. ODATC will be holding its 45th Anniversary in 2014. If you have thoughts or ideas that you would like to share related to the future direction of our club, I invite you to join us on November 5th at 7pm at the church or email me or other board members your thoughts. If you would like to participate in the planning session, please let me know of your interest. You can contact me at odatc.president@gmail.com.

I don't want to end my message to you on what seems such a dire note. As this is the last newsletter of the year, I want to wish everyone a wonderful fall, a Happy Thanksgiving, and a Merry Christmas. Hope to see many of you at our November 19th club meeting!!

Happy Trails!

Theresa Duffey

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.

<u>Terrain</u>	<u>Distance</u>
1 = Very Strenuous	A = More than 13 miles
2 = Strenuous	B = 9 to 13 miles
3 = Moderate	C = 5 to 9 miles
4 = Easy	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*

November 6 (Wednesday) Fluvanna Heritage Trail - Fluvanna County (C/3)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). Come join us on this easy 7 mile hike along the Rivanna River bottomland and Piedmont hillside forest. We'll hike along the River in the morning. Bring a lunch and we will eat at the pole barns, visit the homestead and cemetery in the afternoon and be back in Richmond about 3 or 4 pm. Meet at the Rockville Park and Ride (The Northeast corner of Exit 173 on Interstate 64 West of Richmond, the first exit after Route 288). We'll leave promptly at 9:00 am for a one hour carpool to the Park or meet us at the Park entrance on Route 53 about 1/2 mile west of Route 15 in Palmyra at 10 am.

November 13 (Wednesday) Pole Green Park - Hanover (D/4)

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) From I-295 take Pole Green Rd East Exit for 4.1 miles, pass the Pole Green Elementary School on the left, next left on Pole Green Park La. travel 0.4 miles, right turn on Pole Green Park Dr. to parking lot. (8996 Pole Green Park Lane, Mechanicsville 23116). Visit the season's last Pole Green Farmer's Market after hike. Meet at 9:50 am.

November 16 (Saturday) Jones Mountain/Bear Church Rock - SNP (B/2)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com). This 11 mile hike in Shenandoah National Park starts from the bottom of the mountain with a nice 2.2 mile moderate incline up one of the nicest creek/cascades in the Park. Then we hike a 7 mile loop in the mountains and get to the seldom visited Bear Church Rock with unspoiled 180 degree views. The end of the hike is back down the 2.2 miles to our start. The total elevation gain is about 2000 feet but the beginning and end make it feel like a walk in the park. Call/Contact Bill for meeting time and location.

November 18 (Monday) Three Ridges Mau-Har Loop (B/2)

David Olli (864-1461, dolli@smv.org) One of my favorite long-loop hikes includes 13-miles of vigorous elevation change, couple of stream crossings, some slippery boulder spots but two grand vistas. Not for the beginner or “I think I’m in hiking shape” so check with Dave before signing on. Group size limited to 12, no young children or pets, please.

November 20 (Wednesday) Pocahontas State Park - Chesterfield (C/3)

Jeff Samuels (796-7949 or jefflsamuels@yahoo.com). Hike 5.5 miles on two of the park's most popular trails - Forest Exploration and Beaver Lake. They are wide, mostly wooded trails, with many short steep hills. Restrooms. The park entrance is on Beach Road (Rte. 655) 4 miles west of Rte. 10 (Ironbridge Rd). Nominal parking fee without park pass. Meet in the big parking lot near the pool/picnic area at 8:50 am.

November 27 (Wednesday) Virginia's New State Park– Powhatan (D/4)

Jim Hunt (730-2364 or hikerjimhunt@hotmail.com) Join us on this 5 mile hike in Virginia’s newest state park, Powhatan State Park which is on the James River. From Goochland C.H. take US 522 South to Maidens, cross the River, travel 1.3 miles, and look for Powhatan Park sign, right turn on Rte. 617. Go 1.4 miles and turn right into the Park. Go 0.7 miles, right turn into picnic area. From Southside, take US 60 west from Midlothian to US 522 North to left turn at Rte. 617 etc. Bring water. Nominal parking fee without park pass. Meet at 9:50 am.

December 4 (Wednesday) Pony Pasture area - RVA (D/4)

Martha James (883-6252 or 516-3218 or marthajames@yahoo.com) two hour hike from Pony Pasture to the wetlands and in the river area. Meet at Pony Pasture parking lot. Optional lunch at Paradise Diner. If weather is questionable, call before you come. Meet at 9:50 am.

December 9 (Monday) 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 10 or 11 miles hiking miles; little extra driving but worth the view. Group size limited to 12, no young children or pets, please.

December 11 (Wednesday) Windsor Farms @ Christmas Time – RVA (D/4)

Suzanne Halberd and Jim Metz (285-8632) Join Suzanne and Jim for the hike through Windsor Farms to see the West End homes decorated for Christmas. Meet at the Tuckahoe Women's Club (restrooms) located at 4215 Dover Rd. south of Cary St. Optional lunch afterward. Meet at 9:50 am.

December 14 (Saturday) Turk Branch/Moorman’s River – SNP (C/3)

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@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 fall woods. Optional additional 1 mile hike up Turk Mountain for a great view to the West. Bring National Park pass if available. Call/Contact Bill for meeting time and location.

December 18 (Wednesday) Town of Blackstone & Model RR Operating Layout (D/4)

Bill Weatherford (221-0369 or billweatherford@aol.com). Bill will lead a two hour hike in his boyhood railroad town 70 miles from Richmond and include Bevell's Hardware Store with a 20x58 ft. operating Lionel model railroad layout, video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTqL0kHxpKI>. Call after December 11 for carpool info and time. Bill will coordinate a carpool from Amelia at US 360 and Rte. 153, 35 miles from Richmond. Ted (218-1238) will coordinate a carpool from the Home Depot 12,300 Chattanooga Plaza, Chesterfield Crossing Shopping Center on the East (Richmond) side of Rte. 288 and Hull Street Rd. (US 360). Lunch in Blackstone. Return about 2:30 pm.

December 18 (Wednesday Night) Christmas Lights – RVA (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 6:50 PM.

December 31 (Tuesday) Classic Richmond Neighborhoods - RVA (D/4)

Ted McGarry (218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com) One in an occasional two-hour morning hikes by Richmond native and retired City Planner. Coordinator's choice: Westover Hills in South Richmond (1920's neighborhood centered on the Forest Hill Av. and Westover Hills Blvd. commercial area). Meet along 48th Street adjacent to O'Toole's Restaurant at 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Optional lunch in the hike neighborhood. Meet at 9:50 am.

Upcoming Programs **Randy Wendell, Contributor**

November 19, 2013, author and photographer Will Daniel will present latest book *My Virginia Rivers*. Rivers and photography have been in Will's blood all his life and this promises to be a wonderful evening.

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.

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

Randy Wendell at randy.wendell@verizon.net

November 19, 2013, author and photographer Will Daniel will present latest book *My Virginia Rivers*. Rivers and photography have been in Will's blood all his life and this promises to be a wonderful evening. **DON'T FORGET BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS!**

2013 ODATC Board of Directors

(Area Code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	500-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
Vice President	David Prestia	527-2001	odatc.vicepresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Leonard Atkins	275-1208	odatc.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dennis Schafer	314-2434	odatc.treasurer@gmail.com
Programs			odatc.programs@gmail.com
Land Mgmt.	Karl Huber	355-4619	odatc.landmgmt@gmail.com
Membership			
Trail Maint.	Lori Ando	397-5306	odatc.trailmaint@gmail.com
Activities			odatc.activities@gmail.com
Newsletter			odatc.newsletter@gmail.com
Outreach	David Grimes	833-8974	odatc.outreach@gmail.com
Webmaster	Larry Kidd	784-3617	odatc.webmaster@gmail.com

November 2013 Board Election

At our November General Membership Meeting, **November 19th**, we will be voting for candidates to fill various Board positions. Thus far, we have the following slate of candidates:

- **President:** Theresa Duffey
- **Treasurer:** Dennis Schafer
- **Secretary:** Leonard Atkins
- **Land Management:** Karl Huber
- **Membership:** John Spindler
- **Activities:** Jim Hunt
- **Newsletter:** open
- **Programs:** open

Requests to be nominated for those positions that are still "open" are welcome.

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.

Giving Back... Volunteer Hours

*ODATC members gave 4,224 hours to the club and to the trail. A total of 2,034 hours were spent on field work (maintenance and monitoring). The remaining hours went toward leading hikes, maintaining the website, newsletter, outreach, and board-related activities. **Thank you to the 70 volunteers who gave their time, energy, and dedication!***

You are invited on a special hike!

Camp Hoover (Rapidan Camp) Loop – SNP (B/3) – Saturday, November 9

Larry Kidd (784-3617 or ldkiddjr@comcast.net) will lead a moderate 7.6 mile loop hike with 1,200 feet elevation change in Shenandoah National Park. Starting from the parking area at Milam Gap, head south on the AT 2.7 miles; then descend on the Laurel Prong Trail 3.2 miles to the famous Hoover Camp and return by the Mill Prong Trail and the AT 1.7 miles. For more information visit the website, Hiking Upwards Camp Hoover (<http://www.hikingupward.com/snp/camphoover>).

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.

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.**