

November Election

At our November General Membership Meeting, **November 15th**, we will be voting for candidates to fill various Board positions. Thus far, we have the following slate of candidates:

- President:** Theresa Duffey
- Vice-President:** Open
- Treasurer:** Dennis Schafer
- Activities:** Jenni Pendergrass
- Newsletter:** Katie Veilleux
- Outreach:** Jay Lindsey
- Land Management:** Karl Huber
- Membership:** Open
- Programs:** Randy Wendell

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

November Meeting “Picture Parade”

Our **November 15th** meeting is one that no club member should miss! It will be election night of some new board members and our annual club business meeting. There will be an opportunity for a bit of discussion and final reports for those rotating off of the board.

In addition, we will have our old faithful “Travel Log” program. Club members are asked to submit 5 photos of trips they have taken over the past 2 years. You may submit photos for more than one trip. The photos will be downloaded to a disc & shown at the meeting. As your photos appear, you will be asked to give a short narrative about the trip/photos. This usually turns out to be a really fun event.

This will also be appetizer night. Bring one of your favorite appetizers to share. Please submit digital photos to gregandclaudia@verizon.net and if you do not have digital photos send you pictures to: Claudia Hambacker, 3915 Hickory Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235. Write your name on the back so they can be returned.

Trail Maintenance

Despite earthquakes & hurricanes, our 19.1 miles of the AT are in excellent condition; it’s all because of the dedicated, hard working volunteers who work on the trail. During a hot stretch over the summer, the Konnarock crew was here with members of ODATC. 1014.4 feet of new trail were constructed near Dripping Rock. The Konnarock weekend went great! Despite the heat, duff, rocks, trees & bees, our crew prevailed, & that Monday morning Fran painted the first official white blaze on the trail. Under Fran's careful supervision, our first official section hiker, Andy, & some of the Konnarock crew painted blazes. All this, would not have been possible without the coordination between the Konnarock & ODATC volunteers rallying together as a well soiled team. By the end of each day, everyone was truly soiled. We did say goodbye to 910.3 feet of trail, and, those of you that have thru-hiked will now need to make up this new section.

The fun continued, along with challenges, in August, September & October. Thanks to a grant from LL Bean, we received a new chainsaw & weed-whacker & have had a chance to try them out whacking back the weeds & taking care of downed trees. With the snipping and clipping out of the way, rehab chores have made it up on the list: side-hilling, renovation of waterbars, & rockwork. Check out the new rock step at Dripping Rock and let us know if it makes the climb up the stairs just off the parkway any easier. In addition, Fran has been ‘fran’tically blazing away, finishing up her famous quality blazes before the cold sets in. We’ve also had the good fortune to welcome some new maintainers on our trips. It’s been wonderful to see some new smiling faces, even at the end of the long hard workday.

Our last work trip of the year is November 19th. If you can’t make it then, you can still help by taking a hike. If you’re hiking our section of the trail between Rockfish Gap & Reeds Gap, please report any downed trees. It will be the last chance to clear the whole section before winter. We are still looking for additional section maintainers! If you’re interested, please contact Lori or Fran. Many thanks to all who have volunteered! Looking forward to our final trip of the season!!

Lori

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ODATC MISSION

- The construction & 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
- The offering of educational activities related to the need for preserving the great outdoors

P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

Dear Club Members,

My term as president is coming to an end. I have offered to continue for another 2 years. But while I would be honored to serve again, if another club member would like to give the job a try, I will be happy to assist that individual in the transition. The position is extremely rewarding yet, as with any job, not without its frustrations. Please contact me if you think this might be an opportunity you would like to pursue.

The annual Club business meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15. We have several items of business to address, including the approval of the revised ODATC Bylaws and the election of new officers to the club's Board of Directors. The revised bylaws are available for review on the club website. The candidates for the board positions are listed in this newsletter as well as on the website. We are still in need of candidates for a few positions. If you haven't served on the board in the past, maybe this is the perfect time to step up to the plate! Also, at the meeting, we will be giving out some awards of appreciation. In addition, there will be drawings for special items throughout the evening. The program will be fun as members share a few special photos of their adventures over the past year. For more details, please refer to the program update.

As I reflect upon the past 2 years, I feel as though the club is in transition and know from conversations with other AT club presidents that we are not alone. ODATC has been around for 42 years as a club. In the beginning, the purpose was to hike the AT and give underprivileged boys an outdoor experience. It was not until the latter 1970's that the club took over the maintenance of the AT south of Afton Mountain. Our section of the trail has been relocated significantly over the years to the extent I often wonder where the original AT was located in the late 1930s. In 1978, ODATC became incorporated. The purpose of that non-profit corporation encompasses the very same 3 items that comprise our club mission today.

While I don't have access to membership numbers for the past 40+ years, I am fairly certain that our membership numbers have been slowly decreasing over the last 25 years hovering around 250. While 250 members should be more than enough to support the functions of the club, there continues to be much the same core group that participates on the Board, with trail maintenance, and leading club activities/hikes. There seems to be a lot of interest in weekday hikes but not so much on weekends. However, as I say this, I know that new hikes are being added based on the notices I receive from the website. Some might find these notices annoying but I think it is a great function of the website for someone like me who isn't able to check it every day. We could still use more hike leaders for the weekends, especially folks willing to lead more moderate and possibly shorter hikes for those just getting into hiking.

I'm hopeful that our new program to sponsor a Venture Crew will eventually lead to more participation in club activities by the crew members and families. And maybe (haven't mentioned this to anyone yet) take the trail section that has lacked an overseer since last winter. We have also created a new Outreach board position to enhance recruitment and getting the word out about the club. While still an evolving position, the potential is there to improve our efforts to provide educational activities promoting outdoor recreation also.

Hard to imagine, but the next Walker will be after the holidays. I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful fall weather. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Happy Trails,
Theresa

This list of activities for November and December was current at the time *The Walker* was published. You should check the website for additional events such as films, lectures, workshops, etc. that you may also be interested in attending. **We are extremely short on weekend activity coordinators. Please consider making your next outing a club event!!** Remember to check the Events page on the website frequently for any status changes to events you are interested in or to see new activities posted after *The Walker* is published. Also, events may be closed, canceled or updated with important information at any time.

November 2 (Wednesday) University of Richmond, its Surroundings and a Social C/4

Bill Tennant (282-0590 or Willyten10@aol.com) 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. Enjoy a 5-6 mile walk around the trails and lake at the University of Richmond. Also see Civil War defenses, a City of Richmond park, the highest point in Richmond, Country Club of Virginia and surrounding neighborhoods. Bring lunch as soft drinks and beer will be provided at Bill's home after the hike.

November 5 (Saturday) Discover the Appalachian Trail

The ATC is touring the east coast to help spread the word about the A.T. in their 2011 membership drive. As part of the drive, the ATC is visiting local theaters to play the National Geographic film - *American's Wild Spaces: the Appalachian Trail*, as well as provide information about the Trail, local clubs and ways to give back (more info about the event can be found at www.appalachiantrail.org/discover). Joint ATC reps for their membership drive and film presentation at Movieland at Boulevard Square from 10:30 am – 12pm. Reserve a seat at appalachiantrail.org/discover. Use PROMO code MCLAT11 to receive \$5 off the \$30 membership special. Your registration gives you admission to the film, 1 year membership to the ATC, subscription to AT Journeys and an ATC decal and patch. ODATC will be on hand to give out information to prospective members. Let Jess Barton know if you're interested in helping.

November 9 (Tuesday) ODATC Board Meeting

Contact club President, Theresa Duffey (taduffey2054@comcast.net), for more details.

November 9 (Wednesday) Hanover Woods D/4

Martha James (883-6252 or marthajames@yahoo.com). Join me for a personal walk through the deep woods without foliage on private property in Hanover County. We'll meet at 10:00 AM at my house, 15067 Horseshoe Bridge Road, Doswell. Directions from I-95: Take the Ashland exit (Rte. 54 West), 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. Follow Rte. 686 about 2 ½ miles. The driveway is on the left across from Rehoboth Rd. Look for an ODATC sign. Optional lunch at Suzannes.

November 10 (Thursday) Cedar Run/White Oak Canyon (B/2)

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartiniii@yahoo.com) Nine (9) mile hike with views of waterfalls, cascades and high cliffs. We'll hike through two of the deepest and steepest ravines in Shenandoah National Park with substantial elevation changes. Hiking poles recommended. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am.

November 15 (Tuesday) ODATC General Membership Meeting

This will be a special annual club event where we'll enjoy photo slide presentations from trips by our members. Submit your 5 photos and prepare your own brief travelogue to present at the meeting. Plan to arrive around 6:30 at Trinity Lutheran Church – 2315 N. Parham Rd. to chat with other club members before the meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

November 16 (Wednesday) Ashland Trolley Car Line and RMC D/4

Jim Hunt (730-2364). Meet at 10:00 AM at Ashland Coffee and Tea. Take I-95 North to the Ashland exit Rte. 54 West to town center and cross over the railroad tracks, first right into the parking lot. The 5 mile hike will cover neighborhoods along the former Richmond-Ashland trolley car line and the campus of Randolph Macon College. Optional lunch at the campus cafeteria or Suzannes.

November 19 (Saturday) South River Falls Day Hike B/2

(Randy Wendell; Randy.Wendell@verizon.net)

Join Randy for this up-close and personal encounter with South River Falls, which is easily the best water fall in the central section of the Shenandoah National Park. This is a 10-miler and Randy rates it as strenuous because of the 1,800 foot elevation gain, which pretty much all happens at the end of the hike. Contact Randy for more details

November 19 (Saturday) Trail Maintenance Work Trip

Lori Ando (804-397-5306 or l1a043022@gmail.com). Trail maintenance on the ODATC section of the AT. Call Lori or Fran Leckie (270-6908) for details.

A C T I V I T I E S**November 22 (Tuesday) Turk Branch/Moormans River (B/3)**

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartinii@yahoo.com)

Ten (10) mile hike starts at Jarman Gap, follows the Appalachian Trail north to Turk Gap, crosses Skyline Drive and descends to the South Fork of Moormans River. Includes side trip to the summit of Turk Mountain. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am.

November 30 (Wednesday) Richmond National Battlefield Park-Varina C-4

Ted McGarry (C 218-1238 or tedmcgarry@juno.com). Meet at 9:30 AM at the Fort Harrison Visitor Center parking lot. Take Rte. 5 to Battlefield Park Rd. to the Visitor Center. Detailed directions are available by email. Two and a half hour hike on a lightly used portion of Battlefield Park Road and Osborne Tnpk. to Osborne Landing Park (heated bathrooms) and return. Optional lunch at Portabellas.

December 7 (Wednesday) The Neighborhoods of Libbie and Grove D/4

Bill Tennant (282-00590 or willyten10@aol.com). Meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot behind the Westhampton Theater on Grove near Libbie in the City's West End. Hike a 5 mile loop through this residential community and explore the campuses of Episcopal and Catholic Schools, Protestant and Catholic Churches and The Country Club of Va. All within walking distance of this traditional neighborhood retail center. Optional lunch on "the Avenues".

December 8 (Thursday) South River Falls (B/3)

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartinii@yahoo.com) Hike (10 miles) north on the Appalachian Trail, pass Kites Deadening (former farm), down South River Falls Trail through a deep wooded gorge to the third highest waterfall in the Shenandoah National Park. On the return leg, pass the Upper Pococsin Mission and a cemetery. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am.

December 11 (Sunday) Powhatan Wildlife Management Area Day Hike (B/3)

Ken Baker (lightfoot230@juno.com or 804-749-3625) Clockwise circumferential circuit hike through the gently rolling forest and open lands of the Powhatan WMA. Total distance about 10 to 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. Should finish hike at about 2 to 3 PM. Bring a day pack with water, lunch, snacks, etc. Trail may be wet and muddy in a few places.

December 14 (Wednesday) South of Cary Street (D/4)

Suzanne Hallberg (H 285-6632 C 955-9510) Join our newest Wednesday hike coordinator at 10:00 AM in front of Grace Baptist Church, 4200 Dover Road. Hike the neighborhoods of Windsor Farms, Hampton and Hillcrest. Optional inexpensive lunch in the Fan.

December 21 (Wednesday Night) Christmas Lights (D/4)

Hank Harmon (C 347-3744). Meet at 7:00 PM in the Lombardy Street parking lot behind St. John's United Church of Christ located between Stuart Circle and Grace Street. Annual hike to see the Christmas lights in Downtown Richmond. Four mile round trip to the James Center usually with a return stop for refreshments.

December 20 (Tuesday) Big Run Loop Trail (C/3)

Jack Martin (804/678-8083 or rjmartinii@yahoo.com) Hike (7 miles) from Big Run Overlook on the Skyline Drive to the upper end of Big Run Valley, climb onto the ridge that defines Big Run Watershed, pickup the Appalachian Trail and parallel Skyline Drive back to the overlook. Bring a lunch. Meet at Oilville Park & Ride (I-64 West) at 8:30 am.

December 28 (Wednesday) James River Loop North + South Bank (C/3)

Jim Hunt (730-2364) Meet at 10:00 AM 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. This 7 mile hike starts on the trail on the north side of the River, crosses the Boulevard Bridge, proceeds through James River Park and re-crosses the River over Belle Isle, ending at the cars.

January 21 - 22 (Saturday & Sunday) Paul Wolf Shelter Freezeree Backpacking Trip (C/2)

Ken Baker (lightfoot230@juno.com or 804-749-3625) Tired of cabin fever? Then get out for our annual winter backpacking and birthday celebration (for anyone with a January birthday) trip. Rob Duesberry plans to cook a pot of his infamous road kill stew over a campfire and we may even bake a cake (a small donation requested for dinner). A good test of your winter backpacking gear and skills. About a 5 mile hike each day.

ODATC Hike Rating Codes

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

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.



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 (60-75 miles approx)

\$15+ per rider for travel beyond Charlottesville (over 75 miles)

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 at 12020 West Broad St., Henrico, VA 23233 (in front of Hilton West of Short Pump Towne Center.) in addition to their locations at Chesterfield Towne Ctr. and 10164 Broad St.

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 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.

Membership & Email Address

Be sure to check our website www.odatc.net and update your profile, especially if you have changed your email address! We want to be able to contact you regarding special events or current news!

Also, if you need to renew your membership, you can do it online! If you need any help, please contact our webmaster!

Tee Shirts

We have a variety of Tee Shirts available for purchase: the blue shirts have the round logo; the grey shirts have the green embroidered ODATC logo; the olive shirts have white embroidered ODATC logo & are tailored for women!

- blue S/S \$14.00 Gray S/S \$16.00
- blue L/S \$16.00 Olive S/S \$18.00

Contact Greg (sendit2greg@verizon.net) for more information.

2 0 1 1 O D A T C B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S

(area code 804)

President	Theresa Duffey	550-0955	odatc.president@gmail.com
Vice-President	Open		
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Past President	David Olli	864-1461	dolli@smv.org

ODATC and ATC

ODATC is a maintenance club and a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). Annual ODATC dues are \$15 for individuals & \$20 for families. Lifetime membership is \$250. Renewals are due in January; forms can be found online. *The Walker* is published bi-monthly with submission deadlines by the 15th of the publication month.

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesdays of September, November, January, March and May. The next meeting is **November 15th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** at Trinity Lutheran Church, **2315 N. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23229**. Bring a friend!



THE WALKER

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Newsletter of the Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Richmond, Virginia

www.odatc.net