



THE HAPPY HIKER

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Responsibilities and Challenges

As I begin to write this article for the Happy Hiker, I realize that a whole year has passed since I first became your president. It's been a fruitful year for the AHC, and as the year winds down, I want to express my appreciation for all our members who consistently devote their time and energy to fulfilling the club's many objectives. We can all be proud of what we've accomplished this year: in addition to sharing time together on hikes and the other activities for which we exist as a club, we have contributed numerous volunteer hours to maintain our local hiking trails, upgrade them when this is appropriate, and to assure that these priceless natural resources will be available for generations to come. It never ceases to amaze me how you people come together when there is work to be done. For this I am truly thankful. It has made my job so much easier.

During the past year, I was lucky to experience some stunningly beautiful trails which could be tragically in jeopardy were it not for others like us, devotees of the great outdoors, who continually push for their maintenance and preservation. I had the opportunity to hike in the Wind River Range in Wyoming, and in Congaree National Park in South Carolina, among other new and interesting places, and I marvel at the foresight, inventiveness, and generosity of the caretakers of these glorious trails, and the passion they had to assure that they would always be accessible for all of us to use. I have no idea who these people are, but in my heart I thank them for making these treasures available to me. I have no doubt that the hikers who pass through our section of the AT think the same thing about us, and are likewise grateful for our participation in this process. The positive impact we have on the hiking community can never be minimized.

This being the season of celebrations and thankfulness, we can look back on our accomplishments with pride and gratitude, but I'd be remiss not to encourage a look ahead to what the new year holds. I love to look at a new calendar, all the little blocks clear (no meetings, appointments, activities), and see the empty canvas awaiting our masterful touch. The question is, what can each of us do to assure that it becomes a masterpiece? As in other years, time will fill in the empty spaces, and eventually a full plate of responsibilities will appear. Our club calendar will have the need for many hands to make it work, and I know I can count on you all again to make the AHC agenda a success.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lucy Cantwell
AHC President

Allentown Hiking Club

P.O.Box 1542 — Allentown, Pa 18105-1542

Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

www.allentownhikingclub.org

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Deadlines for the Spring 2014 Newsletter & Schedule

Happy Hiker Newsletter

Wednesday February 26, 2013

Activity Schedule

Wednesday March 5, 2013

Please forward all club related articles, thoughts, and items to the Newsletter Editor by mail or, preferably, by email. Send all hiking schedule activities to the Hiking Schedule Coordinator.

Upcoming Programs at the AHC Meetings

In addition to the normal business meeting there is also generally a presentation which is related in some way to the club's activities. Following the presentation there will be a break for refreshments.

January 1st Mercedes Jurkiewicz and Ron Kieffer -slide presentation on their trip to the Adirondacks in spite of Hurricane Sandy

February 5th Paula Uhrin, slide presentation on her African trip, "Memories from Morocco", or "Hump Day".

March 5th Business meeting and scheduling night for April, May & June activities for the Spring Happy Hiker.

Welcome to Our New Members! - Winter 2014

Robert Vasko-Allentown, PA

Tamara Rodriguez & Roman Diaz-
Allentown, PA

Denise Stewart-Easton, PA

Leonard Schmidt-Lansdale, PA

Gerald Sinclair & Kathleen Jones-
Wenonah, NJ

Alma Schondorfer-Allentown, PA

Michael Keglovits & Pam Hoffner-

Bill & Barb Taylor-Fogelsville, PA

Our Greatest Journey-Around the World In...A Lot of Steps

Currently 10 months into his 7-year journey, journalist Paul Salopek plans to walk 21,000 miles total — from Africa to the Middle East, across Asia, down through Alaska and all the way to Tierra del Fuego. He calls it the "Out of Eden Walk" because the idea is to follow the path of human migration. Read more about his hike in December's National Geographic Magazine.

AHC Contributes Hours to Trail Maintenance and Other Activities for the AT in 2013

The Allentown Hiking Club maintains 10.3 miles of the Appalachian Trail, from Bake Oven Knob Road to Tri County Corner. In addition to trail maintenance, club members maintain and repair the Allentown and G.W. Outerbridge Shelters and other structures, monitor the trail corridor and invasive species, and work closely with the ATC regional partnership committees. This year, the Allentown Hiking Club had 34 members contribute 1436 hours of work and 283 travel hours on these and other activities related to keeping the Appalachian Trail open.



The Adventures of Mary Ann and Janet on the MidState Trail*

(*Continuation of story from Fall 2013 Happy Hiker)

By Janet Goloub

Wednesday we stayed overnight on the south shore at Lake Cowanesque, Northern Tioga County.

Thursday. We left a car there and drove to the Ives Recreational Area of Hammond Lake to start hiking back to Lake Cowanesque. We got started all right, but about 2 miles along a road, we came to a barrier to going into woods. Lots of gas drilling goes on in this area, and a sign said that there was a detour around such a site in the woods, but it included crossing a creek that MA didn't want to cross because it'd be high water. There were a couple creeks like that and some of our hiking got a little strange because of it. And now it was a matter of doing what?

We backtracked to where MA could sit down in a very nice cemetery, and I walked to my car so we could drive the 2.5-mile detour on the road since we didn't want to do the woods/creek detour. Soon we finished that and looked for blazes - none. No one in houses we passed had heard of the MST. We were looking for an RV camp, and finally a man told us how to get there, although he didn't know about the MST; almost immediately after leaving him MA spotted a blaze on a tree. Blazes disappeared again at the (newly renamed; not in guidebook or updates) RV camp, but a man there told us where to go, and we parked the car and went into the woods for a pleasant 3+ miles to the other car. Except for a short mile on a highway to the south shore of the lake with so much debris it could have used a maintenance day. We saw wildlife in the woods - 3 horses who stared at us as we passed.

Friday. We parked our cars in the Ives Recreation Area for the night. We saw another starry sky that night. No matter how weird the days were, seeing all those stars once I had bedded down was just wonderful. The next morning we had a hard time finding the trailhead for our start in Hills Creek State Park because the road to it was barricaded; closed for the season. But we learned that we should park our car there and walk to the trailhead, about .3 mile. The hike itself started with a long and arduous climb for both of us, even though it wasn't steep. Then it was very pleasant through a lot of forest before it went back down to the end in the Ives Recreation Area.

We scouted the next day's starting trailhead immediately, a church parking lot outside Wellsboro, available to MST hikers except on Sundays, then back to Hills Creek for our overnight in their excess parking lot., no amenities except darkness. A warm night, even though it rained hard the sky cleared up so that I saw Orion overhead in the wee hours.

Saturday. Having driven down to the church in the morning, we started in grass, and turned off the trail quite soon, misreading a blaze (MA) and not even seeing it (me). About 20 minutes later we were back on it and into a pasture entered by getting over, through or under a barbed wire. There we dodged cow pies, "tussock-hopped," and admired the herd of cattle off yonder. One of my sticks broke in the soggy, but someone had left one for me at the end of the pasture. After a while on trail it was time to get lost again, and that took another 20-25 minutes. We'd misread a blaze again and were in a field without good blazing.

To explain some about the blazes, we'd got used to poor blazing in parts of the MST, so weren't surprised if we didn't see one right away. The MST uses standard 2"x6" blazes, painted orange. At the start of this section the first blaze in otherwise grass was an orange strip on a 1" diameter seedling tree. Later, again in grass, an orange stripe was painted on a branch sticking out from woods; the trail was too far from the trees for a blaze on a trunk to show.

Back into woods, the rest of the hike was very pleasant except for a large drilling pad in a cornfield just outside the woods. But in no time at all we were back in Hills Creek St. Pk., got into the car and drove back to the church for the night. No amenities in Hills Creek? Here, our dining area included a large tractor tire that served nicely as chairs for both of us.

Sunday. Leaving the parking lot early enough not to interfere with the church, we had a kind of unconnected section. The guidebook was confusing; MA hadn't been able to do her usual detailed preplanning. And she still wasn't feeling really well. We did have a lot of help from Ginny Musser from her earlier MST hike. But this day, our big help came from the Hills Creek park office, where we were able to get a very good Tioga County map with the MST on it, plus explanations from the employee there. We started out, sort of knowing where we were going.

Continued Spring 2014 Happy Hiker





Ed Ritter, Dan Sauter, Nick Rosato and Carl Griffin install the fire ring.

G.W. Outerbridge Fire Ring

Since the fire ring at the Allentown Shelter seems to be working out pretty well (see Winter 2013 Happy Hiker), another fire ring, this one fabricated from a combine wheel, was installed this fall at the G.W. Outerbridge Shelter. These metal fire rings prevent the previous rudimentary stone ones from growing in size and moving too close to the wooden shelters. They will also serve to keep the area around the shelters neater.

Placement of fire ring relative to the shelter.



Trail to Every Classroom

by Barbara Wiemann

The Trail to Every Classroom is an Appalachian Trail Conservancy/National Park Service initiative to educate youth about the trail, conservation, ecology, and to get students outdoors on the AT. Teachers attend a week-long training session in West Virginia and two weekend workshops to learn techniques to integrate the AT into their curriculums.

Alison Panik, a fifth grade teacher from the Seven Generations Charter School in Emmaus, graduated from the program this year. On October 25, I accompanied 40+ students on their first Appalachian Trail hike to Bake Oven Knob and Bear Rocks. The students examined the graffiti at Bake Oven and brainstormed ideas for deterring this kind of behavior and for educating trail users about proper outdoor ethics. During lunch on the rocks near the Knife Edge, students entered their impressions of the day's activities into their journals.

In Memory of Dave "Frenchy" Hoffman

by Mike "Starman" Benyo

Frenchy lived in Alburtis with his family, Andrea, Chas and wife, Barbara. He was 49 years old when he passed and will be missed by many. He worked as an electronics technician for Communication Systems, Inc. in Allentown, PA.

I first met Frenchy on the AHC Spring Maintenance Hike and I knew he was special. We did some hiking together and soon we were out all the time. After some mentoring from club legends Harold Croxton, Frank Bertalan, Earl Raub, Ginny Musser, Barb Weimann, Dick Snyder, Janet Goloub and Ed Ritter, Frenchy became a hike leader. He became a trail maintainer and boundary monitor and also served two years as vice president of AHC. He worked on the 309 relo as well as the new privy and shelter projects, always leading the way.

Over the years I attended several ATC conferences with Frenchy and we were fortunate to meet other trail legends. They included Earl Shaffer, Gene Espy, Warren Doyle, Ward Leonard and Ed Garvery, to name a few.

Frenchy was also a member of the BMECC and worked on several of their projects, also maintaining the trail below tri-county corner. He worked with George Schellenberger on many maintenance projects on the A.T. We walked thousands of miles over the years with Frenchy always trying to come up with new ideas for the club to become better, again always leading the way.

There are many ways you could honor a person's memory, cards, money, flowers and these are all fine ways. But in this case I think the best way would be to do what Frenchy did, lead hikes, become a trail maintainer or boundary monitor or club officer. I know he would like that.

I know I'll meet Frenchy on some other trail someday and I'll say, "Hey Frenchy lead the way". After many, many miles of hiking and maintaining trail we wrote a little ditty and it goes like this:



*Up before your crew Orion's fadin' with the grey,
Meetin' your partner south of the summit
Clearin' trail on a brand new day.
Past switchbacks, springs and shelters
White blazes lead the way
You're an Appalachian Trail maintainer
The memories are your pay.*

Editor's Note: In recognition of his years of faithful dedication and service to the Appalachian Trail and AHC, the Allentown Hiking Club made a donation to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in memory of Dave.



Border Patrol

by Barbara Wiemann



Boundary Crew

Club members Nick Rosato (in cab) and John McCarty (on the left) and ATC staff Nicole Wooten, Glenn Nelson, and Kevin Simpson inspect the abandoned track loader that encroaches on NPS land near the summit of Blue Mountain just off PA 309. We also checked the wood pile that straddles NPS land on the east side of PA 309. Using deed descriptions and compasses, we walked the approximate location of the unsurveyed NPS boundary with Blue Mountain Summit Restaurant property to confirm that the Appalachian Trail is located on NPS land.

Photo by Barbara Wiemann

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, AND RENEWALS MUST BE MADE BEFORE JANUARY 31ST TO STAY ON THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. DUES CAN BE PAID AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OR MAILED TO THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. HOUSEHOLD DUES (MORE THAN ONE MEMBER PER ADDRESS) ARE \$15.00.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Paula Uhrin: 283 Ridgeview Drive, Alburtis Pa. 18011

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

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PHONE:

RENEWAL

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NEW

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EMAIL:

_____ Dues @\$10.00 / \$15.00 Household

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SML MED LRG XLG

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SML MED LRG

XLG

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_____ Club T-shirt @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 shipping ea.

_____ Club golf shirt @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 shipping ea.

_____ Club Embroidered patch @ \$1.50 + \$.75 shipping ea.

_____ Club window decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping ea

_____ Club window cling decal @ \$2.50 + \$.75 shipping ea

Checks payable to "Allentown hiking Club"

Total enclosed _____

☐ Yes - Please sign me up for the Allentown Hiking Club's email list --- the AHC Forum

