

MRATC Annual Meeting Minutes

Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club

P.O.Box 789 Damascus VA 24236-3101

Annual MEETING February 24, 2018 St. John Lutheran Church

Abingdon, VA (following potluck dinner)

Minutes were recorded and written by Mary Davis, MRATC Secretary

Prior to the meeting, Anne Maio pointed out sign-up sheets for upcoming events: Abingdon Earth Day-April 21, VA Creeper Fest-April 28, Damascus Appalachian Trail Days-May 18-20, Hardcore-May 20-21.

34 ATTENDEES: Ron Bobko, Edie Bobko, Anne Maio, Janet Gibbons, David Hatcher, George Dickert, Ina Price, Jim Warden, Jennie Hauser, Gray Hauser, Isaac Peters, Whitney Osborne, Mary Davis, Gerald Davis, Gilda Keller, Jeff Donahue, Maria Salgado, Bunny Medeiros, Terry Walker, Kathy Walker, Bob Lewis, Sharon Lewis, Bill Hurlebaus, Alice Hurlebaus, Sharon Trumbley, Jim Heaney, Marilyn Thomas, David Thomas, Bob Wolfe, Joanna Wolfe, Bascom Pratt, Susie Pratt, George Kilgore, Betty Kilgore, Doug Levin, Stephen Hmurciak (USFS).

Anne Maio, Administrative Assistant, called the meeting to order at 7 pm and gave an overview of 2017.

- 28 new people joined the club in 2017
- Main projects
 - Straight Branch Bridge - The club thanked Doug Levin and Ron Bobko for their time and expertise leading this project.
 - Hardcore (2nd year) - Facilitation of the Hardcore projects requires much work and planning including meals, transportation, etc. This club activity was brought together well with cooperation of many members. 2018 we will be transporting Hardcore participants to Wilburn Ridge in Grayson Highlands State Park.
 - Late Summer Trail relocation of Straight Branch Trail and preparation for new bridge.
 - Youth Involvement - Included work with the Holston HS Key Club doing trail maintenance along the Straight Branch to Saunders Trail, Emory and Henry Women's Basketball team digging a new pit toilet at Saunders (a very difficult job due to the lack of rain this fall). Also, ALDHA worked on a Privy at Lost Mountain as well as completing some tread repair.
 - Participation in festivals included: VA Creeper Trail Fest-April, Abingdon Earth Day-April, and Trail Days-May

- Rare Plant Workshop facilitated by Connor McBane from ATC. He will be doing another workshop for those interested on May 5, 2018.

Treasurers Report -Kathy Walker Kathy reported that with Doug Levin's guidance we have invested in Vanguard. Our expenditures are \$7432.06 and our current available balance is \$4817.18

ATC Volunteer Awards - presented by Doug Levin and Ron Bobko for Volunteer hours registered between October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017.

- Pin 8-99 Hours:** Brian Allgood, Edie Bobko, Ron Bobko, Ashely Cannon, Steven Cannon, Frank deNobriga, Megan deNobriga, Beth Fairbanks, Bonnie Harrington, Jim Heaney, Chris McConnel, Matt McEnderfer, Melody Poe, Josh Stovall, Gloria Surber, and Judy Wilson.

- Patch 100-499 Hours:** Ron Bobko, Rick Brakeman, Gray Hauser, Jim Heaney, Steve Panella, Maria Salgado

- Presidential Certificate of Recognition -4000 Hours of Volunteer Service:** This award was presented to George Kilgore for 4005 Hours of service.

MRATC Trail Club Forest Service Volunteer Awards 2016-17 Season -Awards presented by Stephen Hmurciak from the Forest Service and Doug Levin.

- 50 Hour Patch: Edie Bobko, Ron Bobko, Gray Hauser, Jim Heaney
- 100 Hour Bar: Ron Bobko, Rick Brakeman, Gray Hauser, Jim Heaney, Steve Panella, Maria Salgado
- 200 Hour Bar: Ron Bobko, Gerald Davis, Janet Gibbons
- 300 Hour Bar: Ron Bobko, Jim Warden
- 600 Hour Bar: Ed Clayton
- 900 Hour Bar: Judith Foster, Sharon Trumbley

Doug Levin recognized the following individuals for reaching over 1000 hours of Volunteer Service (Something Doug refers to as the Donut Hole of Service hours, as there is no physical award for the magnificent mark.

Aubrey Arrington-1898, Carol Broderson-1193.5, Will Corbin-1322, George Dickert-1453.5, Doug Levin-1521.5, Anne Maio-9354.5, Anna Sherrill-1023.5, Denny Troth-1359, and Terry Walker-2226.8 (.8? Terry is precise).

Other Club Awards: Doug Levin presented Gray Hauser with an award for completing the Appalachian Trail and Anne Maio presented **Bridge Master** awards to Ron Bobko and Doug Levin for their outstanding work and coordination of the Straight Branch Bridge job.

Explanation of New Club Steering Committee Leadership Model - Ann Maio explained the history of developing a new steering committee model to be in place as a trial for 2018. The club was having a difficult time recruiting anyone to take on the President and Vice President duties of the original model. The steering committee model was explained by Anne. (See attached Steering committee model attached). The floor was opened for questions concerning the new model.

- David Thomas asked a question concerning the new model's point of contact concerning documents such as 501C3 and other administrative interests. Who would run the board meetings? Anne explained the treasurer would continue to work with all financial documents. The meetings would be run by either the administrative assistant or the specific lead Coordinator, eg. Coordinator for Trails, if the meeting focused on a particular area of club coordinators responsibilities. Anne reiterated this would be a trial year and we will not modify our bylaws.

Nominations for Steering Committee 2018: Kathy Walker and Sharon Trumbley presented all nominations. A motion was presented from the floor to accept all nomination by David Thomas and club members voted in affirmation unanimously.

Upcoming Events for 2018 were presented by Anne Maio.

- March 9-11 - Southern Partnership Meeting @ Hungry Mother State Park
- March 23 - Meeting to plan for club Hardcore support - Damascus Town Hall, 10am
- April 11 - next MRATC meeting - Abingdon Library 7pm
- April 21-Abingdon's Earth Day (club booth)
- April 28-VA Creeper Fest (club booth)
- May 5-rare plant monitoring training with Connor McBane (ATC)
- May 11-13 Naturalist Rally
- May 18-20 Damascus Appalachian Trail Days (booth, parade)
- May 20-21 Hardcore trail work project (transportation and food) Wilburn Ridge
- August 10-12 Leadership Conference Shepherdstown WV (1-2 club reps from board)

Other Business:

-Doug Levin informed the club that volunteer hours run from October to September

-Will Corbin donated tools to the club.

-Kathy Walker reminded members to check Amazon smile with our club info so we may benefit financially as well as AT license plates. The club acknowledged Kathy Walker for all the hard work she does as treasurer.

A motion was made by Bill Hurlebaus to adjourn the meeting and accepted by all in attendance.

(See Steering Committee Leadership Model and MRATC Slate for Election below)

(Rev. Jan. 15, 2018)

Steering Committee model for MRATC Leadership – with names of committee volunteers:

I. Coordinator for Trails: **Doug Levin** (voting Board member, elected as a Board member by membership.) Oversees the following and **coordinates work of a committee** to do trail work planning and supervision.

Trail work planning, including suggesting projects for special groups (ex. Hardcore, Boy Scouts, etc.)
Work with Youth Subcommittee Coordinator as appropriate

Trail work supervision, training and safety

Trail section monitor supervision and training

Club's Konnarock plans

Prepares (or has committee member prepare) grant applications to ATC as needed for materials for projects

Communicates about trail issues with ATC, Forest Service, Grayson Highlands St. Park

ATC Ridgerunner contact

Primary communicator from club to Forest Service

Sends information relating to trail work and scheduling to Activities Coordinator and to Secretary for emailing to club members and reports on trail work and planning at meetings

Submits information/articles relating to trail work to club newsletter

Reports additions to trail structures to NPS

Boundary checking and reporting

Names of volunteers for Trails Committee: Jim Warden, Gray Hauser, Terry Walker, Ron Bobko

Ad hoc Subcommittee for Hardcore 2018: Ask George Dickert, George Kilgore, Terry Walker, Anne Maio

II. Coordinator for Outreach: **Whitney Osborne** (voting Board member, elected as a Board member by membership). **Oversees a committee, each member responsible for one or more of the following:**

Newsletter, Website and Facebook content and suggestions (**Mary Davis – Facebook; Denny Troth – Newsletter; Pat Hensley, Website**). People in Newsletter, Website and Facebook positions are annually appointed by the Board.

Subcommittee for Youth engagement (coordinate service projects with Trails Coordinator) – **Mary Davis, Coordinator; Janet Gibbons; Donna Barkley; Whitney Osborne, Isaac Peters** (Coordinator for Youth engagement is annually appointed by the Board.)

AT Communities (Abingdon, Damascus, Marion/Smyth County) – is the contact, and helps with event planning

Bill Hurlebaus – Marion; Anne Maio – Damascus (also Judith Foster); Abingdon _____

Events staffing – solicits help from other club members **Janet Gibbons, Whitney Osborne, Bunny Medeiros, Anne Maio.**

Sends dates for club events to person preparing Activity Schedule for newsletter quarterly.

Damascus Trail Center development (works with Town and ATC) – **Anne Maio; later add Judith Foster)**

Publicity and public relations, club brochures

III. Coordinator for Natural Resources and Preservation: **Carol Broderson** (voting Board member, elected as a Board member by membership). Oversees the following. May work with committee as needed.

Natural resources (rare plants, invasive plants, phenology, etc.) – coordinates with ATC

Open spaces and vistas – planning (Coordinates with Trails Coordinator and ATC and Forest Service)

Names of volunteers for committee members

Rare plants: Jim Warden, Sharon Trumbley, Felicia Mitchell, Cecelia Mathis

IV. Coordinator for Club Recreational Activities: **Sharon Trumbley** (voting Board member, elected as a Board member by membership.) Responsible for the following:

Works with other club members to offer recreational hikes – other committee members: **Judith Foster, Anna Sherrill**

Prepares Activity Schedule for newsletter (to include information from the Trails, Conservation and Outreach coordinators)

Makes arrangements for club social events & potlucks and solicits club members' help - **Names of committee members: Jim Warden & Kathy Walker (potlucks); Anna Sherrill.**

V. RPC Rep. and Alternate (voting Board members, elected as Board members by membership)

Rep.: Terry Walker

Alternates: Bill Hurlebaus. Gerry Davis

Responsible for being the link between the ATC and the Steering Committee. (If the ATC happens to contact a member of the Steering Committee, he/she would loop in the RPC reps.)

Requires constant communication, most by email.

Requires attention to communications with the ATC, passing these on to the appropriate club Coordinator right away so information is disseminated and issues are addressed. (If it's specifically a Trail issue, the Coordinator for Trails; if it's an AT Community subject, the Coordinator for Outreach, etc.; issues of club-wide concern: to Secretary to disseminate)

If specific Coordinators have a question for the ATC, they might want to contact the appropriate person in VARO directly.

VI. General Club Administration group: Secretary, Treasurer, Timekeeper, Membership Coordinator, Administrative Assistant

(Administrative Assistant, Membership Coordinator and Timekeeper are appointed by the Board annually. Secretary and Treasurer are elected by membership every two years and are voting Board members.)

Secretary (**Mary Davis**) sends updates, approximately weekly, to club members with email addresses. Records minutes of club meetings and disseminates to members via email.

Treasurer (**Kathy Walker**) keeps club's financial records, pays bills, and reports financial information to club at meetings or as requested. Receives dues from new and renewing members and notifies Membership Coordinator. Files IRS online 501 form and VA Annual Rept. annually.

Timekeeper (**Ron Bobko**) keeps monthly records of submitted volunteer hours and reports these to ATC and F.S. annually and to Trails Coordinator and Secretary (for backup) monthly. Requests relevant patches, bars, etc. from ATC and F.S. to be given to club members.

Membership Coordinator (**Sharon Trumbley**): Updates club membership list and sends to Coordinators at least quarterly and to Treasurer and Secretary whenever there is a change. Prepares and sends membership cards with letter to new and renewing members. Sends New Member Handbook and current newsletter to new members.

Club Administrative Assistant prepares agenda (and makes copies) for meetings, based on submissions from Steering Committee Coordinators, submits to Secretary for dissemination by email in advance, and notifies Agency Partners. Assures that there is an arranged meeting place and chairperson for a particular meeting (one of the Coordinators), or chairs it. Secures a Nominating Committee for Coordinators and other Board Members to be elected. Arranges for Board to discuss and resolve filling of any interim vacancies. Other administrative duties, such as making newsletter labels, producing annual list of club officers/directors/coordinators, as needed to help Secretary, Coordinator for Recreational Activities, and Coordinator for Outreach. (**Anne Maio**)

Notes:

The entire Board will continue to be consulted on club issues and will be the voting body as it has been in the past, along with the Secretary and Treasurer.

Some Board members may be elected by the membership to Coordinator positions and take on those responsibilities, with the help of other club members. If a member nominated for a Coordinator is not already a Board member, this person would automatically be on the slate to be elected as a Board member.

Coordinator vacancies would be handled in the same way as officers and Board member vacancies in any other regular organization: appointment of someone by the Board on an interim basis until election by the membership at the next Annual Meeting.

Some people may want to serve as one of the Coordinators and also be on a committee under a different Coordinator, according to their interests and enthusiasm. Other club members may be asked, or may volunteer, to be on committees. Committee members do not have to be elected by the club; only the Coordinator needs to be elected. Some committee members (Newsletter, Timekeeper, Website, Membership, etc.) are annual appointments by the Board, to be sure these responsibilities are covered.

The club would form a Nominating Committee as it has traditionally done and develop a slate for the Coordinator positions and other Board members, as well as club Secretary and Treasurer, to be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

In order for this model to work without resulting in poor connections with the ATC and Forest Service and poor communication with club members, it would depend on close and frequent communication among Coordinators and could also require their holding extra meetings if issues can't be addressed well by email.

The Chair for meetings could be rotated among Coordinators, or could be the Administrative Assistant.

MRATC Slate for election, Feb. 24, 2018

(All **officers, directors and coordinators** (under the new Steering Committee leadership model) are Board members and have voting privileges.)

Officers to be elected or re-elected:

Treasurer-Kathy Walker (new term 2018-2020)

Secretary – Mary Davis (2018-2020)

Coordinators (Board Members) to be elected for 2018-2020:

Doug Levin - Trails Coordinator

Whitney Osborne – Outreach Coordinator

Carol Broderson - Natural Resources Coordinator

Sharon Trumbley - Coordinator for Club Recreational Activities

Terry Walker - RPC Representative

Other Board Members to be elected or re-elected for 2018 – 2020:

George Dickert, Director

George Kilgore, Director

Anne Maio, Director

Edie Bobko, Director

Gerry Davis, Director and one of two RPC Alternates

Isaac Peters, Director

Directors whose terms have one year to go – until 2019, so they are not being elected this year:

Jim Warden

Bill Hurlebaus (one of two RPC Alternates)

Stepping down: (not to be re-elected in 2018): Jerry McDowell

Other Task-coordinator positions (1-year appointments by the Board, 2018):

Membership: Sharon Trumbley

Timekeeper: Ron Bobko

Administrative Assistant: Anne Maio

Newsletter: Denny Troth

Website: Pat Hensley

Facebook: Mary Davis

Youth engagement: Mary Davis (and committee)