

The Long Distance Hiker

The Newsletter of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association



Volume 18, Number 3

"ALDHA News That's Fit to Print Since 1983"

Fall 2007

ALDHA's 2007 Gathering has a new Gettysburg Address!

October 5 - 7

Gettysburg College

One score and five years ago, our Elders brought forth upon these Appalachians a new Association, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that Not All Who Wander Are Lost.

On October 5-7, 2007, we shall once again gather our wandering tribe, this time in the historic hamlet of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

So all ye many Long Distance Hikers and Dreamers,
BE THERE
OR BE SQUARE!



Photo: Bill O'Brien

We have a fantastic venue and program shaping up for our 26th Gathering. The central location on the AT, just a short 15 minute drive from Wood Chuck's midway marker on the trail, should ensure a good, if not record, turnout for the event. All those at the Spring Steering Committee meeting were very impressed with the people and the facilities at both Gettysburg College and Redding Farm, where we'll be camping.

Our hub of activities at Gettysburg College will be the CUB (College Union Building), where we'll utilize the ballroom for the Hiker Fair and evening entertainment. All workshops are being held in the CUB or one of several joining buildings, with "smart classrooms" for our tech savvy workshop presentations. The college will be on a 3 day weekend break from classes, so dining services will be limited. There is a snack shop and a coffee cafe in the Union Building, and I have built a little extra time in the schedule for meals. It's only a few blocks' walk into town where there is a wide variety of restaurant options on and around Lincoln Square.

Redding Farm is located just 5 minutes' drive north of the campus. The proprietors are used to hosting lots of folks in tents, as it is the home of the annual Gettysburg Battle Reenactment, which draws thousands of participants. We'll have a quiet camping area in front of the barn, and for those who are a bit noisier, there is lots of room behind it. There's even space for those who arrive in campers. The barn will provide dry space for

registration on Friday. There are no trash facilities at the campgrounds, so please be prepared to carry out what you bring in.

On Friday evening there's our opening ceremony – with a special new twist that I think you'll enjoy – followed by a short presentation from Pam Underhill, Superintendent of the AT for the National Park Service. Pam will also be part of a forum workshop on the trail on Saturday, so you'll have an opportunity to ask questions of her.

Here's something else new: knowing how everyone wants to see friends they spotted during the class years, we'll be providing much more time to catch up on Friday evening. We'll have a "meet and greet" from 9-11 PM with music from Voxology. Voxology's musical styles include Americana, Contemporary Folk, Blue Grass and Country. This trio played at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games and have a long list of accomplishments to their credit. You can find more at www.voxology.com.

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that our dear friend, "Walkin Jim" Stoltz, will be bringing his music, pictures and message back to us in our feature presentation Saturday night. If you haven't seen one of "Walkin Jim's" shows you're in for a great treat. What am I saying? Even those of us who have seen him are in for a great treat. For more on "Walkin Jim," go to www.walkinjim.com.

You can't forget the dance! Our Saturday night Contra Dance will be called by Karl Senseman with musicians Ryck Kaiser, Bill Goldberg and Freya Qually. With so much interest about the CDT, I've decided to make Sunday evening "CDT Night" at the Gathering.

~~ "Gourmet
Dave" Hennel,
2007 Gathering
Coordinator

Stay tuned to
www.aldha.org
for information
and late break-
ing Gathering
news.

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Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association

Coordinator

Mark "Skeeter" Hudson
mvhudson@gmail.com
coordinator@aldha.org

Assistant Coordinator

Jolene Koby-Burley
Ms1jojo@pocketmail.com

Membership Secretary

Marsha "StarLyte" Lee
atrailhiker@hotmail.com
membership@aldha.org

Recording Secretary

John O'Mahoney
johno@monmouth.com

Treasurer

George "Tinman" Andrews
tinman@antigravitygear.com

At-Large Board Members

Leslie "Gotta Hike" Mass
Lnmass@hotmail.com

Shane "Jester" O'Donnell
JesterAT2000@comcast.net

Bob "Kincora" Peoples
pbpeop@yahoo.com

Noel "Singing Horseman" DeCavalcante
noeldecav@aol.com

Robert "Red Wolf" Croyle
(912) 231-8874

Karine "Blister Sister" Kelleher
blistersister@juno.com

2007 Gathering Program Coordinator

Dave "Gourmet Dave" Hennel
gathering@aldha.org

2007 Gathering Facilities Coordinator

Leslie "Gotta Hike" Mass
Lnmass@hotmail.com

2008 AT Thru-hikers Companion

Leslie "Gotta Hike" Mass
Lnmass@hotmail.com
companion@aldha.org

The Long Distance Hiker Editor

Sanne "Ready" Larsen Bagby
readyhiker@yahoo.com
newsletter@aldha.org

ALDHA Web Master

Bill O'Brien
Aldha@aldha.org

AT Museum Chair

Larry Luxenberg
hikerLL@yahoo.com



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It's been a busy time since the last Coordinator's report. ALDHA participated in another great Trail Days. We signed up about as many members as last year, but many more of this year's hikers had heard of ALDHA. They may not have all joined right away, but at least getting the word out on ALDHA gives them the chance to join later, and I think the real numbers will reveal themselves by how many attend this year's Gathering.

Trail Days saw a change from the Friday "Hiker Reception" to the "Hiker Hangout." It seems the term, "reception" was too stuffy, or maybe it was the video entertainment that brought in the crowds. Yeah right! It was the advertising of free food that did the job! We managed to fill the Rock School Auditorium for a very happy afternoon. Many thanks to Red Wolf and all the people who helped pull it all together.

Another significant event at Trail Days was the showing of Greg (Weathercarrot) Walter's DVD, "ALDHA 25," at the "All About ALDHA" presentation. The video expresses so much about how I feel towards ALDHA, but could never put into words....and I again thank Weathercarrot for this great contribution to ALDHA. He is one of our greatest assets!

The ATC Biennial Meeting has just recently passed. It was the first one I've attended so it was quite a learning experience! I'm very much looking forward to the 2009 ATC meeting in Vermont, when I should have more time to hit workshops and participate in some of the planned hikes. Thanks to Bill O'Brien and Robert Croyle for all their help. Also many thanks to Dick Anderson from the IATC and Larry Luxenberg for all their help with the 2000 Miler Reception.

I actually found time this past weekend to lend a hand at Tim (Bascom Grillmaster) Messerich's annual work weekend at RPH Cabin here in NY. This is the ninth year Tim's pulled this project together, and each project seems to get bigger than the one the year before. I think we all wondered how Tim was going to top his huge privy project; hauling rocks for what seemed like fifty yards of turnpiking wiped me out last year. Never underestimate Tim. This year's project was to replace the bridge south of the shelter. And of course the new one is big-

ger and better... and it all REALLY makes me wonder what he's going to try to pull off next year!

Remember, the trail wouldn't be there without the efforts of maintainers and trailbuilders. Please make some time to "pay back" for all the enjoyment you've had from hiking; put some muscle into helping in the future!

Things are really starting to roll for the Gathering! Everyone I've talked to is excited to be heading to Gettysburg College for the first time. I have high hopes that this location will become another great ALDHA tradition! I won't delve too far into the Gathering, as there are lots of information in the newsletter and ongoing updates on our website. For most of the Gathering weekend, I should be able to be found at "ALDHA Central," which will be located in the ballroom of the College Union Building (CUB). Please make some time to stop by and say hello, and help out manning the registration and ALDHA booths.

It's with decidedly mixed emotions that I reach this part of the Coordinator's report. Those of you who think time doesn't fly really should run for the Coordinator's position! It is hard to believe that it has already been two years and that I will be stepping down at the Gathering.

My predecessor, Stacy (Simply Seeking) Mikkalsen-Boone, told me that this would be the hardest job I'd ever love, and she was right! I have a new appreciation for ALDHA and all that it is and does.

I also said when I started as Coordinator that I would not be able to do it without lots of help, and I'd like to thank all who put their time and effort into making ALDHA what it is. There's not enough space to list everyone, but you know who you are and you have all my appreciation!

And no, I won't be disappearing from ALDHA. I've been to every Gathering since my hike in '92 and I hope to have many more ahead of me. I do look forward to being in the audience instead of at the front of the room, especially at the business meetings! You'll also find me at the spring meetings and work trips.

I also now realize how precious the time is that I'm able to use for hiking and trail work. I've got some adventures in mind for the years ahead; look for some presentations about these at future Gatherings!

Thank you all,
and Happy Hiking!

Contacting ALDHA by mail?

Our mailing address is:
ALDHA
10 Benning Street, PMB 224
West Lebanon, NH 03785

Mail received here is sorted and forwarded to the person responsible for the mail, depending upon its content. Because the mailbox is visited only every week or so, there is no need to secure "rush" delivery service to this address. If you have an urgent need to contact a particular leader in ALDHA, it would be best to contact that member directly for guidance as to where to send mail to them. See above chart or your current "ALDHA Directory" for contact information.

In Memoriam

Steve Duyser, Active Trail Community Member

by Bill O'Brien

Steve Duyser, a section hiker known to the trail community by his trail name "Never Through," died quite unexpectedly on June 21st at his home in Harwinton, CT. He was 47.

I first met Steve during my last thru-hike in 1992. He was hanging out at Goose Pond Cabin in Massachusetts and he was fun to talk to, especially since he always seemed to have an awful lot to say in that unique, quiet voice of his. I ran into him numerous times after that, especially at ALDHA Gatherings, and it was always fun to hear his latest stories and adventures.

He worked for several years in Sanford, NC, as a counselor for Lee County. He volunteered his time to the trail in various ways, including serving as a longtime field editor for the A.T. Companion, the hikers' guidebook written by ALDHA

members. He also took part in the ALDHA work trip at Graymoor Monastery in New York in early 1996, and in all the years since then he kept in frequent contact with Father Fred, the friar who facilitated our work trip there. Only recently, around the time of the ATC biennial conference in New Jersey in mid-July, Father Fred mentioned to me that he still heard from Steve Duyser on a frequent basis, so it was my sad duty to pass along the news to him of Steve's passing.

Keeping in touch with trail friends is a hiker tradition, and Steve was a faithful practitioner. It's hard to believe he is gone.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425; or Hepatitis Foundation International, 504 Blick Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

ALDHA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The fourfold purpose of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association:

- To represent and promote the welfare of the Appalachian long distance hiking community
- Provide service in a cooperative spirit with other Appalachian hiking organizations
- Provide education on the use and preservation of Appalachian long distance trails
- Provide opportunities for interaction and camaraderie within the Appalachian long distance hiking community

The ALDHA membership database is never sold or given away for any purpose

Appalachian Trail
Thru-Hikers' Companion
2007



Companion Prep for 2008 Edition

Attention hikers, maintainers, hostel owners, trail angels! While on or near the trail this year, have you noticed anything new, different, outstanding, misleading or just plain wrong that **MUST** be included in the 2008 Companion?

Please send your observations, suggestions, or new information as soon as possible so we can meet our printer deadline. The Companion is ALDHA's "baby," and it depends on all of us to keep it up to date. Thanks for your help."

Contact Leslie at: Lnmass@hotmail.com

Learn of changes, corrections and additions to the **2007 AT Thru-hikers' Companion** by visiting:
www.appalachiantrail.org/companionupdates

ALDHA's Trail Days "Thank You"

Robert "Red Wolf" Croyle sends his heartfelt thanks to Festival Coordinators, Sissy and Terry Kammer, for their wonderful support. Many thanks to Sissy and the "B&B Ladies," Cowboys, Food City, Mt Rogers Outfitters and Sundog Outfitters for their donations. To all the folks who made the Hiker Hang-Out a great success – Ed "Old Fhart" Bailey, John "Bodacious" Beaudet, "Miss Janet" Hensley, Mark "Skeeter" Hudson, MaryLou "SkySurfer" Lester, Ed "Kolocho" Rodriguez, Terry "Toccoah" Wilson, Robert "Krewser" White, and all the volunteers who helped clean up after the event: "We left No Trace!"



Welcome New ALDHA Members!

Whether you're new to ALDHA or a long-time member, you're going to want to check out what's in store for this year's Gathering.

See pages 6 and 7!

The Long Distance Hiker

September 2007 Volume 18 - Number 3

The Long Distance Hiker is published 4 times each year: March, June, September, and December/January. It is distributed to all current ALDHA members.

To join ALDHA: send the form on page 12, along with annual dues of \$10.00, check or money order, (payable to ALDHA) to : ALDHA, 10 Benning St, PMB 224 West Lebanon, NH 03784

Visit our website at: www.aldha.org

The submission deadline for the next issue is:
November 1, 2007

Send items to "Ready" at:

Sanne Larsen Bagby
1996 Palifox Drive NE
Atlanta, GA 30307-1812

or email them to her at: Readyhiker@yahoo.com

Submission deadlines for the 2008 newsletter series will be announced in the Winter '07/'08 issue of *The Long Distance Hiker*.

This is your newsletter!

Members are encouraged to submit news, features, photos and artwork related to hiking.

A TRAIL IN REVIEW

Vermont's Long Trail

by Clyde Dodge

March 11, 1910: twenty-two people meet with James P. Taylor in Burlington, VT, to form the Green Mountain Club. The mission: build the Long Trail, thereby increasing the prominence of the mountains in the lives of people. By the end of 1912, 209 miles and 44 structures were built. In 1931 the final section was cut from Jays Peak to the Canadian border. Today the Long Trail has nearly 70 shelters and 270 miles of trail.

The Long Trail crosses the peaks of the Green Mountains from the VT/MA border to the Canadian border. About 70 people hike the trail from end-to-end each year. If prominence is what the founders were after, they achieved their goal; some of the more popular peaks see 20,000 people a year!

The trail crosses roads approximately every 20 miles along its length, making resupply fairly easy. The northern trail head is accessed by the Journeys End Trail, located west of Newport, VT. The trail is a few miles from town but arrangements can be made for transportation to the trailhead. The Green Mountain Club publishes the *End to Ender Guide*, an excellent resource for planning resupply and shuttle services. This guide and the

Long Trail Guide, including maps and more in-depth planning information, are available at:

www.greenmountainclub.org



Photo: Chris Bagby

The southern trailhead can be accessed by either the Pine Cobble Trail in Williamstown or the Appalachian Trail from Route 2 near North Adams, MA. For an out of shape flatlander the Pine Cobble Trail is quite strenuous: 2.1 miles of mostly "up." I would like to tell about the fine scenery that I am sure exists, but all I recall from personal experience, northbound, is that there are quartzite chips on the ground. Most of my hike was spent looking down and trying to catch my breath.

The first 100 southern miles of the Long Trail shares tread with the AT, and is considered by most to be less strenuous than the northern 179 miles.

I'm sure this is true, but I was in such poor physical condition when I started I could hardly tell the difference.

When long distance hikers talk about any trail they invariably speak of PUD's, pointless ups and downs. The builders of the Long Trail did an excellent job ensuring that there are no PUD's on the Long Trail. There are definitely "ups and downs," but the effort expended brings ample rewards. It was difficult for me to reach the summit of Camel's Hump, for example, but the view was so incredible I felt that I got the better end of the deal.

My overall impression of the Long Trail is extremely positive. Beware that Vermonter's definition of "flat" differs from most folks'. "Vermont flat" is any section of trail that has less than 100' rise in 100' of trail. This trail is HARD, but it is also immensely beautiful.

The Long Trail is an excellent alternative for someone seeking a thruhike but lacking the six months required to hike a trail such as the AT. It took me 27 days, but most hikers will find three weeks plenty of time to "smell the roses." The southern part offers a more social atmosphere because of the AT hikers and the more prevalent day and section hikers. The northern part is more rugged and remote, offering a more isolated experience.

A BOOK IN REVIEW

The Ordinary Adventurer

author: Jan "Lite Shoe" Leitschuh

by Sanne "Ready" Bagby

Those of you who have read Jan's account of her '03 AT hike on trailjournals.com already know that she is a truly gifted raconteur. I was one of the many readers who read her entries voraciously, enjoying every word of every post. In a *WhiteBlaze.net* forum, Wildernut noted: "I was hooked on her AT journal that year, and just re-read it for fun. It's so nice to find a voice that really hits the mark."

Obtaining an advance copy of Jan's book, I felt like I'd gotten away with something. What a guilty pleasure it was to read it! I had high expectations and I'm thrilled to say that Jan's book does not disappoint!

While she may think of herself as an "ordinary adventurer," Jan's actual adventure on The Long Trail was anything but, due in measure to the fact that Jan, herself, is hardly "ordinary."



The hike about which Jan shares her story took place in 2002, the year before she undertook her dream hike of the AT. In fact, this hike was a "practice run" to see if she had the mettle to pursue that dream.

She speaks candidly of her fears and anxieties of undertaking so

arduous a task as climbing the rugged peaks of Vermont. She brings to life for the reader the familiar moments of angst and frustration of a newbie hiker, as well as the joys of triumphing in her pursuit.

Everyday trail observations and experiences take on special meaning in Jan's care. She gleans insight and sorts out significance from the joys and mishaps that she and her fellow adventurer, Clyde, encountered as

they made their way to Canada. Jan makes vivid her sense of awe at the long views from mountain peaks. With ample humor, she regales us with tales of utter stupidity, as well as genius solutions to petty annoyances that we all experience on hikes. Of course, food plays a prominent role in Jan and Clyde's verdant ridgetop quest. "...thick chunks of homemade, fresh-baked, thickly buttered Irish soda bread and...signature Guinness Irish stew was a lip-smacking change from the four basic hiker food groups – Ramen noodles, filtered water, Snickers bars, and Vitamin I." Can't you just taste it!?

I found myself sighing in recognition and chuckling at mishaps and missteps along their journey. I felt privileged to be taught by so gifted a storyteller as Jan as she puts meaning to what she experienced. Hers is a decidedly upbeat and cogent view of hiking's role in the lives of those who seek to strap on a pack and wander for day after day along lofty ridgetops and through dark woods. This book is a must-read for any adventurer, real or wanna be, ordinary or not-so-ordinary.

RPH Weekend Work Trip Project – a Longstanding Tradition

by Tim 'Bascom' Messerich

After I hiked the AT in '97 my parents' health took a turn for the worse, so could no longer be away from home for long periods. Wanting to maintain a connection to the AT, I decided to organize a work trip at the RPH shelter near my home, spending a weekend improving the trail and feeding hungry hikers. The "Bascom Work Trip" near the RPH shelter in Hopewell Junction, NY proved to be a success and has become an annual event ever since. Each year we concentrate on a different project, such as dig a new well, build a new outhouse, install water bars, harden treadway to combat erosion and paint the shelter.



The RPH shelter is fairly unique on the Trail. It's a brick building with a mowed lawn and a driveway. It used to be an actual house and was the base for Ralph's Peak Hikers Club, led by Ralph Ferussi, who is still an active force in hiking. Ralph is a maintainer on the AT, and writes a weekly outdoors column for the Poughkeepsie Journal.



During last year's project to fix up the decking on the old bridge, we noticed that the cribbing was starting to rot out; the bridge wouldn't hold up much longer. We decided to build a new bridge, one that would hopefully hold up for at least 25 years. After inspecting the damage, it became apparent that part of

the problem was the periodic flooding at the bridge site. I worked up a new design for the bridge cribbing: situating the bridge about two feet higher would raise it above the flood plain. In addition a concrete pier on the north side would guard against weakening due to erosion. The cribbing was built and assembled at my home, then numbered and dismantled for transport to RPH. I want to thank Mark Hudson and George Muller for helping me get that job done.

While all this was going on, we were prepping the bridge site at RPH. Stone work and digging of the cribbing sites took place over 16 weekends. My cousin, Mike Pardee, who handles our website, worked on promotion for the project, getting the word out, and planned the final work weekend, when the bridge would be erected on the site. Mike and Kevin Boyce do the fabulous cooking for the hikers and workers during the project weekend and make sure nobody goes hungry.

We had a great crew on National Trails Day, June 2nd. They poured 52 bags of concrete for the pier on the northern shore and dragged two 35' telephone poles (donated by Central Hudson Gas & Electric) from the shelter down to the bridge site. The big, final project weekend was scheduled for July 18 through 22. On Friday, we

got the cribbing installed. Saturday saw our awesome crew raise the poles onto was completed and the hand rail installed on Sunday.

Over the years a number of project volunteers have become "regulars." Chuck Wood has been coming for 7 years and is a real inspiration to all; a project weekend just ain't the same without Chuck. ("Woodchuck" was the maker of the Trail's "halfway sign" near Pine Grove Furnace in Pennsylvania.) I would like to thank Mark (Skeeter) Hudson for design advice on the bridge. Mark has been a regular at the work

projects for over 8 years. Kevin "Slider" Readon and his 7-year old daughter, Hannah ("Big Slider"), have been coming for at least 4 years. Slider, a key part of the crew this year, again lent his vast carpentry skills. (His excellent work is also evident in the RPH privy, which sports real cedar paneling inside!) Our assistant cook, Kevin Boyce, was a big help with planning the weekend and has been coming for 4 years.



Over 50 volunteers worked on the project. Fortunately we had enough people the final weekend to manage a few side projects too, working on treadway, water bars, and more stonework at the bridge. We provided breakfast, lunch and dinner for all the workers, and we fed 15 - 20 hikers who passed through over the weekend. We went through about one thousand

dollars' worth of food and drinks – a small price to pay for the outstanding work from this year's crop of volunteers!

We had a ton of help and there are too many people to thank by name here. All the volunteers' names will be posted at our website, which will be updated with lots of pictures. I would very much like to acknowledge the donations from Central Hudson Gas & Electric, LL Bean, ADK (Mid-Hudson Chapter), and NY/NJ Trail Conference. We could not have done it without their help. It was my parents who got me interested in outdoor adventure. This year's project is dedicated to my Mom who is battling cancer for the second time in ten years.

The next time you are enjoying a hike past the RPH Cabin area, please take a moment to check out the plaque on the bridge and remember the good folks who helped make it happen.

For reports and photos of this project, go to: <http://timtrek.mikentim.com>

Article photos courtesy of Mark Hudson



A commemorative plaque created by one of our regulars, Chuck Wood, provided the finishing touch to the bridge.



North and South meet again at Gettysburg

This time it's not for a Civil War battle, but for the

26th Gathering of Long Distance Hikers!

Gettysburg College

October 5-7, 2007

Last Call for Gathering Class or Trail Reunions

Are you interested in hosting or coordinating a reunion for your AT Class or for another Trail? Maybe you're part of a future "Dreamers" Class and would enjoy meeting others planning thruhikes.

There's time on Saturday, late afternoon/early evening (before our feature presentation), for these reunions. They can be held on the Gettysburg College campus or at any of the many local restaurants and pubs.

If interested, drop an e-mail to "Gourmet Dave" at: gathering@aldha.org

Photo Contest Grows

Big prizes await the top winners in this year's ALDHA Gathering photo contest. Five winners will each receive a Canon MP160 All-In-One Color Photo Printer/Copier/Scanner, which prints and copies gorgeous color photos up to 8-1/2 x 11" with or without a computer. Additional prizes will also be awarded in five categories.



Win one of 5 Canon color Printer/Scanner/Copiers



Contest Categories

- 📷 Beauty and Grandeur of the Appalachian Trail
- 📷 Beauty and Grandeur of Any Other Trail
- 📷 Trail Building and Maintenance
- 📷 Wildlife on the Trail
- 📷 Trail Humor

All photos should be submitted in person at Hiker Central as early as possible. The Gallery will be open Friday morning and the photos will be on display there throughout the Gathering to allow ALDHA members to vote on their favorites. You may enter a maximum of 3 photos taken by you while hiking a trail. Maximum photo size is 8x10". Photos may be matted if you like, but they should not be framed.

Photos will be returned at the close of the contest and winning photos will be posted on the ALDHA website. The Canon printer prizes are all manufacturer-refurbished units, and are being donated by *Art of the Trail* online photo gallery. This year's contest is being organized by Spur and Ready.

Apple Contest



Enter your favorite apple to see if it wins in one of two categories:

Best All-Around Apple
(based upon palate experience, aroma, texture, and color)

Big Ol' Apple
(for largest measured girth)

Bring your apple(s) to the Hiker Fair.

Election of Officers and Board Members

The following positions will be filled by majority vote of ALDHA members at the Business Meeting on 10/7/07.

A very brief description of each of the specific posts is provided below:

Coordinator

Serves as the principal executive officer; supervises and controls all activities, business and affairs of the corporation, under control of the Board; together with the secretary, signs all documents

Assistant Coordinator

In absence of coordinator, performs the duties of the coordinator; traditionally oversees the Post-Gathering worktrip and ALDHA's participation at Trail Days; other duties as assigned

Recording Secretary

Keeps minutes of proceedings; sees that all notices are given and documents executed; is custodian for non-financial and non-membership records; other duties as assigned

Member-at-Large (3 posts available)

Attends all meetings; volunteers for tasks; assists with making decisions for ALDHA

All officers and board members are responsible for attending ALDHA meetings (fall meeting: during the Gathering, and spring meeting: tba) and for timely participation in communication throughout their terms.

Getting to Gettysburg

FROM THE NORTH

From Interstate 81 South: Before you reach Harrisburg, take Exit 70 for I-83 toward York. In South Harrisburg, leave I-83 and follow Route 561 West to Camp Hill. Take Exit 5B for Route 15 South to Gettysburg. Take exit for Route 30 West, and in center of Gettysburg, turn north on Business 15. The college will be on your left.

FROM THE SOUTH

From Interstate 81 North: Take 81 North to Exit 16 in Chambersburg, for Route 30 East. Follow Route 30 East for about 24 miles to Gettysburg. In center of Gettysburg, turn north on Business 15. The college will be on your left.

Use Mapquest.com to customize your route.



To Redding Farm Campgrounds from the College

Follow Carlisle Street/Rt 34N, heading north for about 1 mile. At the fork where Rt 34N continues, leave Rt34N by turning right onto Table Rock Road. Redding Auction Service is located about 2 miles ahead. Our campgrounds are about 1/4 mile further ahead, on the left. Look for ALDHA signs for parking and accessing the camping area.

Camper and heavy vehicles should seek to park on hard surfaces, in particular if it has rained recently.



*Reminder:
The campgrounds are not equipped with trash receptacles.*

**"Drive it IN,
Drive it OUT!"**

Attention ALDHA Folk Musicians!

by Frank "Singer" Wootten

The 25th anniversary Gathering presented lots of opportunities for musical enjoyment. Remember the "ALDHA Ramblers" who took up their instruments to play for folks during the BBQ? And the group that assembled in the cafeteria to entertain Sunday diners? Let's make these kind of impromptu performances a continuing Gathering tradition.



Attendees to the 2007 Gathering are encouraged to bring an instrument – guitars, banjos, fiddles, kazoos, washboards, spoons, jugs, tamborines, bongos, flutes, pan pipes, etc. – there are as many options as there are imaginations. Come ready to have fun and jam at the drop of a hiking pole. Just think, any place there are a few hikers gathered together, guerilla musicians may emerge and spontaneous jam sessions occur. Aaaaarrghh! Let's get together and make some trail music!

Post Gathering Work Trip

Volunteers will convene at Ironmaster's Hostel on Monday morning for a day of clean-up and repair work of the Mansion and grounds. Details will be provided at the Gathering. (Pine Grove Furnace State Park is only a 20-mile drive from Gettysburg.)

Gettysburg College Campus

North to Campgrounds

Parking

- 1 *West Lot
- 2 *Bream Gym Lot
- 3 *Stadium Lot
- 4 Special Event Lot
- 5 *Masters Lot
- 6 *Constitution Lot
- 7 Stone Parking Lot

* Handicap accessible; Handicap spaces are also available along West Lincoln Avenue.

ALDHA Gathering Buildings

- CUB** (Campus Union Building) "Hiker Central" - Main Events
- M** - Masters
- Mc** - McCreary
- SC** - Science Center
- Bream Sports Complex** - showers

Many restaurants and shops can be found around and in Lincoln Square

Trail and Hiking Community News

AT Museum Efforts Continue

by Larry Luxenberg

The Appalachian Trail Museum Society will sponsor several events at the Gathering, including a video screening of the exhibit dedication that took place on National Trails Day. The exhibit, on display at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Harpers Ferry, features a measuring wheel that belonged to Myron Avery and some artifacts of Benton MacKaye. The museum is currently seeking funds to expand the exhibit. One possibility is to display some belongings of Grandma Gatewood.

The museum continues to explore preservation of several old shelters along the trail. The Museum volunteers are



working with the National Park Service, the Susquehanna AT Club, ATC and the Earl Shaffer Foundation to preserve the shelter on Peters Mountain in Pennsylvania, the last remaining shelter that Earl himself built.

The NPS is currently evaluating the status of the shelter which, although officially replaced by the Peters Mountain Shelter, remains on the site. Once permission is granted to remove the old shelter, the museum will need volunteers to dismantle it and move it. The museum is also considering saving an old shelter in Georgia and would need local volunteers for that effort, as well.

To raise funds for the shelter projects and future exhibits, as well as for home space dedicated to the museum, a variety of projects are being considered. The museum held a silent auction at the ATC Biennial Meeting and Conference in New Jersey and received some proceeds from a quilt raffle.

Another silent auction will be held at the Gathering. Please bring your donations – which need not be trail related – and drop by the Museum Table at Hiker Central to place your bids on items that others have brought. We thank everyone for their past support and welcome new volunteers and members. Applications for membership will be available at the Gathering.

Visit: www.atmuseum.org

IAT Members Greet Hikers

by Richard Anderson



IAT/SIA members extended a joyous and loud welcome to two recent hikers of the IAT/SIA trail who completed the section from Mt. Katahdin to Cape Gaspe. The honored hikers, Tony Larson (Yanni) and Andrejs Brolis (Big Cat) were treated on July 29th to cold brews and Celtic music at the Brian Belou Pub in Portland, ME.

Tony and Andrejs regaled us all with enthusiastic accounts of their experiences on the Trail. They described the hike in glowing terms and were appreciative of trail conditions and of gracious receptions from many folks along the way. They plan to complete the International Appalachian Trail in the future.



Celebrating with Tony and Andrejs were Tony's parents, Pam and Mike Petit, and Andrejs' friend, Laura Meridith. IAT/SIA greeters were: Dick Anderson, Walter Anderson, Earl Raymond, Loren Johnson, Don Hudson, and Bob Lemieux

ATC Report

by Laurie Potteiger

2007 Northbound Thru-Hikers

In 2007, an estimated 1125 northbound thru-hikers started from Springer Mountain, continuing the trend of decreasing starters for the 7th year in a row.

Remarkably, the Georgia A.T. Club caretaker on Springer Mountain (on duty 10 days out of 14 from February 23 through May 13) counted the exact same number of northbound hikers as last year (749), but the number of hikers at Amicalola Falls (620) dropped by a couple of percentage points.

The numbers at both Neels Gap (1005) and Harpers Ferry (613) were down seven percent. As of August 1st, we have received 11 completion reports—three fewer than on this date a year ago.



2007 Ramapo and Bear Mountain

Like an ALDHA Gathering, ATC's 36th biennial conference at Ramapo College in New Jersey provided a great opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends with Trail folks from Georgia to Maine. Each of the 30 AT maintaining clubs was represented, along with ATC members, a smattering of ALDHA members, and local folks just getting interested in hiking.

The most unique aspect of this conference may have been the volunteer and skill-building opportunities provided by the massive Bear Mountain relocation project nearby. On-site workshops were taught by trail building experts from up and down the Trail: Lester Kenway (recipient of the latest ATC Honorary Life Membership award), Frederica "Fred" Lashley, Peter Jensen, Eddie Walsh, and others.

There were beginning workshops, advanced workshops, and opportunities to just heave stones and dig dirt for those who wanted to do "grunt" work. If you missed out, volunteer opportunities and skills training workshops are continuing on Bear Mountain throughout the fall (and into the future). Individuals as well as organized groups are welcome regardless of experience level.

To get involved, register online at www.nynjtc.org or contact Heidi Adami, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteers@nynjtc.org or (201) 512-9348 for more information. Other club- and ATC-sponsored volunteer and skills training opportunities can be found on the ATC website at:

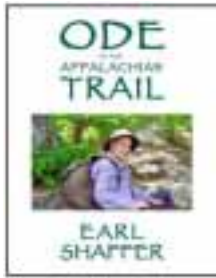
www.appalachiantrail.org/volunteer

Earl Shaffer Foundation Seeks Donations

by Chris "Spur" Bagby

To finance the printing costs of publishing the 2nd edition of Earl's beautiful 2002 book, *The Appalachian Trail: Calling Me Back to the Hills*, the Earl Shaffer Foundation is seeking donations from friends and fans of Earl, which includes pretty much all members of ALDHA.

Anyone donating \$25 or more will receive a free copy of a special collector's Limited Edition of Earl's latest book, *Ode to the Appalachian Trail*,



personally signed by David Donaldson and John Shaffer, who penned the Ode's introduction and foreword. The Ode is illustrated with more than 80 scenic color photos of the AT including many of Earl.

To donate using MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or Discover, go to:

www.earlshaffer.com/donate.html.

Checks may be sent to the Earl Shaffer Foundation, 2596 Church Road, York, PA 17404. A portion of each donation is tax deductible, for which a receipt will be provided.

For more news about the Foundation, visit: www.earlshaffer.com

Address Changed?

Did you know that if you let ALDHA know about your change of address, it costs you only the price of a stamp [to: ALDHA Membership, 10 Benning Street, PMB 224, West Lebanon, NH 03784] (or it can cost you nothing at all if you notify us via email, at membership@aldha.org), but it costs ALDHA anywhere from \$.70 to \$1.40 (that's about 14% of your annual dues!) to conduct the change via the US Postal Service. That's right, the cost of each of those little yellow "Change of Address" labels gets passed on to ALDHA.

If we receive your address change notification a week before the newsletter deadline, we'll be able to head off those expensive "yellow blazes!"

Thanks for your help!

PCT News

The PacificCrest Trail Association

opened its first regional office for central and northern Oregon and southern Washington. Dana Berthold serves as PCTA Regional Rep for 450 miles of the PCT (from the northern boundary of Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, to White Pass in central Washington).

Working with the PCTA's Mount Hood Chapter, the PCTA's High Cascade Forest Volunteers, and local land management agencies to plan and carry out trail projects, a priority will be the creation of volunteer programs for the areas



north of Mount Adams (Washington) and in the Umpqua National Forest (Oregon).

Contact Dana at: PO Box 359, Cascade Locks, WA 97014 or dberthold@pcta.org

The PCTA and the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests are developing a list of volunteer Emergency Responders who might be called upon in the event of emergency closures of the PCT in Oregon. Volunteers would help hikers and equestrians get to a designated detour route or to the nearest re-supply point.

More than a mile of the PCT near Pilot Rock has been permanently protected by a conservation easement donated to the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy by Nancy and Marshall Coles, land owners of the tract bordering on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. "The Pacific Crest Trail's route through the Cole property provides hikers and equestrians with the opportunity to experience the land's rich natural resources up close," she said. "The new conservation easement is going to ensure that this opportunity is protected, for this generation and for generations to come."

Visit the PCTA website to read more about these stories: www.pcta.org

HIKE IN HARMONY



Trail Magic

In response to a number of conflicts between trail angels, hikers, and trail managers over acts of trail magic counter to Leave No Trace principles, ATC's stewardship council last fall drafted some suggestions to guide those providing trail magic. The goal was to help direct those acts of generosity in the most positive and appropriate directions for the A.T.'s backcountry and wildland settings.

Recognizing that input from all segments of the trail community was critical, the first step was to take the list of suggestions to the 2006 Gathering and solicit feedback from ALDHA members in the form of a panel-and-audience discussion. The suggestions were then revised and posted on the popular online AT discussion forum, *WhiteBlaze.net*. At this venue, additional revisions were made, and the suggestions were circulated to club volunteers and

agency partners trailwide through ATC regional partnership meetings and *The Register*, ATC's on-line publication for trail maintainers and managers.

In April, ATC and ALDHA endorsed those suggestions. ATC will post the suggested guidelines for Trail Magic at www.appalachiantrail.org/trailmagic by the time you read this article. The suggestions will be linked on a new page about trail magic that will emphasize the role of trail volunteers as the "ultimate trail angels."

For more AT information, visit: www.appalachiantrail.org

Editor's note: The completed guidelines for providing trail magic are suggestions for those who wish to play a role in the AT community that is consistent with the Leave No Trace philosophy embraced by ALDHA as well as with the principles of our Endangered Services Campaign regarding responsible behavior on the trail.



CDTA Needs Your Input!

CDT supporters need to unite now more than ever. The US Forest Service is seeking public comments for the future planning, development and management of the CDT.

Of specific concern is the characterization of roads and their place along the route of the CDT. Ambiguity as to the intent and the interpretation of appropriate usage of "primitive roads" in several key documents and legislation have become blurred. The 1976 and 1978 legislation, designating the CDT by Congress as essentially a foot and

pack trail, is being challenged by the 1985 CDT Comprehensive Plan, a proposal which allows for a more liberalized use of the land, including motorized vehicles.

CDTA believes the CDT should be a continuous non-motorized trail, designed primarily for pedestrian and stock use. The CDTA Position Statement on Motorized Use on the CDT (1997) can be read at: www.cdtrail.org/page.php?pname=news/directive

CDTA plans to have draft comments available for review by members. Your comments are eagerly sought before

the CDTA Board makes its final review and proposal.

Written comments should be submitted to the US Forest Service, ATTN: CDNST, P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225-0127. You may send your comments via email to cdnst@fs.fed.us. The deadline for sending statements to the USFS is October 12.

Go to www.cdtrail.org to learn what you can do now to help preserve the CDT as a non-motorized recreational trail. If you have questions, please email or call Paula Ward at paula@cdtrail.org or (888) 909-CDTA (2382).

New CDT Documentary

The award-winning film producer and hiker, Mark "Carolina Cruiser" Flagler, has created the first-ever comprehensive documentary about the Continental Divide Trail. The film, entitled, "Walking the Great Divide: A Journey along the Continental Divide Trail," is a two-hour program that will be aired on Public Television early next year. The film made its premiere at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 11th.

The film captures the magnificence of the trail, wildlife and geologic features along its route, as well as the history and land issues surrounding its planning, building and maintenance. Mark,



photo: Sanne Bagby
Mark interviews Spur on the CDT near the Canadian border in 2006

concerned with issues such as Leave No Trace and conservation/preservation, seeks to provide education in addition to entertainment with his film. Flagler interviewed hikers as they made their way from end to end of the CDT

during the 2006 hiker season. Many of the faces in the documentary are familiar to ALDHA members: Ginny and Jim Owen, Spur and Ready, Travelin' Man, Tin Cup, Floater, Just Mike, Mountain House, and Andiamo, to name only a few.

Many of you may already have seen Mark's other trail documentary, "Appalachian Impressions," which also received PBS air time across the country. Mark has plans to complete another documentary about the Pacific Crest Trail in the near future, thereby providing a trio of films that captures the essence of the "trails of the Triple Crown."

To learn more about Flagler Films, visit www.flaglerfilms.com

Miss Janet's House Closes its Doors

by Sanne Bagby

Janet Hensley, aka "Miss Janet," approached me at Trail Days to ask if *The Long Distance Hiker* would announce that she would be closing Miss Janet's House shortly. She assured me that this is "no tragedy – nothing's wrong. My three girls are grown now and the time has come to seek other challenges." If any of you have seen the July 28th story in the *Erwin Record*, you know that this has already occurred.

The long distance hiking community marks this event as the end of an era the closing of an icon. "Miss Janet's House" and the hospitality, warmth and good times are legendary, part of the lore of the Appalachian Trail.

Miss Janet used to joke with me that when she retires, she was going to "call on folks to pay back" for the many favors she's bestowed. That ought to see her through several lifetimes, as indeed, she has helped thousands of weary hikers from all across the globe through the years. So, is Miss Janet finally retiring? Hardly.



photo: Chris Bagby
Miss Janet greets hikers at her friendly hostel in Erwin, TN

Her dream is to build an even larger facility that would extend beyond hostelling and beyond the thruhiker and section hiker set to include benefits to Erwin County tourists and residents, alike. As she sees it, outdoor recreation is growing in leaps and bounds.

Miss Janet is interested in starting the *Erwin Hiking Center* to "provide a unique program that will be a model for sustainable tourism as related to hiking, backpacking and camping activities as well as outdoor education."

Working with the Tennessee Department of Tourism, her plans include providing educational workshops as well as lodging for hikers and retreat attendees. Plans are to have facilities available for the hiking season in March, 2008.

Glad to know that things are just getting bigger and better, Miss Janet. Thanks for your years of service and best wishes and good luck for your future dreams and endeavors!

CDTA Trail Fest in Buena Vista, Colorado

by Paul "Mags" Magnanti

I drove with my buddies, Mike "d-low" DiLorenzo and Heather Hansen, from Boulder to Buena Vista, CO, for the annual CDTA Trail Fest. Trail Fest, a celebration of the CDT, took place July 20th – 22nd. It featured an entire weekend of educational and recreational opportunities, offering information booths, guided trips, and [the main reason why I went] trail work projects. The particular project we were looking forward to involved constructing new tread at Cottonwood Pass.

It was overcast that first day and we were wondering if it was going to rain while we worked. Luckily it did not. The day involved moving rocks (lots of rocks!), constructing the tread, and of course, enjoying the views. Even on an overcast day you can't help but marvel at the views from the Divide. Late afternoon we all packed up, drove to the main campsite, ate dinner, then sat around the campfire enjoying good company. Besides the incredible scenery, you meet some really nice people on these projects. The rain held off till nighttime, but is there anything more relaxing than listening to rain on a tent?

The following day (Saturday) was the volunteers' free day, if you will. A few

went on guided trips or worked at the Fest itself down in Buena Vista. A good chunk of us from the Cottonwood project spent the day constructing new tread near Interlaken on the CDT/Colorado Trail. The new tread will take hikers off the road and around Twin Lakes. Together, we busted out the trail, finishing early. I must say it came out rather well. We drove back to the Fest, treated ourselves to some beer (yay! beer!), had some food at "Taste of the Trail," where we enjoyed the music and more good conversation. Later in the evening, quite a few of us luxuriated in some soaking at Cottonwood Springs. Ahhhhhh!

On Sunday morning we drove back up to Cottonwood Pass for a last day on the project. We could not have asked for a more glorious day: sunny, with vistas extending well down the Divide -- much better than the view I get from my desk! By the end of the day, we had constructed about 2000' of new trail. Combining that with the work from Saturday, I'd certainly say it was a productive weekend!

We all drove back to Boulder, had some awesome Lebanese food at Ali Baba's Golden Grill. (One of my friends from Israel and another from Iran swear by this place. "Best hummus around!") I put

off - for several days - my least favorite part of any trip: UNPACKING! Bleccch! Damp gear, sweat soaked clothes, and shoes that desperately need to be aired out...well, enough said. "Ah, but," I muse, "it was well worth it." It was an extremely enjoyable weekend.

Some pics from the weekend (almost all from Cottonwood Pass area) can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/you7umw>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept. 28-30

ALDHA West Gathering

Sierra Pines, CA
www.aldhawest.org

October 3 - 6

National Land Trust Alliance Conference

www.LTA.org

October 5 - 7

The ALDHA Gathering

Gettysburg, PA
www.aldha.org

December 31

New Year's on Springer

Check for other dates and listings at:
www.whiteblaze.net/forum/calendar.php



ATC Biennial Conference

by Larry Luxenberg

The Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference last month in Mahwah, N.J., had quite a few firsts: it was the first in New Jersey, the first where the 2,000 mile reception was jointly sponsored by ALDHA and the IAT, and the first where the reception was held outside and it rained. About 50 people, including long distance hikers, materialized at the reception once snacks appeared. Of the states through which the AT winds, only Maryland and Connecticut have yet to host one of the 36 ATC meetings.

The meeting and conference drew about 900 people for a host of programs consisting of workshops, hikes, excursions and entertainment. There was also a weeklong series of work trips and seminars as part of the major reconstruction work on the AT over Bear Mountain, NY.

One highlight of the workshops was a standing room only presentation by Colonel James M. Johnson, who was formerly a historian at West Point. He has been involved in the restoration work at Forts Clinton and Montgomery, adjacent



ALDHA Coordinator, Mark "Skeeter" Hudson, and board member, Robert "Red Wolf" Croyle, staff the ALDHA information table

to the AT at Bear Mountain. Colonel Johnson donned colonial garb and provided a colorful historical overview of this area of the Hudson River Valley, explaining its importance in the Colonists securing victory over the British.

In addition to a reception, ALDHA had an exhibit booth for signing up new members and providing information about The Gathering and other ALDHA activities.

The next ATC Meeting and Conference will be July 17 – 24, 2009 at Castleton State College in Vermont and will be hosted by the Green Mountain Club. (www.vermont2009.org)

There are numerous reports on the Web about the conference; use www.google.com to find photos and stories and look for an overview in the upcoming issue of ATC's member magazine, *AT Journeys*.

For office use only

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Treas MemSec Amount

2007 Membership Registration Form

(Please print neatly!)



Date ____ / ____ / ____

Name(s) _____ Current ALDHA member? Yes No

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone (with area code) _____ E-mail _____

Trail Name(s) _____ Home Page _____

Trails completed and years they were hiked _____

Membership (choose one):

Enclosed is \$10 for my 2007 annual membership in ALDHA. Enclosed is \$20 for a 2-year membership, 2007 and 2008. (It's \$10 per family per year. Memberships run January 1 - December 31.)

Enclosed is \$200 for a Lifetime membership in ALDHA. (Does not include the Gathering fee every year.)

Enclosed is the Gathering Registration fee of \$10.00 per person. (Use additional paper, as necessary, to include all attendees' names.)

\$ _____ Please accept my tax-deductible donation to the **Appalachian Trail Museum**, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. (Use a separate check made payable to **A.T. Museum**.)

\$ _____ Please accept my tax-deductible donation to **ALDHA**, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Make check or money order payable to **ALDHA** and mail to: **ALDHA, 10 Benning St, PMB 224, West Lebanon, NH 03784**

Check here to remove your name from the mailing list for the ALDHA newsletter.

Doing so saves ALDHA printing and mailing costs for the newsletter.

Current and back issues of the *Long Distance Hiker* may be viewed at www.aldha.org



Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association
10 Benning Street, Suite 2, PMB 224
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