

Please join us at Concord University on October 12-14 for the 31st Gathering of ALDHA. We like to think of Concord University and the Appalachian Folklife Center at Pipestem as our home base for the Gatherings. You might see why by getting up before dawn to share in the view of sunrise over the Mountain and the A.T. gazing towards Pearisburg, Virginia which is not far from our camp as the crow flies.

Whether section or thru-hiker, trail lover, or trail angel, the best place to plan your next hike is the fall Gathering of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association. This diverse group from all over the world, shares one thing in common, a love for wilderness walking. If you have finished a long distance walk recently, then come share with us the lingering trail magic. Let us help cement your ties to the trail community so that whatever you do next... you are still "Hiking your own Hike."

ALDHA, is a nonprofit organization, that puts together and updates an annual guidebook, the *Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers' Companion* which is published and distributed by the ATC. ALDHA publishes a quarterly newsletter *The Long Distance Hiker*, that is fun, and useful, to stay in touch with people who have hiked all over the world, literally, and an annual *Membership Directory*, complete with a list of trails, members have hiked, and an index cross referencing their given names back in civilization, to their Trail Names, which give us each our unique, and many times, unforgettable connections to what WE KNOW is the REAL WORLD. Both of these publications may be received electronically at your option to lighten our footprint.

We hope you come to our Gathering to enjoy great music, see slideshows, and participate in discussions that will impact trails in the most positive of ways. Moreover, come help us on a work trip as we continue the partnership with the ATC in giving back to the Trail.

If you want to attend any of our events, please do!! We will introduce you to a saying we like to repeat: "The more miles you put on, the more smiles you put on."

Lastly, in 2012, look for *ALDHA Care*, a new program which will have volunteers helping low cost hostels, and caretakers alike, during peak hiker season, lighten their load, and ease their burden.

Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association
10 Benning St. PMB 224
West Lebanon, NH 03784

What's new in 2012? Visit www.aldha.org

ALDHA Coordinator

Mike Wingcart
coordinator@aldha.org

**Membership Secretary
& Companion Editor**

Robert Sylvester
membership@aldha.org

Newsletter Editor

Mike Cunningham
newsletter@aldha.org

Gathering Coordinator

Kip Redick
program@aldha.org

**Work Trip & ALDHA Care
Coordinator**

Randy Anderson
worktrip@aldha.org

Facilities Coordinator

Janet Hensley
facilities@aldha.org

Trail Calendar

Jan. 13-16	Southern Ruck, NOC, Wesser, N.C.
Jan. 27-29	PA Ruck, Bears Den Center, Bluemont, Va.
March 2-4	Appalachian Trail Celebration, Amicalola Falls State Park, Dawsonville, Ga.
March 16-18	Dahlonega Trail Fest, Dahlonega, Ga.
March 30-31	April Fool's Trail Days Festival, Franklin, N.C.
April 20-22	ALDHA/ATC Corridor Work Trip, Roanoke, Va.
April 21	Trailfest, Hot Springs, N.C.
May 18-20	Appalachian Trail Days, Damascus, Va.
June 2	National Trails Day, ALDHA Work Trip at the Appalachian Trail Museum, Gardners, Pa.
Sept. 15-17	Trail's End Festival, Millinocket, Maine
Sept. 28-30	ALDHA West Gathering, www.aldhawest.org
Oct.12-14	31st ALDHA Gathering, Athens, W.V.



Do it ALDHA Way!

Don't forget to check out our new web store for ALDHA branded gear, such as wicking T-shirts, polo shirts, nylon jackets, fleece vests, cotton T's, and ball caps as well as patches, stickers, medallions and other cool stuff.

Merchandise Coordinator www.aldhastore.com
T. Scott Dowling merchandise@aldha.org

Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association



Al Pointe



Membership Registration Form

(Please print neatly!)

(If going to Gathering, mail before Sept. 1)

Name (s) _____ Date _____ Current ALDHA member? Yes No
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone (with area code) _____ E-mail _____

Trail Name (s) _____ Trails completed and years they were hiked _____

Membership is \$10 per calendar year or \$200 for lifetime. Memberships processed after September 30th include the following year.

Number of years _____ x \$10 per year = \$ _____

Lifetime membership is \$200 (Does not include yearly Gathering fees.) \$ _____

Gathering registration is \$20 per person.

Number of registrants _____ x \$20 per person = \$ _____

Donations to ALDHA, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, are tax deductible. Amount of donation \$ _____

How would you like to receive your publications (newsletters and directory)? E-mail (default for new members) Paper

Fill out and mail with check to:
ALDHA
10 Benning St., PMB 224
West Lebanon, NH 03784
Or visit: <http://tinyurl.com/78kzu2b>

The 2012 ALDHA GATHERING

October 12-14, 2012 in Athens, West Virginia

When is it?

It's Oct. 12-14, 2012, which this year, is the weekend after Columbus Day weekend.

Where is it?

In the town of Athens, West Virginia, on the campus of Concord University.

What's it all about?

The Gathering is chock full of workshops to help you plan your next big trail adventure. It's also a weekend long reunion of all the trail buds you met on your A.T. hike. And if you're still dreaming about an A.T. thru-hike, you can't find a better event to prepare you for the A.T. All the thru-hiker veterans on hand will be happy to help you.

Where can I stay?

You can pitch your tent with the rest of us at the Folklife Center. Camping is included in your registration fee. Or you can avail yourself of other options in the area, although you're on your own for that.

How much is it?

It's only \$20! Meals are on your own, but to attend all the workshops and to pitch your tent with us, it's just \$20 a person.

What if I just thru-hiked, or completed the A.T.?

You should definitely come to the Gathering to receive official recognition of your achievement. On Friday night you will be presented with a nice folder containing your ATC and ALDHA completion certificates and patches.

Can I do a presentation?

If you've hiked a trail, or have any new and creative, or old, and time-tested ideas about the trails, backpacking, or gear and are willing to share, you sure can! The Gathering coordinator is Kip Redick, just e-mail gathering@aldha.org before Aug. 1 to get in the program!

How do I sign up right now ?!!

Just fill out the form at left and mail it back to us

Directions to the Gathering

FROM THE NORTH

From Interstate 64

Take the Sandstone exit (No. 139) and follow Route 20 south through Hinton. The turnoff for the Folklife Center is on the left, about 20 miles from the exit. (We will post signs.) Concord University in Athens is about another 11 miles down Route 20 from Pipestem, through the hamlet of Speedway. When you reach the first traffic light, with a pharmacy on opposite corner, turn left onto Vermilion Street and the campus is .5 mile on the left.

GPS Coordinates for Concord University: **N** 37 25.365 **W** 81 00.470

FROM THE SOUTH

From Interstate 77

Take the Athens Road exit (No. 14) and head for Route 20, then go north 11 miles to Athens. The Folklife Center is another 11 miles north, on the right, just beyond the granite stone entrance to Pipestem State Park, which you'll see on your left.

From U.S. Route 460

Get onto I-77 North at Exit 9 and follow directions from I-77 above.

GPS Coordinates for the Folklife Center: **N** 37 31.169 **W** 80 57.581

Where hikers, dreamers & friends of the A.T. reunite!