



The Long Distance Hiker

The Newsletter of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association

Volume 13, Number 2

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

Summer 2002

Remembering Earl

On May 5, 2002, the Trail community lost one of its greatest friends, Earl Shaffer. As the first thru-hiker of the Appalachian Trail and a long-time supporter of the Trail community, Earl touched many lives with his wit, wisdom, and kindness. ALDHA will plan a special memorial later in the year; for now, we remember Earl in the encounters we've had, the moments spent in the company of a warm and humble man.

"I remember meeting Earl in Hot Springs," writes Lamar Powell, "Hopeful." "As I was waiting in line to get his autograph on my copy of *Walking With Spring*, I commented to my wife that at my age I would think I was too old for heroes. He was a hero to me. If fame was ever a problem to him it was not detectable. Each time I ever spoke to him, or saw someone speaking with him, he always seemed genuinely interested in what the other person had to say. I didn't get to see him very many times but he was always surrounded by folks, yet he was never annoyed or impatient. I am saddened to think that there will be no more of his poetry. I am thankful to have a copy of his last book. I will miss Earl, even though I just barely knew him."

Rich "Solar Bear" Evans last encountered Earl at the 2001 Gathering. "A few people had mentioned to me how poorly he was looking. I didn't particularly care for the comments, but hey, what are you gonna do? That's the way some people are.

It was Sunday afternoon and I discovered at Storrs that I had battery problems. Dutch Treat gave me a much needed jump, but my car sputtered and lurched the mile into town as I mistakenly made my way to Cook Auditorium. Instead the program was at Dartmouth Hall that night. Because of my car troubles I was running late and no one was around Cook -- until I spotted Earl walking from Cook, probably headed to Dartmouth Hall as well. Because of the car trouble and my state of disorganization, I would be walking, but I wasn't able to join him at that moment, so I just paused and admired that strong and

purposeful gait that belied his age, walking the Dartmouth campus all alone. I thought of those who had made their comments and just shook my head and hoped that I might be so fortunate to carry myself so swiftly and so nobly when I'm 82.

Of course, I've seen Earl before, have his autograph on my copy of his book, have a picture with him, etc. And I've seen his slide show and been part of the mob trying to get a moment of his time. But that last time I saw him will be the moment I'll always remember about Earl, because he was walking alone, free of the crowds and the acclaim he never wanted, as free as I imagine he felt on the AT, and as free as he feels now.

Thanks for the inspiration. Thanks for the poetry. We'll miss you, Earl."

"I met Earl a few years ago at the PA Ruck," said J.R. "Woodelf" Davidson. "I'd scored a couple of handshakes before but he was always surrounded by other people. I had hiked in from Shenandoah Nat'l Park and someone had told him. He came over to the couch where I was sitting and said 'Are you the one what hiked in?'. I said 'yes sir' and he replied 'you need a ride anywhere?' After I told him I didn't need anything, he asked me about my hike. He seemed genuinely interested. We continued to talk about cold weather hiking, the trail and farming for nearly an hour until everyone realized he was there. Every time I saw him after that he always asked me if I was still hiking in 'cold weather'.

I feel like I just lost another grandfather."

Linda "Earthworm" Patton remembers Earl from TrailFest at Hot Springs, the year his plaque was unveiled. "That



Courtesy of *The Cabin, ME*

night, after his slide show, people gradually drifted out of the church. Eventually, everyone had left but Earl and I and one other person. As we walked down the steps, I was telling him how much I loved one of his poems in *Walking with Spring*, and quoting the lines. He stopped at the bottom of the steps and told me it was really the words to a song he had written back during the war. He lifted his guitar and sang it for me. Even before he died, I always got tears in my eyes when I remembered that beautiful moment. Here are the words:

A whisper comes in the dead of night
When lonely stars are shining,
The restlessness of a bird of flight
From deep within me pining.
From lonely seas to the mountains high
I'll roam the whole world over,
A vagabond of the wind and sky,
For I was born a rover.

That's how I picture him now, as a bird of flight, a vagabond of the wind and sky, roving the world, smiling down on us who are tied to the ground. He's up there with another of my heroes, Ed Abbey, who hoped to be reincarnated as a bird.

Thanks to all who shared their memories. Send yours to billo@aldha.org, and it will be posted in a special place on the ALDHA website.

Gathering
Rescheduled!!!

October 18-20, 2002

See details, page 3.



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The Long Distance Hiker

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Coordinator's Report

Writing this Coordinator's Report has been a difficult task. I don't know why, just couldn't find a groove until this morning when I went for a hike. Imagine that, needing a hike to find a groove. I had to remember what the reasons were for me



wanting to become the Coordinator of ALDHA, how I felt I could assist an organization with so much history and enthusiasm. Meeting a fellow ALDHA'er on the trail I remembered, and within a short period of time my passion was renewed but with a new sense of clarity.

Our organization is volunteer based and always are we looking for willing individuals to give their time wherever assistance is needed. Sometimes without even being asked. I cannot express how grateful I am for those people who give a helping hand. Without the efforts of our members we could not exist.

The past several months have been exciting. Our donation to the now built Ed Garvey Pavilion at Blackburn Trail Center has been received. The Mother's Day Work Trip in New Hampshire completed more trail maintenance than was expected (see page 3). ALDHA was represented at both Trail Fest and Trail Days. Of course, the Spring Steering Committee Meeting (the minutes can be found on page 8) was a grand get together at the home of Cindy and Todd. A myriad of topics were covered and agreed or disagreed upon. The bulk mailing permit has been sought. With this, Solar Bear learned of an organizational difficulty which he is now working to rectify (see page 11).

If you hadn't heard by now, Earl Shaffer passed away on May 5. ALDHA is currently talking with the ATC into the possibility of a collaborative memorial ceremony.

The greatest surprise over the past several months was changing the Gathering date to October 18-20. Mind you, this was a difficult decision by the Board. Given a limited window in which to make decisions, it was soon realized that ALDHA's options were limited and to


make the weekend work, the date had to be modified.

Every couple of years ALDHA undergoes a leadership change. In between the years of elections for new officers, Member-At-Large positions come up for renewal. This fall, Model T will be relinquishing his ALDHA role to become more involved with the Museum. After eight years of serving the Board, Scott Beavers will be vacating the Treasurer position. Their leadership will be missed. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, let the membership know.


ALDHA's Purpose has not changed since its founding; that purpose being four-fold:

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

As an organization we continue to uphold these "purposes" in a myriad of ways and with positive intentions. The Endangered Services Campaign is in its earliest stages of revitalization — it was great to see the yin-yang poster at Trail Days. See the information on page 3. Work Trips are being put together. And, of course, Jim and Warren have been working really hard to bring about the greatest organized chaos the Trail Community can participate in...I can't wait for October. While the Gathering may be the most inspirational event that ALDHA holds each year, there are always other avenues in which to become involved. If you can't think of a specific area in which to give some time call me, I'm sure I can come up with something.

Happy Trails! Your Coordinator 

Dreaming about doing the Appalachian Trail?

Then you should inquire about the Appalachian Trail Institute - a five-day program that will give you an intensive preparation on how to plan your journey. It is run by Warren Doyle, ALDHA's founder, who is currently working on his 13th Appalachian Trail trek. He can be contacted at 336-957-9979 or wdoyle@mountain.org 

2002 Gathering Dates Change: October 18-20

Because of a scheduling conflict at Concord College, we've moved the dates for the Annual Gathering, held in Pipestem, WV.

Do you have any resolutions you would like to put before the board? If so, the thought can be placed "now" and written up in the next newsletter. Word your resolution and give your position. This will allow the membership to ponder their support, or not, prior to the Board Meeting.

Interested in becoming a board member in an At-Large capacity? If so, time to tell your friends and the ALDHA membership of your desire to be nominated. Write a short summary about yourself and what you can do for ALDHA. Your ache to become involved can be written up in the next newsletter allowing the membership to get to know who you are.

Time to rummage through those boxes of photographs and slides, this year we are going to try something new — a display of our memberships artistic skills. Do you have a favorite photograph you would like for everyone to see? If so, get it ready for presentation. In the next newsletter categories for the "ALDHA Photo Gallery" will be outlined. There will be prizes.

We have members of ALDHA who are unable to attend the Gathering. This year, a wall will be dedicated to those members of ALDHA who are not in attendance, some in memory. Bring a photo of an ALDHA member who will not be with us this year so that they may participate in their own way.

John O'Mahoney has agreed to take on the challenge of program coordinator for the 2003 Gathering. ALDHA is in need of a facilities coordinator. Any interested person can contact Stacy. ALDHA also needs to begin looking at alternative locations for future Gatherings. If you have any ideas, please let Stacy know.

See the back cover for a registration form for The Gathering. And thanks for going with the flow with this last-minute change!

Endangered Services Campaign Springs Anew

You've seen them, the posters for the Endangered Services Campaign.



Well, in an effort to once again jump start this Campaign we are looking for your artistic and creative capabilities. So, here is a challenge, forward me your ESC Poster idea by August 10, 2002. The Poster needs to be on a regular sized sheet of paper and ready for reproduction and viewing by the masses. The top two posters, as chosen by the ALDHA membership, will find their way into the Trail Community. Criteria for the posters are as follows: Poster should relate positive encouragement and/or reinforcement. Poster needs to say somewhere "The Endangered Services Campaign" "Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association". Poster should be in black and white.

The Long Distance Hiker is published four times each year. To join ALDHA, send in a membership form plus \$7 (check or money order) payable to ALDHA, 10 Benning St., PMB 224, West Lebanon, NH 03784. Visit our website at www.aldha.org

ALDHA Crew Tackles AT in NH

A crew of fifteen turned out for ALDHA's spring work trip on the AT near Mt. Cube in New Hampshire on May 11. We worked in two locations, first building bog bridges and otherwise improving the trail through a wet area, then moving to a site on the side of Mt. Cube to



complete stone steps that were begun a couple years ago. The sunny weather and the hard-working crew of volunteers



contributed to a very successful day. The final step put in place was a hard-earned piece of granite nearly three feet in diameter which will likely cause hikers to pause, having a platform on which to rest.

Thank you to our treasurer Scott Beavers and honorary life member Bert Gilbert for organizing the work trip. Bert also provided dinner, desert, and brew on tap afterwards at his home in Enfield Center. Thank you Bert for the hospitality and post-work festivity. We are always looking for ideas for work trips and ways we can give back to the long distance trails on which we hike and the

communities that we pass through. If you have any ideas for ways in which we can improve the trail or the hiking experience in the Appalachian part of the country, please let me know at kurtseitz@yahoo.com, or if you do not enter cyberspace you can write to me at 210 First St., Ithaca, NY 14850 and it will be forwarded to wherever I happen to be.

- Kurt Seitz



A Difference of Opinions: Embracing ALDHA's Diversity

To the ALDHA Community,

At the Spring Steering Committee of ALDHA, it was pointed out to me that some ALDHA members in attendance of the Gathering's Friday night opening ceremony were still quite upset over one of the Don West poems that I read. I was not aware of this since that evening (because no one who was upset contacted me directly) until Stacy let me know in mid-January. I'm sorry that Stacy had to deal with the anger and frustration that should have been directed at me and have publicly conveyed my apology to her. I want to encourage the ALDHA members who were present and upset by this poem to contact me either by e-mail (wdoyle@mountain.org) or write to me at Warren Doyle, 2143 Wiles Ridge Road, Hays, NC 28635. All inquiries will be responded to.

In the spirit of ALDHA,
Warren Doyle

Warren's Poetry Reading and The National Anthem

I'm certain this will be a minority viewpoint, but one I would like to express anyway. Warren Doyle received a lot of criticism, some printed in the newsletter, about the poetry he chose to read at the last Gathering. Some exercised their opinions with their feet; others felt trapped in a place they did not want to be, which is quite odd for a Gathering.

I felt much the same way a short time earlier when, without precedent, we began the proceedings with the group singing of the National Anthem. It was a place I did not want to be, so I exercised my opinion with my feet, and chose that time to go to the bathroom.

One of the least helpful responses to a crisis can be "close your mind; wave your flag." This was the first time our country had been attacked on our soil by another in close to 190 years. In that time The United States had sent troops into south and central America countless times, killed millions in Southeast Asia, nuked a couple of cities in Japan, practiced genocide on the native population of our own country (was it a president or merely

a general who said, "The only good Indian is a dead Indian,") trained military juntas, supported military dictatorships, and had created far more terror than we will probably ever face. It was refreshing, after 9/11, for our government to come out AGAINST terrorism.

Like all of us, I grieved for the victims and the families of the victims lost to the terrorism of 9/11. I hope we all grieve for the victims of terrorism everywhere. Unlike many of you, I felt it was bizarre to show our grief and indignation, and to honor the victims, by singing praise to the flag under which so much terrorism has been promoted.

If that had a place at our gathering of hikers, then I think Warren's response did as well. If we choose to open our Gatherings with a political statement (and initiating the singing of the National Anthem at a time when there are rumblings of and justifications for war is certainly a political statement,) then we should not be flabbergasted to hear the other side.

Frank Krajcovic
The Merry Slav
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Warren's Poetry Reading and The National Anthem - Another View

This is my viewpoint with respect to the "minority" letter presented above. That letter applauds the reading of a Don West poem as a counterpoint to the "political statement" of the singing of the National Anthem at the opening of last years Gathering. Having talked to Warren about the incident, I found no indication that he meant it as that kind of response. Therefore the basic premise of the letter would appear to be faulty. I could be wrong, but I seriously doubt it.

The letter cites several "examples" of "American terrorism" as apparent justification for the view that the United States and the American people are deserving of retribution. And I won't buy that.

There has never been a "perfect" nation and likely never will be. Individual Americans or American corporations may be greedy, immoral and/or selfish but that is not our national character. Not all of our acts are moral because not all of our

people are moral. Still, we, as a country, strive to teach, apply and uphold our belief in moral character, integrity and fairness. The fact that blacks are no longer enslaved, that we have child labor laws and that Indians are no longer maligned is more a cause for celebration of the moral wrestling and national growth we've achieved in 200 years than as an example of how we as a nation are flawed.

Who are you to criticize? You are part of this nation. Do you have healthcare, a job and daily food, maybe even a car and savings account? Then you should thank the country, the people and the "system" that made that possible. There are many places, many societies where that level of wealth and security is not possible. Don't put the USA down, but rather work to make her mistakes happen less often. What makes you so angry at your own country's failures that you're so ready to see the side of those who would destroy her and murder her people?

I've yet to see any reason that would justify the events of 9/11. Terrorism and murder of innocents is never justified. I find it bizarre that anyone would excuse or support the perpetrators of 9/11. Even Osama bin Laden doesn't claim "American terrorism" as an excuse for his actions. Why do you?

The National Anthem IS a statement – NOT a political statement of institutionalized national terrorism, but rather an affirmation of the positive principles that this country represents. I think it entirely appropriate that the ALDHA Gathering should start with an expression of support for and solidarity with the country and society that provides not only the "right" to say what we want without fear of reprisal but also the Trails we love and the freedom to walk them.

I hereby propose that the ALDHA Gathering each year be started with the singing of the National Anthem. It might help us to remember the positive aspects of what this country is supposed to be – rather than sinking into "self-flagellation" mode. THAT is the "least helpful response to a crisis" – not the unity that comes of gathering in common cause against those who would destroy us.

Jim Owen



www.aldha.org
your web resource!

Letters to the Editor

A brief note here yet one long in appreciation for the great article, in subject edition, "Saving the Last Historic AT Cistern". This truly was informative and interesting. Great feature! As a teenager, my parents moved our family from Washington D.C. to the country in 1953. We had a cistern on the farm and it was that source of water, drainage from the house roof, which we used to water our livestock. I was so fascinated with the simple technology then and the great article brought back neat memories of that chapter in my life from years ago. The article was truly a neat addition to the edition. Thank you, Sandra.

Sincerely,
 Forden Hughes

Thanks goes to Dr. David Cheslow for providing such an interesting article. I encourage all members with such specialized knowledge of trail history, lore, and engineering feats to contribute their stories as well!

As new members we just recieved our first newsletter! great job - we really enjoyed it. as a newbie to the club i felt "hiking term illiterate" when I read the newsletter. what does "ruck" mean? i've gathered from it's application that it means "reunion", but what does it really stand for?

We attended our first gathering last year after our a.t. thru-hike. we did a nobo hike and then turned around and hiked back to hanover for the gathering. we plan to attend the annual event when it's held in a more central location like it will be this year. we have hiked the a.t. twice and the benton mac kaye (bmta) once. this year we intend to thru-hike the bmta again as well as the colorado trail (inspired by wahoo's awesome workshop). we just got back from 2 months hiking in hawai'i. oh the hiker's life...someone has to do it!

keep up the excellent work.
 happy feet (& hatman)
 a.k.a. diana & bill ristom

Having been involved with the Ruck since the beginning, my apologies for not explaining the phenomenon. It began in 1997 when a handful of hikers from the Appalachian Scenic Trail Mailing List (AT-L) first met in Harpers Ferry to swap stories, show off slides and photos, and shake down gear before a thru-hike. The "original" Ruck moved to Pine Grove

Furnace in 1998, and is always held on Superbowl weekend. The name might be short for "Ruckus"... members of the AT-L use the term "Ruck" to describe any small gathering of hikers for the purpose of education and fellowship. For more information, see <http://friends.backcountry.net/ruck>

The spring LDH was totally awesome. You are really a pro. Glad to have you on board as editor. Living in northern California, I'm pretty far away from the ALDHA action but your issue made me feel really connected again. I'm looking forward to the next informative issue.

Best Wishes,
 Nancy Peach
 ALDHA Charter Member

Thanks for the kudos, but I couldn't do it without our members providing the excellent stories and trail updates!

I enjoyed reading the last issue of the ALDHA newsletter. The print was a little small for my 84-year-old eyes, but by using a magnifying glass I was able to read all of it.

Happy Hiking,
 Ed Sidote
 FLT Publicity Chairman

Thanks for your update on the FLT! It's included in this issue. Starting with this issue, we'll be spotlighting long distance trails through personal accounts. Please feel free to send your account of hiking a long distance trail other than the Triple Crown, and to send general information about trails you are involved with.

As much as I like the Thru-Hiker's Companion, I found that it lacked in a number of helpful, useful data items. Most, if not all of these lacking items could be found in the ATC Data Book. Wouldn't it be the 'berries' if the two could be combined into one resource, rather than having to carry each book, or pages from each. What I found VERY helpful [and missing from the Companion] were the location of campsites and side trails on the AT, plus the mileage of each from the other, and of course the facilities one could more or less expect. Would it be an impossible task if the two organizations and compilers could get together and develop one resource? Anyone in favor of this?

Reverend Martin Rusty Fors



J.R. 'Model T' Tate
554 pages
\$38.00 hardcover, \$28.00 softcover
Xlibris

I met Model T happily hawking his book outside Bluff Mountain Outfitters during Trailfest 2002, and decided to pick up a copy. It's a thick tome -- not something you'd want to tote away in your pack -- stuffed full of colorful anecdotes from Model T's 1990 thru-hike. He meets up with Wingfoot and Warren Doyle, slings back margaritas in woods near Manchester, and plucks ramps from the side of Roan Mountain. Written in an engaging, conversational style, it's a fun romp from Georgia to Maine with a fellow with a positive attitude.

You can purchase *Walking on the Happy Side of Misery* online through Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. To order an autographed copy from the author, send a check for the above amount (includes shipping) to:

J.R. Tate, 4713 Chester Harris Rd,
 Woodlawn TN 37191.

- Sandra Friend.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

The deadlines for the next four newsletters are:

August 15, 2002
November 15, 2002
February 15, 2003
May 15, 2003

Please contribute!

ALDHA wishes to express its thanks to Lee and her staff at Gunter Printing in Longwood, Florida for their fast, friendly and economical service in the printing of our newsletters and directories on recycled paper. They can be reached at 407-834-7790.



Trail News

Updates on Trail Conditions on the AT and beyond

FULLHART KNOB CISTERN CAPPED

Per a notice at the Fullhart Knob Shelter reported 4/2/02, the Fullhart Knob Cistern has been capped due to the fear of pollution from a burning tire dump in the Roanoke Valley. Do not rely on water being available at this shelter.

CAFE MOVES, CHANGES NAME

The Halfway Cafe, located in Buena Vista, VA, closed. However, the owners have opened a new venue on 427 East 29th Street in Buena Vista, called the Greenforest Restaurant. It's located next to the Buena Vista Motel. The restaurant offers a 10% discount to hikers, and will assist with shuttles. The Greenforest Restaurant is open 7 days a week, 6 AM - 8 PM (Sundays, 8 AM - 8 PM). Call 540-261-6769 for more information.

RUSTY CALLS IT QUILTS

According to reports from the Trail, the rumors are true! Rusty's Hard Time Hollow is officially closed, and Rusty is shopping for a buyer to take over the farm.

NJ/NY/CT TRAIL CONDITIONS

Papa Bear sends along his assessment of trail conditions after a section hike ending April 17. This list is in Northbound order:

NJ SHELTERS: are all clean and in good shape thanks to Desperado and his fellow angels. All Bear boxes are functional.

BRINK ROAD SHELTER: Privy pit is nearly full. Won't last the summer.

CULVERS GAP:

WORTHINGTON'S BAKERY: Open now only Sat. and Sundays. Fridays in a few weeks. Weekdays after Memorial Day.

GREN ANDERSON SHELTER: New privy is wheelchair Accessible.

IRIS TRAIL TO RUTHERFORD SHELTER: The map shows this as a possible low road route to get to Rutherford Shelter without the steep blue blaze down and up again. **IT DOES NOT CONNECT TO THE SHELTER.** It's on the other side of a large bog. We stayed at a very nice (stealth) campsite on a little

bluff just past the inlet stream to Rutherford lake.

POCHUCK PUMP REPLACEMENT: the water is from a spigot in the back of the house across the road up the hill. You can go up the AT and take a side trail to the left. (we walked up the driveway and back - steep).

POCHUCK CREEK RELOCATION: The databook has this as open. It is fine and a beautiful change from about 1.5 miles of roads. But the blazing at the ends are not done. This may be due to the maintenance crews being sidetracked by repairing fire damage to the puncheons the weekend before we got there. **NOBOS** Proceed across Route 517, and straight into the wetland onto the puncheons. Do not turn right on 517 (there are no blazes visible to the right on 517 anyway). At the other end: go right across Canal Road after crossing the little bridge coming out of the woods. (The old blazes are still on Canal Road so we mistakenly went down Canal Road, effectively going SOBO until we discovered our error.) **SOBOS:** be careful at Canal Road or you'll be directed onto the old route. Do not turn onto Canal Road. Go straight across the road and across the little bridge. Go up along side of the overgrown meadow and left though the opening into the woods. This blazing is good from there on. Check the map at both ends. This RELO is good. The blazes may be fixed by now.

ROUTE 94 (VERNON NJ): HEAVEN HILL FARM: .2 miles West. Well worth the stop. No ice-cream yet but awesome mud pie!

FINGERBOARD SHELTER: DOES HAVE WATER. Book says no water, but a sign points to a "Seasonal Spring" which was flowing.

FORT MONTGOMERY: First Motel Sign: "Trading place"- the Motel was torn down. Second one: "Old Oak Inn" - the bar was open but not the motel. Third one: "Bear Mountain Bridge Motel" was open and very nice. Nice people.

DENNYTOWN ROAD CAMPSITE: The pump was not turned on. I called the park people and they said it would be working in about a week. Paul, the park man was nice enough to drive over with a gallon of water for us. Non cell phone users should hike back 1.5 miles and filter from a dirty stream, but feel a Sense Of Wilderness.

TEN MILE SHELTER and CAMPSITE: Awesome. The best site we saw the whole way.

SCHAGHTICOKE MOUNTAIN FIRE: There was a fire last fall on the mountain and signs indicate the trail is closed (replaced by a 7 mile road walk). We did the trail and it is fine. Much preferable to roads. The fire damage is largely in the underbrush. The registry entries indicate most people are doing the Trail, not the roads.

FINGER LAKES TRAIL UPDATE

Located in upstate New York, the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) is a 560-mile east/west trail across the heart of the Finger Lakes region. As of 2001, 138 hikers have completed the entire FLT. Of these, 15 ALDHA members have completed the FLT, including Kurt Seitz, who acts as Trails Chairman for the Cayuga Trails Club. Young and old come to the trail -- from a 10 year-old-girl who backpacked it to a 77-year-old man who completed it.

In 2001, more than 1,300 volunteer hours were spent by FLT volunteers, primarily in maintaining the trail. In Tompkins County, NY, several segments of the trail were relocated to improve the footpath and its placement.

Watch for a slide show on the Finger Lakes Trail at a Gathering near you! According to Ed Sidote, FLT Publicity Chairman, "I have a network of 80 Trail Angels across the state who are very helpful in many ways." As ALDHA members look for more alternatives to the Triple Crown, look to New York for a pleasurable month-long backpacking trip.

For more information on the Finger Lakes Trail, write Ed Sidote at 5 Clinton Street, Norwich NT 13815-1903, or visit their website at www.fingerlakes.net/trailsystem.



2002 Companion

The *2002 Appalachian Trail Through Hikers' Companion* is now available. This year's ninth ALDHA edition incorporates new ideas in an effort to make the *Companion* more hiker friendly. At the end of the text, note a new "Bird Call" section as well as a section describing "Mammal Tracks and Signs." Additionally, section summaries were created as a precursor of what an hiker could expect when hiking either north or south along the Appalachian Trail.

Do you have any thoughts on the *Companion*? Any additions or revisions for the 2003 version? Contact John at johno@monmouth.com or 732/295-8267.



Hostel Intentions

NEW HOSTEL OPENS: STANDING BEAR FARM

We've gotten into helping A.T. hikers by recently opening a hostel here just north of the G.S.M.N.P. and are trying to get the word out about it. We're currently listed in the 2002 Companion. Our web page is <http://usa.density.com/standingbearfarm/index.html>

TELLICO GAP UPDATE

After starting his thru-hike this year, Reverend Martin "Rusty" Fors dropped off the Trail after an injury. He sent in a report about the Tellico Gap Hostel. According to Rusty, the information on the hostel in the 2002 Companion is accurate and correct. The hostel is VERY comfortable and Ron is very friendly. He can host about six folks. The upstairs where the beds are located reminded Rusty of a studio with a bright large window overlooking the NC scenery. Here's his comments from Trailjournals:

"Ron at the Tellico Gap Hostel gave us hungry folks an AYCE spaghetti dinner, an AYCE waffle breakfast and a box lunch, regaling us with imaginary tales. A gifted man, I believe he should write and publish his stories and memoirs of hiking. Ron, if you are reading this, why don't you intersperse in a book your experiences on the PCT, AT and other trails with the wild fictional tales that you carry in your imaginative mind? 'Trails and Tales'? It would be a refreshing addition to the hiking literature out there."



The Lightest Stove to Finish the Trail?

Strange things happen when we man the museum table at Trail Days.

I confess to being only mildly interested in gear but I found myself fascinated when Charlie "Linguini" Duane, a 2001 southbound thru-hiker, started explaining his lightweight system. Most impressive was when he produced his stove, an improbably tiny little depression in a metal can.

Linguini maintains his stove is the lightest to complete the whole trail. We'd like to take him up on the challenge and ask anyone with a lighter stove to bring it to this year's Gathering. We're also planning to have him discuss his stove and lead a demonstration of alternative stove-making techniques.

Curious about the actual weight, we dispatched Choo-Choo and the Singing Horseman to the Damascus pharmacy for a scientific weigh-in. The certified weight was 1.3 ounces for the stove; 5.8 ounces including its titanium pot, margarine container home, wind screen, stand and cut off spoon. A 4-ounce fuel bottle lasted him 100 miles, mainly for boiling water to reconstitute his home-prepared dehydrated food. Total weight 9.8 ounces.

We were glad to accept the stove as the latest addition to the museum collection. While we're making progress in finding a home for the museum, there is still a lot of work to do and we're actively seeking volunteers.

- *Larry Luxenburg*



Trail Days 2002: A Different Experience



It was unlike any Trail Days most hikers have experienced before...at least this seemed to be the commentary when prior Trail Days attendees talked with one another. To begin with, it was cold and dreary...raining buckets on Friday night. Next, it was quiet...an eerie quiet. The tenting locations had been moved...out of Damascus and up the road towards Tennessee nearly a mile from all of the festivities. Damascus offered a

trolley and mini train...a great means to travel for hikers. The fire circle...there is a rumor that a couple of people found it. Mostly though, individual fires with small groups were seen. The drum circle, I sought, never found. I spoke with someone who did...didn't miss anything. Places to eat were packed to the max...a long wait was expected. The Hiker Parade was small but well behaved despite several hikers pulling 12 packs of soda off of the soda truck... and the one hooligan who was throwing full sodas at the hikers. Tons of booths and festival atmosphere, including the ever present Talent Contest where the winners left with enough new gear to outfit the Boy Scouts. And the final delight of the weekend was that the Backpacker Vehicle now sports three new stickers...two bright orange ones on the front of the topper and one in the back. ALDHA will now be represented across the country.

Despite the differences from previous years Trail Days, the 2002 Trail Days was an enjoyable experience. The Town of Damascus has made several changes that look to be better for the community. Earl was honored during the Hiker Parade and also at a Memorial Service on Saturday evening. ALDHA manned a booth on Friday afternoon and Saturday selling lots of stickers, patches and ten new memberships. One new member stated he was becoming a member so he could become involved in the Endangered Services Campaign. And, of course, "All About ALDHA," took place on Saturday afternoon with about 30 interested individuals attending.

Another enjoyable weekend; 2002 Trail Days closed as a calm and enjoyable Trail Community experience.

- *Stacy Mikkalsen*



Companion Field Editors Needed!

Get outside! See the Trail! Learn more about the AT than you ever knew before, and help your fellow hikers as well! Become a field editor for the 2003 edition. Thru-hikers, section hikers, and day hikers...we need you!

Contact John O at
johno@monmouth.com or 732/295-8267.

Contribute your articles and photos to the next *Long Distance Hiker*! Write to: Sandra Friend, 9201 SW 34th PL, Ocala FL 34481, or email to atnavi@aol.com.

Spring Steering Committee Meeting March 23, 2002

The following attended the meeting:

John O'Mahoney, Ginny Owen, Jim Owen, Rich Evans, Scott Beavers, Chris Rounkel, Larry Luxenberg, Kurt Seitz, Henry Edwards, Warren Doyle, Art Hehn, Bill O'Brien, Karen Berger, Mark Hudson, Noel DeCavalcante, J. R. Tate, Wayne S. Greenlaw, Tim G. Messerich, Cindy Ross, Stacy Mikkalsen.

Location: Common Room at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Meeting called to order by Stacy Mikkalsen at 0845hrs. Cindy Ross welcomed all & invited all to her house for dinner & activities after meeting. Previous minutes were read by John O'Mahoney and accepted. Presentation by Stacy Mikkalsen to Noel DeCavalcante of a framed copy of his 1st ever e-mail sent to the Board.

2001 Gathering Report: Coordinator Bill O'Brien

Dartmouth difficulty is assigning of locations for use during the Gathering. Usually they don't finalize until a few days before Gathering. For future Gatherings the coordinator(s) should keep close tabs with college officials re explaining the importance that we get the earliest possible approval for locations. There is a new DOC coordinator at Dartmouth. Bring extra TP as it never seems to last at campground. Management continues to be very accommodating at Storrer Pond Campground. Parking is always a problem. Many positive comments on ALDHA name tags. Work trip went well with several members staying for several days. 20th Anniversary cake was a nice touch. Compliments to Bill O'Brien for all his tremendous efforts in coordinating the 20 Anniversary Gathering. It is hoped that DOC will continue to sponsor us for future Gatherings. Discussion on how the Gathering has evolved over the years. Some feel that the atmosphere is changing into more of a partying atmosphere with attendance at many of the main stay programs decreasing. Desire that Gathering doesn't evolve into a Trail Days type event. Discussion that ALDHA history handouts be presented at Gathering & be included in membership packets. Monitor major manufactures with displays at future Gathering. Discussion to continue to allot space for celebrity type hikers who hike into Gathering as Flying

Brian Robinson did in 2001. Bill O'Brien is compiling packet of information that will greatly assist future Gathering coordinators at Dartmouth. It is hoped that this will be updated after each Gathering & passed along. It is also hoped that coordinators at other locations follow Bill O'Briens lead.

Gathering 2002 Report: Coordinators Jim Owen & Warren Doyle

Gathering will be held during Homecoming Weekend October 11-13, 2002. Port-a-potties will once again be setup in 1 location. Shelly will order 6 potties costing between \$55 to \$63 per unit. Showers will available Saturday time to be set & on Sunday 1300 to 1700hrs. Concord College cafeteria meal prices: Breakfast \$3.00, Lunch \$4.00, Dinner \$6.00. Requests are in for building space. Mid-September is usually when the school finalizes assignments. Homecoming has priority for space. Folk Life Center complimented all that helped with last Gathering. Folk Life Center per-person daily fees \$5 for tent site & \$10 for cabin (30 beds) for those arriving before Friday or staying after Monday. Additional campgrounds & motels are available in the area. List will be available. Workshops will have to provide their own slide projectors & extension cords. Screens are available in classrooms. Black sheeting & duct tape needed for slide presentation rooms. Jim Owen will supply sheeting & duct tape. Stepladder needed when installing sheeting. Walking Jim won't be available for Gathering. Auditorium will need screen for slide presentation. Discussion on renting a 15'x15' screen. Call will go out to members & college seeing if we can borrow one. Discussion on video taping previous Gathering events. Double check we have ample firewood for campfire. Henry Edwards will oversee campfire Friday & Saturday nights. Discussion on having Pam Underhill whom oversees acquisition of lands for NPS & members from ATC at Gathering. Chris Townsend will be Friday night main presentation. Jim Owen shared with all the scheduling as it now appears & explained how it will develop as requests are made.

We took 15 minute break.

Gathering 2002 Report: Jim Owen

Saturday night we'll have a Square Dance. Photo contest. Have area designated where folks can post photos for various categories. During the weekend members will vote on favorite photo for each category. Apple contest will once again be held. All contest winners will be announced during membership meeting. Any resolutions that will be presented at

general membership meeting need to be posted in newsletter prior to general membership meeting. Discussion on when awards should be given for those who completed ECT & IAT trails by IAT leadership. Gathering packets will contain program information sheet, resolution info, name tag, business meeting, agenda, critique sheet, trail expertise form, freebee from Backpacker magazine?

Treasurers Report: Scott Beavers

Checking account: \$6,395.01

Lifetime Membership account: \$10,350

Hiking Museum Fund account: \$1,570

CD: \$6,647.01

Membership Secretary Report: Rich Evans

Newsletter were mailed out to the following

Honorary Members 14

Life Members 69

Hiking Organizations 21

US Resident Household Members 623

Delinquent US Members 214

International Members 15

Delinquent International Members 1

Hand Delivered 4

Undeliverable Delinquent Members 7

Discussion on method used to maintain & increase current membership.

Broke for lunch. Meeting resumed at 1315 hours.

Museum Report: Larry Luxenburg & Tim Messerich

2nd symposium will be held at 2002 Gathering. Dan Smith & Karen Berger will make presentation on other scenic trails. Money & items are continuing to be donated. Efforts are on going in pursuit of a home for museum. Harper Ferry is 1st choice for museum. Attempting to locate a retired person who can devote time to assist with museum. Discussion on going to raise monies.

Newsletter Report: Rich Evans

It can be posted to pdf file easily saving postal fees. Keep all ideas & articles coming in. A trail review will be incorporated in future issues. Using a lighter weight paper will enable us to increase pages & not increase postage.

Web Page Report: Bill O'Brien

He is in the process of entering all past newsletters. 2002 Companion is now up on web. Sales of patches are going strong. ALDHA slide show is being passed onto Stacy Mikkalsen.

Work Trip report: Kurt Seitz

No work trips have been as yet planned. Any suggestions contact Kurt

Seitz. Stacy Mikkalsen has 4 or 5 trips in the works & will forward information to Kurt Seitz. Discussion about the building of future connecting trails. Suggestion that this information be placed in the newsletter. More effort should be made to increase the number of ALDHA's work trips. Kurt Seitz will attempt to organize more work trips.

Alternate Trails Report: Mark Hudson

15 trails in pdf files will be placed on ALDHA web site shortly.

Discussion on checking additional locations for future Gatherings. Any suggestions contact Stacy Mikkalsen.

Ed Garvey Pavilion: Stacy Mikkalsen

\$1300 estimated cost for pavilion at Blackburn Center. Wayne Greenlaw will obtain necessary receipts & forward them to Stacy Mikkalsen.

Once receipts are received ALDHA will forward check-covering costs up to \$1300.00. The Board had previously approved this expenditure.

Discussion about readings by Warren Doyle Friday night at 2001 Gathering. Discussions to maintain dues at \$7.00 and incorporate a donation line with new dues form. Rich Evans presented several ideas. Discussion on whether to incorporate ALDHA West & ALDHA directories. Matter tabled pending future investigation. To recognize members who have passed away in directory. Board agrees with this idea. Soliciting new members via Internet. Board feels that extra newsletters should be distributed to hostels as a way to attract new members. Honorary Life Membership should be reserved for members who have done outstanding job for ALDHA

Discussion on Bulk Mail: Motion that membership secretary complete all necessary forms so we can send newsletters & directories via bulk mail. Motion 2nd. Discussion on motion. Motion passed unanimous. Bill O'Brien & Rich Evans will form committee to investigate distributing mailing list.

Letter will be sent to Palmerton, PA Mayor & Girl Scout Troop thanking them for their continued support. It was agreed that we make a donation of \$100.00 to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Web Site: Bill O'Brien will continue as ALDHA web master

Honorary Life Members: Honorary Life Membership honorees will be announced at next General Business Meeting. Motion 2nd. Discussion on motion. Motion passed unanimous.

Companion Report: Co-editors Stacy Mikkalsen & John O'Mahoney

January 28th a meeting was held at ATC to discuss 2003 edition. A portion of the cover will be a self-addressed postcard that can be detached and mailed. Hiker can add comments about trail & join ALDHA using postcard. Stacy Mikkalsen revision of all shelter entries will appear. A glossary of standard terms will be incorporated. 1700 copies had been sold as of this meeting. Newsletter will post a request for additional field editors.

ALDHA will be represented at Trail Fest & Trail Days. Contact Stacy Mikkalsen if you can assist at either location.

Boy Scout Invitational Camporee at Great Adventure Theme Park Jackson, NJ April 26-28, 2002 John O'Mahoney will setup ALDHA display & hand out overprinted copies of Data Book, Companion & ATN magazine to scouts & leaders. It's estimated that between 2500 to 3000 scouts will be in attendance.

Endangered Services: Stacy will contact board members with additional information

2003 Gathering will be held at Dartmouth Oct 10-12 2003, Stacy Mikkalsen & Bill O'Brien will contact DOC about availability.

Meeting adjourned at 1742hrs

Minutes Respectively Submitted
John O'Mahoney
Recording Secretary



Member News

Hiker Memorial Planned

ALDHA members involved with the Womenhikers group are raising funds for a memorial for Denise "Journey" DeLisle, who was prepping to start her hike on April 13 but died suddenly on March 27.

If you would like to donate to the Memorial Fund, which will purchase at least two bricks for the Friendship Walk in Damascus, please send your donations to:

Carol Julian
%Coosa Donaldson
2011 Gainesville Hwy.
Blairsville, GA 30512

Fundraiser for cancer patient

ALDHA member Joe Fubel's 13 year old daughter Jessica was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer that affects the nervous system. She has recently undergone surgery and chemo-

therapy. More chemo, radiation, and a bone marrow transplant await young Jessica. Dad Joe is cycling in a cancer fundraiser on August 3 and 4. If you'd care to sponsor him, go to www.pmc.org/egifts for rider #JF0089. We wish the Fubel family the best in their time of need.

Members on the Trail and beyond

Paul "Magaroni" Magnati is well on his way up the PCT: follow his hike at <http://friends.backcountry.net/pmags>

Like other CDT hikers this season, Bobby "Slyman" Sylvester jumped north to CO because of fire problems in NM. He'll be picking up the northern NM part of his hike at the end.

Greetings from Rambunny as of 5/25/02...she's still headed north for her 3rd year in a row of thru-hiking the AT! Says she "Hope to be at Big K by 1st week of August, then try a yoyo. I want a SOBO experience!"

From Kurt Seitz: I'll be spending the summer on the AT, sort of. I'm working at least until September for the AMC with the storehouse crew at the Pinkham Notch Visitor's Center. Feel free to stop in and say hi if you're passing through the notch on the AT, or even if you're just driving through. You can share your stories of how wonderful the AMC is to provide services along the trail, or of how awful the AMC is to charge people to camp in the woods. I probably won't have any say in the matter but I'd love to hear from any fellow ALDH'ers.

Mike "KeKehawe" Henderson writes: I'm moving to the Durango/Cortez area of SW Colorado very soon, and I start at Osprey April 15.

Nina "Waterfall" Baxley writes: Sheltoewe proposed to me on Sandia Mountain in New Mexico, and we're planning a Louisiana wedding next March.

Jan "Light Shoe" Leitschuh will be hiking the Long Trail this August with Clyde Dodge of Florida. She'll keep a journal at trailjournals.com.

According to Terry "Cheers" Norton, "I will be hiking the Colorado Trail from Denver to Durango starting June 16 if the governor doesn't totally close the backcountry."

Sloetoe (AT'79; LT'01) and his twin boys Pokey and Gumby (age 8; LT'01) will likely *not* hit the Colorado Trail this year, as previously planned, in recognition of the ongoing drought in the Rockies. Hopefully, next year.... in the meantime, with three weeks of vacation and 200 AT miles standing between Sherburne and Grafton Notch..... HMMMMMM.



Membership Happenings

Lucky for me that my title does not confer any sense of trail wisdom, or at least if it does, I'll be happy to recount a tale that will refute such an unwarranted idea. Being from Florida, I just seem to have an affinity for getting into cold weather situations that I am woefully unprepared for. Like last June in Colorado where I found myself near the top of Castle Peak at about 14,000 feet in shorts and a tee shirt when a snow and lightning storm forced me into my first ever butt glissade down about 1,500 feet off the face of the mountain. My fingers took three months to stop tingling from the case of frostnip.

Then there was the spring steering committee meeting. On the way to it, the heater core in my car gave out, and on the advice of my mechanic back home, I saved a bunch by just bypassing the heater core with the vague idea of repairing it at some later date when having heat mattered — not a big issue for a Floridian.

Well, because the steering committee meeting in Pennsylvania was during my busy time of the year, I had to leave directly at the conclusion and drive all night home. The night in

question was about a 40 degree night, and I discovered that in the absence of heat, a cool fresh breeze blows directly on the driver's feet. My feet literally froze and I would stamp my feet back to life in rest areas and try to use the hand dryer for some much needed heat. The suffering lasted about twelve hours until I hit the Georgia line as the sun was coming up. I stopped in a Denny's after my deliverance from a long night of suffering and offered prayers of thanks to the sun in the appropriate fashion, by ordering a Sunshine Slam. An hour later, I needed to put the air conditioner on.

Okay, so by Trail Days you'd think I'd wise up a little. Not a chance! I showed up in shorts and tee shirt again, and because of scatterbrained and hurried packing failed to bring so much as a jacket. My layering choice of a silk Hawaiian shirt would have protected me to say, oh, 70 degrees! :) On Friday, my clothing choices seemed warranted, but as I emerged from my tent on Saturday morning, it was COLD! Not having much choice, I started my search for some breakfast, when I bumped into my savior of the weekend, Swamp Eagle, who did better than give me the shirt off his back.

He gave me the jacket he was wearing! What an awesome gesture to a fellow Floridian in need!

By late Saturday afternoon, having attended the events I most wanted to catch, and having seen most of my hiking buddies, I decided that my fleecy sleeping bag wasn't going to cut it on a night that I guessed would be even colder than the one previous. So with great feeling of stupidity and regret for having to cut short my enjoyment of Trail Days, I began my 10 and a half hour drive home. You are probably thinking to yourself, "Surely this idiot has gotten his heater fixed by now." But that would be underestimating the extent of my idiocy and my apparent masochistic fascination with icy forced air breezes onto my extremities. This time I only had to endure about 4 hours of it before it became bearable.

There's probably a lesson for me in here somewhere, and if anyone can figure it out, please let me know.

Happy trails,
Solar Bear

www.aldha.org

TrailFest a Mellow Experience

With a handful of informational booths, fun activities for hikers, and prizes all around, TrailFest in Hot Springs (Apr 20) provided a great way for the local community to mingle with the hiking community, to kick back and relax along the French Broad River. Hikers took advantage of free tenting down at the Hot Springs Campground, tucked into the ample pancake breakfast and spaghetti dinner, and did crazy things like toss eggs at each other in the Hiker Olympics to win prizes like new socks and pack towels.

David Brill spoke regarding his recent adventures in Alaska, and the changes in his life that the trail has wrought. Bluegrass filled the air as band after band took the stage. ALDHA was represented at the sign-in booth, with membership forms and newsletters handed out to thru-hikers.

Thanks to the folks of Hot Springs for this wonderfully laid-back trail event.



Stinky Hiker Contest won by thru-hiker fresh off the trail... who else?

Put on your HATT! Hike the AT Labor Day Weekend

What is HATT, you ask? It stands for Hands Across The Trail, and is an effort similar to a Tag Team hike. The purpose is nothing more than fun and fellowship, to join your fellow Trail enthusiasts in a weekend where the entire AT is hiked all at once, in sections, by like-minded souls. You can sign up for sections of varying lengths at the HATT website:

www.backcountry.net/hatt

Once signed up, make contact with the hikers whose sections adjoin yours. At the start of the hike on Friday noon of Labor Day weekend, greet your adjoining section hiker with a handshake and head off into the woods. When you complete the hike, you'll meet up with another hike for a final handshake, thus symbolically linking the trail together.

And sometimes it's more than symbolism. Amy "Sandpiper" Friends and Treacy "Yak Pack" Stone shook hands at the end of their HATT 2000 sections, and within a year, these happy hikers strolled down the aisle together.

So, join your fellow ALDHA members and AT enthusiasts...get out there and hike the Trail on Labor Day Weekend of 2002!



The HATT Team at Trailfest

FEATURED TRAIL

Distance: Denver to Durango - 470 miles, average hiking time six to eight weeks.

Contact: <http://www.coloradotrail.org/>
The Colorado Trail Foundation
 710 10th Street, #210,
 Golden, Colorado 80401-5843.
 303-384-3729, extension 113

Permits: None required

Resupply: Weekly resupply available, approximately 75-100 miles apart. Long hitches to town can be a problem.

Concerns: Lightning, several twenty mile dry stretches.

Hiking Season: Late June through September. Snow traversing possible in June, snow storms in September.

Guidebook: The Colorado Trail:
 Softcover \$22.95
 90 color photographs, 288 pages,
 trail maps. 6" x 9" format.

Of course the altitude is only part of the story, for with those great heights come the fantastic views, from the wild stroll along the 10 Mile Range near Breckenridge, to the days spent wending through the San Juans. The altitude also brings the tundra wild flowers which will stop you in your tracks, and the afternoon thunderstorms which will urge you to hurry off the high ridge and find that days camp. Those thunderstorms will rarely leave you, or the wild flowers, dry, but the runoff pouring from high cascades, or lying quietly in a serene alpine lake, will leave you in awe. How could one pick a favorite part of a trail with so many highlights? For me it was the traverse of Jarosa Mesa with high peaks springing up in every direction, but you'll just have to go and pick your own highlights...

- *Mark Hudson*



THE COLORADO TRAIL

Find yourself a comfortable corner, and curl up with your atlas, opened to the map of Colorado. Don't strain your eyes, you won't find the Colorado Trail marked on the map. If you look just south of Denver you'll find where the trail starts at Littleton. Let your finger slip westward to Breckenridge, sweep west of Leadville, south to Salida, and then west-southwest to Durango. That's it. What you'll most likely notice is just how few towns there are along the way. But the map hardly begins to tell you the story...

First there's the altitude, starting with the stroll along Waterton Canyon at just over 5,500 feet. Gradually acclimating to the altitude, and eighty miles later, you'll cross Georgia Pass at 11,800 feet. The trail rarely nears the 9,000 foot level from there. The high point of the trail will take you over 13,300 feet at Coney Summit, for those who can't get enough of the altitude several of the Colorado 14,000 foot peaks are within an easy jaunt of the CT, including Mt Elbert, the highest point in Colorado. The real eye opener is the descent to Spring Creek Pass near Lake City, where the trail crosses the road at 10,898 feet, which seems so low after traversing ridges over 12,000 feet. The trail finally breaks through 9,000 foot elevation contour on the long descent into Durango, where it finally ends up at just below 7,000 feet.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

We all have our dark secrets, and they say confession is good for the soul, so here goes. I'm a CPA, yep one of those green eyeshade types who gets his kicks entering numbers in ledgers and waxing eloquent about the nuances of the Internal Revenue Code. And please forgive me, ALDHA members, because it is time for a discussion of tax matters as relates to our otherwise simple organization. First, the good news: If your financial involvement with the organization is limited to the payment of dues, the Gathering registration fee and perhaps a merchandise order or two, what you need to know is simple. These are payments for goods or services and are nondeductible. So please don't tell your accountant that they should be deducted as contributions on your tax forms. THEY SHOULDN'T. That's all you need to know, so you are free to go back to admiring the candid centerfold of the Singing Horseman on page 8. ;-)

A few of you support the organization in other ways, outright donations to the organization or the Museum Fund, or by providing goods and services to the organization by serving on the board, attending ALDHA sponsored work hikes, etc. The next section is for you, and the news isn't pretty.

ALDHA was incorporated in 1983 and when it registered with the IRS, it was granted tax exempt status as a 501(c)(7) organization which in English means a recreational organization. Most of the nonprofit organizations you contribute to are exempt under Code section 501(c)(3). Again in English this means a charitable organization.

Both types of organizations may raise funds without the requirement of paying taxes on the receipts, but there is a very important distinction between the two types. Taxpayers who contribute to a charitable organization are allowed a tax deduction; however, contributions to a recreational organization like ALDHA are in no case tax deductible. So, for those of you who support ALDHA with no strings gifts of money or services, we are sad to say that at this time you may not properly take a tax deduction for those items.

The board felt it was important to share this information with you while we investigate the possibility of petitioning the IRS for a change in status to 501(c)(3). If I may be of further help in answering your questions, please contact me.





Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association
 10 Benning St, Suite 2, PMB 224
 West Lebanon NH 03784-3404

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Don't miss the...
 21st Annual Gathering October 18, 19, 20, 2002 Pipestem, WV
 Check your ALDHA directory for details!

**NEW
 DATES !!!!**

(Print neatly!) **2002-2003 Membership Registration Form** (Write Same if no changes)

Name(s) _____ Date _____ Current ALDHA member? Yes No
 Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
 Phone (with area code) _____ E-mail _____
 Trail Name(s) _____ Home Page _____
 Trails completed and the years they were hiked _____
 Areas of expertise for the 2003 Directory _____

- I owe for the current 2001-02 year, so enclosed is \$7 for my ALDHA dues (memberships expired in October)
- I wish to pay now for the 2002 Gathering and dues for my 2002-03 membership in ALDHA, so here is \$17 (\$27 for couples)
- I wish to become a life member of ALDHA; enclosed is \$150 for my perpetual dues. (Gathering fee of \$10 per person NOT included)

NOTE: Payments to ALDHA are **not** tax deductible.