



Winter 2008

The Happy Hiker

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Bike Ride

No one has ever accused me of looking forward to change, or doing things differently. I like to hike. I joined the hiking club to hike and as far as I am concerned, that's the way things should be. Shortly after I joined the hiking club, I had gone on a bicycle ride on a borrowed bicycle. I enjoyed myself, and clearly saw why others could become aficionados, but for me hiking was just fine.

Well things change, and so do our circumstances. So it was that I was with a new bike and calling Carl Griffin on the phone to ask about his upcoming bike ride. I had been in the club for quite a while, but when I called Carl, there I was with all the rookie questions. After all I was full of doubts. Could I ride 20 plus miles, what about hills, what about this and what about that?

I had done a couple of practice rides on a local rail to trail which was about 7-8 miles long. It appeared to me that if I multiplied the ache and pain factor by 3, I should be able to complete the ride without Carl having to call an ambulance.

The bike ride turned into a very nice adventure and I am looking forward to more rides. On this ride was a former bike riding guide from one of the Pocono rafting and bike companies. He quickly pointed out some things about my technique. He also had me make a few minor adjustments to the bike, and I ended up with less aches and pains after a 20 mile ride than I had on my 8 mile ride.

Carl was not a drill sergeant, and his stops seemed to be at the perfect places to gab, snack and get updated on what ever was going on locally. We also had an optional small stream crossing that we unanimously chose to take (on foot). However I was the only one that chose to get a wet foot. We finally came to the hill I was so concerned about. Not to worry, I had a lot of company because most of us pushed our bikes up that troublesome hill. It was a good day with perfect weather and great company. Maybe this change that is taking place in my life will include biking, and won't be so bad after all. As a matter of fact I am looking forward to some more new adventures that will include biking.



Happy hiking,
Merry Christmas
Jim Gabovitz



Allentown Hiking Club

P.O.Box 1542

Allentown, Pa 18105-1542

www.allentownhikingclub.org



The Happy Hiker is published quarterly by the Allentown Hiking Club, Inc. The opinions expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the AHC, but of the authors. Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578

President	Bernie Harris - (610) 767-0562 email: president@allentownhikingclub.org	Outerbridge Shelter Chair.....	Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479
Vice-President.....	Ed Vatz - (610) 838-7890 email: evatza@rcn.com	KTA Representative.....	Virginia Musser - (717) 626-0069
Secretary.....	Dick Fink - (610) 865-3925	Program Committee Chair.....	Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 email: gabby@enter.net
Treasurer.....	Maryann Wagner - (610) 262-4313 email: munchkinhiker@aol.com	Library.....	Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 email: bwiemann@verizon.net
Membership.....	Edna Himmler - 96100 797-5182 email: membership@allentownhikingclub.org	Publicity Chair.....	Gene Scharle & Anne Griffin
New Member Greeter.....	Edna Harris - (610) 767-0562 email: bernedna@verizon.net	Webmaster.....	Hal Wright - (215) 860-9732 email: webmaster@allentownhikingclub.org
Appalachian Trail Chair.....	Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 email: critter3@peoplepc.com	Newsletter Editor.....	Bill Geiger - (610) 398-2601 email: newsletter@allentownhikingclub.org
A.T. Monitor Coordinator.....	Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 email: bwiemann@verizon.net	Hiking Schedule Coordinator...	Robin Horn - (610) 841-4491 email: rlhorn@rcn.com

Deadlines for the Spring 2008 Newsletter & Schedule

Happy Hiker Newsletter
Activity Schedule

Wednesday, March 26, 2008
Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Please forward all Club related articles, thoughts, and items to the editor by mail or, preferably, by email or disk using MS Word. Send all hiking schedule activities to the schedule coordinator. You do not have to use the hike schedule form found on the club web site and in this newsletter, but if you choose not to, please include all the listed fields in your description of the activity.

Letter to the AHC President - Nov. 26, 2007

To all volunteers, trail maintainers, and ridge-runners of the Allentown Hiking Club I just wanted to extend my deep appreciation for all the hard work that you have done to maintain the AT. As I hiked through the different states, I was in awe at how such a beautiful trail is maintained by all volunteers. Without you, my hike would have been extremely difficult if not impossible.

Your hard work and effort does not go unrecognized. Many hikers discussed their gratitude while in a shelter along the AT in regard to the countless volunteers who make this trail possible. There were times water was difficult to find, but there were volunteers and trail angels who set up jugs by the trail to make sure no one would get dehydrated in the heat. Without them, it would have been a much more difficult trip. Again, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for your wonderful effort! I just wanted to let you know that it certainly does not go unrecognized ... even if you do not receive notes stating so!

A happy and content thru hiker of '07-
Boo-Boo

Cleveland, OH

Two AHC Members Recognized For KTA Trail Work

Carl Ganong and Carl Griffin were recognized for their volunteer work with the KTA Trail Care program at the KTA Fall Meeting at Blue Knob. They each participated in at least three weekend trail work events during 2007 and received a special KTA bandanna.

Congratulations!

AHC Election Results Dec. 5, 2007

President	-	Bernie Harris
Vice President	-	Ed Vatz
Secretary	-	Dick Fink
Treasurer	-	Maryann Wagner



Allentown Hiking Club History

The 1990s, Part 2: Non-AT Club Activities

By Barbara L. Wiemann

The Allentown Hiking Club was heavily involved with Appalachian Trail projects during the 1990s and devoted much time, efforts, and funds to those activities. The club also, of course, offered members a schedule of hikes, programs, and social activities designed to suit its membership. This chapter will highlight some of those non-AT maintenance events.

Club Organization

It was in January 1991 that AHC ended its nomadic postal existence. The club rented a mailbox for the first time, giving the club the permanent address (PO Box 1542, Allentown, Pa 18105) that we still have. Prior to this decision, the club address changed with each set of officers, sometimes delaying materials that went to outdated addresses.

In 1993 the Club was forced to raise dues to \$5 per year. Up to that year, the Allentown Recreation Bureau had printed and mailed the club schedule as part of its mission to provide a diverse recreation program to city residents. Without this expense, the club had managed on dues of \$2 per year. As a transition, the Bureau agreed to provide three schedules in 1993 and then two schedules in succeeding years.

The club meeting location at the Pioneer Center in downtown Allentown, with its lack of parking, was limiting attendance at monthly meetings. In 1996, after a search for a new site, the club relocated its meetings to the Lehigh County Senior Center, at 1633 Elm Street in Allentown. The new location featured a lighted parking lot, large meeting room, kitchen, a public address system, and storage space for the club library and archives. Use of the space was free as long as the club accepted Center members on hikes and activities (not a problem since club membership has never been required to participate in club activities).

As club activities expanded, AHC added a committee structure. In 1996 the club began a New Member Committee and developed its first membership brochure. In 1997, a Hospitality Committee to organize refreshments at each meeting, and an Entertainment Committee to schedule programs for monthly meetings were organized. The Publicity Committee was established in 1998.

Keeping up with the times, in 1998 the club joined the Internet age with an AHC web site.

Events and Activities

Continuing his tradition of "series" hikes, Earl Raub began another string of hikes on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania in 1991. By completing all of the hikes, members could earn their Keystone Trails Association AT Hiker Award.

In 1991 the club revived the lapsed tradition of holding a holiday social event. The December meeting (the club's annual meeting which includes the election of officers) was expanded to include a potluck meal.

The club's National Trails Day event in 1993, a hike from Bake Oven Road to PA 309 along the Appalachian Trail, drew over 100 people, including Congressman Paul McHale and his son. This turnout was astonishing since the day was gray, foggy, and it rained.

Also in 1993, Earl Raub and Harold Croxton became the first AHC members to earn the Silver Award, given by the National Parks Service, to recognize volunteers who have compiled 25 years of service to the Appalachian Trail.

AHC members voted in 1998 to purchase two steps (for \$100 each) to support of the Keystone Trails Association's effort to purchase and preserve the 1000 Steps on the Link Trail.

To close out this busy decade, in 1999 AHC opened a new chapter in its volunteer work. Sherry Petrilak and Tom Gettings of the Wildlands Conservancy attended an AHC meeting to request club assistance in maintaining the 160-mile D & L Trail in the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The club agreed to join the Trail Tenders program and participate in four trail-work days each year.



ATC MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 11/10-11/07

The second meeting of 2007 of the Regional Partnership Committee met November 10-11 in northern Virginia. I attended as temporary representative for the AHC, with Barb Wiemann the alternate (permanent, in fact, Secretary of the Committee). The heads of both the NPS A.T. office, Pam Underhill, and ATC Board of Directors Chairman, Bob Almand, were there in addition to several other agency representatives and the maintaining club representatives.

NPS reported only 3.4 miles of trail (in 48 parcels equaling 3,480 acres) are left to be protected. In PA only the railroad crossing in Pt. Clinton remains unprotected, although the railroad owner has no problem letting the trail cross the tracks. With the head NPS ranger's retirement in January, Todd Remaley is now the acting head, and once again the NPS has a Lone Ranger.

Many forces threaten the environment of the A.T., and the MEGA-Transect is a program being developed to help monitor the health of the Appalachian Mts., being uniquely located in them, 2,200 miles, ME-GA... NIETC (National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor). Two very broad areas are identified as such corridors, the eastern one including all of PA and NJ plus parts of 6 other states. The new authority was passed with little notice, Section 1221 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act. It effectively takes away traditional states' determining acceptance and routing of transmission projects and lines. Four recent proposals include crossings of the A.T. and two of these are proposed for PA. lines. Keeping on top of this complex development will require much ATC time, energy, expertise, and money. One of the possible defenses for NIETC is for the A.T. to get on the National Historic Register. However, success would include the cost and time for rigid documentation and approval by up to 97 entities that make up the A.T.'s locations.

A growing project by the NPS and ATC is Trail to Every Classroom, started in 2006. By acquainting teachers up and down the trail to the resource they have in the A.T., childhood learning can be greatly enhanced and start to develop the next generation of A.T. supporters. AHC's Hal Wright participated in the first session last year; so far, 1,500 students have been touched by the project.

Closer to club trail maintenance were reports on chainsaw policies from the U.S. Forest Service, new guidelines for building new shelters, an alert about invasive plants, trail magic management, geo-caching, and others. These are topics we have discussed at meetings and will continue to do, and this has gone on long enough. Maybe I'll elaborate more in the next newsletter.

Janet Goloub

KTA KORNER

As your representative to the Keystone Trails Association I attended the Council meeting on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at Blue Knob Ski Resort near Altoona. President Thyra Sperry called the meeting to order and introduced the new Office Administrator, Heather Morijah, who is based in the Harrisburg Office, 101 North Front Street, along with Paul Shaw, Executive Director.

Reports from Agency partners included Karen Lutz from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as well as Ron Rice for the North Country Trail. Jeff Johns reported for the Bureau of State Parks and Scott Rimpa for Bureau of State Forests. In Penn Dot's absence, Paul Shaw reported on the concern that hiking trails were dropped from the Pennsylvania state highway maps. Both State Parks and Forestry reported that they are working on a Trail Standards document.

The President and Executive Director reported as follows:

- Club Insurance – Although KTA investigated umbrella insurance to cover clubs, the insurance company response was that each club needs its own policy since each club is independent.
- Grant Application Update – The grant will be used to (1) prepare a state trails map showing road crossings, restaurants, contact info; and (2) develop a KTA Trails Manual of the best practices of trail building/maintaining.
- Endangered Hiking Trail Program – hoping to move from “handshake agreements” to formal agreements with landowners
- MEGA Hike – looking into a mega hike similar to the Rachel Carson Challenge Hike that would serve as a fund raiser and increase interest in KTA (the Carson challenge draws 700 persons; Bald Eagle Mountain Megatransect Hike cuts off at 500 registrants)

Web Site – now easier to do updates; Note a big button on home page to report trail problems – USE IT!!

Publications - Wayne Gross - Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, 12th Edition – being edited by Ben Cramer with plans to be on the market in February 2008.

M. Virginia Musser
KTA Representative



BAGGING PEAKS In New England

G. Musser

A long-time AHC member, Ginny Musser, recently finished bagging all 67 four thousand footers required to become a member of the New England Four Thousand Footer Club sponsored by the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Getting started hiking these peaks began innocently enough on an AMC Range Hike in 1980 when the hike leaders gave interested hikers the option of leaving the main hiking group to bag a designated 4000 footer. Former AHC member, Lois Ludwig, and now Ginny's hiking partner for nearly 30 years, also began chasing the formidable 4000-footer list!

In 2004, with the help of Barb Wiemann, Ginny finished the 48 peaks in the White Mountains and basically determined she would never finish all 67. She had been defeated twice on Vermont's Mount Mansfield and the thought of returning to Baxter State Park and Mount Kathadin for Hamlin Peak was overwhelming in light of her ascent to Baxter Peak in 1989 to finish the A.T. She's afraid of heights and fears falling off the earth depending on the terrain!

In September 2006, Ginny asked Lois to accompany her to Mount Mansfield to try a different trail that she found much less daunting than the Long Trail up over the chin. With Mansfield in the bag, why not try for the final three in Maine: Hamlin Peak and North Brother in Baxter State Park as well as Mount Reddington near Stratton.

With special thanks to Barb and Al Wiemann for their moral support, cooking and a bunk in their camper, Ginny managed to keep her anxiety at a reasonable level as she did 4-point scrambles over the boulders above tree line on Hamlin on a perfect hiking day in August 2007. Bloody knees from crawling up over boulders and very painful knees were the price to pay in order to get to the top of Hamlin and the following day, North Brother.

The final peak, Mount Reddington, a peak that was added since the list she received in 1980, was a "walk in the park" as compared to the peaks in Baxter. Unfortunately the heavens opened up just before Barb and Ginny reached the summit and stopped about 10 minutes down the mountain. No pictures; no views; no register to be seen.

Pictures, a 4000-footer patch, a 4000-footer certificate and memories are all that remain.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Edna Himmler > 1754 South Albert St., Allentown, Pa. 18103

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP: —

PHONE: ()

RENEWAL

NEW

EMAIL:

Dues @\$10.00 / \$15.00 Household _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SML	MED	LRG	XLG

CLUB T-SHIRTS @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SML	MED	LRG	XLG

CLUB GOLF SHIRTS @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

<input type="checkbox"/>
QTY

CLUB PATCH @ \$1.50 + \$.75 SHIPPING EA _____

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB" TOTAL ENCLOSED _____





ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB

Winter 2008 Schedule

MEMBER OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY AND THE KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

The general public is invited to join us on hikes and other events. If a club or organization wishes to include one of our hikes as a formal activity on its schedule, we ask that it contact the leader in advance for permission. Times listed are departure times, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the listed time. Starting times are strictly observed and appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes/boots should be worn at all times.

Except on longer hikes, our pace is moderate with opportunities for resting and sightseeing. Every attempt is made to assist and encourage hikers, but we cannot be responsible for their safety on the trail. Any rugged outdoor activity entails risk, and we expect all participants to rely on their own judgment and good sense to take care of themselves and know their limitations. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Hikers are expected not to lag too far behind the main party.

We car-pool as much as possible to save fuel. **PASSENGERS PAY DRIVERS 10 CENTS PER MILE TO DEFRAY FUEL EXPENSE.** Drivers, please remember to check your mileage and let the passengers know how much mileage reimbursement they owe you.

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 South Ott Street, Allentown, Pa. Meetings include a discussion of the previous month's activities, as well as upcoming activities. Scheduling meetings are held quarterly for members to coordinate hikes/trips etc. for the upcoming schedule. All members are invited and encouraged to schedule activities; we are a 100% volunteer organization.

A.H.C. HIKE RATING SYSTEM

In an attempt to assist hikers, a hike rating system has been set up to will allow the hiker to judge his/her ability to complete the hike. The rating system will precede the Allentown Hiking Club's usual hike description. On multi-day outings such as backpacks, the rating for the hike will reflect the distance traveled on a per-day basis. Remember that the hike ratings are assigned by the hike leader, and are therefore based on the leader's subjective opinion. The rating system is:

RATING DESCRIPTION (distance,terrain,pace)

A+	<u>Up to 7 miles, little climbing and easy terrain, 2 mph or slower</u>
A	<u>Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 mph or slower</u>
B+	<u>Up to 7 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
B	<u>7-10 miles, some climbing and easy terrain 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
C+	<u>7-10 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
C	<u>7-10 miles significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
D+	<u>10-12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
D	<u>10-12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, 2 to 2.5 mph</u>
E+	<u>Over 12 miles, some climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph</u>
E	<u>Over 12 miles, significant climbing and/or rocky terrain, over 2.5 mph</u>
U	<u>Hike unrated by hike leader</u>