



Winter 2011

# The Happy Hiker

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### EXCERPTS FROM ALLENTOWN SHELTER LOGBOOK

Well, it's the end of another year. 2010 has seen the Club through many miles traveled, whether by bike or boot. Needless to say, many more people have used the trails in the Lehigh Valley than have helped maintain them, but the efforts of those few have not gone unnoticed.

The hikers' logbook from the Allentown Shelter was nearly filled this summer by those hikers who used it on their trek north toward Maine or, in some cases, south toward Georgia. These journals are kept in the Club archives, and at the November meeting I decided to take it home and read the whole thing. Following are some of the more interesting entries. It should give you a unique insight to the ups and downs in the day-to-day life of the hiking community. Some may sound trivial, some may sound upbeat, and some may sound depressing, but they're all real. Read on:

- 6-15 Great night here in the shelter. We noticed a ten yard stretch about a mile back where there are NO rocks. What's up with that?!! We plan to contact the ATC people in an attempt to have more rocks placed on the trail. There just isn't enough.  
"Rock on!"  
Black Kat &  
Lost Acadian
- 6-20 I didn't know PA had a MONSOON SEASON! The forecast...more rain!!! Need dog food so I must press on.  
Rolling Stone & Coal
- 6-29 Thank you Lord for taking me out of the mud + mire and setting my feet on these beautiful rocks. Now I walk with you. I am not alone anymore!  
Braveheart
- 7-3 In for a break.....enough with these rocks! 53.8 miles left in PA  
Rockamimi & Gram Cracker
- 7-14 Vermont. So. On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of hiking, the AT gave to me: 12 more miles to go, 11 fun thru hikers, 10 stinking privies, 9 annoying insects, 8 broken blisters, 7 water sources, 6 scary snakes, 5 gorgeous views, 4 smelly socks, 3 killer climbs, 2 level tent sites, and a pack that was way too heavy. Best privy in PA! Thank You.  
Braids and Whichway
- 7-26 This shelter needs a swimming pool. On that note.....be right back. Okay, I'm back, and Oh My! Privy tested and approved. Privy gets the ultimate rare grade of..... Super most best grade A++. During my exhaustive, thorough examination and test of the privy... I found the chess pieces to the board in the shelter. I do apologize for NOT digging them out.  
Ramble On
- 9-14 Awesome shelter, nice picnic table. Great idea for the chess board (wish I had some pieces) too lazy to make my own.  
Mike, Scranton, PA

Happy Hiking  
Gene Scharle



## Allentown Hiking Club

P.O.Box 1542 — Allentown, Pa 18105-1542

Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

[www.allentownhikingclub.org](http://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.

Presidents.....	Mike "Sparky" Wuerstle - (610) 346-7042 email: president@allentownhikingclub.org	Outerbridge Shelter Chair.....	Carl Griffin - (610) 760-0479
Vice-President.....	Carl Coleman	KTA Representative.....	Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 email: critter888@verizon.net
Secretary.....	Dick Fink - (610) 865-3925	Program Committee Chair.....	Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 email: gabby@enter.net
Treasurer.....	Susan Ritter- (610) 261-1847 email: critter888@verizon.net	Library.....	Holly Vogler - (610) 820-0162
Membership.....	Paula Uhrin email:membership@allentownhikingclub.org	Publicity.....	Gene Scharle - (610) 432-5652
New Member Greeter.....	Jim Gabovitz - (610) 262-3578 email: gabby@enter.net	Webmaster.....	Hal Wright - (610) 630-2008 email: webmaster@allentownhikingclub.org
Appalachian Trail Chair.....	Ed Ritter - (610) 261-1847 email: critter888@verizon.net	Newsletter Editor.....	Bill Geiger - (610) 398-2601 email: newsletter@allentownhikingclub.org
A.T. Monitor Coordinator.....	Barbara Wiemann - (610) 262-6977 email: blwiemann@gmail.com	Hiking Schedule Coordinator..	Marty Larson - (610-967-1389, 610-597-7659C) email: larsonew@ptd.net

### Deadlines for the Spring 2011 Newsletter & Schedule

Happy Hiker Newsletter  
Activity Schedule

Wednesday, March 30, 2011  
Wednesday, April 6, 2011

Please forward all Club related articles, thoughts, and items to the editor by mail or, preferably, by email. Send all hiking schedule activities to the schedule coordinator.

### Upcoming Programs at the AHC Meetings

In addition to the normal business meeting there is also generally a program which is related in some way to the club's activities. The following is a preview of the upcoming programs:

- Jan.** Sherry Acevedo will give the January presentation on the D&L and connecting trails to the AT.
- Feb.** Currently no confirmation.
- Mar.** Scheduling night for spring hikes.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS - Fall 2010

Boylan, Bonnie  
Cabell, Mauro & Maria & Family  
Carr, Amy & Family  
DeClemente, August

Whitehall  
Easton  
Easton  
Allentown

Parks, Richard & Kathleen  
Povenski, David  
Donald Stewart  
Virginia Stover

Allentown  
Macungie  
Phillipsburg, NJ  
Slatington

### AHC Club Officer Election Results for 2011

<b>President</b>	- Mike "Sparky" Wuerstle
<b>Vice President</b>	- Carl Coleman
<b>Secretary</b>	- Dick Fink
<b>Treasurer</b>	- Susan Ritter



## MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE FOR 2011!

Yes, once again it is time to renew your annual dues to the club. Dues are still a bargain @ \$10.00/individual or \$15.00/household per calendar year. Just fill out the form on page 5 and mail it to the membership secretary, or pay in person at a club meeting. The cutoff date will be **January 31, 2011**. Please renew by this date or you will be removed from the membership database.

Club dues help cover the publication and mailing of the newsletter/schedule, library books, and video purchases, Appalachian Trail maintenance, miscellaneous, dues, etc.

You can also prepay your dues years in advance if you don't want to be bothered on a yearly basis!



## New Honorary Member

Janet Goloub, who started serious hiking with of the Allentown Hiking Club in 1991-92, was elected to honorary membership at the AHC's 2010 December meeting. Janet has been an active member who regularly attends meetings, trips, and other events. She has also been an active hike leader for the club on various trails and served as both the club vice-president and president.

Along with her leadership roles as hike leader and officer, Janet has also been active in work projects at both the Lehigh Gap Nature Center and serving as a "Trail Tender" along the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L Trail).

Congratulations to Janet.



## Volunteers Recognized at December Meeting

Anne Griffin

Carl Griffin and Jim Gabovitz received the Friends of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center award at the December meeting. Carl and Jim have been busy helping maintain trails at the Nature Center all year. They also worked with several eagle scouts and a group of probation kids on trail projects at the Nature Center. They have assisted on some unrelated trail projects at the Nature Center as well.

The Allentown Hiking Club recognized the following volunteers for their efforts this year: Barb Wiemann, Jim Gabovitz, Carl Griffin, Edna Himmler, Janet Goloub, Ed Ritter, Nick Rosato, and Dick Snyder.

The following members received honorable mention for their volunteer efforts: Bill Geiger, Dick Fink, Gene Scharle, Susan Ritter, Bernie Harris, and Ginny Musser.

I would like to thank the following merchants who helped make our volunteer recognition program a success: Nestors, Aardvark, Dicks, Fitness Central, and Heavenly Hedgehog.

## NPS Corridor Boundary Monuments Replaced

Barbara Wiemann

Two National Park Service boundary monuments destroyed by a company laying fiber optic cable along PA 309 have been replaced.

While driving home from a camping trip on Labor Day, I noticed that a cable laying operation along PA 309 had disturbed the road bank where two National Park Service corridor boundary markers are located. I found one of the monuments lying on the road bank. Anne and Carl Griffin and I returned with tape measures and tools to search for the second monument, which we found buried and damaged. Carl also discovered that the company had discarded three lengths of cable, each about 50 feet long, in the woods on top of the embankment.

I informed Carlen Emanuel, ATC's Land Protection Manager, about the loss of the monuments, and she involved National Park Service Appalachian Trail Park Office Rangers Todd Remaley and Eric Barron. Eric contacted the company and, due to his efforts, the cable company sent an employee out to remove the discarded cable, paid for new monuments, and hired a licensed surveyor, who reset the monuments on October 7.

Thanks to everyone working together to protect our NPS corridor land, the monuments were replaced promptly and properly.

The photo shows the damaged monument pulled out by the cable company, found lying on the bank beside PA 309. The post is 30 inches long.



## A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, OR HOW I, A WALKER, BECAME AN APPLALACHIAN TRAIL COMPLETER – Part 4

Janet Goloub

After my attempt to get up Katahdin in 2001, the next few years I aimed to accomplish miles and to finish difficult northern New England, and in 2002 I went to the southern end of Virginia plus Tennessee. The start was another treat that can happen on the trail. I'd seen Harold Croxton, a long-time member of the AHC, at Radnor College a couple of years earlier, and he'd urged me to call him when I got to his area, then near Damascus, and I did. He and Rosemare shuttled me, hosted me overnights in their home, and let me leave my car in their driveway. Their generosity amazes me still.

This part of the A.T. was a relief after the somewhat relentless difficulty of the New England mountains. It was May, and the trail's flowers were wonderful. Trilliums of all kinds appeared often, there were lady slippers, lots of wild azalea; rhododendrons beginning, and occasional mountain laurel, the latter 2 apparently blooming at the same time, unlike here. I really enjoyed hiking in the south in May, as the season changed going up and down the mountains, the trees just starting to leaf out up high and myriads of flowers blooming in the green forest below.

Unique in TN is that there aren't privies at the shelters. That may have changed by now, but when I was there a spade and latrine site were part of shelter accommodations. Martin had retired and said he wanted to go with me for a while "to see what this project is all about." We spent 4 fine days staying at a motel in Erwin, TN. Martin shuttled me to the trailhead each day and hiked for a couple of miles, then picked me up at the other end, hiking in to meet me. He did that nearly every year until I finished, and they were very peasant getaways for us.

I hiked down Roan Mt., TN's highest. How do you hike down a mountain without climbing up it? With a shuttler who drives you up to the top so it becomes the trailhead for 2 hikes. That's my kind of mountain, if I get right down to it. The Catawba rhododendrons were wonderful up there. Unaka Mt. was unexpectedly hard, steep with endless roots and rocks. The gently rolling balds in those hikes were wonderful change in the terrain.

I hiked 205 miles in 2002. In 2003 I went back to the northeast, starting at the Mahoosuc Mts. People said the Mahoosucs made the Whites look easy, and I was not particularly looking forward to them. I'd given myself 4 days for that section. The lean-tos were about 5 miles apart, and I figured that after 3 days I'd be able to skip one. This section includes the Mahoosuc Notch, which many say is the hardest mile on the whole A.T. After that is the Mahoosuc Arm, which looks worse on the elevation profile. They were toward the end of the section.

There had been a lot of rain in the nights and drizzly days, some sun. Wet slabs made me nervous climbing up and terrified going down; breaking through cobwebs first thing in the mornings; sparse blazes causing fear that I'd gotten on a wrong trail; endless climbing up rocks. I noted one morning that it took 3 1/2 hours to do 1.8 miles. At one point a short ladder went straight up a rock; you had to climb many steep feet to a tiny ledge, maybe 2" deep, to get to the bottom of the ladder 4' away. I don't know how I edged over to it. This is with full pack, gravity pulling you back, and you can't lean forward because it's rock. Although there were pleasant stretches, when I got to the lean-tos I couldn't go another step.

Rain had raised the water in the Notch to 3', was one report, and I decided to hike to the Notch and go off the trail. I called the hostel in Andover where we were staying for a few nights along with Martha. My plan was to finish ME, but Martha's hip prevented her from some hikes, and I was so exhausted from the Mahoosucs that I didn't push anything.

We did climb Bald Pate Mt., a long, broad, wet, slippery slab of rock that took us to all fours and was so terrifying that we didn't know if we'd get to the top. We did though, and a young hiker explained that he got up such rock by eventually learning to trust his boots' traction. I practiced that up and across Saddleback Mt., and it helps me still. Saddleback was hard, but its 3 miles above tree line was a pleasure even in high wind, clouds and mist. Very tasty blue- and bilberries caused additional dawdling. Down again to Piazza Rock Lean-to, we were with 3 men and a young caretaker who asked us about the then current political situation (wars, growing debt, Bush, Jr., etc). We had a long discussion with views at both ends of the spectrum, and no contempt for each other.

We met Kathy Winters, Katydid, another hiker Martha & JoAnne met on the trail. Martin left for home, and we continued on to Katahdin. Yes, I needed to make another attempt to climb it. After missing only 2 miles of it 2 years earlier, I realized there are some miles you have to do to say you've done the A.T. We had another gathering of hiking friends at Katahdin Stream Lean-to; 4 of us would climb. Then the ranger on duty came around the evening before to say they were closing the mountain to hikers because it would be unusually hot; a few weeks earlier a teenager had died from heat and dehydration when he wandered off from his group, and the park was being exceptionally careful.

The ATC says the A.T. is what it is the day you're there; since I was there and was prevented from climbing Katahdin, I could say I finished the A.T. (when I did). In a way I was relieved, but still... We made our plans B, and the ranger came the next morning: it wasn't as hot as predicted, and they opened the mountain. We scrambled to get our gear together and started at 7:30, 1 1/2 hours later than our original plan.

Mile 1 of the 5-mile climb is easy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> harder. Martha left us; we 3 were JoAnne, Kathy and me. The next 1 1/2 miles took forever, hauling ourselves up through huge boulders, some with metal handholds (See Part 3), then needing hands and knees to pick our way up the last 1/2-mile to the Gateway, where the trail leveled out some. Three hours for that 1 1/2 miles. Then the magical Tablelands, almost flat, above tree line, with wonderful plant life, and the land so broad you can't see what's below, only the peaks off yonder. The day remained sunny, and we started back after about 1/2-hour. Descending went faster, but the whole 10-mile hike took us 11 hours. My success with Katahdin gave me a high that lasted the rest of the night. You conquered Katahdin, said some of my congratulators. No; I conquered fear and inaction, i.e., me - and I became a part of Katahdin and it me for a little while.

Continued on Page 5



## A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, OR HOW I, A WALKER, BECAME AN APPLALACHIAN TRAIL COMPLETER – Part 4 continued

I had wanted to finish northern New England in 2003, but didn't, hiking only 85 miles. I did finish New Hampshire – hooray! and I got up Katahdin, 2 major A.T. challenges. In 2004 I had 2 major goals: finish ME and VT, and have an A.T. moose sighting before leaving northern New England.

Mary Ann Nissley and I hiked a good stretch of mid-VT, going 40 miles, much of it in rain or wet trail from nightly rain. By the end, it had decreased enough that we were pretty much dried out. From there I drove to Andover, ME to The Cabin, one of the best hiker accommodations along the A.T. Martha and Martin met me there, and we made up miles we missed in 2003. I planned day hiking the Mahoosuc Notch and Old Speck Mt. in 1 day, 8 miles, that included 2 of the hardest bits on the A.T.

The weather was iffy, but the 2-miles up the approach trail took only an hour. This definitely was a part I didn't want to hike alone, and happily a quartet from Florida came along and added me to their number. The Notch was a gathering place for all the rock above to fall into, and now you just climb in and out and up and over and around endless huge boulders till the end. I was glad I didn't have a backpack. A congenial group, we took 3 hours for that mile.

I was even gladder not to have the backpack on the Mahoosuc Arm, 1 1/2 miles nearly straight up on the elevation profile. The top came sooner than I expected, and the trail was quite easy then. It was clouding up seriously when I started the long descent to Grafton Notch, and the surrounding hemlock forest darkened the trail even more. It rained, then poured, and even though the sky was light I was hiking in darkness. I carried a flashlight, but I prefer night vision if possible. The descent was rocky, but then it had been turned into steps, and between their regularity and good blazing I was able to see better than if I'd used the flashlight. I reached the bottom and Martin at 8:00, an 11-hour hike for the 8 miles without the 2-mile approach. And – I had finished ME!

872 miles to go.

## 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: Paula Uhrin > 283 Ridgeview Drive, Alburtis Pa. 18011**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

SML    MED    LRG    XLG

<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------

QTY

SHIRTS - T-SHIRTS @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRTS - CLUB GOLF @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA \_\_\_\_\_

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

CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB" \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Yes :: Please sign me up for the Allentown Hiking Club's email list --- the AHC Forum

