

Hike • Save Trails • Make Friends

Carolina Mountain Club eNews



September 2024



CMC Quarterly Crew at John Rock Trail

by Donna Bange

On a hot, humid August Saturday 53 CMC volunteers came out to work on the John Rock trail. Volunteers came from all across the tri-state area: Charleston, SC; Johnson City, TN; Charlotte and of course the greater Asheville area.

Quarterly crew is led by Joe Bange and Chris Werbylo; they had support from the weekday crew leaders of Ken Hummel, Paul Curtin, Madison Evans and Don Cooper along with Les Love, CMC President. Trail maintainers ranged in age from their 20s to a volunteer in his 90s - Carroll Koepplinger. Each volunteer was assigned to a work group that met his/her interest along with their physical capabilities. To read more, [click here](#)

Photos by Amber Gibbs

MAX PATCH

6th Annual Workday



JOIN US!

Afterparty at Bearwaters (Canton)!

Saturday September 28

All are welcome

8:00 Sign-in (Canton Ingles) and carpool to site

9:00 Sign-in at Max Patch

9:30 Event kick-off

2:30 Afterparty at Bearwaters

Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and work gloves, Bring water, snacks, and lunch.
Tools and safety gear are provided.



Volunteers needed to staff CMC booth at 2024 Blue Ridge Pride Festival

Saturday, September 21st, 11am-6pm, Pack Square Park

Please consider helping us support our LGBTQ members and neighbors at the Blue Ridge Pride Festival in downtown Asheville. [Blue Ridge Pride](#) seeks "to promote equality, safety, and quality of life for western North Carolina's LGBTQ and allied communities." We could use some additional volunteers, particularly in the later afternoon hours, to help promote inclusivity within the club and speak to

how CMC contributes to all of our lives in WNC. If you can donate an hour or two to help staff our booth, please sign up [here](#).



By the Numbers: How GPS Coordinates Helped Us Avoid a Day of Needless Searching

by Bill Sanderson

Co-Director Carolina Mountain Club Search-and-Rescue

A southbound A.T. hiker reported a gnarly downed tree to Peggy Romesberg (the Appalachian Cookie Lady!), describing the location as “between Jerry Cabin and Little Laurel Shelter” (which is a section of trail over 7 miles long), but fortunately he also gave Peggy the GPS coordinates of the tree, which he had collected via a phone app. Peggy reported all this information to the maintainers in that area. We plotted the coordinates on a map, and the location was a point on the A.T. north of Big Butt, multiple miles from the area indicated by the hiker’s verbal description.

Knowing that hikers who are unfamiliar with our area are often confused about shelter names and just exactly where they are at any given time, Dennis Boone and I chose to ignore the description and instead make the long hike directly to the location indicated by the coordinates. As we hiked along, burdened by heavy saws and other tools, we both hoped that we would actually find the tree where the coordinates indicated it should be.

“According to the map the tree is about 100 meters ahead.”

A few minutes later the snarl of pine limbs blocking the trail loomed into view.

“Well, what do you know.”

If that hiker hadn't taken those few seconds to record accurate coordinates we would have likely wasted the day searching in vain, miles from the actual location of the blowdown. This story should once again demonstrate the value of using phone-based technology to accurately report trail issues. The technology is not hard, and the phone in your pocket will collect these data whether or not you have a cell signal.

Click [HERE](#) to go to a short presentation on how to use your phone to quickly and easily capture location coordinates!



**BLUE RIDGE
PUBLIC RADIO**

npr FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

CMC April Quarterly Crew Featured by Blue Ridge Public Radio

by Donna Bange

It is not every day that CMC trail maintenance crews receive public attention. Most of the 230+ trail maintainers volunteer work goes unnoticed, until the trail is in poor condition and a hiker vociferously complains. So it was so special and memorable that CMC April Quarterly crew was highlighted by Blue Ridge Public radio in both an audio and website story.

Below is the link to the audio and the article. Thank you to David Huff as he promotes CMC across the western North Carolina community.

'Lifeblood' of the forest: Meet the volunteers who maintain Western North Carolina's trails

BPR News | By Felicia Sonmez

Published August 8, 2024 at 8:38 PM EDT

<https://www.bpr.org/bpr-news/2024-08-08/lifeblood-of-the-forest-meet-the-volunteers-who-maintain-western-north-carolinas-trails>

Carolina Mountain Club 2024 Annual Meeting and Dinner Save the Date!

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024
Hilton Inn Biltmore Park, Asheville

We're thrilled to invite you to the Carolina Mountain Club's 2024 Annual Meeting and Dinner! This year, we're excited to welcome Jay Leutze from the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy as our featured speaker. Jay will share his passion and insights about the plans for Deaverview, a beloved mountain that's at risk. Don't miss this inspiring talk! [Learn more about Deaverview](#).

Based on your valuable feedback from last year, we've made some exciting changes to enhance your experience:

- New and Improved Space
- We've added the Mitchell Room across from the Pisgah Ballroom for our open bar and social hour, giving you more room to mingle and enjoy the evening.
- Better Registration and Merchandise Space
- We've expanded the area for registration and merchandise to make things more convenient and accessible.
- Two Buffet Lines
- Enjoy a delicious enhanced salad bar and a separate line for hot foods—no more waiting in line!
- Streamlined Awards Recognition
- We've made the process smoother for recognizing our fellow CMC Members with various awards, making this a night to celebrate!

Join us for an incredible evening of great food, wonderful company, and entertainment—all for just \$40.00 per person. Please RSVP on the CMC website in the 'Members Section'—registration is now open!

If you'd like to be part of making this event a success, we could use your help! We need volunteers to staff the registration, awards, and merchandise tables. Interested? Please reach out to CMC VP Karen Schultz at vp@carolinamountainclub.org.

We can't wait to see you there!



Arnold (Skip) Sheldon (L) and Tom Weaver (R) installing the new A.T. sign Tom made for Hot Springs

Get to know Tom Weaver, Past President

I grew up in northwest Pennsylvania and attended Penn State, where I met my future wife, Kathy, and we both earned our degrees in Polymer Science. I went on to have a 33-year career with Dow Chemical, serving in various positions across six states and Germany, and finishing my career in North Carolina in 2013.

I joined the Carolina Mountain Club's Friday and Saturday trail crews in 2013 after learning about the club's work from some men at a woodworking club meeting.

Since then, I have served as the Trails Facilities Manager, taking over the role from Howard McDonald. Building bridges and making signs is my passion.

I have also served as Councilor at Large, Vice President, and President, and I am currently fulfilling my role as Past President. It has been a great experience to learn more about the inner workings of the Carolina Mountain Club and witness the passion our volunteers bring to the organization.

2024 has been a year of looking toward the future of our club. I am proud of our current leadership team's efforts to create a strategic plan for the Carolina Mountain Club, which will help keep our club strong and growing.



Happy Birthday Mountains-to-Sea Trail!

by Marcia Bromberg

September is the MST's birthday month. It was 47 years ago that Howard Lee, then NC Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources, suggested the creation of a trail across North Carolina from the mountains to the ocean during a speech at the National Trails Symposium at Lake Junaluska. It wasn't long before eager hiking and outdoor enthusiasts got permission from the state to lay out a likely pathway. Quickly volunteers across the State, including our own CMC maintainers, began building the trail.

Eventually the MST became the first official State Trail and, in the 1990's, those volunteers established a nonprofit organization, Friends of the MST, to raise recognition and funding to help continue moving trail off-road. In 2006 the Friends hired their first executive director, Kate Dixon, and from there trail visibility took off. Finally, in 2021 the State realized how important the MST (and other State Trails) are to NC residents and the tourist economy and included trail funding in the State budget.

Today approximately 2/3 of the 1,175 mile trail is off-road, with more sections coming on-line every day. Those of us living in the mountains are fortunate to have a section of the trail that is almost all off-road. Our CMC maintainers have built and are responsible for taking care of over 140 miles of MST, and they do a great job. And, of course, our hikers love hiking on the trail. And our database lists over 125 hikes that include the MST. Every quarter 15-20 CMC hikes are fully or partly on the MST. In September, the birthday month, you have a choice of seven MST hikes of various lengths and difficulties including a hike I'm leading on September 14th.

In addition to the CMC-sponsored hikes, the Friends is offering a number of activities during the birthday month including a birthday challenge, hikes, and other events. You can find out about hikes offered across the state and all the other events by going to <https://mountaintoseatrail.org/challenges/birthday/>.

So go out and take a hike on the MST and on September 9th (the actual birthday date), raise a glass to our own North Carolina long trail.

Fall is back in Western North Carolina!

Lynn Pettipaw shares ways to explore Asheville and its beautiful fall weather – take a look at these hidden gems she's shared!

Fall Adventures

Here are some ideas to add some spice to your fall adventures

Kayak and Hike

One of my favorite things to do is to take my dog kayaking at Price Lake (BRP mile marker 297, near Boone). Price Lake Boat Rentals offers kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes. It's a small lake, taking about an hour to paddle around. The lake has mountain views, so it's a pretty location for easy paddling. There is no need to reserve boats in advance. Check their website for hours and fees:

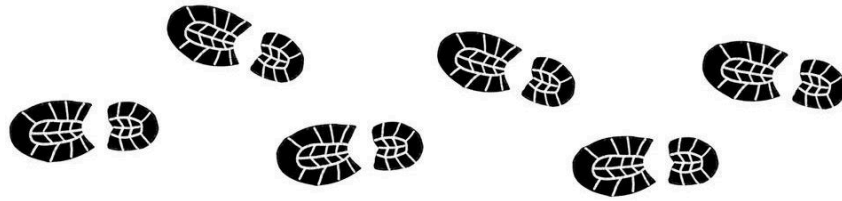
<https://www.pricelakeboatrentals.com/>

They also offer monthly full moon paddles, with two nights being offered in September. Note that when fall foliage hits its peak, the drive on the BRP can be very crowded, especially on weekends.



A short hike to add on to your trip is the Flat Rock Trail from Flat Rock Parking Overlook (Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 308.3). Take the trail from the parking lot. The trail splits and you can either go clockwise or counter-clockwise around the loop. It's only a 0.7-mile hike, making it a quick stop on your way home. Halfway through the hike, you reach a rocky plateau with a view of Grandfather Mountain.

To read more, [click here](#).



New Boots On The Ground!

Volunteers Appointed Through August
Trail Section Maintainers
(Appalachian Trail)

Bill McKinney – Flint Gap to Devil Fork Gap incl. Flint Mtn. Shelter
Deaver Shattuck – Devil Fork Gap to Sugarloaf Gap Access

THANK YOU!

CMC Hike Leaders' Appreciation and Education Dinner Hold the Date!

The annual Hike Leaders' Appreciation and Education Dinner has been confirmed for Friday evening, **February 28, 2025** at the Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park. Always a fun time, this event is for anyone who will have led or co-led a hike during 2024 or the first quarter of 2025. CMC Council members are invited too! Be sure to mark your calendars and look for your invitation in January.

CMC Blue Centennial Shirts Now Available in Short Sleeves

CMC has remaining inventory of blue Centennial waffle shirts in both men's and women's sizes. To sell off the inventory, the long sleeve shirts are being converted into short sleeve shirts. Now, as a CMC member or guest, you have the opportunity to own both a long and short sleeve blue Centennial shirt, perfect for year-round wear.

The short sleeve shirts are \$20, with a portion of the proceeds helping to offset the Centennial celebration costs. If you're interested in a short sleeve shirt, available in men's and women's sizes, please contact Donna Bange at donna.bange@gmail.com. Some sizes have more inventory than others, so Donna can help coordinate your order. Be sure to specify men's or women's, your preferred size, and delivery information before September 28th. Your purchase helps support CMC and spread awareness of our club within the community.

Help Wanted

Trail Maintenance

The Club needs section maintainers for the section(s) shown on the attached link. Section Maintainers "adopt" a section of trail. Adoption includes (but is not limited to) quarterly walk-throughs, routine maintenance (tread, trimming, water diversions), and noting downed trees and other trail blockers. (For complete adoption guidelines, see the Members' Section of CMC's webpage. Click on "Trail Work," then "Trail Maintenance," then "Extras.") If interested, please contact the Supervisors on the link. Thanks!

To review sections currently in need of maintainers, [click here](#).

Carolina Mountain Club eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Members can send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org. **Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month.** Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments. For members' address and email changes, log in, select "Modify Profile", make changes and click on "Update Member" or email Dennis Bass at dbass3607@gmail.com. Your email changes will be automatically reflected in eNews delivery.

About Carolina Mountain Club:

Hiking. CMC leads about 200 group hikes per year. Hikes are open to all, and we welcome guests (though please contact hike leader first). Hike information--including dates, times, meeting locations, scout reports, and leader contact information--can be found on the CMC website [here](#). Additional information about hiking can be found [here](#).

Trail maintenance. CMC maintains over 440 miles of trail in western NC. Individuals of all ages and groups/organizations are invited to participate. CMC membership is not required, and all required tools are provided. We have weekly crews every day of the week from Monday-Saturday, quarterly Saturday crews, and other special events. For those with busy or unpredictable schedules, we also have section maintainers who maintain a short portion of trail and/or report issues that require a larger work crew. To volunteer, please email volunteer@carolinamountainclub.org or visit [here](#) for more information.

Conservation. The CMC Conservation Committee advocates for the sustained natural beauty and access to our hiking areas. More information can be found [here](#) or by emailing Conservation@carolinamountainclub.org.

How to join CMC

For just \$20 (\$30 Family) per year, you can join western North Carolina's oldest and largest hiking trail club. CMC members receive the *Let's Go!* quarterly hike schedule via email and have full access to member services on the CMC website. There is a link to join on the [CMC website](#).

Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802
www.carolinamountainclub.org

[Let's Go!](#)



[CMC Calendar](#) | [Hike Reports](#) | [Future Hikes](#)

Carolina Mountain Club | P.O. Box 68 | Asheville, NC 28802 US

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