

Hiking • Saving Trails • Making Friends  
Carolina Mountain Club eNews



## September 2026

# MAX PATCH

## Trail Workday

National Public Lands Day  
Help care for Max Patch



### Saturday – September 26



Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/MaxPatch2026>



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## Camp Celo Campers Dig In on the Upper River Loop

John Whitehouse



Every year the CMC Monday Crew hosts campers and counselors from Camp Celo, located along the South Toe River in Yancey County. Twice each summer these volunteers join us for a day of work. Camp Celo is designed for outdoor oriented middle-schoolers who attend the camp for several weeks; doing hikes, backpacking and other activities meant to encourage a love of the natural world.

Our regular workday on Monday, August 3 was our second with Camp Celo. We choose the Upper River Loop, a popular 3.7 mile loop along both sides of the South Toe River starting and ending at Black Mountain Campground. The work entailed improving tread that had “crept” down the side slope,

widening narrow tread and removing rocks and roots that are trip hazards. In addition we installed a few check steps and cleared some water diversions. We formed four teams of two or three campers, a counselor, and a couple crew members.

Once the Camp Celo volunteers got the hang of creating a good “bench” for the tread they did an excellent job on more than 200 feet of very bad trail! As usual, the crew was pleasantly surprised at the enthusiasm of their young people. Afterwards we shared cold drinks and snacks.

We look forward to seeing another group from Camp Celo next summer.

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## Club Headquarters Update

Tom Weaver, Foreman

As announced last month, the renovation/build-out of our new facilities is now complete. Already we've hosted events for our SAR team, the recent Council meeting and a team from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Before the Council meeting we gave them a tour of the Headquarters' different areas and a slide show of the renovation before, during and current status.

We have added the Headquarters as a "trail section" in our system and Jane Dawson has volunteered to be the section maintainer. She will manage the space so it is always ready for future meetings, handle our relationship with the outside management company, etc. She's already added several nice touches to our space!

Our renovation project has been submitted to the Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity's annual Restore Reuse contest! We purchased and renovated cabinetry, counter tops, and chairs from the Restore for this project. Public voting opens October 1st and runs through October 31st. [Click here](#) to preview of the submission and vote!

**Finally, we have scheduled an Open House for our members to come see our new Headquarters - Saturday, September 19th from 2-5 PM, following our trail maintainer's picnic at Lake Julian. Address is 18 Business Park Circle in Arden, right around the corner from the picnic. Please join us!**

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# TRAIL MAINTAINERS PICNIC



Join us afterwards for an Open House at CMC's new HQ (2p-5p)  
18 Business Park Circle, Arden, NC 28704

Please sign in at <https://carolinamtclub.org/maintenance/> and click the  
Volunteer Picnic spinning wheel

**Saturday  
19 Sept  
2026**



**Lake Julian  
Pavillion 6**



Enter Lake Julian Park from the Hendersonville Rd entrance.

## Carolina Mountain Club Opposes Rescission of the Roadless Rule

*Carolina Mountain Club opposes the proposed rescission of the Roadless Rule, which has protected roadless areas of our national forests from most road construction and timber harvesting for more than 25 years.*

*We recognize the need for active forest management and support appropriate flexibility to address wildfire risk, forest health, ecological restoration, and public*

safety. We do not believe those needs require removing the protections that have preserved the roadless character of these public lands.

CMC is a nonpartisan, member-led organization whose members hold a wide range of perspectives. Our position is grounded in our mission and more than a century of hiking, trail stewardship, conservation, and service to the public lands of Western North Carolina.

[Read More](#)

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## Big Bald AT Trail Maintenance Day

Paul Curtin & Donna Bange

On Saturday August 15th, the Quarterly Crew worked on the Big Bald A.T. This part of the A.T. is a remote area and not easily accessible to the public. We had over 60 volunteers at three major work sites: Bald Mountain A.T. Shelter, and two A.T. tread focused work areas. Many of the volunteers were new to CMC and trail work.



[Read More](#)

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## When the Mountains Begin to Turn

Jamie Morris-Haley

There's a moment in our Carolina mountains when Summer hasn't quite left, but Fall has begun whispering its arrival.

The mornings grow cooler. The mist hangs a little longer in the coves. Ferns lose some of their summer brilliance, and high on the ridges, the first leaves begin to turn. The change comes from the top down---higher elevations change first, with the display gradually moving toward the valleys. Often, this display is especially

gradual as the higher elevations boast our unique mix of evergreens---frasier firs and red spruce at higher elevations, along with pines, laurel, and rhododendron across many peaks. And those mountains will host an influx of hikers, both experienced and inexperienced, admiring the beauty of this change.

For those of us who hike and maintain trails, this is more than just a pretty season---it is a season to pay attention.

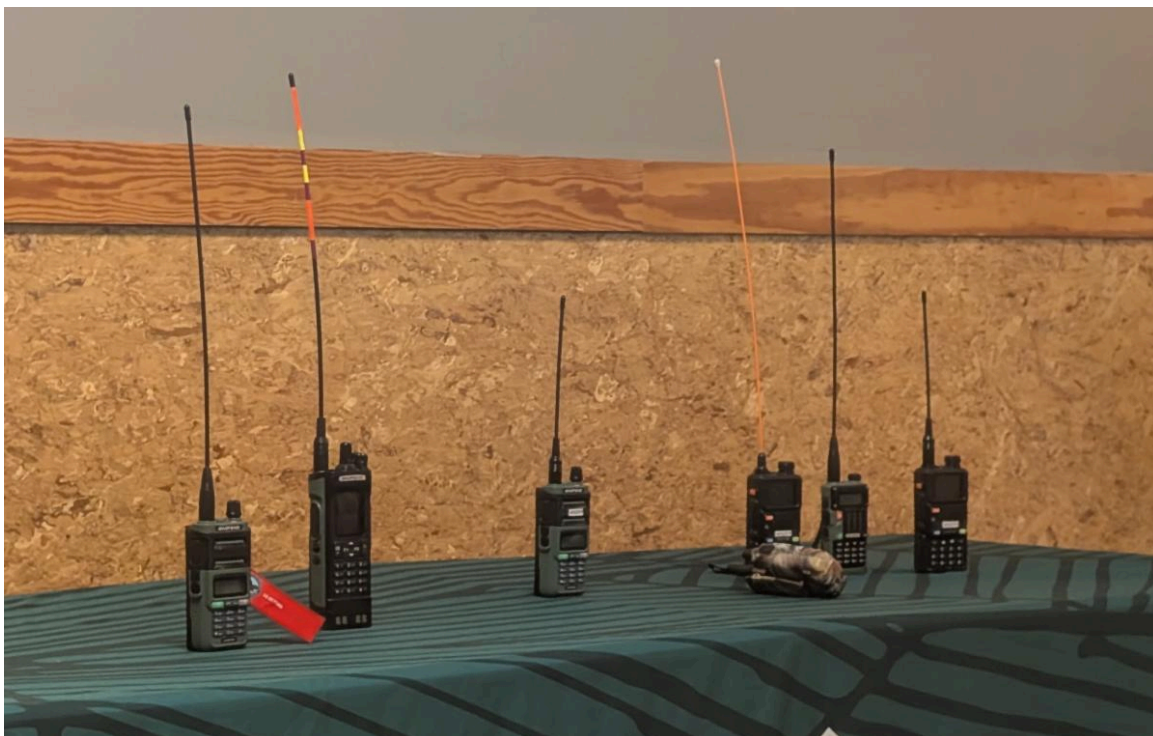
Mountain weather has a way of changing its mind. A warm afternoon can give way to a chilly ridge, sudden rain, or a fog that erases a familiar view. Higher elevations can be dramatically colder than the valleys below. Shorter days also mean less margin for a delayed hike or an unexpected trail problem.

And then there are the trails themselves. Leaves can hide rocks, roots, and wet footing. Summer storms may have left erosion, fallen trees, or unstable places that deserve another look. For trail maintainers, autumn is an invitation to walk slowly and notice these changes. For hikers, it is a reminder that beautiful conditions still demand good judgment.

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## The Backcountry Lifeline: How GMRS Radios Keep CMC Connected

Michael Spanhour



[Read the story here](#)

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# Outward Bound

Don Cooper



On June 26<sup>th</sup> a group of 10 Outward Bound participants were hosted by the CMC Pisgah Friday Crew where we made significant improvements to the Art Loeb Trail. The college-aged students were in their third week of a four-week program and seemed to really enjoy improving the tread on a section of the trail near the Butter Gap Shelter.

Simon Farr from TPC (The Pisgah Conservancy) joined the group and helped educate the students on trail design and maintenance and also provided tools and personal protection equipment. The Outward Bound School is located off Cathey's Creek road close to Balsam Grove right here in the Pisgah National Forest.

Working with young people and sharing experiences about their adventure while getting some needed tread work done made for a great day for the Pisgah Friday Crew.

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## LOCATION APPS: What are they and why do you need one?

Bill Sanderson

In an emergency situation, you may need rapid access to easy-to-read coordinates so that you can quickly and accurately report your location. This is why a good **Location App** should be considered a necessary supplement to your usual navigation apps.

Location apps are stand-alone apps that open with one tap to a screen that delivers your present location, in the coordinate systems of your choice, in large, easy-to-read digits. These apps do not require a cell signal as they depend solely on your phone's GPS receiver, so they will function anywhere as long as your phone has a reasonable view of the sky.



Continue Reading

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## Save the Dates

Saturday, September 19th - Maintainers Picnic & HQ Open House

Saturday, November 14th - Annual Meeting and Dinner

## Quarterly Workdays

[Saturday, September 26th - National Public Lands Day](#)

## Remote Overnight Crews

[October 10/11 - Deer Park Mountain Shelter, Appalachian Trail](#)

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## Volunteer Opportunities

The Club is currently seeking both section maintainers and members for our weekly trail crews.

**Section Maintainers** "adopt" a portion of trail and are responsible for tasks such as quarterly walk-throughs, routine maintenance (including tread work, trimming,

and clearing water diversions), and reporting any downed trees or other trail obstructions.

**Weekly crew members** join scheduled group outings to help with a variety of trail maintenance projects. It's a great way to learn trail skills, meet other volunteers, and make a meaningful impact.

Like to join a weekly crew or become a section maintainer? Like more information? Click the **Volunteer** link below.

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[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Hike](#)

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Carolina Mountain Club is the oldest and largest hiking and trail maintenance organization in the Southeastern United States. As a member-run volunteer organization, we embody the spirit of community and shared passion for the outdoors, welcoming everyone who wishes to participate in its activities.

Leading over 200 hikes per year, the club maintains more than 440 miles of trails in Western North Carolina, including 94 miles of the Appalachian Trail and 150 miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Questions or feedback on the CMC eNewsletter and content can be directed to David Huff at [communications@carolinamountainclub.org](mailto:communications@carolinamountainclub.org)



[www.carolinamountainclub.org](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org)

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

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