

## Using the Schedule

Hikes in the schedule are graded according to difficulty using the table below. Consult the hike leader for a more specific appraisal.

E	Easy hike, 2-5 miles. Expect good trails, often old roads
EM	Easy to Moderate, 3-6 miles. Expect steeper trails and more hills
M	Moderate, 5-8 miles. Trails may be difficult walking in places
MS	Moderate to Strenuous. Expect longer hikes with more climbing, perhaps bushwacking
S	Strenuous. Expect long hikes and hill climbing with large elevation gains, bushwacking

Other standard acronym's used in the hike descriptions are:

HD	Hiking Distance
DD	Driving Distance
MRT	Miles Round Trip

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

There are certain risks that are inherent in any hike or other club activity. These include, but are not limited to, weather conditions, trail conditions, ticks, wildlife, plant and insect allergens, etc. Each NBATC member, guest, or non-member agrees to accept responsibility for his or her own safety. Adults who are accompanied by minors agree to accept responsibility for those minors. Hike leaders are responsible for hike organization, reasonable instruction and guidance, and proper documentation. Hike participants are responsible for following this reasonable guidance and instruction. By signing the hike sign-up form, each hike participant is affirming that he/she has read and understands these responsibilities.

### Before You Go

If you are planning to go on a hike, please call the hike leader at least the evening before the hike. That's not only a courtesy to the hike leader, but also an aid to planning transportation to the trail head. Hiking in each season can require very different types and amounts of equipment, but food, water, and layered clothing are a minimum. If you have any doubt contact the hike leader for more information.

### NBATC Hike Meeting Places

**Madison Heights Lowe's** - Lowe's parking lot at the River James Shopping Center on Business 29. Park in the line of parking spaces facing US 29, near the traffic signal entrance to Lowe's.

**Boonsboro Shopping Center** - On Boonsboro Road. Meet on the Starbucks side of the shopping center.

**Buena Vista Food Lion** - On US 60 west of downtown Buena Vista. Meet on the side of the parking lot adjacent to US 60.

**Lynchburg Kohl's** - Off Wards Road, just before the US 460. Park in front, far from the store.

**Forest Square Shopping Center** - On Rt 221 in Forest. Meet near the Kroger Gas Pumps.

**Waterlick Plaza** - On Timberlake Road (Rt 460 Business). Meet near Wells Fargo Bank.

### Other Hiking opportunities

**Wednesday Work Hikes** - We have work hikes almost every Wednesday. If you are interested in a trail work during the week, contact Eric Anderson at 540-721-1994 (eric.anderson.sml@gmail.com) or Trudy Phillips at 434-384-4870 (trudyephillips@gmail.com).

**Saturday Work Hikes** - We have work hikes almost every Saturday. If you are interested, call Jason Hammer at 434-401-4204 for the meeting place and time.

**Weekday Hikes** - For recreational hikes during the week: *88Miler Companions* (A.T. Focus - Moderate), *Day Flowers* (Easy to M), *Happy Hikers* (Easy to M - Thurs), *The O.T. Group* (Moderate - Thurs), *Trail Trekkers* (M to Strenuous - Fri), *Summit Seekers* (Strenuous). For details contact Herb Vreeland: herb.vreeland@gmail.com

**Section Maintainers** - If none of these suit, consider contacting one of the Section Maintainers (nbatc.org//maintenance.htm#SectionMaintainers) and offer to help.

<b>Oct 2023</b>
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**Sun Oct 01 Hike #6596(M)****Sweet Briar College Trails with Optional Lunch HD:7****Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843****8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's (DD:30 MRT, \$3)**

Sweet Briar College is set on 3,250 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountain foothills. The hike will start at the parking lot close to the cafeteria. We will explore portions of all 4 loop trails, starting with the Dairy, then the Stable and Observatory trails. We'll stop at Monument Hill and Plantation Cemetery for a brief on history. Finally, on the Riparian Loop Trail, we will walk around the most scenic water bodies on campus. Please call the hike leader to sign up for his hike and optional lunch in the college cafeteria.

**Sat Oct 07 Hike #6597(MS)****(88 Miler) Crabtree Meadows to Spy Rock and Return HD:7****Leader:Jim Grondin, 540-425-5588****8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet hike leader and others at the Crabtree Falls parking lot about 8:50 (DD:80 MRT, \$4)**

After carpooling from the Crabtree Falls parking lot to the Crabtree Meadows parking area, we'll walk up the road to the junction with the A.T. We'll hike south on the A.T. over the 4000' Main Top Mnt. and then scramble to the top of Spy Rock using a blue-blazed trail. After enjoying lunch and the amazing views from the top of Spy Rock, we'll retrace our steps back to the C. Meadows parking lot. Please text Jim to (1) join his hike and (2) let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Oct 08 Hike #6598(EM)****(Combo Hike) Bearwallow Gap to Bobblets Gap (Return Option) HD:3 / 6****Leader:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826****8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Carpool to Peaks Visitor Center at 8:35 (DD:60 MRT, \$3)**

(Moderate Pace Hike) We will hike from Bearwallow Gap and go south on the A.T until we reach Bobblets Gap on the BRP. After enjoying lunch at either Bobblets Gap on the BRP or the shelter (majority choice), the 3-mile hikers will leave in their cars and the 6-mile hikers will hike back to Bearwallow Gap. The hike includes two overlooks with long mountain & valley views. Call Herb to join the (E/M) 3-mile or (Moderate) 6-mile hike.

**Sat Oct 14 Hike #6599(S)****(88 Miler) Punchbowl Crossing to Route 60, Long Mtn. Wayside on the A.T. HD:11****Leader:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826****8:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at JR Visitor Center (BRP) MM 63.6 about 8:30 AM (DD:90 MRT, \$4)**

We will hike north on the A.T. starting at Punchbowl Crossing (BRP...MM 51.7) and top Rice Mountain. From there, we will head down to the Pedlar Reservoir and hike along the blue waters of the reservoir before walking along historic Brown Mountain Creek to the Rt. 60 Wayside. Along the way, we will cross the Pedlar River Footbridge. NOTE: May need Crocs and hiking sticks if the creek is running high. Key Exchange possible if enough hikers sign up.

**Sun Oct 15 Hike #6600(EM)****(88 Miler) Matts Creek and Blue Blaze old A.T. HD:6****Leader:Reggie Bennett, 434-241-0360****8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet the hike leader and other hikers at the Foot Bridge about 9 AM (DD:45 MRT, \$3)**

We will start our hike at the James River Foot Bridge and hike south on the A.T. alongside the James River and Matts Creek until we reach Matts Creek Shelter. After stopping for a snack at the shelter, we will hike north on the A.T. to the intersection with the old A.T. We will then follow the old A.T. to the parking area near the 501 Bridge. Please call Reggie to sign up for his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Oct 21 Hike #6601(M)****Little Rocky Row and Fullers Rocks HD:7****Leader:Larry Scott, 434-525-7126****8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at the Foot Bridge at 9:00, then carpool to trailhead (DD:50 MRT, \$3)**

We will hike up the Little Rocky Row Trail starting at the Highway 501 trailhead, then head north on the A.T to Fuller Rocks. After enjoying the view while having lunch or a snack, we will head down the mountain using the same trails. Please call the hike leader to sign up for his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Oct 22 Hike #6602(MS)****Thunder Ridge Overlook to Floyd Field on the A.T. HD:7****Leader:Eric Anderson, 540-721-1994****8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet the hike leader and others at the Peaks of Otter VC about 9:00 (DD:60 MRT, \$4)**

We will leave cars at Floyd Field on our way to the trailhead at Thunder Ridge O/L (MP 74.7). We will start the hike at Thunder Ridge O/L, pass by Thunder Hill Shelter, go under the Guillotine and climb to the top of Apple Orchard Mountain (4225'). From there, we will have a couple of ups and downs before finishing at Cornelius Creek Shelter and Floyd Field. We'll enjoy the view and have lunch at Blackrock Overlook. Please call Eric to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Oct 28 Hike #6603(S)****(88 Miler) Floyd Field to Jennings Creek on the A.T. HD:9****Leaders:Herb Vreeland, 434-385-1826; Bret Boman, 434-841-0554****8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at the Peaks Visitor Center about 8:30 AM (DD:75 MRT, \$4)**

This up and down hike is on a beautiful portion of the A.T. We will see two shelters which our club maintains. We will enjoy lunch near a creek at the impressive 2-story, Bryant Ridge Shelter. This hike is not offered very often, therefore, it is an important hike for club members working on their 88-miler patch. Key Exchange Hike: We will trade cars at the Peaks Visitor Center. Hike rated S when starting at the Floyd Field trailhead -and- VS when starting at the Jennings Creek trailhead.

**Sun Oct 29 Hike #6604(M)****James River Foot Bridge to two shelters & return HD:8****Leader:Mary Beth Nickolich, 252-514-3580****8:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet the hike leader and other hikers at the Foot Bridge at 8:30 AM (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

Our two-prong hike will begin at the Foot Bridge and go north on the AT until we reach Johns Hollow Shelter. We will then retrace our steps, cross the Foot Bridge, and continue on to the Matts Creek Shelter. After having lunch at the shelter, we will once again retrace our steps to the Foot Bridge. Hopefully, the fall colors will be close to peak at this time. Please call or text Mary Beth to (1) join her hike and (2) let her know where you will meet the group.

**Nov 2023****Sat Nov 04 Hike #6605(EM)****Harkening Hill, Balanced Rock & Johnson Farm HD:5****Leader:Reggie Bennett, 434-241-0360****8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Carpool to Peaks of Otter Visitor Center to meet the hike leader about 9 AM. (DD:45 MRT, \$3)**

Join Reggie for a moderate pace 5-mile hike starting at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center. We will climb Harkening Hill, go through woodland trails and take a short detour to Balance Rock...a huge boulder balanced on a small rock. After 3.3 miles, we will take the Johnson Farm loop trail to visit the old homestead. Please call Reggie to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 05 Hike #6606(M)****Mt. Pleasant and Henry Lanum Loop HD:6****Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843****8:00 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - Meet other hikers about 8:45 at Long Mt. Wayside (DD:70 MRT, \$4)**

This hike will start at the Mt. Pleasant parking area and climb to the summit of Mt. Pleasant (4,040') for some great views from two overlooks at the top. After enjoying a snack/lunch, we will hike back down to the parking area using a different trail. Please contact Angelo to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Nov 11 Hike #6607(MS)****Carvins Cove, Chimney Rock and The Wall on the A.T. HD:10****Leader:Frank Huddle, 804-266-6644****8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Arrive at Bedford FL at 8:20, then Daleville Park and Ride about 9 AM. (DD:90 MRT, \$4)**

We will start at US-220 in Daleville and climb on the A.T. to the ridge line overlooking Daleville and the Carvins Cove Reservoir. We will enjoy Hay Rock, Chimney Rock, an impressive rock wall and overlooks as we hike further south on the A.T. The fall views from the ridges are outstanding. We'll return by hiking north on the A.T. and plan to have lunch after the hike at Three Li'l Pigs Barbeque in Daleville. Text Frank at 804-266-6644 to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 12 Hike #6608(M)**

**Peavine Lake and old quarries HD:7**

**Leader:Angelo Mercado, 434-941-9843**

**8:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - and meet other hikers at the Foot Bridge parking area about 9 AM (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

From the parking area on Hercules Road, this loop hike will take us up to Peavine Lake. After circling the lake/pond, we pick up a nice connector trail with great views that will take us over to the Hercules Quarry at Slaty Gap. At this point, we will add in a side trip to the Blue Hole Quarry before returning to our vehicles on Hercules Rd. Please call Angelo to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Nov 18 Hike #6609(MS)**

**Sprouts Run/Wilson Mountain Loop Hike HD:8**

**Leaders:Bret Boman, 434-841-0554; Lisa Boman, 434-941-5218**

**8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Carpool to Peaks Visitor Center, arrive 8:30 then carpool to trailhead (DD:80 MRT, \$4)**

This loop hike in the Jefferson National Forest involves multiple stream crossings through a beautiful valley and adds some great views as we climb Wilson Mountain before descending the mountain and hiking back to the trailhead. Highly recommend water shoes (boots) and hiking sticks if the stream is running high. Contact the hike leaders to join their hike and tell them where you will meet the group.

**Sun Nov 19 Hike #6610(EM)**

**New London Tech Trails HD:5 / 6**

**Leader:Larry Scott, 434-525-7126**

**1:00 PM Contact hike leader - Meet at the New London Food Lion parking lot before driving to the trailhead (Local)**

Join us for a walk on the New London Tech Trails. We will be hiking on the 4.3-mile "Orange" trail with the option of also hiking the "Blue" trail for a total of 6-miles. We will meet at the nearby New London Food Lion parking area (12130 E. Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike, Forest VA) and drive the short distance to the Tech Trails parking area. Please call Larry to join his hike.

**Sat Nov 25 Hike #6611(M)**

**Sheppe Pond/Johns Hollow Loop HD:6**

**Leader:Kathy Fraley, 434-509-6949**

**9:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Could meet other hikers at the Foot Bridge about 9:30 AM (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

Our hike will start at the Foot Bridge and follow the A.T. along beautiful Rocky Row Run before taking a spur trail to Sheppe Pond. After viewing the pond, we will continue on the blue-blazed trail to Johns Hollow Shelter. This trail will climb from the shelter and intersect with the A.T., which we will take back to the Foot Bridge. Please call Kathy to reserve your place on her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

**Dec 2023**

**Sat Dec 02 Hike #6612(S)**

**(88 Miler) Long Mountain Wayside to Cold Mountain & Return HD:10**

**Leader:Jim Grondin, 540-425-5588**

**8:30 AM @ Madison Heights Lowe's - form carpool and meet the leader at Long Mountain Wayside about 9:15 AM (DD:65 MRT, \$4)**

This hike starts at Long Mountain Wayside and we will follow the A.T. north, climbing 2000-feet to the top of Bald Knob. Then we will descend to Cow Camp Gap, before climbing to the top of Cold Mountain. After enjoying lunch with a 360-degree view, we will hike south on the A.T. and back to our cars. Key Exchange is possible if enough hikers sign up. Please contact Jim to sign up for his hike & let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Dec 03 Hike #6613(M)**

**A.T. Hike (88 Miler): Bearwallow Gap to Rocky O/L & Return HD:7**

**Leader:Eric Anderson, 540-721-1994**

**8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet the leader at Peaks Visitor Center at 9 AM and carpool to Bearwallow Gap (DD:60 MRT, \$4)**

Our hike begins at Bearwallow Gap and goes north on the A.T., past Little Cove Mt. Trail and Cove Mountain Shelter. Our destination is a Rocky O/L where we will enjoy lunch before hiking south on the A.T. and back to our cars. There are many wonderful mountain and valley views to see and enjoy on this fun trail. Please contact the hike leader to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sat Dec 09 Hike #6614(E)**

**Adopt-a-Highway HD:3**

**Leader:Larry Spangler, 540-460-6903**

**9:00 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center -**

**Meet hike leader at pull-off near dam on US 501 / VA 130 about 9:30 AM (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

NBATC cleans up litter along a section of US 501 and VA 130 near the A.T. crossing at the Foot Bridge. Please come out and help keep our area free of litter and earn some maintenance hours, too! Get on Santa's nice list! Please call the hike leader to reserve your place on his work hike and to let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Dec 10 Hike #6615(S)**

**(88 Miler) Hunting Creek Trail, A.T., and Glenwood Horse Trail Loop HD:11**

**Leaders:Bret Boman, 434-841-0554; Lisa Boman, 434-941-5218**

**8:00 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet other hikers at the big parking area on Hunting Creek Road about 8:45 (DD:40 MRT, \$3)**

This loop hike on Hunting Creek Trail, the A.T. and Glenwood Horse Trail will start at the Glenwood Horse Trail parking area on Hunting Creek Road. We will follow Hunting Creek Trail 1.9-miles to the A.T. intersection (elevation gain 1280') and go north to Thunder Ridge O/L and continue to Petites Gap. Then we will hike the Glenwood Horse Trail for 3-miles before taking Hunting Creek Road back to our cars. Please contact the hike leaders to join their hike and let them know where you will join the group.

**Sat Dec 16 Hike #6616(S)**

**(88 Miler) Petites Gap to the James River Foot Bridge on the A.T. HD:10**

**Leader:Frank Huddle, 804-266-6644**

**7:30 AM @ Boonsboro Shopping Center - Meet Frank at the Foot Bridge about 8:00 AM, then carpool to Petites Gap (DD:75 MRT, \$4)**

This is a fun hike which will utilize Petites Gap Road, the old AT, the current AT, and the Sulphur Springs trail as we hike to the longest footbridge on the A.T. We will enjoy a snack/lunch in a boulder field as we start our 1900' descent to Matts Creek Shelter, then walk along Matts Creek and finally the James River. Contact Frank at 804-266-6644 (text preferred) to join his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Dec 17 Hike #6617(E)**

**Somewhere along the James River... HD:4 / 5**

**Leader:Nora Cox, jimandnor3@gmail.com**

**2:00 PM Contact hike leader - Meet hike leader at Riveredge Park at 2:00 for first part of hike (Local)**

Enjoy James River views and riparian woodlands on the east and west side of the James River. Not much mileage but lots to explore! We'll try some winter tree identification and have a discussion around forest composition along the James River. After the first hike at Riveredge Park, we'll drive over to Percival's Island parking area for the second part. Regroup at the LOVE sign. Please call Nora to reserve your place on her hike.

**Sun Dec 24 Hike #6618(EM)**

**Percival's Island Hike HD:6**

**Leader:Jordan Welborn, 434-209-4935**

**1:30 PM @ Percival's Island Parking Lot (Local)**

We will walk from the Percival's Island parking lot to the end of the trail on the Amherst side and back. It is all blacktop, level, with various views of the James River. If you don't want to walk the full 6 miles, you can turn around at any time. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If you're interested in joining Jordan's Christmas Eve hike, just show up at the Percival's Island parking lot at 1:30.

**Sat Dec 30 Hike #6619(S)**

**(88 Miler) Piney Ridge, AT, Sulphur Springs Lollipop HD:13**

**Leader:Jim Grondin, 540-425-5588**

**7:45 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center - Meet hike leader at Otterville Church at 8:00. Meet others at trailhead at 8:30 (DD:50 MRT, \$3)**

We will start by hiking Piney Ridge Trail to the A.T. (1970' elevation gain). Then hike north on the A.T. until we intersect with Sulphur Springs Trail. We will take Sulphur Springs Trail back to the Piney Ridge Trail, then hike down the Piney Ridge Trail to our cars at the trailhead. This is a great winter hike with amazing views during the entire hike. Text Jim to reserve your place on his hike and let him know where you will meet the group.

**Sun Dec 31 Hike #6620(MS)**

**Old Mine Hike: Bearwallow Gap to Pico**

**Road Trailhead HD:10**

**Leader: Mary Beth Nickolich, 252-514-3580**

**8:30 AM @ Forest Square Shopping Center -**

**Meer hike leader and other hikers at Peaks**

**Visitor Center at 9:00 AM (DD:60 MRT, \$3)**

After leaving a vehicle at the Pico Rd. trailhead, we will begin our hike at Bearwallow Gap. There will be some nice views along the way and signs of old iron ore mining sites on the GHT portion of the hike. We will also have wonderful valley/mountain views from two parkway overlooks during our hike. Please call or text Mary Beth at 252-514-3580 to join her hike and let her know where you will meet the group.

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NBATC is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, an affiliate of member of the American Hiking Society, and a maintainer of the A.T. from the Tye River to Black Horse Gap.

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