There is an in-between option using Reno Road to the signal tower before joining the AT toward 70. Est.: 12.4 miles, 2300-2400’ elevation; 6 miles, 1100-1200’ elevation; (in-between: 9-10 miles, 1400-1700’ elevation). PATC Map 5-6. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Larry Miller, prploupee@sprintmail.com, 240-353-3143 or Laura Heaton, lauraheaton41@gmail.com, 571-212-2592. (MD)

February 23—Dickey Ridge and Hickerson Hollow to AT, SNP VA Both long and moderate hikers enter Shenandoah Park from outside the Park. Although they start at different locations, the hikes converge near the south end of Dickey Ridge. Both hikes exit the park by way of the Appalachian Trail to Chester Gap. Moderate hikers start near the Front Royal 4-H Center, follow Rtes. 604 and 600, and ascend Hickerson Hollow Trail into the Park. At Lands Run Gap hikers turn left onto the Dickey Ridge Trail, and after one mile turn left on the AT, following this route to Chester Gap. Long hikers start at the north SNP entrance, hike the Dickey Ridge Trail south for its entire 9.2 mile distance and exit the Park via the AT. An intermediate option is available. Est.: 13-14 miles, 3000’ elevation; 9 miles, 1800’ elevation; (intermediate: 11+ miles, 2000-2200’ elevation). PATC Map 9. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Jeff Thompson, jefferythompson@comcast.net, 703-859-0157 or Chris Bublitz, cbublitz4@comcast.net, 240-687-3390. (VA)

March 1—Pass Mountain, AT and side trails to Thornton River Both hikes ascend Pass Mountain to the Appalachian Trail and the intersection with the Hull School Trail. Hikes will diverge and take different paths to the Thornton River Parking Area on Skyline Drive. Long hikers will take the Hull School Trail to the Thornton River Trail and then ascend to the parking area. Moderate hikers will remain on the AT until the Thornton River Trail, where they will descend to the parking area. Est.: 12-13 miles, 2200-2800’ elevation; 8 miles, 2000-2200’ elevation. PATC Map 10. Fare: $20/$25, plus park fee/pass. Leaders: Annette Depompa, hikerfool@yahoo.com or John Hanley, jchanley54@gmail.com, 703-250-7999. (VA)

March 8—Torrey Brown North Central Railroad, MD (Reminder: Set your clock ahead for DST!) This hiker-biker trail along the old North Central Railroad was established in 1984. We will go from Cokesville, MD, to New Freedom, PA (the ultimate destination for hundreds of escaping slaves using the Underground Railroad). Long hikers start their hike northwards at Monkton, while moderate hikers start at White Hall Road. Est.: 13 miles, intermediate; 10 miles, intermediate; (with opportunities to hike more or less). MD DNRI’s Torrey C Brown Trail Guide. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Alec Cloyd, ajcloyd@gmail.com, 540-220-4575 or Michael Roehm, miroehm@gmail.com, 301-223-7385. (MD)

March 15—AT Northern VA: Roller Coaster from Frogtown to Route 7 This hike will be on the roller coaster, so named due to the constant ups and downs on the trail. All hikers will ascend from Frogtown Rd to the Appalachian Trail. Long hikers will bear right and do an out-and-back before following the moderate hikers. Moderate hikers will bear left and take the AT toward Route 7. Hikers will enjoy a vista at the cliffs by Bear’s Den Hostel before descending to the parking area. Est.: 11-12 miles, 2800-3000’ elevation; 8 miles, 2200-2400’ elevation. PATC Map 8. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Elisa Braver, elisabraver@gmail.com, 301-793-4935 or Chris Bublitz, cbublitz4@comcast.net, 240-687-3390. (VA)

March 22—Buzzard Rocks and Massanutten Trail, GWNF, VA Today, hikers will have the opportunity to view spectacular scenes of mountain, valley, and river. The long hike starts at the Massanutten Mtn. East Trailhead parking off Rte. 619 and follows the Massanutten Mtn. East Trail to the Veach Gap Trail, onto which it turns right and follows it and Rte. 774 to the bus parked along Rte. 678. Moderate hikers begin at Elizabeth Furnace, and follow the Botts and Sherman Gap Trails to the Massanutten Mtn. East Trail, onto which they turn right and follow the route of the long hikers to Veach Gap. Est.: 11-12 miles, 2500’ elevation; 8-9 miles, 1800’ elevation. PATC Map G. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Geoffrey Wilcox, gwlilco61@gmail.com, 571-645-9586 or Vicky Hsu, hhueichi@gmail.com, 240-370-7011. (VA)

March 29—Knob and Neighbor Mountains, SNP VA Both hikes will start at Beahms Gap on the AT and enjoy the trail at the top of Neighbor Mountain before descending. Long hikers will take Neighbor Mountain to Jeremys Run and Knob Mountain. They ascend Knob Mountain to Knob Mountain Cut-off, and the AT to Elkewallow. Moderate hikers will do an out-and-back on Neighbor Mountain to the summit, then continue on the AT to Elkewallow. Easy option to stay on AT is also available. Est.: 13 miles, 2800’ elevation; 7-9 miles, 1200-1500’ elevation; (easy: 5.5 miles, 1000’ elevation). PATC Map 9. Fare: $20/$25, plus park fee/pass. Leaders: Josh Silverman, betula54@msn.com, 703-582-3456 or Robert Mattaino, rcmattaino@gmail.com, 443-254-0239. (VA)

WINTER SCHEDULE JANUARY–MARCH 2020 VOL. 87, NO. 1 WANDERBIRDS HIKING CLUB, INC. Washington, DC We are a Non-profit Club Open to All www.wanderbirds.org EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President: Bob Malkowski (703) 731-9983, Bob.Malkowski@wanderbirds.org Vice-President: Pat Fairfax (703) 328-1501, Pat.Fairfax@wanderbirds.org Executive Secretary: Jeannie Fauntleroy (703) 851-6592, Jeannie.Fauntleroy@wanderbirds.org Recording Secretary: Mary Marineau (703) 313-6258, Mary.Marineau@wanderbirds.org Treasurer: Vicky Hsu (240) 370-7011, Vicky.Hsu@wanderbirds.org Director of Entertainment: Barbara Blaylock (301) 564-1249, Barbara.Blaylock@wanderbirds.org Director of Public Relations: Bill Cathey (202) 237-1351, Bill.Cathey@wanderbirds.org Directors of Trails: Annette Depompa, George Saxton (410) 535-5171, Annette.Depompa@wanderbirds.org (703) 855-0876, George.Saxton@wanderbirds.org Director of Information Technology: Kiko Alvarez (607) 279-3455, Kiko.Alvarez@wanderbirds.org
Reservations, Cancellation Policy, and Fees A reservation made to the hike leader is a commitment to attend the hike. If you make a reservation and then must cancel, please do so by 8:00 a.m. Saturday preceding the hike. All “no-shows” and cancellations made after 8:00 a.m. Saturday are asked to pay the designated fare for the hike. Fees are $25 for nonmembers and $20 for members.

Chartered Coach Trips All hikes are coach trips unless otherwise noted. Reservations should be made with the hike leader no later than 10 a.m. Saturday preceding a hike. If the number of reservations does not permit chartering a bus, efforts will be made to arrange carpools.

Suggestions for New Hikers All Wanderbirds hikes are for the entire day and go rain or shine. Generally, drinking water is not available. Hikers should bring lunch and water. Boots are recommended for all hikes. Depending on weather conditions, additional clothing may be necessary. Leaders have the option of refusing to allow improperly dressed persons to hike.

Responsibility Hikers are responsible for their own safety and must assume all risk and liability when hiking with the Wanderbirds. Club leaders and officers shall not be liable for any injuries, loss, or damage to persons or property arising from any hikes, activities, or travel by car or bus.

Membership Dues are $20 per calendar year, which allows you to vote at membership meetings and attend members-only events. Please notify hike leader or the Vice President of any change in your home address or other data.

Park Fees Shenandoah National Park entrance fees are $8.00 per bus passenger Mar. thru Nov. and $5.00 Dec. thru Feb. Golden Eagle or Golden Age pass holders do not pay a fee and are allowed 3 guests. This rule typically allows the bus to enter the park free.

Meetings Place Departure point for all chartered coach hikes is 17th and K Streets, NW unless otherwise noted. Bus departes at 8:00 a.m. from that location unless specified otherwise. (VA) indicates an additional pickup in Virginia (Vienna Metro) and (MD) indicates an additional pickup in Maryland (Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro).

Hike Distances We schedule a long hike of 10–13 miles and a moderate hike of 6–9 miles each Sunday. Additional mileage is generally possible with the permission of the leaders for fit, experienced hikers at their own risk with the understanding that they will return to the bus by the specified time. An easy hike, less than 7 miles, may be offered if the trail permits. Hikers new to the club must hike the moderate hike.

Hike Info Please check the website for any updated information on the scheduled hikes.

HIKES

January 5—AT MD: Annapolis Rock/Black Rock MD Moderate hikers start at Wolfsville Rd. and end at the bridge at 1-70. Moderates will proceed south on the Appalachian Trail, passing Black Rock Cliffs and Annapolis Rocks. Long hikers start at Raven Rocks Rd., hike an additional four miles south on the AT, and then follow the path of the moderate hikers and end at 1-70. Est.: 12-13 miles, 2100-2300’ elevation; 8 miles, 1200-1300’ elevation. PATC Map 5. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Brian O’Konski, brian1642@gmail.com, 202-362-2982 or JL Morris, morrisjl@msn.com, 240-507-3079. (MD)

January 12—Robertson and Corbin Hollow, SNP, VA Moderate hikers walk around the mountain, starting at Nethers and going up the Corbin Hollow Trail and down the Old Rag and Weakly Hollow fire roads. Long hikers ascend the steep Robertson Mtn. Trail to the top, from which they can view the majesty of the mountains. They then descend the Corbin Mtn. and Nicholson Hollow Trails to Nethers. There are options for both the long and moderate hikers to do shorter hikes. Est.: 12 miles, 2800’ elevation; 9-10 miles, 2000’ elevation. PATC Map 10. Fare: $20/$25, plus park fee/pass. Leaders: Marianne Brodnicki, mariayne.brodnicki@gmail.com, 954-536-5407 or Kay Weston, kweston70@gmail.com, 240-381-7845. (VA)

January 19—Signal Knob and Meneka Peak, GWIN, VA This hike takes us to the beautiful Massanutten Mountains. All hikers start at the Signal Knob Parking Area and ascend the Massanutten Trail. Moderate hikers will turn left onto Meneka Peak Trail and follow it to the Tuscarora Trail, which they descend to the bus at the Signal Knob Parking Area. Long hikers will continue on Signal Knob Trail to admire the view, then they will continue on the Massanutten Trail to the Tuscarora Trail, which they follow to the parking lot. Est.: 10.5 miles, 2000’+ elevation; 8.6 miles, 1700’ elevation. PATC Map G. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Robert Holley, relrex@yahoo.com, 703-239-0131 or Susan Whiteman, Susanwhiteman1@gmail.com, 240-723-5091. (VA)

January 26—Harpers Ferry, Tri-State, VA, WV, MD This hike has a taste of Virginia (5 mile ridge walk on the AT starting at Keys Gap), West Virginia (where hikers have a bit of time to wander the historical town) and Maryland (3 miles on the C&O Towpath). The moderate and long hikes are exactly the same, but the long hike also has a 1200 foot scramper up the historic Maryland Heights. Est.: 12.5 miles, strenuous 9.5 miles, moderate. PATC Map 7. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Michael Ollinger, edward_ollinger@yahoo.com, 301-933-2196 or Anna Ollinger, anika_o_99@yahoo.com, 301-933-2196. (MD)

February 2—Turkey Run and South Valley, Prince William Forest Park, VA This hike will visit Prince William Forest Park, exploring trails near the Turkey Run Education Center. Both hikes are circuits. From the Education Center, long hikers will take the Turkey Ridge Trail, right on South Valley Trail and hike all the way to Oak Ridge Trail. Turn right on Oak Ridge Trail to Old Black Top Rd. Turn right and follow Old Black Top Rd back to the Education Center. Moderate hikers will start at the Education Center, take Old Black Top Rd to Taylor Farm Rd and turn left. Hike on Taylor Farm Rd to High Meadow Trail and turn right. Cross the Scenic Drive and continue to South Valley Trail. Turn right on South Valley Trail and hike all the way to Oak Ridge Trail. Turn right on Oak Ridge Trail to Old Black Top Rd. Turn right and follow Old Black Top Rd back to the Education Center. Est.: 13 miles, 1500’ elevation; 10 miles, 1200’ elevation. Park Map. Fare: $20/$25, plus park fee. Leaders: Robert Holley, relrex@yahoo.com, 703-239-0131 or Debbie Wallace, deborahawallace@hotmail.com, 301-318-1526. (VA)

February 9—AT in Northern Virginia to 522/ National Zoo, VA This hike, with vistas of the Virginia Piedmont, incorporates woods and scenic meadows and skirts High Knob Mountain and the National Zoo’s Conservation and Research Center. Moderate hikers start at the AT junction with Rt 55 and hike south 8 miles to VA 522 (Chester Gap). Long hikers start on Freeland Road and take a fire road to the AT. After bearing right on the AT, they will continue to 725/55 and follow the path of the moderate hikers. Est.: 13+ miles, 1900-2000’ elevation; 8 miles, 1600’ elevation. PATC Map 8. Fare: $20/$25. Leaders: Kiko Alvarez, kiko_a@ yahoo.com, 607-279-3455 or Susana Mendez, susaname@yahoo.com, 607-279-4363. (VA)

February 16—AT MD: Gathland and Washington Monument, MD Both hikes will come into the original Washington Monument on the AT, and have an opportunity to enjoy views. Long hikers will start at the AT at Gathland and travel north to 70, crossing the bridge. Moderate hikers will start at Reno Rd.