

Reservations and Cancellation Policy 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 AM Saturday preceding the hike. All “no-shows” and cancellations made after 8:00 AM Saturday are asked to pay the designated fare for the hike.

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 Executive Secretary 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.

Meeting Place for all chartered coach hikes is 17th and K Streets, NW unless otherwise noted. Bus

departs at 8:00 AM 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. *This option is not for hikers new to the club.*

Hike Ratings

Strenuous: 2,000+ feet of ascent
Intermediate: 1,000 to 2,000 feet of ascent
Easy: less than 1,000 feet of ascent

Easy Option: less than 7 miles and 700 feet of ascent (*self-guided hike*)

E-mail: wbcontact@wanderbirds.org

Web site: <http://www.wanderbirds.org>

April 2 Kings Gap, Cumberland County, PA. Kings Gap is an environmental education center situated at the northern terminus of the Blue Ridge. Its mature forests are wild enough for us to have seen black bear. Thousands of native Pinkster azaleas will be in bloom during this hike. We make use of several trails to visit the park’s upland areas as well as the biologically diverse Kings Gap Hollow watershed. Est. miles: 8 (intermediate) and 12 (strenuous). Kings Gap State Park Map. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Josh Silverman, betula54@msn.com, 703-582-3456; Kay Weston, kweston70@gmail.com, 240-381-7845.

April 9 Virginia Bluebell hike, Bull Run – Occoquan Trail, VA. There are literally acres of Virginia Bluebells on the banks of Bull Run, the result of rich, seasonally flooded, sandy soil. We have timed the hike so we will see vast stands of these flowers in full bloom. Trout lilies, beavers, heron, kingfishers and migratory warblers also vie for attention. Moderate hikers start at Hemlock Overlook and proceed north (upstream) on the Bull Run – Occoquan Trail to Bull Run Regional

Park. Long hikers start hiking north from Bull Run Marina; extra-long hikers start at Fountainhead Regional Park. Est. miles: 8 and 12 (intermediate) and 18 (strenuous). Bull Run-Occoquan Trail Map. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Jesse Buckwalter, inannapolis@gmail.com, 443-852-4094; Jeannie Fauntleroy, jeannie.fauntleroy@outlook.com, 703-851-6592.

April 16 Appalachian Trail to Marys Rock, Central SNP, VA. Both hikes offer, at the end, an optional climb up Marys Rock, with its commanding 360 degree view and 3500 feet elevation. Both hikes end at the Hazel Mountain Overlook, a half mile walk north on Skyline drive from the Meadow Springs Trail. Moderate hikers begin on the Nicholson Hollow Trail junction with Skyline Drive (at Hughes River Gap). They descend to the historic Corbin Cabin and then hike back up to the ridge by the Corbin Cabin Cutoff Trail. Here moderate hikers go north on the AT to Meadow Spring with an optional climb up Marys Rock. Long hikers start at the Stony Man Parking Area and descend via Sky Meadows Horse Trail, Old Rag Fire Road, Corbin Mountain Trail, and Indian Run Trails to Corbin Cabin. At this point long hikers join the moderate route. Est. miles: 9 (strenuous) and 11.5 (strenuous). PATC Map 10. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Jeff Thompson, jefferyathompson@comcast.net, 703-859-0157; Laura Heaton, lauraheaton41@gmail.com, 571-212-2592.

April 23 Austin and Furnace Mountains, SNP VA. Don’t miss this hike in the beautiful but seldom-visited southern section of the Shenandoah National Park. All hikers walk for a short distance on the Madison Run Road before beginning the ascent of Austin Mountain and Rockytop Trails. Moderate hikers then descend on the Madison Run Spur Trail and Road back to the bus. Long hikers continue on the Big Run Loop Trail to the Appalachian Trail, which is followed through Browns Gap to the summit of Blackrock with its panoramic views. The Blackrock and Spoor and Trayfoot Mountain Trails lead to our descent on the Furnace Mountain Trail to the bus. Est. miles: 12.5 (strenuous) and 9 (strenuous). PATC Map 11. Fare \$20/\$25 (no park fee; free entrance day). Leaders: Kathryn Good,

avignon7@aol.com, 571-218-9225; Vicky Hsu, hhueichi@gmail.com, 240-370-7011.

April 30 AT Pine Grove to Boiling Springs, PA. Long hikers start where the AT crosses Pine Grove Rd near Tag Run Campground. Moderate hikers start where the AT crosses Route 94. All hikers follow the AT to historic Boiling Springs, PA and to the bus at Children’s Lake. Est. miles: 11.5 (strenuous) and 8.5 (intermediate). PATC Map 1 and 2-3. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Rennie Peddie, renniptp@gmail.com, 786-457-3793; Michael Roehm, miroehm@gmail.com, 301-223-7385.

May 7 Trillium Hike, Thompson Wildlife Management Area, VA/Jack Meiners Memorial Hike. Long hikers start at Manassas Gap, and follow the AT north past Manassas Gap Shelter and the junction with Verlin Smith Trail to continue on the AT to a point just south of Dicks Dome Shelter. Here they turn right and follow Verlin Smith Trail around Lake Thompson and to parking area #4 and the waiting bus. Moderate hikers begin at parking area #4 and complete a circuit by joining the path of the long hikers. Est. miles: 12 (strenuous) and 9 (intermediate). PATC Map 8. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Annetta DePompa, hikerfool@yahoo.com, 410-535-5171; Chris Bublitz, cbublitz4@comcast.net, 240-687-3390.

This hike was a favorite of Jack Meiners, and for this reason we are using it to commemorate him. Members will be encouraged after the hike to share their memories of him with others.

May 14 Brown’s Hollow, Massanutten Mountain, VA. This hike on south Massanutten is a great late-winter hike with continuous views. Moderate hikers do a “lariat” hike: starting at the Massanutten Visitor Center, they hike south on the Massanutten Trail (with ridgeline views) for 2 miles. They then hike the Bird Knob Loop by taking a right fork onto the white-blazed Bird Knob trail, which loops back to the Massanutten Trail. Hikers then hike north on the Massanutten Trail, completing the 4-mile loop and following the scenic ridge back to the Visitor Center. Long hikers do a clockwise loop: starting at Rte. 211, they do a demanding climb up Brown’s Hollow. Near Bird Knob,

hikers take the Massanutten Trail north and join the last half of the moderate loop. PATC Map H. Est. miles: 11 (strenuous) and 8 (moderate). Fare: \$20/\$25. Easy option. Leaders: Mike Ollinger, edward_ollieollie@yahoo.com, 301-933-2196; Anna Oldak, anika_o_99@yahoo.com, 301-933-2196.

May 21 AT Harpers Ferry to Weverton, WV, MD. This hike is a variation on the more usual Keys Gap to Weverton route that will enable moderate hikers to see the view at Maryland Heights. It starts at Harpers Ferry where the AT crosses Shenandoah St. just after the Rte. 340 bridge. All hikers will then take the AT through Harpers Ferry and take the 1200-foot ascent to the historic Maryland Heights. Long hikers will extend the hike by taking the Stone Fort loop. Est. miles: 7.5 (intermediate) and 10.0 (intermediate). PATC Map 7. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Claire MacDonald, cmacd4151@gmail.com, 301-233-2571; Larry Miller, purpletoupee@sprintmail.com, 240-353-3143.

May 28 AT Compton Gap to Hogback Overlook, SNP, VA. Enjoy the views from the AT in the Northern section of the Shenandoah National Park. Long hikers will start at Compton Gap, stop at Compton Peak for the magnificent view and continue south to the AT to Hogback Overlook, where the bus will be waiting. Moderate hikers will shorten the hike by starting at Jenkins Gap, and they will have their chance to admire the westward views at North Marshall and South Marshall Mountains. Est. miles 10.4 (strenuous) and 8.4 (intermediate). PATC Map 9. Fare \$20/\$25 plus park fee. Leaders: Jim Fitzsimmons, jlafitz@verizon.net, 703-465-9022; George Saxton, george@saxfam.net, 703-855-0876.

June 4 Halfmoon Mountain, Great North Mountain, WV. This hike has outstanding views of the Trout Run Valley and Wilson Cove. Both hikes start from Trout Run Valley Road and will do circuits on Halfmoon Mountain. Long hikers take the Bucktail Trail to the Capon Trail, go along Waites Run Road, and ascend the German Wilson and Halfmoon Trails to reach the Halfmoon Lookout to enjoy the views and watch hawks. They then descend on the Halfmoon and Bucktail Cutoff Trails to reach the Trout Run Valley

Road and the bus. Moderate hikers follow the Bucktail Trail, ascend the German Wilson Trail, and continue the path of the long hikers. (This includes the spectacular Halfmoon Lookout). Est. miles: 9 (intermediate) and 12.5 (strenuous). PATC Map F. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Robert Holley, reilex@yahoo.com, 571-247-2172; Debbie Wallace, deborahawallace@hotmail.com, 301-318-1526.

June 11 Mason-Dixon Trail, Otter Creek, PA. This portion of the Mason Dixon Trail was named by Hike America as one of the country's outstanding "Recreation Trails". The Mason-Dixon traces the Susquehanna's western palisades south and passes through several scenic glens with rich fern and hemlock growth. The moderate hikes start at Apollo County Park and at Shenks Ferry Road and travel south. The long hike starts at Old Bridgeville Road south of Wrightsville. Est. miles: 5 (easy) and 8 (moderate) and 12 (strenuous). Mason-Dixon Trail Map 4. Fare: \$20/\$25. Leaders: Reid Rottach, reidalan@gmail.com, 301-357-5744; Antonina Nikolova, nikolova.antonina@yahoo.com, 240-838-9389.

June 18 Neighbor and Knob Mountain Trails, SNP, VA. Long hikers start at Beahms Gap Overlook, and follow the AT north for about 1 mile and turn left onto Neighbor Mountain Trail. After crossing Jeremy's Run, they ascend Knob Mountain Trail. They turn right at the junction with Knob Mountain Cutoff Trail, and follow it to the AT north, which leads them to Elkwallow Wayside and the bus. Moderate hikers start at Panorama and follow the AT north, crossing over Pass Mountain on their way to Elkwallow Wayside and the bus. Est. miles: 11 (Strenuous) and 8 (Moderate). PATC Map 9. Fare: \$20/\$25 plus park fee. Leaders: Kiko Alvarez, kiko_a_c@yahoo.com, 607-279-3455; Susana Mendez, susaname@yahoo.com, 607-279-4262.

June 25 Gambrill State Park, MD (Picnic hike) Long hikers start at Delauter Rd., head east to connect with and go south on the Catoctin Trail to the Nature Trail Parking lot off Gambrill Park Rd., then take the Yellow Poplar and Green Ash Trail to reach High Knob and the bus. Moderate hikers start at Hamburg Rd. and follow

the path of the long hikers to High Knob. Est. miles: 10 (intermediate) 6.5 (intermediate). PATC map 5 and Park map. Fare: \$20. Leaders: Austin Doyle, doyle.austin@gmail.com, 202-248-2171; Elisa Braver, elisabraver@gmail.com, 202-248-2171.

Spring Schedule

April-June 2017
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WANDERBIRDS HIKING CLUB, INC.

Washington, DC

We are a Non-profit Club Open to All

www.wanderbirds.org

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