

## Join Us!

You can become a member of the **Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club** and help maintain and preserve the Appalachian Trail for future generations.

The Club publishes a newsletter informing members of scheduled fun hikes, maintenance hikes, workshops, social picnics and regional activities with other clubs.

For further information, or to join the Club, please fill out the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish to join the Mt. Rogers Appalachian Trail Club. \$10.00 enclosed.  
(Lifetime membership: \$100)

\_\_\_\_ I need more information. Please contact me.

**Return to:**  
**Mt. Rogers ATC**  
**P.O. Box 789**  
**Damascus, VA 24236**

### Approx. distances in MRATC Region

P = Parking Available Nearby

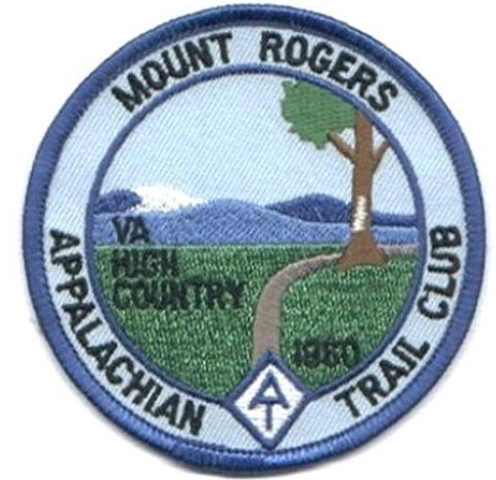
Mi.	Landmark	Elev	P
-	TN/VA State Line	2600'	
3.2	Damascus VA	1928'	*
1.6	CreeperTr, Stairs US58	1928'	
2.4	Iron Mtn. Trail	2850'	
2.1	Straight Branch, US 58	2200'	*
2.0	Taylor's Valley spur trail	2850'	*
1.5	Saunders Shelter (Spur)	3310'	
2.7	Beartree Gap Trail	3050'	
2.4	VA Creeper (Creek Jct.)	2690'	*
0.6	VA859 Grassy Ridge Rd	2900'	
1.3	Lost Mtn Shelter	3360'	
1.0	US 58, Summit Cut	3160'	*
1.2	VA 601 (Beech Mt. Rd.)	3600'	*
2.5	Buzzard Rock	5080'	
0.7	Whitetop Mt. Rd.	5150'	*
2.5	VA 600, Elk Garden	4434'	*
2.0	Deep Gap	4900'	
1.8	Mt. Rogers Spur	5490'	
0.4	Thomas Knob Shelter	5400'	
0.8	Rhododendron Gap	5440'	
2.1	Massie Gap	4800'	*
2.2	Wise Shelter	4460'	
3.7	Scales	4650'	*
2.2	Old Orchard Shelter	4050'	
1.7	VA 603, Fox Creek	3480'	*
3.2	Hurricane Mtn Shelter	4300'	
3.1	Hurricane Campgr. Spur	3090'	*
0.8	Comers Creek Falls	3100'	
1.2	Dickey Gap VA650 & 16	3300'	*
4.1	Trimpi Shelter (spur)	2900'	
1.2	VA 672	2700'	*
0.9	VA 670	2450'	*

Examples:

TN/VA State Line to Damascus = 3.2 Miles

VA600 to Mt Rogers Spur = 3.8 Miles (2 + 1.8)

## The Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club



Founded in 1960, the **Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club** maintains 60 miles of the **Appalachian Trail** or "Simple Footpath", which extends from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine.

## Appalachian National Scenic Trail

At approximately 2,180 miles, the Appalachian Trail (AT) is one of the longest continuously marked footpaths in the world. Remarkably, it was conceived and built by private citizens. The AT travels through 14 states along the ridges and valleys of the Appalachian mountain range from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Katahdin, Maine.

Locally, many hikers find the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area within the Jefferson National Forest in Southwest Virginia to be one of the most beautiful portions of the entire AT. A few highlights include Grayson Highlands State Park, Whitetop Mountain and Mount Rogers, the highest point in Virginia at 5729 feet.

## If you ever hiked on the AT, have you wondered ...

Who keeps the Trail clear?  
Who paints the blazes on the trees and rocks? Who maintains the shelters?

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) assigns 31 volunteer member clubs to maintain the pathway, trim vegetation, clear debris, improve drainage and even build and maintain shelters and privies. The clubs also monitor rare or endangered species and help control invasive plants. All this is done in cooperation with the National Park and the National Forest Services.

## What is the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club?

The Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club (MRATC) is a member club of the ATC and has responsibility for roughly 60 miles of trail from the TN/VA state line south of Damascus to the South Holston River near Sugar Grove. (VA 670)

Members of the MRATC typically hold several work hikes each month. Some club members go out every week while others prefer to help just once or twice a year. Any and all help is appreciated and most welcome. The Club also organizes day hikes, participates in trail related meetings and festivals and lists all activities in the quarterly newsletter, "*The Blaze*" and at [mratc.org](http://mratc.org) or [mratc.pbworks.com/w/page/8862374/FrontPage](http://mratc.pbworks.com/w/page/8862374/FrontPage)

**To become a member of MRATC, simply fill out and return the form included in this brochure or click "Membership" on the website.**



Come out and join one of our activities. We'd love to meet you!

## How Else Can I Help?

Join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Visit [appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org) for a wide variety of hiking and volunteer information.

## Other Sources of Appalachian Trail Info

In addition to a list of area hikes on our club website, here are a few other useful resources:

### George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

[fs.usda.gov/attmain/gwj/specialplaces](http://fs.usda.gov/attmain/gwj/specialplaces)

**National Park Service:**  
**Appalachian National Scenic Trail**  
[nps.gov/appa](http://nps.gov/appa)

## Grayson Highlands State Park

A few miles of the AT are within this beautiful park with its high mountain views, wild ponies, and colorful rhododendron blossoms in June.

[dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/grayson-highlands](http://dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/grayson-highlands)

## Leave No Trace

We hope you will enjoy the Appalachian Trail often; but remember, you and others travel the Trail for the natural wilderness experience. So please **Leave No Trace** of your passing. Camp at shelters and other designated areas, using portable stoves to prepare your meals. Disturb as little of the vegetation and rocks as possible. Take all trash with you and leave the areas as nature intended. For more information check out:

[lnt.org](http://lnt.org) Or [appalachiantrail.org/explore/plan-and-prepare/hiker-resource-library/](http://appalachiantrail.org/explore/plan-and-prepare/hiker-resource-library/)