



ROC Monthly Newsletter

Thanks for being a part of ROC!
Go to our website for our weekly outdoor schedules, information on the ROC Race Series, local trails, and more.

[Visit our Website](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Donate](#)

NEWS



Welcome to all of our new and returning ROC members and sponsors!

Lori Hardin

Peggy Bair

Achara Hodge

Renate Musgray

David Roberts

Dana Bradley

Jeff Brookshire

Sheila Dobbins

James Frider

Marylou Williams

Ruth D. Hills

The money we receive from memberships helps us to continue improving local trails, leading group hikes and river floats, and creating new outdoor programs. Membership is only \$20 for individuals, \$35 for families, and \$100 for businesses. We also offer multiple sponsorship opportunities for businesses to help expend and enhance recreational opportunities in Rutherford County.

Members get discounts at Chimney Rock, Barley's Taproom, Copper Penny, Main Street Coffee, Impact Fitness, and more.
Click the link below for more details.

[Get Involved!](#)



ROC Monthly Meeting

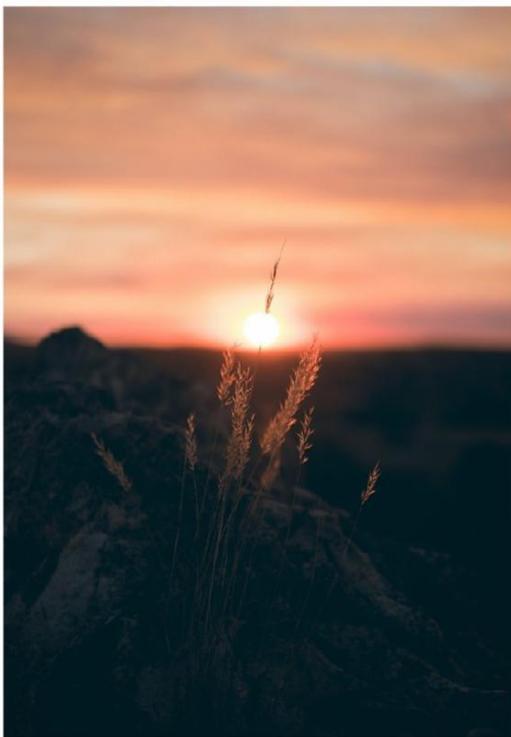
Date: Tuesday, February 16th

Time: 5:00pm

Location: Crestview Park

Feel free to order food from your favorite local restaurant and bring your dinner!

We will space out and observe social distancing practices. All are welcome!



RUTHERFORD OUTDOOR COALITION'S
PHOTO SERIES

Sunset/Sunrise Series

FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 28

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE: \$40 GIFT CARD TO LA
STRADA IN LAKE LURE!

TO ENTER:
UPLOAD YOUR PHOTOS TO FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM & USE
#RUTHERFORDOUTDOOR
1 ENTRY PER PERSON PER DAY

All may participate and share their photos but only ROC
Members are eligible to win prizes.
To become a member of ROC head to
www.rutherfordoutdoor.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROC Hikes:

Trombatore Trail
Saturday, February 6th



Grab your backpack and join our Trails Coordinator Baily, on a 4.8 mile roundtrip hike in the Hickory Nut Gorge Region! This strenuous trail has multiple up and down elevation changes, but brings you to a grassy bald called Blue Ridge Pastures on top. From here you have spectacular views of Bearwallow Mountain, Little Pisgah Mountain, and Wildcat Rock. On clear days, you can even see Mt. Mitchell from this spot. Trombatore Trail has more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain, and keep in mind that both the out and back part of this hike are about equally as vigorous!

Bring at least 2 liters of water, lunch, and wear proper hiking shoes. We will stop on the top of Blue Ridge Pastures for lunch, then hike our way back to the start of the trailhead.

The trailhead is on Bearwallow Road, near Fairview, NC. It is directly across the road from the Bearwallow Mountain trailhead. The Trombatore Trail also starts at the same parking area as Bearwallow Mountain Trail.

Date: Saturday, January 16th

Time: 9AM - 2 PM

Location: Bear Wallow Rd, Fairview, NC 28730 (Trombatore Trailhead)

****Contact Baily at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035 to RSVP or for more information.**

January Volunteer Days



Tuesday February 9th:

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park. 8 am - 10 am.

We will be fixing specific muddy patches and clearing overgrown brush on the sides of a section of trail.

Expect to walk about 1 - 2 miles, mostly level terrain.

Tuesday February 16th:

Weed Patch Mountain: 8 am - 12 pm

We will be removing any down trees on the trail.

Expect to walk about 3 miles.

Tuesday February 23rd:

Buffalo Creek Park: 9 am - 1 pm

We will be working on erosion issues, maintaining berms, and clearing out any leaves from drainage areas.

Expect to walk about 3 miles.

Thursday February 25th:

Isothermal Community College Trails: 10:30 am - 1 pm

We will be scouting the trail for any down trees or litter to clean up.

Expect to walk about 1-2 miles, mostly level terrain.

Saturday February 27th:

Heart of the Foothills Dog Walk. 10 am - Noon.

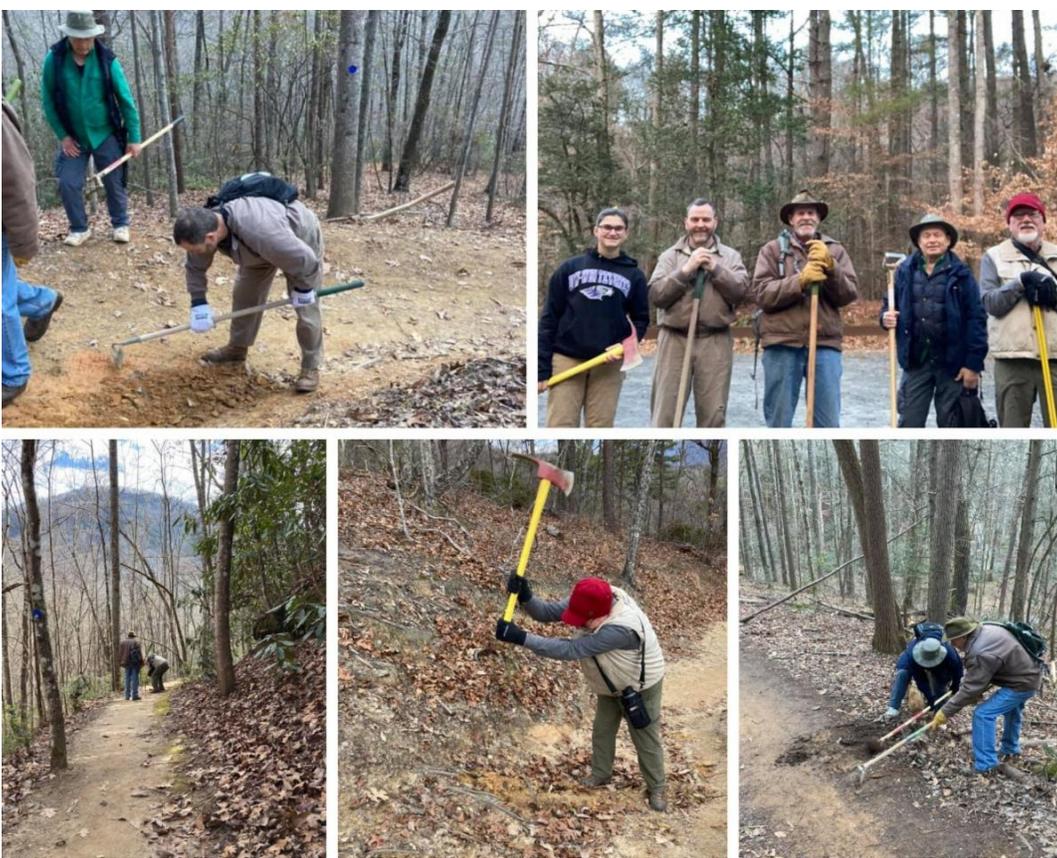
Come walk shelter dogs and puppies with us!

Expect to walk about about 2 miles, mostly level terrain.

Contact Baily at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035 to RSVP or for more information.

UPDATES

Updates on Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain



On Weed Patch Mountain, ROC and Town of Lake Lure was fortunate enough to have two amazing volunteers go out on their own to remove 7 trees off the trail! They also cleared briars jutting out near Eagle Rock to make the ride much more enjoyable for bikers. A giant shout out to Christopher and Michael for lightening our workload!

On Buffalo Creek Park, we were able to hike the entire loop and fine tune minor erosion problems on the trail. We also cleared roots that were jutting above the trail to keep riding and hiking safe for users. Thank you Robin, Ken, Bruce, Baily, and Jeff for consistently maintaining and improving our trails!

[More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

Updates on Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails

ROC and the Town of Lake Lure started off 2021 with a great trail workday at Dittmer-Watts! We removed three fallen trees and cleared leaves and other debris from water drainages. A huge thank you to Ed, Bruce, Robin, Jeff, Ken, and Baily for your efforts!



[More about the Dittmer-Watts Nature Trail Park](#)

Updates about the Trails at Isothermal Community College

ROC had a great workday fixing a muddy section of the trail. We built a trench on the side of the trail to allow water to drain more efficiently, and help dry up the mud. Thank you Jonathan, Jeff, Bruce, and Baily for keeping the trail pristine!



[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

January Ice Hike

Despite the cold that January brings, ROC was able to appreciate winters beauty with this amazing ice hike on the Blue Ridge Parkway! The hike began with a tough 2 mile stretch of trail until we reached the road, where we walked by gorgeous ice formations all along the parkway. After stopping at an overlook off the road for lunch, we headed back down the Seniard trail and passed looking glass rock and a couple of waterfalls. Overall it was a successful day, hiking about 11.5 miles in total. Thank you so much to Jerry, Carole, Neal, Tammy, Baily, Bruce, Kevin, and Tyler for getting out with ROC!



ROC Walking Club

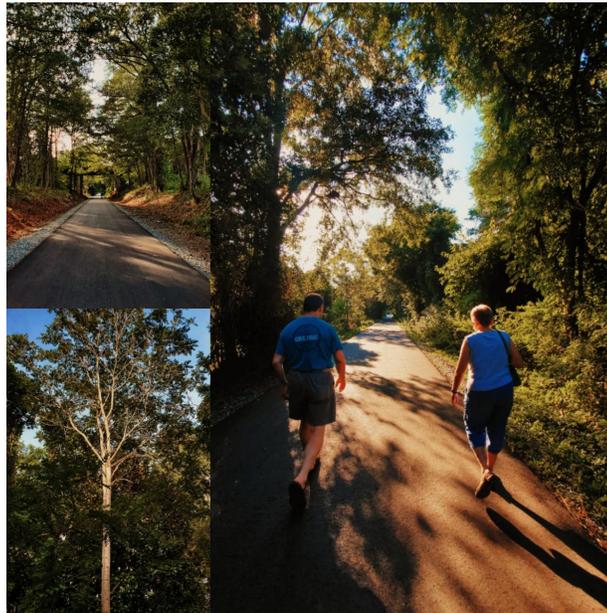
Times and dates are listed below:

May 1st - August 31st:

- Tuesdays: 6:30 pm at the Thermal Belt Rail Trail. Park in the
- Rutherford County Farmer's Market parking lot located at the corner of Park Square and Pryor Street in Forest City (behind the new pavilion, POPS).
- Thursdays: 6:30 pm at Purple Martin Greenway in Rutherfordton.
- Park at the new, gravel lot at the corner of S.Main Street and Industrial Avenue.

September 1st - April 30th:

- Tuesdays: 4:30 pm
- at the Rutherford County Farmer's Market parking lot located at the corner of Park Square and Pryor Street in Forest City (behind the new pavilion, POPS).
- Thursdays: 4:00 pm at Purple Martin Greenway in



Rutherfordton. Park at the new, gravel lot at the corner of S.Main Street and Industrial Avenue.

The walks are led by our Outdoor Programs Director. The club walks together for 30 minutes to an hour depending on location, but you can feel free to walk more or less if you like. This is a great opportunity to interact with others from the community that enjoy walking. Walk at your own pace, enjoy the scenery, and make some new friends.

For more information or to join, visit our ROC Walking Club page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184160622179015/> or call us at 828-351-3235.

[Facebook Page](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteering is a great way to build skills, meet people, and give back to the community all while having fun. We invite and encourage individuals and groups of all backgrounds and ages to get involved and help grow a stronger community.

ROC offers many types of volunteer opportunities throughout the year with varying levels of involvement and physical activity. Our volunteer opportunities include trail projects, fundraising events, festivals, group outings, clean-ups, and more.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, contact Baily Hornstein at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035.

Trail Boss and River Steward Programs



ROC needs Trail Bosses for the ICC Trails in Spindale. If you are interested, please contact us and we will get you started!

- We need people like you to become trail bosses and river stewards for our local trails and river system.
 - Trail Bosses walk their section of trail at least once a month, report any issues they see, and help keep their section clean.
 - River Stewards float their river section once a month and report downed trees and other obstacles that need to be addressed. There is a River Stewards meeting held on the 2nd Thursday of each month to discuss river improvements and plan future clean-ups.
- If you are interested in learning more about becoming a trail boss or river steward, contact Baily Hornstein at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-619-0035.
- [Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.

Trail Ambassador Program

If you are out enjoying the Thermal Belt Rail Trail, look out for our fantastic group of volunteers who are walking, running, and biking the trail to assist other users. If you have any questions or concerns about the trail or local information, a Trail Ambassador would be happy to help!

Just look for the bright green shirts, like Steve and Betty are wearing, to ask questions on where to stop for lunch, where the nearest bike repair station is located, or anything else you are looking to do!

- If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Trail Ambassador, contact Jess Kerr at jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call 828-351-3235.
- [Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.

