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## 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 Now](#)

# NEWS



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

**Pete Link**

**Donald Blanton**

**Arthur Mills**

**Crystal Stofko**

**Dan Hegeman**

**Jennifer Owen**

**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**

## **NEWS**

### **Broad River Spring Sweep**

On Saturday, June 5th, ROC will be having our annual Broad River Spring Sweep! We will be cleaning multiple sections of the Broad River in Rutherford County. Volunteers will drop off their boats at designated areas at 10:00 am. We will then drive most



of the vehicles to the take-out spot and carpool back to the put-in location in one vehicle. We hope to get on the water around 10:45 am.

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT. You will be added an email list where we will assign boats and sections, as well as send out important information. We need volunteers with kayaks as well as canoes. If you have an extra boat that could be used, please let us know. If you would like to participate but do not have a boat, we will try to arrange a boat for you. Let us know if you have trucks or trailers to help carry kayaks, canoes, or trash. ROC will provide trash bags and a few grabbers.

Bring a lunch and some water with you. We will stop about half way through the clean-up for a lunch break. River shoes or shoes you don't mind getting wet are recommended since we will have to get in the water to get most of the trash.

**\*\*You can email Jess Kerr at [jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org), or call 828-351-3235 for more information or to sign up.**

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## **ROC Monthly Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, June 15th

Time: 5:30pm

Location: Barley's Taproom

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RUTHERFORD OUTDOOR COALITION'S  
**PHOTO SERIES**

**Waterfall Wandering**

**JUNE 1 - JUNE 30**

**THIS MONTH'S PRIZE: \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE  
TO MI PUEBLITO!**

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

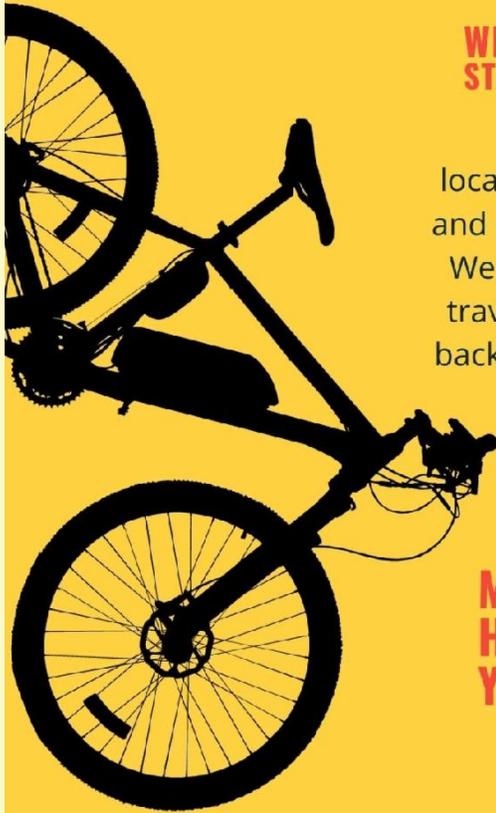
All may participate and share their photos but only ROC  
Members are eligible to win prizes.  
To become a member of ROC head to  
[www.rutherfordoutdoor.org](http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org)

# ROC GROUP BIKE RIDES



**WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS, 5:30PM  
STARTING APRIL 1ST**

We will meet at the ROC Office, located at 115. N. Oak Street in Spindale, and connect to the Thermal Belt Rail Trail. We will spend an hour total on the trail, traveling approximately 5 miles out and back, and gather at Barley's after our ride to socialize. All are welcome!



**MEET FELLOW CYCLISTS,  
HAVE FUN, AND IMPROVE  
YOUR HEALTH!**

[www.rutherfordoutdoor.org](http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org) | [jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org) | 828-351-3235

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ROC Camping Trip

On Saturday, June 19th, ROC will be hosting a camping trip! We will be camping out at a beautiful location alongside the Broad River. Participants can meet at the campsite anytime after 3 pm, and we will have dinner and a campfire later that evening.

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT. You will

be added an email list where we will send out important information, including the specific location and where to park. Please let us know if anyone would like to volunteer to make or supply any food for dinner and breakfast the next day. If you have an extra tent/sleeping bags that could be used, please let us know as well. If you would like to participate but do not have a tent, we will try to provide one for you.

Things to bring include a tent, sleeping bag, flashlights, hiking/tennis shoes, water bottle, and any other necessary overnight gear.

\*\*To RSVP or for any questions, please contact Baily Hornstein at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-619-0035.



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## Bearwallow Mountain Sunset Hike

Our Outdoor Programs Director, Jess Kerr, will be leading a hike at Bearwallow Mountain on Saturday, June 26th at 7pm to catch the sunset! This trail is a 2 mile round trip hike, with a grassy meadow at the peak and a 360 degree view including Mt. Mitchell and Mt. Pisgah. There is a historic fire lookout tower and grazing cattle on the mountaintop as well. At about a 500 ft ascent, Bearwallow Mountain has a handful of switchbacks on the way up and is rated moderate.



Bring snacks for hanging out at the top of the mountain as well as extra layers, because it will get chilly throughout the evening. Also carry a headlamp or flashlight for hiking down the trail when it gets dark.

**Date:** Saturday, June 26th

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** Bear Wallow Rd, Fairview, NC 28730

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**ROC Walk with the  
Rutherford County  
Chapter of the  
Autism Society**

Come walk the Thermal Belt Rail Trail with our Outdoor Programs Director and members of the Rutherford County Chapter of the Autism Society of North Carolina. The Chapter provides support to local individuals with autism and their families. The Autism Society of North Carolina improves the lives of individuals with autism, supports their families, and educates communities.



Meet at 172 Park Sq, Forest City, NC 28043 at 5:30 pm. Upon arrival, please sign-in with Jess. Masks may be removed on the Rail Trail if adequate social distancing is possible. We will walk for a total of 2 miles. The trail is flat and is rated as easy.

**Date:** Friday, June 4th

**Time:** 5:30-6:30pm

**Location:** 172 Park Sq, Forest City, NC 28043

You MUST pre-register for this event. Email us at [jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-351-3235 to RSVP.

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## June Volunteer Days



### Friday June 4th:

ROC walk with the Rutherford County Chapter of the Autism Society:

**5:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

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

### Tuesday June 8th:

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails: **8 am - 10 am**

**We will be cleaning signs and trimming overgrown sections of the trail.**

**Expect to walk about 1-2 miles.**

**Saturday June 12th:**

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.**

**Tuesday June 15th:**

Weed Patch Mountain: 8 am - 12 pm

**We will be removing any down trees on the trail.**

**Expect to walk about 3 miles.**

**Thursday June 17th:**

Isothermal Community College Trails: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

**We will be trimming and weed whipping the sides of trails. Expect to walk about 1-2 miles.**

**Tuesday June 22th:**

Buffalo Creek Park: 8 am - 12 pm

**We will be felling/removing invasive trees along the sides of the trails and repairing erosion issues and water drainages.**

**Expect to walk about 3 miles.**

Contact Baily at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-619-0035 to RSVP or for more information.

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## UPDATES

### Updates on Dittmer-Watts Trails



On Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails, Town of Lake Lure and ROC fixed up a large water drainage issue that significantly improved the trail terrain! A tree that had fallen in the middle of the trail was removed as well. We were pleased to have Jeff Neal, a new ROC member looking to get involved in trailwork, join us. The trails are all in great shape and look beautiful. Thank you to Ken, Jeff Hodge, Baily, Bruce, and Jeff Neal for your hard work!

### [More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

## **Updates on Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain**



On Buffalo Creek Park, Town of Lake Lure and ROC removed about 8 invasive princess trees on the north loop. Members also fixed up some light drainage issues. Thank you to Robin, Jeff, Baily, and Kris for your hard work!



On Weed Patch Trail, we removed two trees across the trail from Eagle Rock to Gray rock and cleared briars growing over the trail. We were able to stop at Gray Rock to enjoy the spectacular view while working on the trail. Thank you to Dana, Jeff, Baily, Ken, and Bruce for joining us!

### [More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

### Updates on the ICC Trails



At the ICC trails, ROC trimmed and weed whacked the sides of the entire trail system this past month! The briars and other large plants that were crowding the trail are cleared and out of the way for hikers to enjoy their walk. David mowed the grass on part of the orange trail as well. Shoutout to Woodie, Jonathan, Bruce, Jeff, and Baily for your terrific work and efforts!

[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

## **ROC Broad River Scout**



**ROC scouted four different sections of the Broad River this past month in preparation for our big Spring Sweep! Volunteers and ROC River Stewards floated sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to clear up any blockages caused by down trees and update information on on current river conditions. Sections 2 through 6 are clear of trees and are ready to be paddled!**

**Thank you to everyone that spent the day with us on the river!**

**If you are interested in signing up for our River Clean up on Saturday, June 5th please email Baily at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or (828) 619-0035 to RSVP.**

## **ROC Hike to Young's Mountain**



**ROC hiked up Young's Mountain, a beautiful brand new trail in Lake Lure, this month. During this 4 mile hike we saw the gorgeous greenery of spring emerging and enjoyed lunch with a view at the summit. Thank you to Bruce, Jeff, Baily, Jeff, Jathan and Janna for joining us!**

**If you are interested in hiking Young's Mountain on your own, head to Conserving Carolina's website (<https://conservingcarolina.org/youngs-mountain/>) to sign up for a parking pass!**

## WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN ROC

### 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](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-619-0035.**

## **ROC Bike Club**

Come join us for a fun bike ride on the Thermal Belt Rail Trail every Thursday at 5:30pm!

We will meet at the ROC Office located at 115 N. Oak Street in Spindale, and connect to the Thermal Belt Rail Trail. We will spend an hour total on the trail, traveling approximately 5 miles out and back, and gather at Barley's after our ride to socialize. All are welcome!



For more information or to join, contact Baily at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or (828) 619-0035.

[Facebook Page](#)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-351-3235.**
- **[Click Here](#) for more information on Rutherford County trails.**



# Rutherford Outdoor Coalition

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Contact Us

