



[Check Events](#)

[View Activities](#)

[Get Involved](#)



## 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!

Terri Ensley

Elizabeth Humphrey

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



### ROC Monthly Meeting

Date: February 15th, 2022

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Barley's Taproom

We are excited to return to **Barley's** for our monthly meetings! Join us to hear about all the latest with ROC - including recent updates, upcoming events, how you can get involved with our mission, and

more!

Feel free to order food and beverage while you connect with new and returning ROC members. All are welcome!

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

### **ROC Hike: Ice Hike on the Blue Ridge Parkway**



ROC's one-of-a-kind Blue Ridge Parkway Ice Hike is just around the corner!

Join us on Saturday, February 5th! The hike features multiple waterfalls, incredible views of Looking Glass Rock, and incredible ice formations. With seasonal closures of the Parkway to motorized traffic, this hike offers an incredible opportunity for travel by foot and see the Parkway in a way you may have never experienced before!

We will hike approximately 12 miles, about half uphill, along the Parkway and forested trails. This is a long hike so it is recommended to bring at least 3 liters of water and plenty of snacks!

We will meet at the Food Lion in Columbus at 8:30am, far right near MyGym, and follow the leader to the trailhead - just past Brevard near the Davidson River area.

Location: Food Lion, Columbus (250 W. Mills St. Unit 5, Columbus NC 28722).

To RSVP or for any questions contact Sam Brooks at 828-202-9811 by phone or text, or email [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org).

**Date:** Saturday, February 5th

**Time:** 8:30am

You must RSVP to this event. Please email Sam Brooks at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or text/call (828)-202-9811

---

### **ROC Hike: Trombatore Trail**

Join ROC on a hike on the Trombatore Trail Saturday, February 19th at 10 am! This is a moderate to strenuous 4.8 mile out and back trail that leads to the Blue Ridge Pastures.



The hike features a few up and down elevation changes through a gorgeous forest that will still offer plenty of views even in the winter! The Blue Ridge Pastures features a panoramic view of the Hickory Nut Gorge and Bearwallow Mountain.

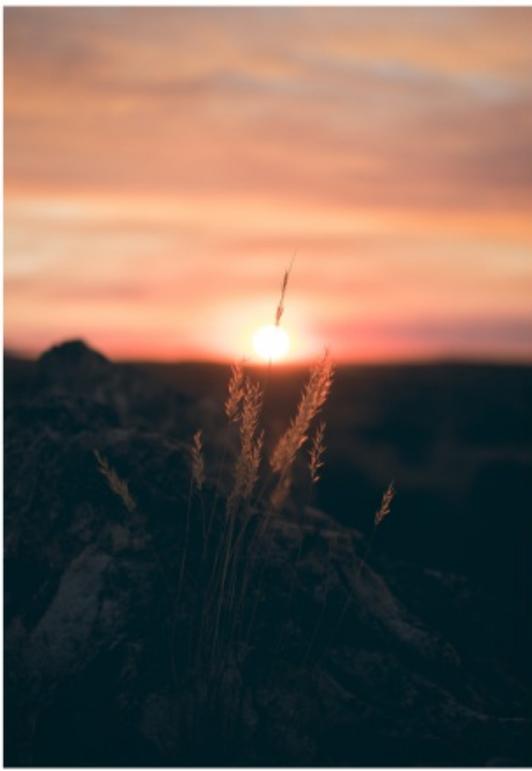
We will meet at the trailhead at 10 am. The trailhead is shared with the Bearwallow Mountain Trailhead. The address is 4854 Bearwallow Mountain Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792 Park on the graveled area on the shoulder of the road, next to the steep hillside. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. This can be arranged by contacting Sam Brooks at the email and phone number below.

**Date:** Saturday, February 19th

**Time:** 10 am

You must RSVP for this event. Please email Sam Brooks at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or text/call (828)-202-9811

---



RUTHERFORD OUTDOOR COALITION'S  
**PHOTO SERIES**

**Sunset/Sunrise Series**

**FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 28**

**THIS MONTH'S PRIZE IS SPONSORED BY  
SMALL TOWN COFFEE ROASTERS**

**TO ENTER:  
SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO [TRAILS@RUTHERFORDOUTDOOR.ORG](mailto:TRAILS@RUTHERFORDOUTDOOR.ORG) OR IN A  
MESSAGE TO ROC ON FACEBOOK  
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)**

---



LOVE THE OUTDOORS?

# EARLY EXPLORER'S NATURE CLUB

Adventure is all around us!  
Especially outside!

Join us on the third Wednesday each  
month at 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Programs are designed for children ages 5- 12.  
Parents must stay with participants for the  
entire program. You must RSVP to be added  
to an email list for monthly theme and  
location updates. We will utilize local trails  
and facilities such as Kiwanis Park, Purple  
Martin Greenway, Thermal Belt Rail Trail, The  
Bechtler House, Isothermal Community  
College Trails, and more.

R·O·C  
RESEARCH OUTDOOR CLUB

## **Kiddos in your life that love to spend time outside? Join our Early Explorers Club!**

We are so excited to announce nature programs designed for youth! Programs are designed for ages 5-12, feature hands-on activities, and include lessons that connect to state standards to support science topics that students are learning in the classroom. Outings and lessons will be lead by our Outdoor Programs Director, a certified NC Environmental Educator.

What to look forward to in our club:

- Visiting parks and forests
- Studying plants and other wildlife

- Learning about saving the environment
- Meeting various animals and insects
- Finding lifelong friends
- Health benefits that result from time spent outdoors

For more information or to sign-up, contact our Outdoor Programs Director, Jess Kerr at [jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org), or 828-351-3235. You can also check out the places we've visited and what we've discovered by following us on Facebook!

---

## February Volunteer Days



### Wednesday February 9th:

Weed Patch Mountain: 10 am - 3 pm

**We will be removing any down trees on the trail and fixing trail tread. This will be a joint workday with Conserving Carolina volunteers.**

### Saturday February 12th:

Isothermal Community College Trails: 10 am - 2 pm

**We will be building a trail reroute to reconnect the Blue Trail. Expect to walk about a mile.**

### Tuesday February 15th:

Buffalo Creek Park: 8 am - 12 am

**We will be improving the tread on switchbacks and fixing erosion issues. Expect to walk about 3 miles.**

### Tuesday February 22nd:

Dittmer-Watts Nature Trails: 8 am - 10am

**We will be trimming overgrown sections of the trail. Expect to walk about 1-2 miles.**

### Saturday February 26th:

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

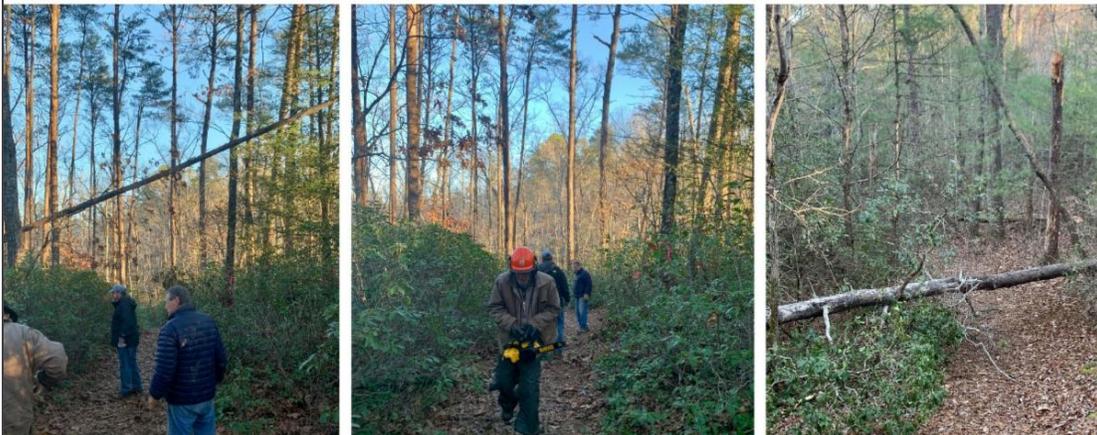
**Come walk shelter dogs and puppies with us!  
Expect to walk about about 2 miles, mostly level terrain.**

Contact Sam at [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call 828-202-9811 to RSVP or for more information.

---

# UPDATES

## Updates on Dittmer-Watts Trails



ROC had another successful workday at Dittmer-Watts! Volunteers had a busy morning on the Roller Coaster trail. A potentially hazardous tree hanging across the trail had to be removed, along with a large downed tree that was lying across the trail! As always, we are beyond grateful for our volunteers and all the work they do in maintaining our trails!

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

## Updates on Buffalo Creek Park and Weed Patch Mountain



ROC had a productive workday at Buffalo Creek Park! Volunteers cleared the leaves off of the trail tread. This helps out mountain bikers and hikers that use this trail with visibility issues. Leaves cover up rocks and roots and create a tripping hazard that could usually be avoided. Blowing the leaves off the trail allows people to see where they're going and creates a safer and better trail experience for its users. As always, we are so so thankful for the hard work of our volunteers that maintain our trails! We are also thankful for Jake, our trail dog, for keeping the morale high and making everyone laugh.



ROC and the Town of Lake Lure had a great workday at Weed Patch Mountain! Our incredible volunteers spent a morning removing a large hazardous tree that was leaning across the trail. This was a tree that turned out to be trickier than expected, luckily we have some amazing volunteers that were able to take care of it!

[More about Buffalo Creek Park](#)

[Updates on the ICC Trails](#)



On the ICC trails, ROC volunteers spent a morning preparing for the Blue Trail reroute that will be built on February 12th. A trail was mapped out with flags and volunteers removed briars and small trees from the proposed trail corridors. We are looking forward to seeing this project completed next month!

[More about the ICC Trail System](#)

## **Chestnut Knob Trail Hike at South Mountains State Park**



ROC had a wonderful hike on the Chestnut Knob Trail at South Mountains State Park! It was a great turnout with some truly great people! The weather was a little chilly, but we warmed up quick as we climbed to the Chestnut Knob Overlook! This hike featured some beautiful views and some amazing people!

**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 Jess Kerr at [jess@rutherforddoor.org](mailto:jess@rutherforddoor.org) or call 828-351-3235.**

## 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 Jess Kerr at [jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:jess@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or 828-351-3235.**
- **[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

PO Box 1349  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
828-351-3235

Contact Us



 Share