

November 2020

Historic Meeting - CMC Annual Meeting To Be Held Via Zoom

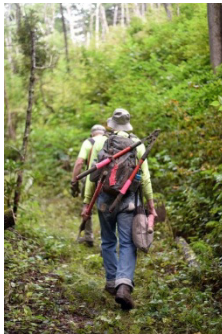
This year's CMC Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Friday, Nov. 6. Because of the pandemic, the meeting will be held via Zoom, which required pre-registration.

During the meeting, the proposed CMC budget for 2021 will be presented for approval as well as the slate of CMC Council nominations for 2021 and minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. Click on the following links to review the 2019 annual meeting minutes, the proposed 2021 CMC budget and the nominations for the 2021 CMC Council :

[Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting](#)

[Proposed 2021 CMC Budget](#)

[2021 CMC Council Nominations](#)



Roundtop Ridge Trail

By John Haffner

In April 2016, the town of Hot Springs was full of smoke and the Silvermine Fire, 5000-Acres large, was bearing down on civilization. Many hikers thru-hiking from Georgia had to route around the fire which encompassed parts of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) north of Hot Springs. Among the areas affected by this fire was the Roundtop Ridge Trail.

Photo by Sarah J Decker

The Roundtop Ridge Trail is a 3.3-mile trail. Formerly the original route north of the A.T. out of Hot Springs, this trail was devastated by the fire. For the next 4 years, the trail became overgrown and the Hot Springs Mountain Club made several attempts to clear out the trail. In 2020, Hot Springs Mountain Club and the Town of Hot Springs asked the CMC for help to open this critical trail link into town.

Paul Curtin, CMC A.T. Supervisor leader, described that since the fire, "...dead trees have been falling on the trail and the open canopy resulted in miles of thorny growth. The trail was so overgrown and blocked that the Forest Service closed the trail after hikers sent reports of emerging bloody from attempts to hike it." Curtin also mentioned after walking the trail in 2020, that there were "more than 200 downed trees and thorns of every description." Not a pretty sight and definitely not a pleasant hike. The week of September 14, a collaborative crew including members from all the regions of the CMC, Hot Springs Mountain Club, Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, WNC Trail Sisters, and North Carolina Mountain Trail Runners had cleared the trail of not only the downed trees but uncountable numbers of saplings and thorny bushes and vines, widened the trail and cleared the treadway of tripping hazards. This work took over 680 manhours of work. An unbelievable effort! We invite you to enjoy this newly reopened trail on its own or as a part of a larger hike! With the Roundtop Ridge Trail reopened many different loop hikes are now

available including a 10-mile loop from Hot Springs with the A.T. A trip to the newly restored (2018) Rich Mountain Fire Tower with a spectacular view can be added for an additional 3 miles.

<https://www.mappedometer.com/?maproute=841743> A special thanks to all those who were involved in this intense week of maintenance and to Sarah Jones Decker who has agreed to be the section maintainer.

ATTENTION HIKERS:

If you sign up, show up!

Due to the Covid hiking restrictions, as you know, the number of hikers per hike is limited to 10. That seems like a safe and reasonable number. However, there have been numerous no-shows on hikes.

Please let your leader know if you cannot do a hike that you signed up for. In many cases there is a waiting list. If you are a no-show, you cost someone else the opportunity to do the hike, and likely the leader waited for you and started the hike late because of you. Please be thoughtful of other hikers!

eNews is published on the first Friday of each month. Articles are due on the last Friday of the previous month. Send your news to eNews@carolinamountainclub.org.

Please limit articles to no more than 1,000 words. You may send up to two photos as jpg attachments.

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