



TATC A.T. SECTION - TRAIL HEADS, MARSHALING AREAS, AND LANDMARKS

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GENERAL

Introduction: This handout provides general directions for reaching various areas of interest to Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club (TATC) members who help maintain the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). It does not include directions to Tidewater area hiking sites. For local trails, from York River State Park south to Merchants Mill Pond State Park in NC, refer to links on the TATC web site (www.tidewateratc.org) or go to the local area's web site. Harpers Creek Shelter, Three Ridges, and Campbell Creek Waterfall are included here for information purposes. The waterfall is sometimes used as a demarcation point when sending out maintenance crews (from the waterfall north to Maupin Field is a trail maintenance section, from the waterfall south to the A.T. is a trail maintenance section).

For reference go to the TATC Education Handout titled "TATC's A.T. SECTION - SKETCH MAP." On that sketch map the Campbell Creek Waterfall is at the end of the Waterfall Spur Trail (blazed yellow).

A.T. MARSHALING AREAS

Several marshaling areas are used when organizing maintenance for our A.T. section. These include: Sherando Lake, Love Gap, Maupin Field, Reeds Gap and the Tye River at VA 56. Reaching these points may be complicated by closings of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Blue Ridge Parkway: Sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway are gated, and may be closed due to Nature's whims. Concrete mileposts are installed every mile along the Parkway. When parking along the Parkway, it is suggested you tell the Parkway where and for how long you are parking. For our section of the Parkway between milepost 0 (at I-64) south to milepost 106, call (540) 377-2377.

Sherando Lake: Sherando Lake is a National Forest Recreation Area located on Rt. 664 just west of the village of Sherando. There the CCC Kitchen, or the Williams Branch Picnic Area, is generally utilized for May, July, and October TATC A.T. maintenance trips.

Love Gap: The Love Gap fire road (Forest Service Road 306 [see photo at end of Handout]) leads to Maupin Field and Maupin Field Shelter. Love Gap is at Milepost 15½ on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This is approximately ½-mile north of where Rt. 814 crosses the Parkway. Parking is available. For some maintenance trips, the right end of the pipe gate may be unlocked. Lift and carry it across to a notched white post. Set the pipe on the post. Drive through the gate. *Replace the gate bar across the fire road.* It is strongly recommended that you hike the fire road the first time, before you attempt to drive it in

your private vehicle. On other trips we park at Love Gap and hike in.

Caution

Due to possible blowdowns, the fire road should always be hiked before being driven. Backing out that twisting, narrow, steep-sided 'road' is not fun (I know !!).

Maupin Field and Maupin Field Shelter: Maupin Field may be reached from Reeds Gap, Love Gap, or Harpers Creek Shelter. Maupin Field is sometimes a marshaling point or camping area for A.T. maintenance.

Reeds Gap: Reeds Gap, located at milepost 13.5 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, is where Rt. 664 crosses the Parkway just a few miles west of the village of Wintergreen. There is a parking lot on Rt. 664, on the south side of the Parkway. The A.T. crosses Rt. 664 at the east end of the parking lot. Park head in or head out, not parallel. Leave nothing valuable in your vehicle.

Tye River at Rt. 56: The A.T. trailhead on VA 56 is 4.7-miles west of Massies Mill. There is a parking lot on the south side of VA 56. Leave nothing valuable in your vehicle.

DIRECTIONS - A.T. MARSHALING AREAS Love Gap Parking Area

Love Gap via Lyndhurst, Sherando, and Sherando Lake (when the Parkway is closed): Follow I-64 West past Charlottesville. Take the Lyndhurst exit, Exit 96. At the bottom of the exit, turn left on Rt. 624. In Lyndhurst, follow as the main road bends left and becomes Rt. 664, with smaller Rt. 624 going straight (you may not even notice the bend). Follow 664 thru Lyndhurst, then Sherando, and past Sherando Lake.

At the intersection where Rt. 664 turns left and Rt. 814 goes straight - go straight on Rt. 814. At the Blue Ridge Parkway, turn left (north). In just a hundred yards you will pass where Rt. 814 leaves the Parkway on the right. Stay on the Parkway. You will be going downhill.

The lowest point on this first downhill is Love Gap. On the right, just past the Love Gap sign and lowest point in the gap, is an open area and driveway. Between the driveway and the Parkway the fire road bears off to the right at about a 20° angle. There is a three-inch, pipe gate across the fire road. See diagram at end of Handout.

Go down the driveway about 100-ft and make a "U"-turn. Do not go through the private gateway. Park on the right (north, wooded) side of the drive, off the drive, as close to the fire road as you can get.

There is also room to park a vehicle or two between the fire road and the Parkway. DO NOT BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY, THE PARKWAY, THE FIRE ROAD GATE, OR THE LANE ACROSS THE PARKWAY. Make sure your vehicle is locked, and everything is out of sight.

Love Gap via the Parkway (when the Parkway is open): Follow I-64 West past Charlottesville. Take Exit 99 for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Watch speed, signs, and turns. The exit will 'T' at US 250. At the 'T' turn right, stay in the right lane. Take the next right which ambles past a gas station and long closed Howard Johnsons to a 'T' at the Blue Ridge Parkway. At the 'T' turn right and go south.

Cross Rt. 664 at milepost 13.5, continue to Love Gap at milepost 15½. At Love Gap there is a driveway on the left. The fire road (Forest Service Road 306) is also on the left, at a tight, back angle with the Parkway. There is a 3-inch, white, pipe gate across the fire road.

Go down the driveway about 100-ft and make a "U"-turn. Do not go through the private gateway. Park on the right (north, wooded) side of the drive, off the drive, as close to the fire road as you can get. There is also room to park a vehicle or two between the fire road and the Parkway. DO NOT BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY, THE PARKWAY, THE FIRE ROAD GATE, OR THE LANE ACROSS THE PARKWAY. Make sure your vehicle is locked, and everything is out of sight. See diagram at end of Handout.

Reeds Gap Parking Area.

Reeds Gap via Lyndhurst, Sherando, and Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area: (when the Parkway is closed): Follow I-64 West past Charlottesville. Take the Lyndhurst exit, Exit 96. At the bottom of the exit, turn left on Rt. 624. In Lyndhurst, follow as the main road bends left and becomes Rt. 664, with smaller Rt. 624 going straight (you may not even notice the bend). Follow 664 thru Lyndhurst, then Sherando, and past Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area.

At the intersection where Rt. 664 turns left and Rt. 814 goes straight - go left on Rt. 664. Follow Rt. 664 (steep and curvy) to and across the Parkway. The parking lot is on Rt. 664, immediately on your right.

Reeds Gap via the Parkway (when the Parkway is open): Follow I-64 West past Charlottesville. Take Exit 99 for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Watch speed, signs, and turns. The exit will 'T' at US 250. At the 'T' turn right, stay in the right lane. Take the next right which ambles past a gas station and long closed Howard Johnsons to a 'T' at Blue Ridge Parkway.

At the 'T' turn right. Go south to milepost 13½. Here Rt. 664 crosses the Parkway at Reeds Gap. Turn left onto Rt. 664. The parking lot is immediately on your right. Park head-in, not parallel.

Reeds Gap via US 29, VA 6, and Rt. 664: Follow, I-64 West to US 29 south near Charlottesville. Take US 29 South (22.1-mi) to VA 6. VA 6 is immediately past VA 6Y. Turn right on VA 6 to a 'T' at VA 151. Turn left on VA 151 to Rt. 664. Turn right on Rt. 664 (steep and curvy) to Reeds Gap at the Parkway. The A.T. parking lot is on your left immediately before you reach the Parkway. Park head-in, not parallel.

Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area

Important: *Make sure you reach the Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area entrance on Rt. 664 before 10:00 p.m., when the gate is closed and locked. If you reach the intersection where Rt. 664 turns left and Rt. 814 goes straight - you went too far.*

Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area via Lyndhurst and Sherando (when the Parkway is closed): Follow I-64 West past Charlottesville. Take the Lyndhurst exit, Exit 96. At the bottom of the exit, turn left on Rt. 624. In Lyndhurst, follow as the main road bends left and becomes Rt. 664, with smaller Rt. 624 going straight (you may not even notice the bend). Follow 664 thru Lyndhurst, then Sherando. Look for the Forest Service Sherando Lake entrance sign (see photo at end of Handout).

At the entrance turn right into the Recreation Area. If you are at Sherando Lake for a maintenance trip, tell the fee booth attendant you are doing trail maintenance with the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club and are camping in the CCC Kitchen, or the William Branch Picnic Area.

Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area via the Parkway (when the Parkway is open): Follow I-64 past Charlottesville. Take Exit 99 for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Watch speed, signs, and turns. The exit will 'T' at US 250. At the 'T' turn right - stay in the right lane. Take the next right which ambles past a gas station and long closed Howard Johnsons to a 'T' at the Blue Ridge Parkway. At the 'T' turn right. Go south to Rt. 664 at milepost 13½. Turn right and go down (steep and curvy) Rt. 664. At the stop sign at the bottom of the hill, Rt. 664 turns right and Rt. 814 goes left. Turn right on Rt. 664. Look for the Forest Service Sherando Lake entrance sign (see photo at end of Handout).

At the Sherando Lake entrance sign, turn left into the Recreation Area. The Fee Kiosk is 0.3-miles up the entrance road. If it is manned, tell the folks at the Fee Kiosk that you are going to be with the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club in the CCC kitchen or the Williams Branch Picnic Area. You do not have to pay a camping fee.

To reach the Williams Branch Picnic Area within the Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area:

From the Fee Kiosk, follow the entrance road. En route there is a steep downhill 'U-turn.' Just where the turn to the right starts, continue straight ahead on a narrow dirt

road into the Williams Branch area.

To reach the CCC Kitchen within The Sherando Lake National Forest Recreation Area: From the Fee Kiosk follow the entrance road. Pass the self-serve pay station and lakeside bathhouse parking area on the right. Pass RV camping areas, then an open field on the left. Follow a curve to the right, uphill - slowly. Look for the 'Work Center - Volunteer Village' sign (see photo at end of Handout). At the sign turn right. Within 50-ft turn right into a parking area facing the back of the CCC kitchen DO NOT BLOCK ACCESS TO THE WORK CENTER UPHILL.

Tye River Trailhead Parking Area

Tye River at VA 56 via US 29: Follow, I-64 West to US 29 South near Charlottesville. Take US 29 South (33.5-mi) to VA 56. Turn right onto VA 56. Follow VA 56 for just (1.1-mi) and turn right on Rt. 655. Follow Rt. 655 until it reaches a 'T' at VA 151. Turn left on VA 151 and cross the bridge. Immediately across the bridge turn right on VA 56. Follow VA 56 (6.9-mi) through Massies Mill (on the Virginia road map), through Tyro (not on road map), to the A.T. trailhead parking lot on the left. If you reach Rt. 814 you went a little over 1-mile too far.

Tye River at VA 56 via the Parkway: Follow I-64 past Charlottesville. Take Exit 99 for the Blue Ridge Parkway. Watch speed, signs, and turns. The exit will 'T' at US 250. At the 'T' turn right, stay in the right lane. Take the next right which ambles past a gas station and long closed Howard Johnsons to a 'T' at the Blue Ridge Parkway. At the 'T', turn right. Go south to the first intersection with Rt. 814 at milepost 16. Turn left on Rt. 814, a narrow, twisty, curvy gravel road. Follow Rt. 814 to VA 56. Turn left on VA 56 and travel 1.2-miles to the A.T. trailhead parking lot on the right. If you reach Rt. 682 on the left, you went too far.

DIRECTIONS - A.T. LANDMARKS

Campbell Creek Waterfall on the Mau-Har Trail: May be reached by:

Hiking south from Maupin Field Shelter 1.5-miles on the blue blazed Mau-Har Trail and 100-yards on the yellow blazed trail.

Hiking south from Harpers Creek Shelter 0.9-miles on the A.T.,

1.5-miles north on the blue blazed Mau-Har Trail, and 100-yards on the yellow blazed trail.

Flat Rock Overlook May be reached by:

Hiking the A.T. 1.6-miles north from Harpers Creek Shelter.

Hiking the A.T. 4.6-miles south from Maupin Field Shelter

Hanging Rock Overlook may be reached by:

Hiking the A.T. 4.2 miles north from the Harpers Creek Shelter.

Hiking the A.T. 2.0-miles south from Maupin Field Shelter.

Harpers Creek Shelter May be reached by:

Hiking the A.T. 2.6-miles north from VA 56.

Hiking the A.T. 6.2-miles south from Maupin Field Shelter over Three Ridges.

Hiking the Mau-Har Trail 3.0-miles south from Maupin Field Shelter to the A.T., then hiking 0.9-miles north on the A.T.

Maupin Field Shelter may be reached by:

Hiking the A.T. south over Meadow Mountain 1 3/4-miles from Reeds Gap.

Driving (maintenance trips only) or hiking the 1.5-mile fire road (Forest Service Road 306[see photo at end of Handout]) from Love Gap.

Hiking the A.T. 6.2-miles north from Harpers Creek Shelter over Three Ridges.

Hiking the A.T. south from Harpers Creek Shelter 0.9-miles to the Mau-Har Trail, and hiking the Mau-Har trail 3-miles north.

Three Ridges, the peak (sign post) may be reached by:

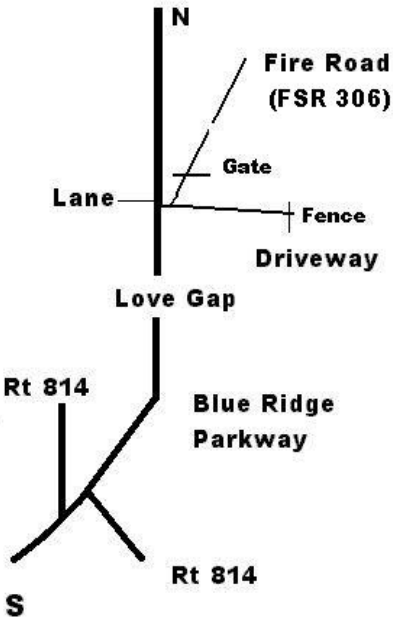
Hiking the A.T. 3.7-miles north from Harpers Creek Shelter.

Hiking the A.T. 2.5-miles south from Maupin Fields Shelter.

Please see Photographs and map sketch on next two pages.



Forest Service Road 306 - Love Gap Fire Road Sign



Love Gap location map



Sherando Lake Entrance Sign



Work Center - Volunteer Village Sign