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!

Don and Sally Lesher    Steve and Betty Gilbert
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.

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

Get Involved!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 4th: ROC Parkway Ice Hike

This 12-mile hike features multiple waterfalls, incredible views of Looking Glass Rock, and hopefully, some amazing ice formations. The route is challenging, but trust us, it is worth it! Part of the hike is on the Parkway, which is typically closed this time of year. The remainder is on forested trails.

A carpool will be meeting at the Food Lion in Columbus at 8:30 am. We will be on the far right of the parking area near MyGym. We will also be meeting at 8 am at the Rutherford County Office Building to carpool to Columbus. The trailhead is past Brevard up the Davidson River area.

Be sure to dress for the weather and expect possible windy conditions. Wear sturdy and gripping footwear! Make sure to have enough water and any snacks you may want.

Click below for a map created by Carolina Mountain Club of their version of this hike.
[https://www.carolinamountainclub.org/hiking/maps/0001_map.pdf](https://www.carolinamountainclub.org/hiking/maps/0001_map.pdf)

Here a few images from previous trips

Please RSVP if you plan to join us. Email [trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org](mailto:trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org) or call (828) 351-3235. (We will be back in time for the Super Bowl!)

Tuesday, February 6th: Dittmer-Watts Trails Workday

Join us for a fun workday as we improve the trail surface at Dittmer-Watts Nature
Trail Park in Lake Lure. We will meet at the trailhead at 10 am and work for 2-3 hours.

Be sure to dress for the weather and to bring water. We will provide the tools and gloves, though you may bring your own if desired.

For more information or to RSVP, email trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 351-3235

Saturday, February 10th: ROC Walk With Brother Wolf

Meet at Brother Wolf (1364 US-221, Rutherfordton, NC 28139) at 10 am to get matched up with one of the shelter dogs. We will walk the dogs for 2 miles on the Purple Martin trail.

Since there are a limited number of dogs available, you MUST pre-register for this event. Email Dana Bradley at dana@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call her cell at (864) 334-1188 to sign up.

Tuesday, February 13: Buffalo Creek Workday

Join us Tuesday, February 13th as we tackle some erosion issues at the top of the Buffalo Creek trail. We will lower berms, add grade dips, and fill in some existing eroded areas.

We will meet at 9 am at the Buffalo Creek Park trailhead. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for winter outdoor work. Also be sure to bring water.

For more information or to RSVP, email trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 351-3235

Tuesday, February 20th: ROC Monthly Meeting

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Come out to Barleys in Spindale at 5:30 to learn about ongoing and future ROC projects.
and to meet members and volunteers.

**Sunday, February 25th: ROC Gorges State Park Hike**

If you are looking for a lengthier hike, this is the event for you. We will travel to North Carolina's westernmost state park and hike approximately 12 miles to Lake Jocassee near the NC/SC border. We will also briefly explore a section of the Foothills Trail.

We will meet at 7:30 am at the Rutherford County Office Building, 289 N. Main Street in Rutherfordton. Please wear cold weather hiking gear, including sturdy shoes. Also, make sure to bring plenty of water and a lunch/snacks.

For more information email trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 351-3235. Please RSVP and let us know you are interested.

**Updates:**

**ROC Walk with Brother Wolf**

On January 13th, ROC held a walk for the shelter dogs at Brother Wolf Sanctuary. Several dogs had great exercise and companionship as participants took them for a stroll along the rail trail.

Stay tuned to our schedule for more upcoming walks with these pups.

**Buffalo Creek Park Workday**

On January 9th and 23rd, ROC volunteers and AmeriCorps members turned out to Buffalo Creek Park to help combat erosion and fix drainage issues on the trail surface. This bike/hiking trail is heavily used and
If you would like to help in any upcoming workdays, and learn a bit about trail design and maintenance, contact Trevor at (828) 351-3235 or email trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org

More Photos Here

ROC Rail Trail Clean-up

We had a fantastic turnout for the January 20th Rail Trail Clean-up in Spindale and Ruth. A special thanks to the Boy Scouts of Troop 129 who turned out in force to assist.

We removed over 500 pounds of garbage and litter from the corridor, leaving it in great shape as progress is made on widening and paving it.

More photos here

ROC Chestnut Ridge Hike

On Saturday, January 27th, ROC members hiked the ridges and river-bottoms of the Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve. The group enjoyed the different ecosystems and mushroom varieties along the 5.5 mile journey. Afterwards, we ventured to the nearby historic Poinsett Bridge.

Stay tuned to the weekly schedule and newsletter for other upcoming hikes such as this!

More Photos
Box Creek Wilderness 10K

The ROC Race Series kicks off February 24th with the Box Creek Wilderness 10K. A smaller, non-points 5K will also be held.

More information here

Ways to Participate in ROC:

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 Trevor Freeman at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 351-3235.

  Click Here for more information on Rutherford County trails.
**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 us at trails@rutherfordoutdoor.org or call (828) 351-3235.