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Attila resting after a hard day of work at Summerfest 2008.

Summerfest 2008 was a great success. We had 26 members and guests work this trip. The weather was great.

We did not have to turn the air conditioners on in the pods at night. It was very cool.

We were able to complete many projects. On Thursday we clean and rehab the

water bars and check dams from Va. 16 to Nick's Creek(622). They are working on Nick's Creek Road and it will be a great short cut to Atkins. Jim Houck and Attila supervised the "move" of our workshed at Konnarock to Bland. We have relocated it on Mark Stanley's farm there. This will give us tools and supplies to work the northern section of our trail.

From Thursday through Sunday we worked from Va. 644 to Va. 86. We were able to do over 170 feet of side hilling, we made 24 water bars and check dams. Will Merritt and Harry Atkins rehabbed the overlook above Chatfield Shelter. The view is great. All the hikers were talking about it on their way down the trail. We put crushed rock in the low spots. We rehabbed the big rock steps and some of the smaller ones. We fixed the stream crossing by the Shelter. Chris Bracknell and Dwight Levi cut locust logs to use for the water bars, check dams and cribbing(along the sidehilling).

The meals were great. We had a "union" crew--Attila, Harry, Michael Poor, John Boy and Jim--prepare breakfast each morning. The coffee pot was on at 5:45 am each morning. This was a coffee

drinking crowd. Suppers under the direction of Michael were fantastic. We had pot roast, hamburgers and Brats, Michael's homemade BBQ, Spaghetti and Ky. Fried Chicken. Where could you get all of this for only \$5 a day.

Thanks to Michael for "camp sitting" each day. He kept the camp "clean", supervised the Bug Man, and did all the preparation for the meals. We cannot thank you enough Michael.

We had some new prospective members join us on this trip. They were recruited by "Harmonica Man" Dwight. They were Stan Treski (from West Jefferson) and Ed Martin and his son (from North Wilkesboro). We are looking forward to them joining the club and working with us on the trail.

Thursday night we were joined for supper by Charlene and Walt Davis. Charlene brought a Summerfest Cake (festively decorated) for all of us to enjoy. They were staying at Stoney Fork Campground. They did trail work in that area.

Martha and David Emrey joined us on Saturday night. They worked cleaning and rehabbing Davis Path Cemetary. They left early for a night of dancing and clogging. Sure is hard keeping up with those "young" folks.

Bill Boudman won the Karl Kunkel lottery. He picked the winning time for Karl's arrival. Dwight feel that he would have won if he had known that Attila pulled a sneaky by having Karl come in from the Settler's Museum.

Thanks to Andrew and Kim Mitchell for all of their preparation for Summerfest 2008. Andrew had all of the jobs lined up for us. Kim was updating our first aid kits. You should see the beautiful rock water bar that Kim made. It is fantastic.

We have a new addition to our PATH family. Smokey, the Siamese Cat--a beautiful grey cat--was visiting Konnarock for the past few weeks. He really "sucked up" to Attila. Since Attila has lost his cat, Attila felt that Smokey needed a home. Attila is adopting Smokey and giving him a new life in the big city. Can you picture

Attilla walking the cat each morning. We will be hearing much more on the adventures of Smokey. I am sure we will see a picture of Smokey on the web page soon.

Dexter, the wonder dog, had a great trip. He and Smokey got along fine. Dexter "loved" walking on the trail. He made sure that everyone made it to the top.

On Friday night we were visited by our ATC staff from Blacksburg--Laura Belleville and Jack Noll. Jack said that the Va. ATC License project is going well. Jack designed the plate that they will use. He updated us on the ridge runner project. Laura updated us on the ATC work in our region.

We met the three "young" ladies who are doing the wildlife project on the AT. They were checking a few of their cameras near 644. The cameras have photographed deer, bear, possums, groundhogs, turkeys, red and grey foxes and coyotes. This project is being done jointly by the ATC and the Smithsonian Institute.

We want to thank everyone who came and worked so hard to make Summerfest 2008 a success. Our photographers will be posting their pictures on the web for everyone to see our work for the week.

Gasoline prices were cheaper in the Marion area. They were about \$3.81 a gallon. Walt said it was \$3.71 in Wytheville. I got gas in Mocksville, NC for \$3.85. When I got back to Salisbury it was \$3.99.

Bill(Attila) will be putting out a more detailed report of the work projects in the next few days.

Our next worktrip will be in July(17-21) in Crawfish Valley. This will be our second work week with Konnarock.

Happy trails

John Hartpence(John Boy)--Secretary