

BOONE, NC - Dr. Ray Russell, a 58-year-old Appalachian State University professor and founder of BRPweather.com will run the entire length of Blue Ridge Parkway in less than 30 days. The purpose of "Relay with Ray" is to celebrate the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Centennial year of the National Park Service and generate support for the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The journey begins May 17th at Milepost 0 near Waynesboro Virginia concluding June 9th at Milepost 469 in Cherokee, NC.

"It's the craziest thing I have ever seriously considered doing", says Russell about the adventure. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and kicks off a second century of stewardship for America's national parks. "What better way to say Happy Birthday than to share the Parkway experience with the world", said Russell. The entire journey will be documented daily with pictures, videos, and a blog on RelaywithRay.com.

People can get involved with the Relay in two ways. First, they can physically Relay with Ray by signing up to run a full or partial day. The second, and easier way is to virtually Relay by making a monetary donation to the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. In his blog Ray wrote, "Investing in the Blue Ridge Parkway is also an investment in our communities and collective livelihood".

The Parkway consistently ranks as the most visited unit of the National Park System. Tourists to the area spend almost a billion dollars each year supporting about 15,000 jobs in nearby gateway regions. It's partly about the economics, but not all about the economics. Relay with Ray is about showing love for this national treasure. The next generation will need to camp, hike, fish, climb and play-- finding inspiration in these mountains.

To get inspired, please visit RelaywithRay.com.

About Raysweather.com

RaysWeather.com began in 1999 with Ray, one backyard weather station, and a wintertime snow forecast. From that small start, RaysWeather.com now boasts a total of 5 forecasters and meteorologists covering the mountain region from Wythe County Virginia to Redtail Mountain, TN to Waynesville, NC. In 2014 RaysWeather.com launched BRPweather.com and BRPwebcams.org in a partnership with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, The Blue Ridge Parkway, and Appalachian State University. BRPweather.com was created to help travelers of the Parkway plan their trip or receive up to the minute weather conditions via live weather stations, web cameras, and extended seven day forecasts.

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