



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Outings – January 2017

The SMHC has been leading hiking outings in east Tennessee for over ninety years! Our outings are open to all. You do not have to be a member of the Club to participate, and we welcome guests. Join us!

2 – Monday: Seven Islands State Park

Come join us for a gentle walk through Tennessee's newest state park, Seven Islands, as we kick off the New Year! We won't start too early to let those who stayed up to watch the ball drop get a little extra sleep and it won't take all day, so those who choose can still catch some football. Hike is an easy 5.5 miles. Meet at the **Seven Islands parking lot <see list>** at 10:00 AM.

Leaders: Adele Soucy, fthom4141@aol.com; and Beth Eades, eadesb@comcast.net.

4 – Wednesday: Oak Ridge North Ridge Trail

We will hike the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge. Hike: ~7 miles, rated moderate. Meet at the **Oak Ridge Books-a-Million/Golds Gym parking lot <see list>** at 9:00 AM.

Leader: Yong Holland, kimholland55@gmail.com, 865-789-5220.

7 – Saturday: Lumber Ridge/Spruce Flats Branch Manway

Southern Living Magazine refers to Spruce Flats Falls as "A Best Photo Opp". This 8 mile loop hike will begin at the Tremont Visitors Center. We will access the Lumber Ridge Trail and follow it for about four miles until we reach the Spruce Flats Branch Manway. This is good manway and normally does not require any "bush whacking". From here we will begin our descent back down the mountain to beautiful Spruce Flats Falls, taking a short side trip to enjoy a different waterfall along the way. And then it's back to the Visitors Center to complete our 8 mile loop hike which is rated as moderate. Meet at the **Alcoa Food City <see list>** by 8:00 am or at the Tremont Visitors Center at 8:30 am. Drive 48 miles RT {@4¢ =\$2}.

Leaders: Billy Heaton, bheaton8@yahoo.com, 865-924-0095 and Ron Blessinger, rblessinger@msn.com, 813-310-8457.

14 - Saturday: Knoxville History Hike

We'll begin marching east on Kingston Pike toward Knoxville's central city passing locations significant in the Siege of Knoxville and the Battle of Fort Sanders. We'll walk through town to Bethel Cemetery, turn west toward Summit Hill, continue on through the Fort Sanders neighborhood to Third Creek Greenway back to the church. Expect an urban hike of 10-11 miles, with more hiking than history. Be sure to bring water and snacks. Moderate hiking, but note the mileage. Exact route and length will be weather dependent. Meet at **Laurel Church of Christ <see list>** (3457 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919) at 9:00 AM. Drive: 0 miles RT.

Leaders: Claudia Dean, claudiadean0@gmail.com, 865-673-5822, (865-206-0145 morning of hike) and Dan Feller.

14 - Saturday: Easy Hike – Metcalf Bottoms and Little Briar Gap

We will start at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area and hike Metcalf Bottoms and Little Briar Gap trails to the intersection of Little Greenbrier Trail at Little Briar Gap. On the way, we will visit Little Greenbrier School and the Walker Sisters home. Hike is about 4.6 miles RT. Meet at the **bridge at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic Area** at 10:00 am.

Leader: Charles Hurst, charlesbh@charter.net, 865-803-4010.

21 - Saturday: Loyston Park Mountain Biking

In honor of the opening of a new trail system at Loyston Point, the club is offering both hiking (see below) and mountain bike riding trips to this exciting area on the north side of Norris Lake. We will ride the new Mill Creek Loop which is already famed for flowing turns, gentle grades and smooth single track. Then we will add on the slightly shorter Loyston Loop before returning back to the trailhead. Riders should have prior mountain biking experience. Bike 12.7 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Outback Steakhouse on Merchants Drive <see list>** ready to leave at 9:30 AM. Drive 53 miles RT {@4¢=\$2}.

Leaders: Hiram Rogers, hiramrogers@yahoo.com, 865-584-7310; and Brad Reese, bradktn@gmail.com, 865-599-1708.

21 - Saturday: Loyston Park Hiking

The Loyston Point trailhead is at the end of a beautiful winding road through Anderson County with spectacular views of pastoral valleys and far-off mountains. The first Loyston Loop section of our hike meanders through hardwood trees with a great view of Norris Lake. We turn left onto the Hemlock Bluff trail, wading through ankle-deep leaves and canopied by hundreds of golden-leafed beech trees. After a hard climb, we stroll through giant, healthy hemlocks. We then join the Point 19 trail, a forest road leading left to a rocky ledge that juts out into the lake. We return back up the road (note the bat poles on the right) to the Loyston Point Loop trail where we turn left to return to the trailhead kiosk. Although we may see snow in January, the beech trees will still have their leaves, the giant hemlocks will still be healthy, and the views of the lake even more spectacular. Small game is in season, so wear orange. Total hike: 7 miles, rated moderate. Meet behind the **Shoney's just off the I-75 Clinton/Norris Exit 122 <see list>** ready to leave at 9:00 am. Drive: 22 miles RT {@4¢=\$1}.

Leaders: Betty Glenn, glennbj@roanestate.edu, 865-307-3436; and Doris Gove, dorisgove@aol.com, 865-522-9896.

25 – Wednesday: Oak Ridge North Boundary Trail

We will hike the North Boundary Trail in Oak Ridge. Hike: 7 miles, rated moderate. Meet at the **Oak Ridge Books-a-Million/Golds Gym parking lot <see list>** at 8:00 AM.

Leader: Yong Holland, kimholland55@gmail.com, 865-789-5220.

28 - Saturday: Cooper Road/Abrams Falls Loop

This hike, offered as a courtesy of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, will be led by Tremont naturalist Jeremy Lloyd and affords the Club an opportunity to visit Abrams Falls during the off-season when park visitation is quite low. The route will follow through an area where prescribed burns have been conducted in recent years, giving hikers a chance to glimpse the ongoing regeneration in this fire-driven forest community. As time permits, we will do some winter tree identification and see what other opportunities for "naturalizing" arise including animal sign, etc. Hike begins from the Elijah Oliver parking area in Cades Cove, which is 4.4 miles from the start of the Loop Road. Hike: about 13.3 miles, rated challenging due to length. Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00 am to carpool or at the trailhead at 9:00 am. Drive: 72 miles RT {@4c=\$3}.

Leaders: Billy Heaton, bheaton8@yahoo.com, 865-924-0095, and Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin@roaneschools.com, 865-202-3286.

MEETING PLACES:

Alcoa Food City = On right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots [Map Link](#).

Laurel Church of Christ = From I-40, take Exit 386B to US-129S Alcoa Hwy, to US11/US70 ramp, to Kingston Pike, 1.1 mile west to 3457 Kingston Pike. [Map Link](#).

Oak Ridge Books-a-Million = 310 South Illinois Avenue (same lot as Golds Gym) 3-1/2 traffic lights in, on left coming from Knoxville, opposite Walmart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. in front of Books-a-Million. [Map Link](#).

Outback Steakhouse on Merchants Drive = From Exit 108 off I-75, Merchants Drive, go west towards Clinton Hwy. Park in front part of large lot at Outback Steakhouse (314 Merchants Drive), near McDonalds. [Map Link](#).

Seven Islands State Park = Exit 402 from I-40, south on Midway Rd, left onto Kodak Rd, right onto Kelly Lane; meet at Park parking lot. [Map Link](#).

Shoney's at I-75 Exit 122 = From Exit 122 off I-75, go east towards Norris on TN-61 0.3 mile, to 2405 Andersonville Hwy. [Map Link](#).

NOTES:

If you have any questions about an outing, please contact your outing leaders. They are there to help! Hiking is a strenuous physical activity which requires individuals to be in reasonably good physical condition and overall health. If you have any health conditions that might impact your ability to hike, please consult your physician prior to hiking. Our outings range from easy walks that most anyone can do, to difficult outings that require excellent fitness and prior hiking experience. If you have doubts about your ability to complete a hike, contact your outing leader and talk it over with them before you go.

We do expect each of our outing participants to bring along a hiking pack with adequate food, water, and first aid supplies, to wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots, and to dress appropriately for expected weather conditions in the mountains. Contact your outing leader if you have any questions.

Our outings nearly always have a carpool arrangement where we meet at a central location and take as few cars as possible to the trailhead. If you ride with someone, please consider giving them at least a small contribution toward gas expenses. Outing descriptions normally include the roundtrip driving mileage and the suggested contribution to the driver from each carpool rider based on eight cents per mile.

Please note: No dogs or firearms are permitted on any Club hikes, whether inside or outside the GSMNP.