



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Outings – February 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!

February 1 – Wednesday White Rock and Sand Cave in Cumberland Gap NHP

This hike will visit White Rock and Sand Caves in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Hike: 8.5 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Hardees at I-75 Exit 122 (Rt 61) <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 140 miles RT {@4¢=\$5.60}. Leader: Ron Brandenburg, 865-482-5078, ronb86@comcast.net

February 4 – Saturday Chestnut Top/Schoolhouse Gap/Bote Mtn/West Prong Loop

This hike starts with a climb on Chestnut Top that will warm us up on a cold winter's day. Wintertime will afford some nice views along the way. Schoolhouse Gap and Bote Mountain trails will take us to the West Prong Trail to complete the loop. A short car shuttle is involved. Hike: 10.3 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:30 am to carpool or at the Townsend Wye at 9:00 am. Drive: 50 miles RT {@4¢=\$2}. Leaders: David Smith, dcshiker@bellsouth.net, and Mary Brewer, emiebrewer@gmail.com.

February 9 – Thursday SMHC Photo Show

While the club stopped having photo competitions a few years ago, many members enjoy just getting together to look at photos taken by fellow club members over the past year. So load your best shots on a thumb drive and join us for a night of photography, stories, and memories. Light refreshments will be served. Meet at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, (first room to the left after entering), 7-9 PM. For more information, please contact Brad Reese, Photo Committee Chair, 865-599-1708, bradktn@gmail.com

February 11 – Saturday Old Sugarlands – Twin Creeks – Gatlinburg Trail Loop

Let's show some love for Gatlinburg on almost-Valentine's Day weekend! We will begin our hike just across the street from the Sugarlands Visitors Center on the Old Sugarlands Trail. This trail follows the route that was one of the first paved roads over the mountains in the Park. After 3 miles of gradual climbing we reach the Cherokee Orchard Road and connect to the Twin Creeks Trail. After exploring the Noah "Bud" Ogle place we will pick up the Twin Creeks Trail and then descend 1.9 miles to reach the Cherokee Orchard Road and follow this into Gatlinburg to stop for a lunch break to meet and greet other hikers. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a restaurant in Gatlinburg and show your support! An easy hike on the Gatlinburg Trail will return us to the Visitors Center. Hike: 10 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy <see list>** at 8:30 am to carpool or at the Sugarlands Visitors Center at 9:30 am. Drive: 60 miles RT from Comcast {@4¢=\$2.40}. Leaders: Rebekah Young, rebekahy27@aol.com, 865-548-6648 and Brad Reese, bradktn@gmail.com, 865-599-1708.

February 15 – Wednesday Bald River Falls Trail

We will hike the Bald River Falls trail. Hike: 11.2 miles, easy after we get past the first mile. Meet at **Maryville Walmart on US-411 <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 100 miles RT {@4¢=\$4}. Leader: Ron Brandenburg, 865-482-5078, ronb86@comcast.net

February 18 – Saturday Snag Mountain Via Old CCC Road Off-Trail

After a preliminary warm-up exercise following former settlers' traces up along Dunn and Indian Camp Creeks and then on the Maddron Bald Trail as far as the entrance to Albright Grove, this hike becomes an off-trail excursion following an unfinished CCC trail around Snag Mountain to its upper terminus a half mile past a crossing of Webb Creek. On the return, we will retrace our steps to Webb Creek then climb the boulder-strewn stream a short distance to two spectacular waterfalls. After coming back down the CCC trail for about a mile, we will follow an old manway down the ridge above Webb Creek to visit the former Rockford Shults place and possibly the remote Williams cemetery. From there, we will follow the Old Settlers Trail back to the Dunn Branch manway and on to highway 321. Hike: 9 miles, rated difficult. Please consider bringing eye protection, headlamp, and water shoes. Drive: 100 miles RT {@4¢=\$4}. **Pre-registration with leaders is required for this off-trail hike.** Leaders: Mike Knies, knies06@att.net, and Rebekah Young, rebekahy27@aol.com, 865-548-6648.

February 18 – Saturday Easy Hike: Baker Creek Preserve

This trail system is located in the S. Knoxville Urban Wilderness area. After exploring the lower trails, Redbud Crest, Floyd Fox and Sycamore Loop, we have the option to climb the Best Medicine trail to Pappy's Knob. Here we can get a 360 degree view of Knoxville, the Cumberland Mountains, and the Smoky Mountains. Hike: not more than 5 miles, rated easy. Meet at the **trailhead parking lot at 1516 Taylor Road <see list>** at 12:00 pm (noon). Leader: Chris Hamilton, hikeintenn@gmail.com.

February 19 – Sunday Concord Park

We will make this an English-style Sunday afternoon hike with an option to stop by the local pub when complete. Concord Park in west Knox County has an extensive bike trail grid. We will hike along the outermost loop following the ridgeline then along the lake shore then cross over to the central area loop. Halfway through the central loop we will cross over the roadway bridge to the western segment and hike that loop and see what remnants of past marble mining took place there. We will return across the bridge and finish up the central loop and those interested can walk up the hill to the Lakeside Tavern for an after-hike snack. Hike: 7 miles, rated easy. Meet at 12:00 pm (noon) at **Concord Park parking area <see list>** directly off Northshore Drive near the dog park. Leader: Tim Bigelow, bigelowt2@mindspring.com, 865-675-3822.

February 25-26 – Saturday/Sunday Martins Fork Backpack

This relatively short hike will reward us with a spectacular campsite, complete with cabin we will rent on-site which provides a cozy place to build a roaring fire. There are bunks available if anyone prefers sleeping in the cabin, as well. Otherwise there is a large grassy area with good water close by. We will hike the 3 miles or so from the Chadwell Gap trailhead in the Cumberland Gap Historic Park to the ridge trail, then go an additional mile or so to the campsite. Though short, there is a gain of about 2000 feet in less than 2 miles. We will make a side trip to the Hensley Settlement, a restored mountain top farm, either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. We will return the way we came. Total hiking distance, including the side trip to Hensley Settlement, about 10 miles over two days. Driving distance from Knoxville is about 100 miles round trip. Leaders: Brad Reese and Steve Dunkin. This is a joint outing with the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club. Please note that it will most likely be COLD! You must be prepared for the conditions we may encounter. **For this reason, pre-registration with the leader is required.** Please contact Brad Reese at bradktn@gmail.com to register for this trip and learn the meeting time and location. Leaders: Brad Reese, 865-599-1708, bradktn@gmail.com; and Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin@roaneschools.com.

MEETING PLACES:

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

Baker Creek Preserve trailhead parking = From James White Parkway, turn left onto Sevierville Pike, then right on Lancaster Drive, and continue on Taylor Road to 1516 Taylor Road; alternatively, from US441 (South Henley), turn onto Woodlawn Pike, then right onto Taylor Road. [Map Link.](#)

Comcast on Asheville Hwy = From Exit 394 ramp off I-40 go left (east) on Asheville Hwy, US-11E/25W/70, to signal light at top of hill; turn right, down into Comcast lot, 5720 Asheville Hwy; park to left of entry, about 2 lanes over toward the exit end of lot. [Map Link.](#)

Concord Park parking lot = Take South Northshore Drive (TN-332) to park entrance (e.g., 4 miles west from Pellissippi Parkway), turn north onto Concord Park Drive, (across from boat ramp and adjacent to Par 3 Golf), and park near the dog park. [Map Link.](#)

Hardees on TN-61 at I-75 Exit 122 = I-75 to Exit 122, to TN-61 east, Hardees is on the left (107 Buffalo Rd). [Map Link.](#)

Maryville Walmart = On Hwy 411 S between Market Pl and Legends Way, 2410 Hwy 411. Meet at far right side of parking lot. [Map Link.](#)

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church = 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. [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.