



# Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

January 2018

## << ! MEMBER DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE FOR 2018! >>

All recipients of this newsletter will see a form at page 4 with full information about dues renewal. Those of you who are Life Members need not respond, nor non-members who receive the newsletter, unless you would like to make updates to your contact information. Members in good standing at the end of 2017 automatically receive the 2018 Handbook, on the assumption that they will renew membership. For further details, see the options at the bottom of page 4.

### SEVEN ISLANDS STATE PARK January 1 – Monday

Start 2018 with a easy leisurely 5 mile hike over the rolling hills at Seven Islands State Birding Park that borders the French Broad River. Will we see any hawks? beavers? old barns? Bring lunch and family. We will meet at the **Seven Islands parking lot <see list>** at 10:00 AM so you can sleep in after a night of celebrating.

Leaders: Adele Soucy, 865-306-0358, [fthom4141@aol.com](mailto:fthom4141@aol.com); and Beth Eades, 865-705-8624, [eadesb@comcast.net](mailto:eadesb@comcast.net).

### WEDNESDAY HIKE: LAUREL FALLS/COVE MOUNTAIN January 3 – Wednesday

We will hike the Laurel Falls trail to Cove Mountain trail to Sugarlands VC. Hike: 12.6 miles; moderate to top of Cove Mountain, long but easy down to SVC. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:00 am or Sugarlands VC at 9:00 am. Drive: 75 miles RT {@4¢ = \$3}. Car shuttle or key swap required.

Leader: Thomas J. Welch, [coast5588@yahoo.com](mailto:coast5588@yahoo.com), 224-944-3333.

### FINLEY CANE/LEAD COVE January 6 – Saturday

We'll begin hiking on Lead Cove, past former crop land and the Tipton Cabin site, and then ascend about 1200' over 1.8 miles to warm up on this winter morning. Once we reach Bote Mountain, we will follow the ridge downhill, with some views of Thunderhead Mountain on our right. We'll continue on Finley Cane Trail which passes through a mature hardwood forest with some large tulip poplar, oaks, hickory and hemlock trees with a couple of (usually easy) rock hop stream crossings. Hike: 7.1 miles, rated moderate due to elevation gain of 1,200 feet in the first 1.8 miles. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:30 AM. Drive: 45 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2}. Icy roads and/or closed GSMNP will cancel hike.

Leaders: Claudia Dean, [claudiadean0@gmail.com](mailto:claudiadean0@gmail.com), 865-206-0145; and Jean Gauger, [jeangauger@yahoo.com](mailto:jeangauger@yahoo.com).

#### NEWCOMER TO HIKING WITH SMHC?

Some hints: Our 'difficulty ratings' are gauged to SMHC members with some experience with our hikes, not to the general public, nor to sometime or flatland hikers who are all likely to find our 'easy, moderate, or difficult' seem to under-rate the difficulty. Always be prepared for worse weather (wetter, colder) than expected. Wear adequate boots. Bring rainwear, water, spare food. Each carpool rider should reimburse driver about 4¢ per mile. Doubts? Call a leader.

\*\*\*And please note: No dogs or firearms are permitted on any Club hikes, whether inside or outside of GSMNP\*\*\*

### NORTH OLD MAC/SOUTH OLD MAC AT FROZENHEAD STATE PARK January 13 – Saturday

It is always a pleasure to hike in Frozen Head in the winter, where bare branches allow more expansive views of ridge and ravine contours, while giving an invigorating and moderate climb. North Old Mac is a climb of 1580 ft. to the junction of the Lookout Tower Trail and the Panther Gap Rockhouse Spur. If desired, we can hike up to the Lookout Tower, before returning down Old South Mac. Hike: without Lookout Tower about 7.2 miles, with Lookout Tower about 8.5 miles. Rated moderate. Meet at **Oak Ridge Books-A-Million/Gold's Gym <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 50 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2}.

Leaders: Diane Petrilla, [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com), 931-224-5149 and Pete Berntsen, [peteberntsen@gmail.com](mailto:peteberntsen@gmail.com).

### EASY HIKE: OLD SUGARLANDS TRAIL January 13 – Saturday

We will hike part of the Old Sugarlands Trail with a side trip to the Sugarlands Cemetery. Meet at **Sugarlands Visitor Center** at 10:00 am. Hike is about 5 miles.

Leader: Charles Hurst, [charlesbh@charter.net](mailto:charlesbh@charter.net), 865-803-4010.

### LUMBER RIDGE TRAIL/SPRUCE FLATS BRANCH MANWAY EASY OFF-TRAIL January 20 – Saturday

Last year this outing was rerouted due to a winter storm that closed down the roads leading into Tremont. So this year we will give it another try. Our hike will begin near the Tremont Visitors Center. We will access the Lumber Ridge Trail and follow it about 4 miles to the Meigs Creek Trail junction. This intersection is also where we will go off-trail (so to speak) and follow the Spruce Flats Branch Manway back down to beautiful Spruce Flats Falls. Along the way we will take a short side trip to admire other falls as well. This manway is considered easy as far as off-trail adventures go and the complete loop hike is rated moderate. Hike: about 8 miles. Meet at the **Alcoa Food City <see list>** ready to leave by 8:00 am. Drive: 46 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2}. And let's hope to avoid another winter snow storm. Leaders: Billy Heaton, [bheaton8@yahoo.com](mailto:bheaton8@yahoo.com) 865-924-0095; and Ron Blessinger, [rblessinger@msn.com](mailto:rblessinger@msn.com) 865-465-7117.

Visit our Website: [www.smhclub.org](http://www.smhclub.org)

SMHC Newsletter Editor: Don Dunning 865-705-2154

Send hike write-ups & photos to: [dedz1@aol.com](mailto:dedz1@aol.com).

Please include preferred contact method (email, phone).

**WEDNESDAY HIKE: CHESTNUT TOPS**  
**January 24 – Wednesday**

We will hike Chestnut Tops to the picnic table and back. Hike: 9 miles. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 42 miles RT {@4¢ = \$1.70}.  
 Leader: Thomas J. Welch, [coast5588@yahoo.com](mailto:coast5588@yahoo.com), 224-944-3333.

**ABRAMS FALLS VIA ABRAMS CREEK RANGER STATION**  
**January 27 – Saturday**

Many of us have hiked from Cades Cove to Abram’s Falls. This is an opportunity for those interested to hike to the Falls using a different route. This hike will start at the Abrams Creek Ranger Station (accessed from Happy Valley) and travel via Little Bottom’s Trail to the Falls and back. From Abrams Creek campground, the hike is 5.1 miles to the Falls (10.2 round trip). Hike is considered strenuous due to distance and possible cold weather. If rain or snow is predicted for this date we will reschedule the hike. Meet at the **Alcoa Food City <see list>** ready to leave by 8:00 am, or at the Abrams Creek Ranger Station hikers parking area (across from Ranger Station) by 9:00 am. Drive: 80 miles RT {@4¢ = \$3.20}.  
 Leader: Steve Dunkin, [jsdunkin@roaneschools.com](mailto:jsdunkin@roaneschools.com), 865-202-3286.

**MEETING PLACES:** **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots [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](#). **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](#).

**COMING EVENTS – February 2018**

3 Saturday	Leaders Choice
10 Saturday	Meigs Mountain/Lumber Ridge
17 Saturday	Panther Creek State Park
24 Saturday	Timothy Creek Off-Trail
25 Sunday	Little River – Cucumber Gap Loop

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

- Patricia & Beck Bryant, [roadrun810@bellsouth.net](mailto:roadrun810@bellsouth.net), 205-532-3444, 2514 Wilkinson Pike, Maryville, TN 37803  
 Allen D. Dickens, [Allen.Dickens@gmail.com](mailto:Allen.Dickens@gmail.com), 317-437-5056, 10254 Devonshire Lake Drive, Tampa, FL 33467  
 Rosemary Lenaghan, [rlenaghan4972@gmail.com](mailto:rlenaghan4972@gmail.com), 217-691-4972, 3309 Robbins Road, #203, Springfield, IL 62704  
 Marc Mangold, [mangoldmarc@hotmail.com](mailto:mangoldmarc@hotmail.com), 865-556-4761, 1115 Chilhowee Drive, Knoxville, TN 37914  
 Nu Yu, [nuyu2009@gmail.com](mailto:nuyu2009@gmail.com), 865-777-5268, 534 Mapletree Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Laurel Falls and Cove Mountain** **11/5/17**  
 Twelve members and 2 visitors enjoyed a spectacular 13-mile hike with leaf color at its peak! The challenging climb to the Cove Mountain summit and tower was rewarded by an 8.5-mile descent into a valley of unrelenting color. We finished at Cataract Falls which offered an impressive show. A great day!  
 Cindy Spangler and Ramsay Roth



**Hanging Valley Near Noland Creek Off-Trail** **11/19/17**

The caravan of Tennesseans arrived promptly at the trailhead on the Road to Nowhere for a hike up to the Hanging Valley while the Carolinians were found loitering in a Bryson City coffee shop. In spite of the bleak forecast for the day and dire predictions from earlier in the week, the hike finally got underway and the rain held off all day. Temperatures were moderate, and we even spotted a few bright rays of sunshine. Ten of us had a blast, in a sort of “old home week”. Several folks in the group had hiked together frequently in the past but had not seen one another in a while. We perused around the old homesite at the head of Canebroke Branch and looked for any leftover bottles of shine. None were found, but we did finally manage to lead the group successfully to the Hanging Valley. Climbing a short distance out of the Hanging Valley and over a gap to descend into the Peachtree Creek drainage, we then picked our way along a good grade. We found evidence of several old homes along Peachtree, including the ruins of a chimney residing on a steep slope. None of us thought it was a good place to build, but the chimney remains told a different story. Working our way back to the road, we practiced excellent rhodo-avoidance. The leader spent most of the day leading from the rear – something called age! When we arrived at the road, no one was ready to go home. We sat for a long stretch on one of the log railings at the roadside, posing for group photos and enjoying one another’s company.

Clyde Austin III & Cindy McJunkin



**Bird Mountain Loop at Frozen Head SP 11/24/17**

It was Black Friday and the temps were sub-freezing as six members took to the trail and opted to "go outside". All had hiked with one another at some point before and the small group made for some good conversation and a relaxing outing in the woods. The day warmed up rapidly as the sun came out and we all enjoyed the geographical features of the Cumberland Mountains that are so visible this time of year. And... we burned off some pumpkin pie in the process.

Billy Heaton

**SMHC ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET 12/9/17**

More than 100 SMHC members and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of food, fun and fellowship at the Fox Den Country Club, including a delicious meal, wonderful programs and great fellowship. The fun included musical entertainment by the Oak Ridge High School String Quartet and the Rudy Ryan Dulcimer Band. The featured speaker for the evening was author David Brill, who gave a fascinating presentation about tragic and near-tragic events that have occurred in the GSMNP, based on his latest book, *Into the Mist: Tales of Death and Disaster, Mishaps and Misdeeds, Misfortune and Mayhem in Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. The business meeting included introductions of the members of the SMHC 2018 Board of Directors and presentation of the Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award to Cindy Spangler. Special thanks to the Social Committee for all of their hard work to plan and execute this wonderful event.

**Elkmont to Tremont (or Tremont to Elkmont) 11/29/17**

What a beautiful day for a hike! Well, the temperature was about 29 degrees to start. But the sky was clear and blue, the wind was calm, and the forest and mountains beckoned. There were 20 of us who gathered while I tried to describe the intricacies of the key-swap we needed to set up. From the looks on most faces (ranging from blank stares to deer-in-the-headlights), I wasn't doing a very good job of it. It didn't help that I couldn't keep straight what was East versus West. But we finally got everything set, and 5 of us stayed behind at Tremont while everyone else took our vehicles to Elkmont. Now, if the 5 of us had been nice, we would have hung back for a while to give the rest of the group time to get started on their end. But we weren't nice, we were COLD!! So, as soon as the last car was out of sight, we headed up Lumber Ridge, trying to generate some heat. Which didn't take long since the first 2.4 miles is all uphill. Once we reached the high point, we enjoyed the rest of the hike as we caught glimpses of distant mountains and the Foothills Parkway through the now-bare trees. We had a successful transfer of keys when we met the rest of the group (yea!), so when we reached Elkmont we all had a way to get home. What a beautiful day for a hike!

Pat Watts

**Buck Bald Sunset/Moonrise Hike 12/1/17**

It was a wonderful afternoon with only a few worrying clouds hanging over and a bit of a drive. Eleven hikers including 5 visitors came out. We made it to the Bald a few minutes before sundown and took some nice pictures and also pictures the nearly full moon rising in the east. The weather was pleasant and scenery wonderful with mountains all around. A group of campers from TN Wesleyan was there and had setup a campfire that everyone enjoyed for a few minutes. On the way down, the moon provided plenty of light and even moonshadows so no headlamps were needed. The drive back, for one car anyway, was slowed considerably by the Christmas Parade in Sweetwater which blocked the Main Street for nearly an hour but was fun to watch.

Tim Bigelow

**In Memoriam: Joan Perry Murphy, 1926-2017**

We are saddened to report the passing of Edith Joan (Perry) Murphy, age 91, on November 28, in Winter Haven, FL. She was born in Pennsylvania, and moved to Knoxville as a young child. She graduated from Knoxville High School in 1944 and attended the University of Tennessee; throughout high school and college, she was active in the hiking clubs, thespians, and ROTC. In 1947, she married Alvin Murphy, and the family moved to Winter Haven, FL. She would often return to spend summers in Knoxville to visit friends and family, and after retirement, the couple maintained a summer residence in Blowing Rock, NC. We extend our sincere condolences to the family, and thank them for designating SMHC for memorial donations.

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEMS ACT**

2018 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails System Act. Watch for special events throughout the year to help celebrate and promote the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. See [www.trails50.org](http://www.trails50.org) for more information.

**SMHC 2018 HANDBOOK**

The SMHC 2018 Handbook is now being distributed. Attendees at the SMHC Annual Banquet received their copies and other members in good standing should receive a copy in the mail soon. If you do not receive your copy or have any concerns with the printing, please contact George Ritter at [rittergeo@gmail.com](mailto:rittergeo@gmail.com).

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: REDUCTIONS TO NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

President Trump has ordered drastic reductions to the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. This action repeals protection for more than 2 million acres of public lands, and ignores extensive comments from American citizens and businesses who have expressed concerns that this decision will harm local communities and jobs, threaten Utah's \$12 billion outdoor recreation economy, and undermine our American heritage. Additional changes to National Monument designations to protect public lands are expected to follow; the Gold Butte NM in Nevada and the Cascade-Siskiyou NM on the Oregon-California border are reportedly next in line, with more to follow, including Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters. While Congress does not have a formal role in these Executive actions, you may want to express your opinions to your elected representatives, and ask them to support America's public lands.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: HR1349**

The "Wheels in Wilderness" bill HR1349 would amend Section 4c of the Wilderness Act to allow the use of bicycles and other forms of wheeled transport in areas designated as wilderness. While this bill would not impact the GSMNP, it would impact portions of the AT. The ATC opposes this bill, and has commented that: "As proposed, HR1349 contradicts the congressional intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act and transgresses the congressional intent of the 1968 National Trails System Act which designated the Appalachian National Scenic Trail a footpath devoid of wheeled transportation and recognized for the natural, historical, and cultural attributes of the Trail as an American treasure worthy of federal protection." You may wish to express your opinions on this proposed legislation to your elected representatives.

**Please return this form with your 2018 dues payment to note any changes in contact information. (It is not necessary to return the form with your check if there are no changes to your current information.)**  
**Mail check to: SMHC, P.O. Box 51592, Knoxville TN 37950-1592**

Check box beside membership category:

**Regular Membership (\$20.00).** Additional family members living in the same household and at least 16 years of age may become Family Members of the Club by dues payment of \$2.00 each. Family members will be listed in the handbook, but will not receive a separate copy of the handbook. Number of family members: \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$2 each).

IF adding or removing family members, please indicate below:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Supporting Membership (\$30.00 or higher as you choose).** Family Members, as defined above, are included without additional dues. Dues in excess of \$20.00 (regular membership) are tax deductible, and help to support various Conservation efforts of the Club, including Appalachian Trail maintenance.

Please indicate changes in address, phone number, or email below, if any. Leave blank if there are no changes.

\_\_\_\_\_

If you receive the newsletter by USPS mail, would you like to switch to the electronic PDF version? If so, please specify email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

You can also pay your dues online at the SMHC website (<http://www.smhclub.org/membership.htm>) if you prefer.

**Thank you for your support of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club!**