



# Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

August 2018

## WEDNESDAY HIKE: GABES MOUNTAIN TRAIL August 1 - Wednesday

This hike will follow the Gabes Mountain Trail past 90-foot Hen Wallow Falls to Campsite 34, out & back. This hike will be a dramatic contrast with our hike in March to campsite 34 when the trail was a winter wonderland. Hike: 9.6 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Highway <see list>** at 8:00 am or at Cosby Campground (hiker's parking area) at 9:00. am. Drive: 120 miles RT {@4¢ = \$4.80}.  
Leader: Steve Vittatoe, [svittatoe@charter.net](mailto:svittatoe@charter.net), 865-724-9666.

## A.T. MAINTENANCE WORK TRIP August 4 - Saturday

For this work-trip we will backpack mulch to the Double Spring shelter, and then perform trail maintenance on the return to the trailhead as needed. At several of the AT shelters in GSMNP, we have privies that require mulch to support the composting process and transporting the mulch to these sites is a critically important need. Mulch will be neatly packaged in plastic bags for backpacking. After we deliver the mulch to the shelter, we will perform additional trail maintenance (cutting back vegetation, cleaning waterbars/drains, etc.), as we return to the trailhead. Participants should bring a moderate to large backpack (larger than a typical daypack if possible) in addition to their usual trail essentials (e.g., water, lunch, raingear, etc.). A few additional backpacks will be available for those who may not have their own packs. Other tools will be provided. Hike: 6 miles RT, rated moderately difficult due to return hike up Mt. Buckley. Meet at **Clingmans Dome parking lot** at 9:00 am. Drive: 100 miles RT {@4¢ = \$4}. **Please pre-register with trip leader so that appropriate mulch and tools will be available.**  
Leader: Diane Petrilla, [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com), 931-224-5149.

## VIRGINIA CREEPER BIKE RIDE August 5 - Sunday

Come beat the August heat on a relaxing (if you so choose) bike ride on the Virginia Creeper Trail. We'll meet in Knoxville and carpool to the beautiful trail town of Damascus, Virginia. There we will split into two groups: those who want to ride the shuttle to the top of Whitetop Mountain and enjoy the relaxing downhill ride down the Creeper; and those hearty souls who would like to ride up the mountain, turning around when we meet the downhill rider group. Either way we are in for a treat. Round trip driving distance from Knoxville is about 300 miles. **Due to the need to coordinate vehicles, bike racks, and the shuttle from Damascus, preregistration is required; please contact the leader ASAP if you are interested, as we need to reserve space on the shuttle, which fills up quickly in the summer.**  
Leader: Brad Reese, [bradktn@gmail.com](mailto:bradktn@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY HIKE: MIDDLE PRONG TRAIL TO INDIAN FLATS FALLS August 8 - Wednesday

We will hike the Middle Prong Trail in the Tremont area to Indian Flats Falls, out & back. We'll see three multi-tiered falls including Lower Lynn Camp, Lynn Camp and Indian Flats. Historic artifacts to be seen along the trail include the rusting Cadillac, a homestead chimney and remnants from logging operations of the past. Hike: 7.8 miles RT, rated moderate with elevation gain of 1175 ft. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 50 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2}.  
Leader: Steve Vittatoe, [svittatoe@charter.net](mailto:svittatoe@charter.net), 865-724-9666.

## ELECTION PICNIC AT METCALF BOTTOMS PAVILION August 11 - Saturday

Please join us for the Annual Election Picnic at the **Metcalf Bottoms picnic shelter**. Please bring a dish and/or dessert to share along with any needed serving utensils. You can also bring plates, utensils and cups to help reduce waste if you can, and lawn chairs to sit on if you like. The picnic will begin at 12:00 pm and will be followed by the election of the 2019 Board of Directors (please see nominees on page 2) at 1:00 pm. SMHC and Social Committee members will provide paper and plastic goods, iced tea, water, lemonade, and ice. The Program Committee will have the 2019 hike listing on hand for you to sign up to lead a hike or two next year. Come enjoy this amazing setting and wonderful fellowship! There also will be a short hike, possibly to the Walker Cabin or Greenbrier School (details TBD), led by Ed Fleming; meet at Metcalf Bottoms at 9:00 am. Thanks to the Social Committee for organizing this event.  
Contact: Priscilla Clayton, [sigmtngirl@earthlink.net](mailto:sigmtngirl@earthlink.net), 865-255-8711; or Tim Bigelow, [bigelowt2@mindspring.com](mailto:bigelowt2@mindspring.com), 607-6781.

## CLINGMANS DOME TO NEWFOUND GAP August 12 - Sunday

After climbing the ½-mile paved access trail to the Clingmans Dome Tower - the highest point on the entire Appalachian Trail - we will hopefully experience some great long views to inspire the rest of our journey. This 8-mile car shuttle hike is all on the A.T. and maintained by the SMHC. We will walk through a lovely boreal forest of spruce and fir trees, mossy rocks, and a variety of ferns. The trail is rocky, rooty and muddy in places so come prepared with sturdy shoes. Hike: 8.5 miles, rated moderately difficult due to a challenging climb over Mt Collins. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Highway <see list>** at 8:00 am or at Sugarlands Visitors Center near the restrooms at 9:00 am. Drive: 120 miles RT {@4¢ = \$4.80}.  
Leaders: Cindy Spangler, [spangler@utk.edu](mailto:spangler@utk.edu), 865-776-1301; and Nancy Dunning, [ngdpt@aol.com](mailto:ngdpt@aol.com), 865-705-9416.

**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).

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

**Your Golden Opportunity: SMHC Newsletter Editor**

Here's YOUR chance to make your mark on improving SMHC communications. We are looking for a volunteer to take over as editor of the SMHC monthly newsletter. Anyone interested can contact current editor, Don Dunning at [dedz1@aol.com](mailto:dedz1@aol.com), or SMHC Communications Director, Cindy Spangler at [spangler@utk.edu](mailto:spangler@utk.edu) for more information.

**EASY HIKE: NORRIS WATERSHED  
August 15 - Wednesday**

We'll hike a 4.5 mile loop through the lovely Norris watershed and into East Norris Dam State Park. Nice early evening stroll through the woods and along Norris lake. The hike will be mainly level grade with a few small climbs along the way. Meet at the parking lot at **Clinch River Brewery <see list>**, 2045 Norris Freeway (US-441 just below the dam) at 5:30 pm.

Leader: Tim Bigelow, [bigelowt2@mindspring.com](mailto:bigelowt2@mindspring.com), 607-6781.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Sarah Judd, [wbs04@me.com](mailto:wbs04@me.com), 865-406-2615,  
821 Vista Oaks Lane, Knoxville, TN 37919-4443

**Candidates Nominated for the 2019 Executive Board**

President.....Brian Worley	Historian...Ken Wise
Vice President....Diane Petrilla	Director....Pete Berntsen
Treasurer..... Tim Bigelow	Director....Steve Dunkin
Secretary..... TBD	Director....Jean Gauger
Mmbrship Sec... George Ritter	Director....Dale Potter*
Comm Director...Cindy Spangler	Director....Will Skelton
	Director....Taylor Weatherbee*

\*New to the Board.

**Please plan to attend the Election Picnic on August 11 at the Metcalf Bottoms picnic pavilion.**

**CANCELLED: RAVEN FORK GORGE OFF-TRAIL  
August 18 - Saturday**

**McCLOUD MOUNTAIN  
August 25 - Saturday**

This is an easy section of the Cumberland Trail that runs along the mountain spine overlooking Powell Valley. We will drive to the Chimney Walk boardwalk parking lot for the fantastic views and rock formations and then drive a short distance, park again, and hike 2 or 3 miles north on the CT and back again. The scouting party saw many Spiderworts and Coreopsis and sorry, we pretty much cleaned out all the blackberries. Wear long pants for protection from poison ivy/oak. After the hike, we will eat lunch at the restaurant and enjoy the fantastic views. Because the property is owned by the McCloud Restaurant and Lodge, I will need to phone in lunch reservations, so please text me if you are coming (865-307-3436). Meet at **Golds Gym in Oak Ridge <see list>** at 7:00 am or **McCloud Mountain Restaurant <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 84 miles RT {@4¢ = \$3.40}.

Leaders: Bruni Dopatka and Betty Glenn, 865-307-3426, [glennbj@roanestate.edu](mailto:glennbj@roanestate.edu).

**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](#). **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](#). **Clinch River Brewing** = Take I-75 Exit 122 to TN-61 E toward Norris & Big Ridge State Park, left onto US-441 Norris Freeway to 2045 Norris Freeway. [Map Link](#). **Gold's Gym & Books-a-Million in Oak Ridge** = 310 South Illinois Avenue 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](#). **McCloud Mountain** = I-75 N to Exit 134, US-25W North/TN-63 East, to US-25W North/TN-9 East/TN-63 East Veterans Memorial Hwy, to Bungalow Creek, to McClouds Trail (1220 McClouds Trail). [Map Link](#).

**COMING EVENTS – September 2018**

- |             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Saturday  | Leaders Choice                   |
| 8 Saturday  | AT Work Trip                     |
| 9 Sunday    | White Rock Sand Cave             |
| 15 Saturday | Big Branch on Bullhead Off-Trail |
| 15 Saturday | Baxter Creek to Mt. Sterling     |
| 22 Saturday | Cades Cove Moonlight Hike        |
| 29 Saturday | Family Hike to Moose Creek Falls |

**2019 SMHC HIKE LEADERS – HANDBOOK INPUT**

All hike leaders for SMHC hikes during 2019 should submit a brief description of their hike to the SMHC Handbook Editors as soon as possible. Brevity would be appreciated; florid prose can be saved for the newsletter hike description. Please submit your hike descriptions no later than September 30 to George Ritter ([rittergeo@gmail.com](mailto:rittergeo@gmail.com)) and Ken Wise, ([kwise@utk.edu](mailto:kwise@utk.edu)).

**NORTHSHORE ROAD SETTLEMENT**

Ray Payne shared the following good news with the SMHC Board on July 1. Ray has devoted untold hours on bringing this issue to a resolution. THANK YOU RAY!!!

*On Wednesday, June 27, 2018, the Department of DOI paid Swain County \$ 35.2 million, ("it's in the bank") the final payment of the \$52 million that the DOI agreed to pay Swain County in lieu of building the North Shore road. The estimated cost of building the road as stated in the EIS was \$729 million. In my opinion, this cost was under estimated, but even at this cost, this road would never have been built. If in the EIS, building the road was selected as the preferred alternative, the threat of a road being built would hang over our heads, and designating a Great Smoky Mountains National Park Wilderness Area would never occur. On Wednesday, June 30, 2018, Secretary of Interior Ryan Zenke visited Bryson City to sign one of those oversized symbolic checks (about 3 ft x 5 ft) for \$ 35.2 million payable to Swain County.*

**In Memoriam: Marion Randolph, 1927-2018**

Marion H. Randolph Jr., age 91, passed away on July 1 in Cary, N.C. A long time Oak Ridger, Marion was an active SMHC member from 1963 through 1983. He is survived by wife Helen and daughter Lisa Reeve of Cary and several grandchildren. We extend our sincere condolences to the family.

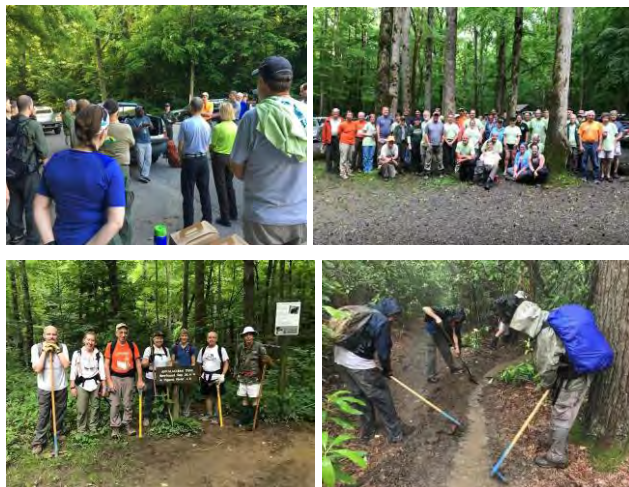
## FOR THE RECORD

### National Trails Day

6/2/2018

We celebrated the 22nd Annual Great Smoky Mountains Appalachian Trail Work Day coordinated by the SMHC, ATC and NPS/GSMNP, as part of National Trails day across the country. About 70 people came out to work on a beautiful Saturday (although afternoon thunderstorms forced folks off the high elevations a bit early.) Eleven crews of approximately 6-8 people each, worked on sections of the AT from Davenport Gap (a separate dedicated crew!) to areas both north and south of Newfound Gap. We were pleased to see regular maintainers, loyal NTD participants from previous years, as well as new folks! Much regular maintenance was performed as the day progressed, as well as some larger projects. At the end of the day, all enjoyed a wonderful picnic, provided by Froschauer Catering and great raffle door prizes donated by our generous sponsors. Special thanks to REI, Uncle Lem's Mercantile and Outfitters, Little River Trading Co, River Sports Outfitters, Mainstay Suites and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee State Bank, Cash Hardware Co, and Froschauer Catering for their sponsorship and support; to our own Karen Brackett and Philip Royer for another outstanding T-shirt; and to our dedicated crew leaders and volunteers for accomplishing this important trail maintenance.

Don Dunning



### Clingmans Dome to Silers Bald

6/6/2018

19 members and 1 visitor gathered on this stunningly beautiful day to hike a classic section of the AT in the Smokies. After so much rain this Spring, we instead had clear blue skies, low humidity, a cool breeze, and views of mountains beyond mountains into North Carolina as we started heading south on the AT. Fresh green foliage, and high-altitude mountain flowers just added to the beauty of the day. We paused for a snack at the Double Springs shelter, then continued on through the Narrows to reach Silers Bald, where we had lunch. Although not as stunning as some of the Smokies balds, it is still a very unique ecosystem. On the return trip, we had a pep talk about the climb back up Mt. Buckley waiting for us at the end! But before we could tackle that challenge, two of our lead hikers came upon a very large bear sitting on the trail, obviously owning it! It took some time for him to decide to lumber off into the brush! Further on, another hiker saw a yearling run across the trail. The climb back up to the Clingmans parking lot was as challenging as ever, but everyone made it without mishap. Definitely a rewarding day!

Diane Petrilla and Ron Brandenburg



### Window Cliffs/Burgess Falls

6/9/2018

Although considerable driving distance was involved, five members and one visitor had a marathon day of seeing waterfalls, rock formations and beautiful creek crossings, that make up the scenic features of Tennessee's Eastern Highland Rim. The newly designated state natural area, Window Cliffs, was visited first as the club members made an out-and-back hike of five miles to the rocky pinnacles forming the cliffs. The 18 creek crossings were manageable, and the cool water on the legs felt really great, as the temperature for the day was in the low 90's. A very short drive took the club next to nearby Burgess Falls State Park that features three high volume waterfalls, with Burgess itself having a height of 130 feet. Located in a spectacular gorge, the falls are readily accessible for viewing by short trails that have been developed throughout the park. Finally, a somewhat longer drive took the club to the Lost Creek State Natural Area that features a large picturesque sinkhole, with the huge Lost Creek Cave on one side of the sink, and a 60-foot waterfall on the other side. Back when it was private land, the falls and cave served as a principal location for the filming of Walt Disney's 1994 Jungle Book movie. The day was rounded off by a hearty supper at Cookeville's Bobby Q's restaurant and a visit to Ralph's Donut Shop, considered one of the best donut places in the state.

David Starnes, Debra Barton and Lois Esmark



### Roaring Fork to Dome Falls Off-Trail

6/9/2018

"Disappointed, But Not Surprised." These words of prescient insight were once etched on a plaque Greg Harrell's mother affixed firmly to his bedroom wall when Greg was but yet a child. Greg lived up to his mother's expectations when he teamed up with Ken Wise on an overcast second Saturday in June to lead a posse of nine up Roaring Fork in search of Dome Falls and repeatedly failed to attend to his duties as the sweep. Needless to say, none were surprised. Nevertheless, the group enjoyed an exhilarating adventure chasing Greg up the stream, climbing waterfalls, scrambling up near-vertical cliffs, and taking plunges in deep cold pools. After lunch on the edge of a rocky precipice and a picture-taking session at the famous Dome Falls, the group soon reached LeConte Lodge where Greg conducted a brief court of truth-challenged banter before we dismissed and started out on a rather pedestrian hike back down the mountain on the Trillium Gap Trail, arguably the most boring trail on Le Conte.

Ken Wise and Greg Harrell



### Ramsey Cascades

6/10/2018

On a day with rain forecast, leaders (Terri & Eric) outnumbered the other hiker (Tom) at the meeting point. Under blue skies with white clouds and no rain after all, the 3 of us enjoyed hiking along the creeks with flowering mountain laurels, huge tulip poplars, and mossy fern beds of the old-growth forest. We saw very few wild flowers in bloom on the way to and from the (spectacular) Cascades, but many other hikers enjoying this beautiful, nicely maintained trail.

Eric Sundstrom & Terri Cox



### Gregory Bald via Twentymile/Wolf Ridge

6/16/2018

Five members and two visitors set out from the Twentymile TH for the long climb to Gregory Bald via Wolf Ridge. The heat and humidity on this day kept several others from coming, but this hardy group was excited and prepared! The climb is long, but gradual, about 3500ft. total, with total hike length in and out about 14.6 miles. As we climbed, we began to see a few flame azaleas on the trail. There were also many other hikers and hiking groups out to see the azaleas at peak blossoming. Gregory Bald did not disappoint. Azaleas ranging from deep orange to reddish-orange to coral to pink and white were everywhere. The air was clear, so we had beautiful views of Cades Cove. We departed reluctantly for the long walk down. A few hikers near the front saw a rattlesnake on the way, which was disconcerting, but no harm done! All were glad to reach our cars, cool off, and have photos of the beautiful Bald to carry home.

Diane Petrilla

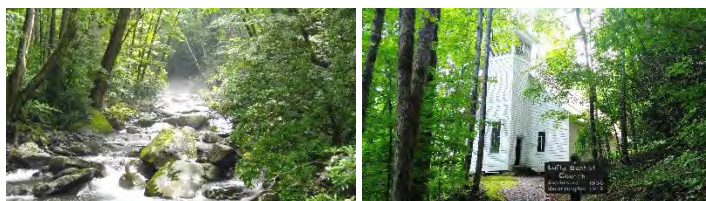


### Bradley Fork to Cabin Flats

6/23/2018

Three visitors and two members enjoyed a tranquil hike along Bradley Fork past ideal fly fishing spots and old growth forest to enjoy lunch at the Cabin Flats backcountry campsite. Despite rainy weather during much of the weekend, we enjoyed clear skies and a relatively dry trail. After the hike, several visited the nearby Lufty Baptist church to see its beautiful woodworking from 1912.

Steven Miller



### Bald River Falls

6/27/2018

This was an "alternate hike" to one planned by the leader to Whigg meadow, since the first choice, when scouted, turned out to be impassable in areas! Nine of us started out from Lenoir City, and met one more at the trailhead at Bald River Falls. The falls were beautiful and roaring as they plunged into the Tellico River. After the initial mile or so of slippery rocks and climbing, this trail is always delightful with it's pine needle covered treadway, passing by lovely camping areas and views of blossoming rhododendrons across the river. We lunched on the rock outcropping about .5 miles from the terminus of the trail. 7 people walked to very end of the trail to FS Road 126. After lunch, clouds began gathering as we hiked back. All but 2 hikers made it back to the cars before the rains began. And for the 2 behind, the rain was rather refreshing! It was also refreshing and immensely appreciated that **both** cars of hikers had waited for the last 2 hikers to emerge off the trail, even though one car didn't have to. Which reminds me once again, of what a privilege it is to hike with this bunch.

Diane Petrilla



### Meigs Creek - Curry Mountain

6/30/2018

A group of 7 hearty hikers headed up Meigs Creek and made our way down Curry Mtn. There was a little trepidation about the creek crossings, because of recent rains. But there were no issues and fun was had by all.

John Smiley



### 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\*\*\*