



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

January 2019

MEMBER DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE FOR 2019

Please read and respond to information on 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 2018 automatically receive the 2019 Handbook, on the assumption that they will renew membership. For further details, see the options at the bottom of page 4.

SEVEN ISLANDS STATE BIRDING PARK

January 1- Tuesday

There is no better way to start 2019 than with a leisurely hike over the rolling hills of Seven Islands. No need to rise early. This is an easy 5-mile hike. Bring the kids! Meet at Comcast, 5720 Asheville Highway, ready to leave at 9:30 or at the upper parking lot next to the barn and gate at 10AM. Drive is 28 miles @ \$.05=\$1.50.

Leaders: Adele Soucy, ftom4141@aol.com, 865-352-9156
Beth Eades 865-705-8624

CHESTNUT TOP TO PICNIC TABLE AND BACK

January 2- Wednesday

9 miles. Meet at Alcoa Food City, 8:00 am or the 'Wye' at 8:30am. Drive 42 miles (\$1.68).

Leader: Thomas J. Welch 224-944-3333
coast5588@yahoo.com

NEWCOMER'S HIKE: SCHOOLHOUSE GAP / CHESTNUT TOP

January 5 -Saturday

After a short shuttle we will start at Schoolhouse Gap parking area for a pleasant winter hike. After 2.2 miles we arrive at Schoolhouse Gap where we'll take a break at a picnic table. Next, we head out Chestnut Top which should afford winter views of the higher mountains. Although the hike is rolling the last three miles are mostly downhill. Distance is 6.7 miles rated moderate. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 9:00. Drive 40 miles RT {@ 5 cents/mile= \$2.00}.

Leaders: David Smith, dcshiker@bellsouth.net and Lois Esmark, misse711@aol.com

ABRAMS FALLS OUT AND BACK

January 12 -Saturday

We will park at the Abrams Falls parking area on the far end of the Cades Cove Road and hike up to Abrams Falls. This is a classic hike and many of us have found memories of this hike from our youth. Total miles 5.2. This time of year, traffic should be light on the Cove road. We will meet at the Alcoa Food City parking lot at 8:00. Drive time to the Abrams Falls trailhead is around an hour. RT: 60 miles @.05 = \$2.00.

Hike leader Steve Dunkin, 865-202-3286 email
jsdunkin1302@gmail.com

OLD SUGARLANDS TRAIL- CHEROKEE ORCHARD RD

January 16 - Wednesday

7.8 miles. 1416 feet elevation gain. With side trip to the Rock House. 10.1 miles. 1,906 foot elevation gain. 10.3 miles if we also add the cemetery. Moderate. Meet at Food City in Alcoa at 8:00. Drive 75 miles round trip (\$3.75).

Leader: Thomas J. Welch 224-944-3333
coast5588@yahoo.com

INJUN CREEK LOOP, EASY OFF-TRAIL

JANUARY 19 -Saturday

Injun Creek Loop, Easy Off-Trail. This hike begins at the Greenbrier Ranger Station. We'll walk up Greenbrier Road to Rhododendron Creek and take a trail that follows the creek allowing us to see several small waterfalls and cascades. This trail will intersect Grapeyard Ridge Trail which we will follow across James Gap to Injun Creek where we will see the steam engine that left the road and turned over in the creek many years ago. Shortly after this we will come to the intersection with another trail that will follow Injun Creek back to the Greenbrier Ranger Station. Hike: about 6 miles, rated moderately easy. Comcast at 8am. Drive is 81 miles @ \$.05 = \$4.00

Leader: Liz Parmalee, lizparmalee@gmail.com

LONE MOUNTAIN

January 26- Saturday

Lone Mountain sits just west of Frozen Head, and rises as a rugged detached peak atop the Cumberland Plateau. For this hike, we will do a "lollipop" hike, taking the Smokey Bear Tr and the Dailey Tr to Coyote Point. On the way, we see expansive views of Mossy Grove in the valley below, and Frozen Head across the valley. At Coyote Point, there are fabulous views towards Watts Bar. Retracing our steps a bit, we will pick up the Larue's Ridge Tr which traverse a high narrow ridge, then connects with the Longest Mile Tr to head back to the Smokey Bear Tr. If you want some good exercise on a hike "off the beaten path," this one's for you! 9.5 miles, rated Difficult due to some very steep ascents and descents. If weather conditions are icy, we will just do an in and out to Coyote Point, which is 7 miles and Moderate. Meet at Oak Ridge Books-A-Million/Gold's Gym at 8am. Drive 50 miles RT, {@5 cents/mile= \$2.50}.

Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149

MEETING PLACES: **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3rd & 4th 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](#). **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](#).

COMING EVENTS – February 2019

- 2 Saturday Little Cataloochee Off-trail
- 3 Sunday Leader's choice
- 9 Saturday Cooper Rd/Hatcher Mtn/Little Bottoms
- 16 Saturday Rich Mtn Loop
- 23 Saturday Naturalist Hike – Tremont

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chad Carter, [Chad Carter2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Chad_Carter2003@yahoo.com), 336-428-3182
 4216 Judge Rd Hamptonville, NC 27020
 Blair Christian, blair.christian@gmail.com, 865-257-9080,
 119 W. Glenwood Ave, Knoxville, TN 37917
 Bob Fowler, rbfowler65@gmail.com, 865-220-0158,
 116 Wendover Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
 Carter Hall, CarterHallTN@gmail.com, 865-300-2358,
 223 E. Scott Ave, Knoxville, TN 37917
 Letitia Malone, murrlp@aol.com, 865-816-3531,
 2681 Shaw Ferry Lane, Lenoir City, TN 37772
 Christopher McIntosh, thompkinz123@gmail.com,
 1924 Price Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37920
 Marty and Patty Schoonheim, mjschoonheim@gmail.com
 865-809-7624, 247 Saddle Ridge Dr, Knoxville, TN 37934
 Kathy Scruggs, kathyscruggs@comcast.net,
 807 Piccadilly Rd, Knoxville, TN 37909

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. Always bring rain gear, water, and food. Each carpool rider should reimburse the driver 5¢ per mile. If you have any doubts or questions, please contact the hike leader.

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

FOR THE RECORD

The Catstairs 11/10/2018
 On a cold November morn, twenty intrepid hikers gathered at the Greenbrier ranger station contemplating the manifold adventures of climbing the cliffs of the Catstairs. The Club had

attempted this hike two years ago, only to find themselves stranded on the cliffs with no possibility of getting down. In abject failure, they were forced to backtrack to the manway and return the way they had come, not getting back to the cars until well after dark. This year's leaders, Greg and Kindel, boasted they could lead us successfully to the Promised Land of the Catstairs and back without even the aid of GPS, the modern equivalent of tracking "by day in a pillar of a cloud and by night in a pillar of fire." After fording Little Bird Creek, the group shuffled up to the old John Barnes cabin, pausing briefly to pay respects to the three Barnes children and retell the story of how Barnes' new wife once burned down the cabin of his ex-wife. Then, dropping down to Three Forks, we started up the "Castle Route," an exhilarating cliff-climb up the side of Pinnacle Lead. At one point the group split up, some proceeding across to the Roman Column while the others plunged down through an opening in the thicket and out onto a precipitous ledge christened "the Best Lunch Spot," which afforded



stupendous views of Greenbrier and the north face of Le Conte. The group soon re-convened at the Best Lunch Spot. Following a visit to Split Rock, Greg and Kindel led the exodus off the Catstairs by directing everyone down the "Cable Route," where most were forced to skid down the mountain on the seats of their pants.
 Ken Wise

Middle Prong to Indian Flats Falls 11/11/2018

Two members and three visitors showed up for a very chilly early morning hike to Indian Flat Falls. Even with the cold, it made for a great day. The falls were flowing with lots of water due to recent rain so the hike up Middle Prong offered lots of raging cascades.
 Dale Potter



Rayfield Orchard Site on Rhododendron Creek 11/17/2018

3 1/2 inches of rain in the past 5 days made for 6 challenging crossings of Rhododendron Creek on our way in to the Rayfield orchard site. Creek crossings were taken in stride in various ways by our hardy group of 7 members and 3 visitors. After visiting the sites of the former Laurel Creek school and the orchard, we enjoyed a sunny lunch spot in the Dodgen – Rayfield cemetery. Our return route took us by the 7' stone cube and stayed off-trail on the south side of the creek back to the manway cutting the stream crossings down to 2. It was an enjoyable day for all in the woods.
 Ed Fleming



Chestnut Top**12-1-18**

The weather forecast for this day was dismal: cloudy, rain, windy. But one stalwart, dedicated, and lovely hiker (Jeannette Gilbert) came to join the two co-leaders for the 8.6 mile Chestnut Top hike! There was a bit of drizzle initially, which quickly stopped. Then the winds picked up, at times quite gusty! The deep greens of the rhododendron, laurel and conifers contrasted with the caramel colored beech tree leaves and pine needles that carpeted the trail. At lunch we had ginger cookies, and on the return hike there were hints of sunshine through clouds illuminating patches on distant peaks. There was hot cider back at the car. So.... we



missed all who couldn't come, but it turned out to be a wonderful hike!

Picture of the leaders, who out-numbered the hiker :))
Eric Keller and Diane Petrilla

Little River Trail**12/5/2018**

It was a cold gray day as 24 (WOW) hikers gathered to hike up Little River trail. I was surprised at the large number. While it was cold, it was not as cold as last week. Around 20 last week, around 30 this week at the start. But last week the sun was shining and it warmed up some during the day. This week it was cloudy and gray all day and never did get out of the low 30s. Also, it snowed most of the day but not hard enough to add to the snow that was already on the ground. The trail is easy at the start and never gets difficult except for a few creek crossings. The first major crossing is shortly before Campsite



24. This crossing divided the group. Thirteen hikers successfully crossed but eleven hikers chose to stop and eat lunch there. There are also three creek crossings within 0.4 mile Campsite 30.

We have rarely crossed the last one to get to Campsite 30, but today the first of the three stopped us. We could see no way across without getting our feet wet. So, we ate lunch there and headed back.

Have you ever noticed how short the lunch break gets when the weather is nasty?

All the creek crossings were successfully negotiated on the way back. The hikers who

stopped at the first creek crossing had a hike of 8.6 miles and the ones that went on had a hike of 11.8 miles. We welcomed Dave back after a long absence with an injury.
Ron Brandenburg



Note: the Kroger Community Rewards number for Smoky Mountain Hiking Club has been changed, so please update your account so that the Club can continue to receive these easy-to-donate funds. More information in the coming months, but the new # for Smoky Mountains Hiking Club is MV194.

Someone at the December 8th SMHC banquet left a Mountain Hardware hat at Fox Den. If it is yours, please contact Diane Petrilla at petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149.

Send hike write-ups & photos to the editor at:
ches1995@yahoo.com.

Please include preferred contact method (email, phone).

SMHC Annual Installation Banquet held December 8 at Fox Den Country Club

Debbie Goddard and the Social Committee planned and delivered a perfect holiday event at Fox Den Country Club again this year! With Jeannette Gilbert keeping things moving along, 106 members and guests enjoyed a social hour and music by the Oak Ridge HS String Quartet before a delicious dinner. There was a brief but important presentation by Carter Hall, the TN Public Lands Defense Coordinator from the The Wilderness Society, about the critical need to urge our members of Congress to support permanent re-authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Billy Heaton, our current Vice President, installed the 2019 Board, including 2 new members, Dale Potter and Taylor Weatherbee. Diane Petrilla recognized and presented awards to well-deserving Appalachian Trail maintainers. The delightful Tennessee Schmalz Band played klezmer music for us, then Billy Heaton introduced Benny Braden, our featured speaker for the night. Benny is a proud hiker and engaging speaker who completed two 900 milers this year (and holds the records for doing this in the fastest time!) and showed us stunning pictures of his adventures.



As always, a highlight of the evening are the presentations of the Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation Award (given at the discretion of the current SMHC President, Brian Worley), as well as the Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of outstanding long-term contributions to the spirit and objectives of the SMHC.

Will Skelton, current SMHC BOD member presented the Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation to Ray Payne, with the following remarks:



“This year, the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club’s Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation is being awarded to Ray Payne for the achievement of an important milestone for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This milestone is due in no small part to Ray’s longtime efforts. This achievement was the payment, as most of you have heard about, by the Federal Government to Swain County, of the final installment of a monetary settlement that resolves the Northshore Road controversy which threatened a road through the largest wilderness tract of the Park. Such settlement and payment will now hopefully result in the future designation of most of the Park as Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act, which has been a long-time goal of Ray’s. Ray has been tireless and relentless in pursuing the removal of this last hurdle for Wilderness designation. I was personally involved just a little and made a few trips to Bryson City in that regard, but on the other hand Ray has been one of the key people on this issue. I’ve seen Ray over the years, indeed decades, go to almost all the regular meetings of the Swain County group promoting the settlement and otherwise pushing the resolution of the Northshore Road controversy. Congratulations, Ray. The Club thanks you and I am sure everyone who cares about the Park will thank you as well.”

Diane Petrilla, current SMHC BOD member presented the Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award to Don Dunning, with the following remarks:



“It is my great honor to present the Harvey Broome Award for distinguished service tonight to this Club member who began as a maintainer in 2002, then joined the Club in 2007. Between 2002 and the present time, he has logged over 2600 hours of work related to the Appalachian Trail. He maintained his own AT section, from Sweat Heifer Trail to the Boulevard, along with his wife Nancy, for 11 years, from 2008-2018. At the same time, he and his wife Nancy almost single-handedly were in charge of mulch operations for all of the privies we supply in the National Park- a huge, multi- stepped and time-consuming job. When a new SMHC Newsletter editor was needed in 2015, he stepped up to do an outstanding job for 3 years, only recently retiring from that, and has been mentoring our new Newsletter Editor, Sarah Wimmer. He was in charge of National Trails Day for the last several years and served on the BOD of the SMHC in 2016 and 2017. He has won every maintainer award given by this Club and the ATC, some more than once, and has

previously won the SMHC Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation. It is my great honor to present the Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award for 2018 to Don Dunning.”



**Please return this form with your 2019 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 support various Conservation efforts of the Club, including Appalachian Trail maintenance.

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

If you receive the newsletter by USPS mail and would you like to switch to the electronic PDF version, please include your 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!