



# Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

March 2019

## A.T. WORK TRIP

**March 2 – Saturday**

We will be clearing the trail of trees and limb debris near Fontana that have fallen over the winter, as well as prepping the trail for the upcoming thru-hiker season. Volunteers are needed to assist the certified sawyers with removal of debris after it is cut. We will also repair tread as needed. Meet at Maryville WalMart @7:30 AM. 140 miles RT = \$7.00. Leader: Franklin LaFond, [ox97game@aol.com](mailto:ox97game@aol.com), 678-464-3380

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## RICH MTN. LOOP

**March 6 - Wednesday**

We'll hike the Rich Mountain Loop trail to Indian Grave Gap and down Crooked Arm Ridge to complete a moderate approximately 8.5 mile 1960 foot elevation gain loop that starts at the entrance to Cades Cove. Enjoy great views overlooking Dry Valley toward Townsend as well as Cades Cove and explore site of fire tower on Rich Mountain, our highest point along the hike. Meet at Food City, Alcoa at 8:00 am. Drive 60 miles (\$3.00) Leader: Lloyd Chapman, [lrcchapman6667@yahoo.com](mailto:lrcchapman6667@yahoo.com)

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## GRSM SCHOOLHOUSE HIKE

**March 9 - Saturday**

Before the coming of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, over 130 schools and churches (which were often used as schools) dotted the landscape. This hike will explore a number of these sites, although no structures remain. We will start in Elkmont Campground, where there were three schools and a church at different times. Then we will hike the Jakes Creek and Meigs Mountain Trails, before leaving the trail to explore an old road that parallels the Meigs Mountain Trail, where the Meigs Mountain School was located. Several home sites are located along the old road. We will follow the old road to the intersection of Meigs Mountain and Curry Mountain Trail, where the Meigs Mountain Church was located. Finally, we will descend Curry Mountain Trail to Metcalf Bottoms. Hike about 9 miles. The on-trail portion is rated moderate, the off-trail portion is rated somewhat difficult. Drive 70 miles RT. @ 3.50. Alcoa Food City at 8 AM or Metcalf Bottoms at 9 AM. There will be a car shuttle to Elkmont where the hike will begin. Hike leader: Frank March, [frankamarch@gmail.com](mailto:frankamarch@gmail.com), (865) 908-0463

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## BSF- BURNT MILL BRIDGE LOOP/JOHN MUIR TRAIL

**March 16- Saturday**

For this lovely and unusual hike, we will start at the Burnt Mill Bridge TH in BSF and hike the "loop" clockwise, following the Clear Fork River upstream. On one side of the trail are sandy river beaches, and on the other, stunning boulders, bluffs, and waterfalls. We ascend about 200 ft. and level out, until intersecting the John Muir Trail. We then hike north for about 2 miles, in beautiful open woods, on a well-maintained trail. As long as water is not too high, we will ford a creek at that point, and go briefly off-trail for a view of Beaver Falls, which plunge over a rock ledge to a pool 20 ft. below. Retracing our steps on the JMT, we will pick up the second half of the Burnt Mill Bridge Loop, to close it back at the parking lot. 8.3 miles total, rated Moderate. Meet at Books-A-Million, Oak Ridge at 8am. 100miles RT= \$5.00. Leader: Diane Petrilla, [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com) or 931-224-5149

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## EASY HIKE: THUNDERHEAD PRONG QUIET WALKWAY

**March 16-SATURDAY**

From the Middle Prong trailhead we will go right on the seldom traveled Thunderhead Prong Walkway. It is a short but scenic walk. We'll return to Middle Prong & walk to what remains of an old Cadillac. Hike 5.5 miles. Mileage reimbursement \$2.00. Meet @ Alcoa Food City @ 9:00. Leader: David Smith [dcshiker@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcshiker@bellsouth.net)

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## VIRGIN FALLS POCKET WILDERNESS AREA

**March 23- Saturday**

This lollipop hike offers 3 impressive waterfalls as well as the usual karst landscape common to the Cumberland Plateau. One of the most unusual features of Virgin Falls itself is that the water drops over a hundred feet only to disappear in a sinkhole. This hike is unusual in that the hike in is almost all downhill, meaning, of course, the hike out is considerably tougher! Hike about 9 miles with an option to add a mile for an overlook. Round trip drive from Knoxville about 150 miles (x.05 = \$7.50). This could be a wet or icy, hike so plan accordingly. Hiking poles recommended. Rated moderate to difficult depending on weather conditions. Meet at the Lenoir City Walmart, exit 81 off I-75 south at 8:00am. Leader: Brad Reese, [bradktn@gmail.com](mailto:bradktn@gmail.com).

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## VIRGIN FALLS VIA LOSTCREEK FALLS AND CAVE

**March 27 - Wednesday**

Explore the back way to Virgin Falls. We begin our hike at the Lost Creek Scenic Natural Area where we first explore Lost Creek Falls, that drops 60 feet from one cave into another cave just like our destination Virgin Falls. You will understand why Disney used this to film scenes for "The Jungle Book". We then drive a very short distance to the trailhead to begin our moderate hike to Virgin Falls while enjoying a beautiful cascading Falls along the way. Total hike length is officially 9 miles, but when scouted was recorded a bit less than 8. Meet at the Lowe's of Harriman parking lot farthest from the entrance at 8:00. Midtown exit 350 on Interstate 40 West. Drive 160 miles round trip (\$8.00). Directions will be provided to all drivers. Leader: Lloyd Chapman, [lrcchapman6667@yahoo.com](mailto:lrcchapman6667@yahoo.com)

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## ANAKEESTA RIDGE & CANYON (off-trail)

**March 30 - Saturday**

Didn't the club do this Anakeesta Ridge hike just last year? Well, almost but not exactly. Weather permitting, on this trip, we'll frolic on Anakeesta Ridge's south-facing slope and landslide scars that are dramatically visible from the Morton Overlook area, but to get there we'll first explore the north side of the ridge. It's a large, sprawling bowl of scars and cliffs that are just as dramatic as the south side but are less visible and, therefore, less known. Let's call it Anakeesta Canyon. We will enter this rocky playground via Alum Cave trail and creek, spend an hour or two in the canyon, then cross over the top of Anakeesta Ridge and exit down the scars on the south side. Total trip: 3 miles, 8 - 9 hours. Strenuous. Register for this hike and receive meet-up info via [ghoover@cn.edu](mailto:ghoover@cn.edu). Leaders: Greg Hoover and Greg Harrell [gregharrell@emscas.com](mailto:gregharrell@emscas.com)

**BRUSHY MOUNTAIN**

**March 30 - Saturday**

The hike to Brushy Mountain from Greenbrier will pass along old homesites along Porters Creek before climbing 2500 feet to Trillium Gap and nearby Brushy Mountain. The peak has views of the entire eastern flank of the Great Smoky Mountains, the Greenbrier Valley, and Pigeon Forge. Hike 11.7 miles. Rated moderate due to the length. Meet at Comcast, 5720 Asheville Highway at 8am or Greenbrier – Porters Creek TH at 9:15am. Drive 90 miles RT. {@5¢ = \$4.50}  
 Leaders: Steven Miller 865-318-9882 [Samiller71@rocketmail.com](mailto:Samiller71@rocketmail.com)  
 Steve Dunkin [jsdunkin1302@gmail.com](mailto:jsdunkin1302@gmail.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. 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\*\*\*

**Welcome New Members**

- Charles Cook [chuckndee@comcast.net](mailto:chuckndee@comcast.net)  
400 Lennox Place Gatlinburg TN 37066
- Patrick Cook [partrickjcook@gmail.com](mailto:partrickjcook@gmail.com)  
Calle 93 #28-60 Bulevar De Las Pereira, RIS, Columbia 660001
- Jay Dement 404.731.1901, [jay@jayDphotos.com](mailto:jay@jayDphotos.com)  
1740 Patriots Way Kennesaw GA 30152
- Gene Desrosiers 407.450.0009 [gene.emile2015@gmail.com](mailto:gene.emile2015@gmail.com)  
11624 Lanesborough Way Knoxville TN 37934
- Linda French [frenchl@charter.net](mailto:frenchl@charter.net)  
3208 Morganton Rd Maryville TN 37801
- Connie Fulmer 423.504.1891  
280 Windcrest Place Cleveland TN 37312
- Karl Graves 904.759.5714. [carguy1825@yahoo.com](mailto:carguy1825@yahoo.com)  
117 Edgewater Branch Dr. St. Johns, FL 32259
- Anna Hoam [AnnaHoam@hotmail.com](mailto:AnnaHoam@hotmail.com)  
348 East Dr Oak Ridge, TN 37830
- Jay Mader 865.387.4941. 612 Scotswood Cr Knoxville, TN 37919
- Tanya McClanahan [eddieandtanya@yahoo.com](mailto:eddieandtanya@yahoo.com)  
3208 Morganton Rd Maryville TN 37801
- Noel Patrick McJunkin [pmcunkin@gmail.com](mailto:pmcunkin@gmail.com)  
1693 SW 5<sup>th</sup> ST Gresham OR 97080
- Fritz and Lori Thumler 865.660.1521 [thumlerF@knology.net](mailto:thumlerF@knology.net)  
8824 Mallow Dr Knoxville TN 37922

**Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?**

This will be your last newsletter if you don't pay dues before March 15. Log in to [www.smhclub.org](http://www.smhclub.org) for information and online payment

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](#). **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](#). **Maryville Walmart** = On Hwy 411 S between Market Pl and Legends Way, 2410 Hwy 411. Meet near fuel center [Map Link](#). **Lowes at Midtown** = Take Exit 350 from I 40, go south 0.5 mile on TN-29 Pine Ridge Road to US-70, right 0.3 mile to 1800 Roane State Highway. [Map Link](#). Lenoir City WalMart. 911 US-321, Lenoir City, TN 37771 (Take hwy 321 exit off I-75 and travel South. Will be on the left before the Home Depot.

**COMING EVENTS – April 2019**

- 6 Saturday AT Work Trip
- 7 Sunday Frozen Head Wildflower Hike
- 13 Saturday Porters Creek Wildflower Hike
- 20 Saturday White Oak Sink
- 21 Sunday Norris River Wildflower Hike
- 27 Saturday Bradley Fork to Cabin Flats
- 27-28 Saturday-Sunday New Backpacker Orientation
- 27 Saturday Bent Arm Manway, Off-Trail

**For the Record**

**Old Sugarlands trail to Cherokee Orchard road and Stone house 1-16-2019**

The trees along Little River road were beautiful with a small amount of snow as we drove to our trailhead. Sadly, the visitor center was closed and the parking lots blocked off. But still 29 people gathered to hike Old Sugarlands trail. I believe that to be a new record for the Wednesday group, but I could easily think of at least six more who hike with us and could have been there. The group took several options: some hiked to the Stone house and back. Others went to Cherokee Orchard road and back or Cherokee Orchard road and then to the Stone house and/or the cemetery and other options. There were many blowdowns along the trail but they were all easy to step over or under. We gathered for an early lunch a little way down the trail from Cherokee Orchard road where there were a good number of rocks to sit on. As we walked toward it, there was much questioning about the last creek crossing before the Stonehouse. There have been times when crossing that creek would have involve wet feet, but Mother Nature provided a hand rail in the form of a down tree and the water level was not high, which allowed us to rock hop. Part of one wall of the house has fallen down and some other parts do not look too stable. It was impossible to keep track of everyone, yet everyone got back to the cars and arrived safely back to Alcoa.





**Abrams Falls**

**1-12-19**

Several SMHC members and one guest braved the park during the Shut-Down to hike out to Abrams Falls on a cold windy Saturday, We were all surprised as we drove through Cades Cove that the valley was deserted. We made it from the Front Country Campsite turnoff to the Abrams Parking area in about 15 minutes, if you can believe that. The hike was great. No one on the trail and the falls were wonderful. On the way back we bumped into a few hikers and a few additional cars were in the parking lot. All in all a great day for a hike.

Steve Dunkin

**Lone Mountain State Forest**

**1-26-19**

15 members and 2 visitors came out on this chilly January morning to hike in Lone Mountain SF. The trail and climb to Coyote Point on the Smokey Bear and Dailey Trails from the trailhead is at times quite steep, but gradually yields higher and more expansive views of the coves below, and Frozen Head to the east. From Coyote Point, we had excellent views south towards the Smokies. By now, the sun was out and wonderful to feel! From Coyote, we

picked up Larue's Ridge trail, with a very steep ascent to the high point of Lone Mountain, at 2530 ft.

Lunch was in a sunny spot at the junction of Larue's Ridge and Longest Mile Trail, before we headed back on Longest Mile and took the Smokey Bear Trail again to head down to the trailhead. Altogether about 9.5 miles or so, with some challenging climbs and descents, but with great company the whole way!

Diane Petrilla



**Cosby Area Off-trail History Ramble**

**2-2-19**

Eight members and one guest enjoyed a gorgeous winter day for completing an off-trail history route in the Cosby area. The advertised hike could not be done because the NPS had closed all roads into Cataloochee. Luckily, a similar alternative was available a couple of



ridges over on the Tennessee side. We left the cars on a wide shoulder of Rte. 32 and were soon in the Park, walking on an old wagon trace that follows Carolina Prong up to home places formerly inhabited by members of the Phillips, Messer, and Haglen families. Each of the 8 home sites visited has a pile of chimney rocks or in a few cases a partly standing chimney. Some had abandoned metal cookware and pieces of china or crockery. Leader Mike Knies helped hikers imagine the past by relating lore of the life styles and technology of the early inhabitants that he has learned during the process of locating and visiting over 1200 home sites within the Park. To avoid giving the impression this was a tame walk through an open air museum, we climbed up and over several steep hillsides and through dense stands of rhododendron, laurel, and greenbrier to get over into the Tobes Creek drainage and view still more home sites as we descended back toward the cars. Near the end, with the help of GPS, we located and followed a faint path or game trail through a laurel thicket to the top of a knoll and found the small Fish-Haner cemetery with slate headstones dating to the 1880s. The day's outing helped us to appreciate the many early settlers who vacated their land so that the Park could be created.

Mike Harrington & Mike Knies

**Ijams: Meads Quarry, Ross Marble Quarry**

**2-9-19**

Despite an attrition rate of 50% the leader firmly maintains this was a pleasant hike for a chilly morning. Nine bundled up people took off from the Meads Quarry parking lot on Imerys trail, enjoyed the keyhole and the rock bridge and continued on the South Knox trail to Ijams Crag. The more daring hikers followed the leader on the

climbers' access trail across the rock face before heading back to Imerys trail to close the first loop. Two hikers had enough and sought the safety of their cars. Our second loop took us up Tharp Trace past the Stanton Cemetery where daffodils were blooming. We continued up the hill and indulged in a hundred feet of off trail to see if there was a view from the very top of the hill. There isn't. Back down to finish the loop where three more hikers fled. The remaining hikers made a third loop of the developed section of Ijams on the River Trail and up on the Discovery Trail to the Ijams homesite where we marveled at hillsides of blooming lenten roses. We snacked by the Visitors Center and headed back to our cars.

Claudia Dean



**Rainbow Falls - Bullhead 2-13-2019**

As some of us were driving back to Food City yesterday, one of my riders commented that undertaking the hike we did yesterday was certainly "audacious!" at this time of year. I thought that was a great word for it, and one might add.... "foolish", "ridiculous", "treacherous" or, perhaps, beautiful and unusual. Conditions conspired to make the trail not too very icy (although the rocks at stream crossings were sheer ice), not too muddy (although slipping and sliding down Bullhead at times belies that



assessment), and not too windy (although there was enough of a wind chill near LeConte to make stopping for any length of time impossible!) We had 24 people at the trailhead, 21 members and 3 visitors. We divided into 3 groups; 10

went up to Rainbow Falls, and then 6 went to an overlook about 1.5 miles beyond Rainbow. 9 of us went all the way up Rainbow and down Bullhead. 5 went all the way up Bullhead and down Rainbow! For all, there was a very dicey rock bridge crossing below Rainbow that required hands and knees to make it across. A couple people wisely chose to not do this. 3 people went all the way to LeConte. No matter what group you were in, there was lots of sunshine, sparkling icicles, green rhododendron, shiny clumps of galax and views and views. There were also stark burned areas on Rainbow and Bullhead that managed to show the incredible amount of work that went into clearing the trails, and the gradual re-growth of grasses, white pine and other succession plants that will precede the regrowth of the forest one day. The 10 in-and-out hikers were back to cars by about 2:15pm. (hike about 8.4 miles, 2500 ft. climb). The Bullhead to Rainbow folks were back at 4:30 pm. Four of the Rainbow to Bullhead group were back at 2:30-3pm. Four more were back by 4:00pm. That left one. He took his time, enjoyed the trail, cleaned a few water bars, and did text the leader (myself) to let me know he was on his way down. However, I did not relax until I got his call that he was at his car, at 8pm, in the dark! All Rainbow to Bullhead or vice versa hikers did 12.3 miles and climbed 3500 ft. Those who went to LeConte added about another mile and another 300 ft. Next Wednesday's hike will be a bit easier, hopefully, and we'll get to hike together more as we enjoy BSF!

Diane Petrilla



### Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics Seven Principals

As members of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, we all share a love for both the outdoors and particularly our Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Many of us grew up exploring the park by hiking with our families to Charlies Bunion or taking a Sunday drive through Cades Cove. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited park in the United States and the founding members of the SMHC were instrumental in helping create and protect this unique national resource.

To further our club's conservation goals of preserving this resource, the club's Board of Directors will begin providing club members information from the Leave No Trace organization that will both educate club members and provide information we can share with others, some of whom may be experiencing the park for the first time.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics has created seven principals to assist us in protecting the outdoors we enjoy. As the year progresses, this newsletter will begin to highlight each of these principals. Hike leaders will distribute additional information as well.

These principals are copy written by the Leave No Trace organization and we encourage you to visit their website at:

<https://lnt.org/learn/seven-principles-overview>

The Seven Principles to protect the outdoors include:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

### Welcome new Board Members

#### Dale Potter

I am originally from McMinnville, where Fall Creek Falls and the Stone Door were my getaways for hiking. I moved to the East Tennessee area in 07 for a job and started hiking in the Smokies and Big South Fork with my son John. I started leading hikes with a meetup group and along the way completed the 900 miler two with my son, and almost a third one. I enjoy hiking in all the seasons in the Smokies as the trails are different in every season. I enjoy photography but it is not easy to do when leading hikes. I enjoy hiking, backpacking, in several of the areas around East Tennessee but the Smokies is my favorite though Mt. Rogers, Big South Fork all have their pluses. It is amazing to see the various minute details in the wildflowers, mushrooms, and other plants in the Smokies, but the best enjoyment is listening to a mother black bear chew out her cubs when they do not scamper up a tree like she wants them to. Yes, the bears, coyotes, and snakes are a plus to see on the hikes. It is a privilege to be a member of the board of this historic club that has and continues to contribute so much to the Smokies.

#### Taylor Weatherbee

I am a 68-year-old retired Cardiologist, married to Kristi since 1975, with 3 children and 3 grandchildren, thankfully all who reside in Blount or Knox county. I was born in Lincoln, Maine, and spent many of my younger days camping at Katahdin or on the lakes of Maine with my grandfather and father. I've been influenced by their love for the wild lands and waters of Maine. I have lived in Blount County since 1984 and spend my leisure time treating the hemlock trees in my community, maintaining our trails some of which connect with the Cane Creek Trail of the park, officiating Track and Field for UT, and spending time with my grandchildren. My main motivation for being a member of the SMHC is to help maintain the AT. Philip and Betty Royer introduced me to AT maintaining at an AT Trail day around 10-15 years ago and have kindly allowed me to share the responsibility of maintaining their Mt Collins section. I hope to one day get a sawyers certification, partially in honor of my grandfather who worked in the woods in Maine for a while. I am not so much of a social hiker, preferring to work on the trails to just hiking them. My main goal as a SMHC Board member is to help make the AT a better trail.

Note to Leaders:

Please send hike reports & photos to [spangler@utk.edu](mailto:spangler@utk.edu) and to the editor at [ches1995@yahoo.com](mailto:ches1995@yahoo.com). Members enjoy seeing the photos and learning about new hikes.

For upcoming hikes, please include preferred contact method (email, phone), meet location and mileage.

