



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

October 2019

LEAVE NO TRACE September 28 -Saturday

September 28th is National Public Lands Day. Our NPS friends in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are hosting a number of events celebrating this day. If you are interested in supporting this event in the park by helping to hand out educational items related to Leave No Trace and the National Parks please contact me by email and I will pass your email on to Ranger Christine Hoyer who will discuss with you how you can best help. As a volunteer you will help at either the Sugarland's Visitor Center or Clingman's Dome. The event is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on September 28th. You would not be expected to stay the entire day. If you would like to just participate in the event, you can come up for a litter cleanup effort at Clingman's Dome. Just find the workstation near the trail to the "tower" and you will be provided with litter clean up items by volunteers. Let me know by September 25th.

Leader: Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin1302@gmail.com 865-202-3286

A.T. Work Trip October 5 -Saturday

The October work trip will take place within 1.5 miles northeast of Newfound Gap. We will work to return the trail tread to its proper location and improve water drainage in the area. Work will require moving rocks (one particularly large) and possibly adding steps. We will use rock bars and winch. Participants will need to dress for the weather and bring work gloves and boots. Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 8:00 AM or at Newfound Gap parking lot at 8:30 AM.

Leaders: Pete Berntsen, peteberntsen@gmail.com, 865-256-7896 and Mark Snyder, markandjanets@gmail.com, 865-448-1183

KIRKLAND CREEK, UPPER BALD WILDERNESS October 6- Sunday

This hike follows a scenic creek through the middle of the Upper Bald River Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest. Join with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and possibly the Harvey Broome Group of Sierra Club to celebrate this long-awaited addition to the designated wilderness system in the Tellico River watershed. The trail has a gentle grade for the first several miles and then heads uphill toward the end, where it intersects with Benton MacKaye Trail. We will hike out and back up to 8 miles. However, those wishing a shorter hike can turn around earlier. There will be several creek crossings including the Bald River which is gentle and shallow. Either bring water shoes or plan on just hiking with wet boots on a peasant early fall day. If the water levels are high due to unseasonable fall rain, we will consider an alternate nearby hike. The trail has recently been maintained by the Cherokee Hiking Club trail volunteer group. Plan on meeting at 8:00 am at Ruby Tuesday just off Exit 81 on I-75 south at Lenoir City. We will also stop at Cherohala Skyway visitor center in Tellico Plains at about 9:00. The trailhead is another hour of scenic driving and the last 5 miles is on a gravel road. R/T drive = 145 @ .05 = \$7.25.

Leader: Tim Bigelow, Bigelowt2@mindspring.com, 865-607-6781

JACKSON BEND BRANCH - EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL October 9 - Wednesday

The hike will begin at the Peterson Road Trailhead. We will hike 5 miles north along Tellico Lake on the Jackson Bend Branch of the East Lakeshore Trail, have a rest & lunch, then return south on the same trail back to our vehicles at the trailhead. Bring a trail lunch & water. Rated moderately easy. Meet at the Lenoir City Cracker Barrel by 8:30 am. Drive 40 miles RT @ \$.05 = \$2.

Leader: Terry Nyenhuis, Terrynyenhuis@gmail.com, 865-206-9476

CUMBERLAND TRAIL, ROCK CREEK GORGE October 12 - Saturday

This subsection of the Three Gorges Segment of the Cumberland Trail will be hiked from south to north, starting at the Retro-Hughes Trailhead south of Dayton, TN. After walking on the plateau for about 1.5 miles, we descend into Rock Creek Gorge past mossy sandstone bluffs. We cross Rock Creek on a beautiful 80 ft. bridge and make several other branch crossings. At 3.3 miles we will turn around at the beautiful Leggett Falls. Hike 6.6 miles, rated moderate, though the final 2.6 miles are uphill. Poison ivy was prolific on the scouting trip so wear long pants. Meet at Lowes, 1800 Roane State Hwy, Harriman, at 9:00 AM. 120 miles RT= \$6.00.

Leader: Cindy Spangler, spangler@utk.edu 865-776-1301

CADES COVE MOONLIGHT HIKE October 13 -Sunday

With a full moon, we will start our hike at the Cades Cove entrance parking area with the nightly closure of the road. We will look and listen for wildlife on this popular hike and hopefully enjoy a beautiful night sky. Shoes compatible with walking on pavement and a headlamp or flashlight are recommended as there are some dark areas beneath the trees. Hike: 8 miles via Hyatt Lane or 11 miles for full loop depending on group interest. Rated moderate due to distance. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 6:00pm or Cades Cove Entrance at 6:45pm. 60 miles RT carpool=\$3.00.

Leaders: Lynda Bryan, ellymay2015@aol.com and Nancy Dunning, ngdpt@aol.com or 865-705-9416

Easy Hike: MARIE MEYERS PARK, KNOXVILLE URBAN WILDERNESS October 13 - Sunday

The Marie Meyers Park is one of the jewels that forms the Knoxville Urban Wilderness in South Knoxville. There is no designated parking area, so, we will take a 0.7 mile trail starting in William Hastie Natural area to get to the entrance to this park on View Park Drive. We will complete a loop using several different trails – some are new and still under development but useable for a total distance of 5 miles. This Park contains a large variety of wildflowers, bird species, and other wildlife. Bring some water and snack for an afternoon in this beautiful park in South Knoxville. Hike: about 5.5 miles, rated easy. Meet at Anderson Elementary School at 1:00 PM.

Leader: Mac Post, mpost3116@aol.com, 865-806-0980.

HANGOVER- STRATTON-BOB BALD

October 19 Saturday

After a drive on the US129 and a Forest service road we arrive at Big Fat Gap. From Big Fat Gap in Joyce Kilmer - Slickrock Wilderness, we will hike over and up to Hangover for wonderful fall views and lunch. From there we will hike over on Stratton Bald trail as far as Bob Bald for a different fall view. If the trail is too overgrown we will return back earlier and retrace our steps to Big Fat Gap. Those interested can stop by Tapoco on the way back. Hike 11 miles. Rated moderate to difficult depending upon trail conditions. Drive 100 miles RT = \$5.00. Meet at Maryville South Walmart on 411 at 8:00am

Leader: Tim Bigelow, Bigelowt2@mindspring.com, 865-607-6781

CANAL & BAKER HOLLOW BRANCHES- EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL

October 23 - Wednesday

The hike will begin at the Canal Branch Trailhead. We will hike 4.5 miles south along Tellico Lake on the Canal & Baker Hollow Branches of the East Lakeshore Trail, have a rest & lunch, then return north on the same trails back to our vehicles at the trailhead. Bring a trail lunch & water. Rated moderately easy. Meet at the Lenoir City Cracker Barrel <see list> by 9 am. Drive 10 miles RT {@ \$.05 = \$.50}.

Leader: Terry Nyenhuis, terrynyenhuis@gmail.com, 865-206-9476

MOUNT CAMMERER VIA LOW GAP AND THE A.T.

October 26 -Saturday

Mount Cammerer on-trail. Mount Cammerer, also called White Rock, offers 360 degree views of fall color. Our approach will be by the Low Gap Trail, rising 1,900 ft. in 2.9 miles, then by a gentler climb on the AT. We will lunch on top next to the historic Mt. Cammerer Fire Tower, built by the CCC in 1937. Afterward, we will continue on the AT to the Low Gap Trail, which we will take back to our cars. Distance: 10.4 miles. Rated difficult. Drive 120 miles RT. Meet at ComCast parking lot at 8:00 am.

Leaders: Steve Dunkin jsdunkin1302@gmail.com 865-202-3286

PANTHER STAIRS, OFF-TRAIL

October 26, 2019 – Saturday

This hike begins at the familiar Groundhog Ridge parking area with a climb up one of the branches of Groundhog Creek to the Lower Mount Cammerer Trail. This trail is used to zip around the mountain to Robinson Creek where the narrow valley leads up into the Highlands. The climb then turns toward the Panther Stairs as the trek passes by four nice waterfalls set in a broad almost gentle valley. These gentle slopes give way to the cliffs beneath the Panther Stairs. At this point, the hike becomes a scramble up the open sandstone faces and along narrow spine of Panther Stairs affording excellent views into the Smoky Mountain valleys below. The hike will proceed to the Mount Cammerer Lookout Tower and then return by the old Groundhog Ridge manway. Total trip is 5.2 miles, 3.8 being off trail. Rated difficult. Previous off-trail experience encouraged. Preregistration for this off-trail hike is required – please contact trip leaders to get details, including meeting time and place.

Leaders: Greg Harrell GSHarrell@milligan.edu and Ken Wise kwise@utk.edu 865-310-7764

MEETING PLACES: **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots. [Map Link](#). **Anderson Elementary School** = From I-40, take Exit 388A to James White Parkway, TN-158W, approximately 3 miles to Sevierville Pike for 2 miles, then left onto Centeroak Drive, to 4808 Prospect 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](#). **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](#). **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel** = Off I-75 at Exit 81, 0.6 mile or 3 stoplights, 325 Fort Loudon Medical Center Drive. [Map Link](#).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steven E Hose	stevehose@hotmail.com	812-508-1239
425 Maple Run Estates Blvd	Springville, IN	47462
Celia Jeffrey	baronvonfritz1@gmail.com	256-609-5756
PO Box 173	Sewanee, TN	37375
Gary Kilpatrick	GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com	423/914-4070
119 Industrial Dr	Surgoinville, TN	37873
David Sands	dsands314@yahoo.com	865-978-0146
601 Little Valley Rd	Blaine, TN	37709
Elizabeth J Weikert		865-816-4319
2545 Stockton Valley Road	Loudon, TN	37774

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. Please bring correct change. 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

COMING EVENTS – November 2018

2	Saturday	AT Work Trip
9	Saturday	Grand Gap Loop- Big South Fork NRRRA
10	Sunday	Tunnel Ridge Off-Trail
23	Saturday	Cucumber Gap Loop
29	Friday	Knoxville History Hike
30	Saturday	Frozen Head Chimney Tops

FOR THE RECORD

Indian Boundary Lake

8-04-2019

Three hikers met in Maryville to make the pleasant drive thru Tellico Plains and along the Cherohala Skyway to beautiful Indian Boundary Lake. Perfect hiking weather that was reminiscent of early Fall met us at the trailhead and the three hikers enjoyed a relaxing stroll around the lake. Many comments were made about how perfect this Park is for families with camping, boat rentals, biking paths, fishing, swimming and of course hiking opportunities. The beach area was particularly stunning as the clouds were reflected in the pristine lake. Overall, a wonderful day enjoyed by all Lloyd Chapman

Gabes Mountain to Hen Wallow

8-07-2019

Twelve hearty hikers took the challenge of Gabes Mountain Trail from the Cosby picnic area to campsite 34 under a

slight chance of scattered showers. The weather was warm but beautiful with no rain. Most hikers enjoyed a brief stop at the moderately flowing Hen Wallow Falls.



Two hikers made the falls their final destination and meandered back to the trailhead while the remaining 10 troupers pressed on to the campsite. We sorely missed having our experienced bear scouts, Michael and Pat, along for this hike. (We also missed our trail photographers) Steve Vittatoo

Annual Election Picnic

8-10-2019

This year's Election Picnic was held in the cool and shady Greenbrier area of the Park. As usual, we had plenty of choices of food and drink to enjoy with our new and longtime



hiking friends! Something rather unusual did happen.... there were only two desserts at this picnic! We did make up for it with plenty of other choices. The weather was just perfect for this gathering. Many thanks to all who helped make this picnic another success!

Priscilla Watts, Social Committee

The Gorges, Off-Trail

8-17-2019

On a stunningly gorgeous August morning thirteen of the Hiking Club's hardest plus one newcomer congregated at the upper end of Big Cove Road deep inside the Cherokee Reservation in anticipation of hiking up Raven Fork into The Gorges, undeniably the wildest section of stream anywhere in the Smokies. One could reasonably argue that of the half-dozen most attractive waterfalls in the Smokies, all six are in The Gorges. Hikers enjoyed a full day of climbing the waterfalls, wading waist-deep pools, and negotiating treacherous rapids. Frequent pauses were allowed for taking photographs, swimming in cold pools, sliding down water-slickened rock shields, and just relishing the ambience of the rugged wilderness. Below the bridge at the Enloe Creek backcountry campsite, we reluctantly climbed out of the stream, took one last longing look down The Gorges, then started the short, but pedestrian, journey to our hike's end on Straight Fork Road. James Locke & Ken Wise



Hemphill Bald Hike

8-24-19

Nineteen individuals made the long drive over to Balsam Mountain side of the smokies on a day that was supposed to have rained all day. Fortunately, our timing worked out and we got to enjoy the hike with great weather except for a few sprinkles with about a half mile to go.

Dale Potter



Clingman's Dome to Siler's Bald

8-31-2019

Nine hikers, 5 members and 4 visitors, gathered at Clingmans Dome on a beautiful cool (upper 50s) morning to hike out to Silers Bald and back. We started by going up to the observation tower where we were treated to clear skies and great views. After pausing to admire the views and take pictures, we hiked down the AT, enjoying the views from the ridges, a few Turtleheads in bloom, and the (mostly) downhill walk to Double Springs where we stopped for lunch to recharge.

Afterwards, it was off for the climb up to Silers Bald. When we reached the top of Silers Bald, some of the group followed a short side trail that provided some views to the north while the rest of us took a well deserved break before heading back on the AT to the Clingmans Dome parking lot via the bypass trail. The climb up Mount Buckley on the way back is always a good workout and temperatures had risen sufficiently by the time we started the climb to ensure all pores were open and cleared out!

Neil Snapp



A. T. Trail Maintenance

9-6-2019

Before and after photos



Rich Mountain - Indian Grave Gap trails

9-11-2019

On this pleasant morning 17 hikers (2 were visitors) trudged up Rich Mountain trail (not to be confused with Rich Mountain Loop trail) then strolled on up Indian Grave Gap trail to the top of Rich Mountain. Then it is mostly downhill to Scott Mountain trail and on to Campsite 6. One hiker planned to go only to the Rich Mountain, Indian Grave Gap intersection. If you like solitude, this is a good hike for you. Most of us saw no other hikers, except for the ones in our group, all day. The trails are in good shape but the trees at the overlooks have grown

enough that the views are limited. Campsite 6 is mostly grass covered and comfortable. We ate a leisurely lunch at the campsite and returned down the trails. The temperature at the

campsite was comfortable but it got hotter as we descended Rich Mountain trail. We were all in the cars and headed home by 2:00 PM, in spite of having to wait on one carload that got lost on the way to the trailhead.

Ron Brandenburg



Leave No Trace Principle for October Minimize campfire impact

When backpacking and hiking, think about if you really need a fire. If so and in a National Park:

- build a fire inside the metal fire ring at designated campsites.
- Do not cut down living greenery for your fire.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Use only sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.
- Don't bring firewood from home, which could introduce new pests and diseases. Buy it from a local source or gather it responsibly where allowed.

New Merchandise

The Club has a new dry fit t-shirt available for purchase! Visit this link to see a pic of the shirt and to order on-line at
If you prefer to order via check, contact Cindy @ 865-776-1301 or spangler@utk.edu.

Club merchandise will also be available for sale at the December banquet. If you want to save the \$5 shipping fee, you can pick up your shirt at my house--4175 Ridgeway Lane, 37919.

Follow the link for this and other merchandise:

<http://www.smhclub.org/merchandise.htm>

~Cindy Spangler



TRAIL SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The Trail Skills Workshop is a two-day event October 26-27, 2019, at Lake Winfield Scott, hosted in cooperation by the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. There is no charge for the program, camping and a cookout dinner on Saturday is included.

This workshop is focused on teaching the most current trail construction and maintenance methods applicable for Eastern landscapes. Courses are a mix of classroom instruction, field time, and social time. Plan to bring camping equipment (if camping), food and water as well as proper clothing for field work. Tools are provided as well as hard hats (as required by the Forest Service) if you don't have one.

The four courses being offered this year include:

- 105: Essential Trail Maintenance: Lead by GATC member Marion Mclean. This course is designed to be an overview of all aspects most important to maintaining trails, with a special emphasis on improved modern methods of maintaining the Appalachian Trail. Main subjects include: standard safety protocols, corridor clearing, cleaning and retrofitting drainage structures, and tread realignment
- 215: Drainage Design and Drain Dips: Lead by Phillip Waldron, USFS. An intermediate to advanced course that gives in-depth field instruction explaining the use, application, and modern design of drainage structures. This course also discusses the appropriateness of structures such as culverts, French drains, cross drains and armored drainage control devices.
- 335: Rock Construction: Lead by the Jolly Rovers Trail Crew. Focused on sound design of rock staircases, eastern rock setting, guide features, and how to retrofit aging structures. This is considered an advanced course, participants should have some prior experience working with rock.
- 355: Campsite Management: Lead by the PATHE Committee. While the details are still being finalized, this course will be an extension of the PATHE Engineering Committee's evaluation of "compliant" campsites and the rating system being developed. There will be site visits with decision made.

For more information contact jay@jayDphotos.com and to register go to <https://forms.gle/3LizEEgx9xGSUcRZ8>