



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

November 2019

A.T. TRAIL MAINTENANCE

November 2, 2019

This A.T. Trail Maintenance will involve working on the trail around Road Prong Trail at Indian Gap on the Clingman's Dome road. I will have tools at the Road Prong trailhead parking area where Road Prong connects to Clingman's Dome road. Meet at the trailhead parking area at 10:00 am for sign up and tool issue. We will then split into teams and work both sides of the trail from Indian Gap, cleaning water bars and loping limbs. Teams will meet back at the trailhead at 1:00 pm. Anyone interested can then help haul mulch to Mt. Collins shelter via the Rough Fork manway. If you are interested in carpooling meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 am. Roundtrip approximately 100 miles. Leader: Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin1302@gmail.com.

RAMSEY CASCADE

November 6- Wednesday

The hike will take us to Ramsey Cascades, one of the highest waterfalls accessible by trail in the Smokies. Also visit a huge poplar tree. The trail conditions range from an old road bed to rocky where you'll wonder how long that last mile can be. Hike: 8.0 miles, rated moderately difficult. Elevation gain of about 2,230 ft. Meet at Comcast on Asheville Hwy @ 8:00 am or at the Ramsey Cascades trailhead in Greenbrier at 9:15am. Drive: 88 miles RT { @5¢ = \$4.40}. Leader: John Davidson, jdavison729@att.net, 248-872-9334

ANGEL FALLS OVERLOOK

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

November 9- Saturday

From Leatherwood Ford, we will ascend to the Angel Falls Overlook Trail to the top of the bluff and will then proceed to the Grand Gap Loop and John Muir Trails before looping back to the overlook. This hike offers outstanding views of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Hike distance is 11.8 miles, rated difficult. Drive distance: 180 miles RT x 5 cents = \$9.00. Meet at Outback Steakhouse, 314 Merchants Drive, Knoxville at 8 AM. Leader: Cindy Spangler, spangler@utk.edu, 865-776-1301

TUNNEL RIDGE, OFF-TRAIL

November 10- Sunday

A scouting trip has determined that the manways on Tunnel and Forney ridges are in fine shape, but that part of our original route up the old manway on Laurel Branch is too choked with rhodo for a pleasant outing. Thus, we will modify our hike to include some combination of the Forney Ridge and Tunnel Ridge manways, the Lakeshore Trail, and perhaps the Bearpen Branch Manway from Noland Creek Trail, depending on the results of another round of scouting. The final distance will be about 6 miles off trail hiking, plus a short amount of trail hiking on our return. Rated moderate to difficult off trail hiking. R/T drive 195 miles x .05 = \$9.75. Pre-registration required, contact leaders for Knoxville area meeting information. Leaders: Clyde Austin, iceaxe@suddenlink.net, 252-521-3166 Hiram Rogers, hiramrogers@yahoo.com, 865-584-7310

TRILLIUM GAP TRAIL TO BRUSHY MOUNTAIN

November 20- Wednesday

We can stop at Grotto falls along the way and have lunch on top of Brushy mountain. We will start at the Rainbow falls trailhead. It is 11.3 miles round trip with 2,423 feet of elevation gain. Moderately difficult. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 or SVC at 9:00 am. Drive 86 miles. (\$4.30) Leader: John Davidson, jdavison729@att.net, 248-872-9334

CUCUMBER LOOP

November 23 - Saturday

We start by heading up Jakes Creek out of Elkmont which will be our hardest climb of the day. After a side trip to the Avent Cabin we take Cucumber Gap trail to Little River. A pleasant walk but there is a creek crossing near the end. Should be able to rock hop. Return via Little River trail. Hike is 6.5 rated easy. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:30. Round trip 70 miles @ .05 = \$3.50. Leaders: David Smith dcshiker@bellsouth.net 865-202-2074 and John Smiley johnsmiley55@bellsouth.net

Easy Hike: DYLLIS ORCHARD

November 23 - Saturday

The 4.5-mile Dyllis Orchard trail is located within the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement behind K-25, west of Oak Ridge. The fairly level trail winds through a hard wood forest, which should be beautiful with fall leaves. A variety of wildlife and native plants as well as remnants of pre-Manhattan Project settlements are present. To incorporate some of the fascinating history of the place, we will meet at the K25 Visitor Center and Overlook parking lot, 2013 Highway 58, Oak Ridge, at 9:00. Leader: Betty Glenn, glennbj@roanestate.edu, 865-307-3436

KNOXVILLE HISTORY HIKE BATTLE OF FORT SANDERS ANNIVERSARY

November 29- Friday

See the exact location where the Confederate attempt to take Knoxville from the Union took place in a 20-minute battle. Walk around the area of the former interior of Civil War Fort Sanders where Union troops awaited the attack on the morning of November 29, 1863 and see remnants of that fort that were thought to have disappeared a hundred years ago. Enjoy this easy 3-mile hike with Charles and Terry Faulkner, co-authors of the UT Press book Rediscovering Civil War Fort Sanders. Meet at Earth Fare Parking lot, 140 North Forest Park Blvd on side next to Third Creek Greenway, at 1 PM or meet on site at Fort Sanders Manor Apartment stairway entrance, 410 17th Street, Knoxville, 37916, at 1:15 PM. Leaders: Cindy Spangler, spangler@utk.edu, 865-776-1301 Terry Faulkner, terryfaulk@bellsouth.net



SPICEWOOD/CHIMNEY TOP LOOP (FHSP)

November 30 - Saturday

We will start from the Old Mac Trailhead parking lot, pick up Spicewood Tr for 2.55 miles, then hike along the Chimney Top Trail to our lunch destination somewhere along the ridge. Hopefully we'll have some views! After lunch we continue on Chimney Top to eventually descend to the Visitor Center parking lot. From there it is a short .25 mi. walk back to our cars. This is a 9-mile, moderate hike with approx. 2500 feet of elevation gain. Meet at Oak Ridge Books A Million @8am. Drive 50 miles RT, \$2.50.

Leaders: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149 and Pete Berntsen, peteberntsen@gmail.com

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](#). **K25 Visitor Center and Overlook parking lot**, 2013 Highway 58, Oak Ridge [MAP LINK](#). **Oak Ridge Books-a-Million/Gold's Gym** = 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](#). **Outback Steakhouse on Merchants Drive** = From Exit 108 off I-75, Merchants Drive, go west towards Clinton Hwy. Park in front part of large lot at Outback Steakhouse (314 Merchants Drive), near McDonalds [Map Link](#).

COMING EVENTS – DECEMBER 2019

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7 Friday | Big Ridge State Park |
| 14 Saturday | Installation Dinner |
| 15 Sunday | House Mountain |
| 21 Saturday | Lumber Ridge/Spruce Flats/GSMIT Falls |
| 29 Saturday | Fort Dickinson Park |

Welcome New Members

Shawn Carson shawn.carson1@gmail.com 865/539-4195
1223 Hearthstone Ln Knoxville TN 37923
John Davison jdavison729@a.net 248/872-9334 Yes
641 Dunlin Ln Knoxville TN 37934
Dan Free freeman@utk.edu 865/974-0614 Yes
2348 Robinson Rd Knoxville TN 37923
Malanie Harman ddiversified@hotmail.com 865/376-4987
139 S Victoria Rd Kingston TN 37763
Rhonda Marchand monkeymind@charter.net 865/382-1303
2759 English Hills Dr Sevierville TN 37876
Charlie & Debbie McDonald debbie.mcdonald1960@gmail.com
423/572-2550 505 Hiwassee Rd Madisonville TN 37354

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 5¢ 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

FOR THE RECORD

Rocky Top via Anthony Creek and Bote Mountain 9-14-19

On this somewhat overcast morning, 9 Club members took on the intense hike from Anthony Creek to Rocky Top via Bote Mountain and the A.T. Anthony Creek itself sounded lovely as we ascended, but of course the creek is soon left behind. Bote Mountain posed its usual tough walk! It was much cooler on the A.T. with steady breezes. The bald areas were full of goldenrod and snakeroot, as well as soft grasses. After the last breathless climb to Rocky Top, we ate lunch and enjoyed intermittent views as clouds rolled in and out. This great group also sang Rocky Top, complete with music, lyrics, a little clogging action, and with help from some random hikers who were the area also! What good sports! Hiking back,



some descended directly back to the Cades Cove picnic area parking lot, and several went to Spence shelter, admiring the new privy, as well as testing its functionality. As the rest of us descended, it became noticeably

warmer. The sun was out, and most of us had depleted our water, so the cars were a welcome sight. A challenging hike that was close to 14 miles with an elevation gain of over 3,600 feet which everyone took on with great spirit!

Diane Petrilla

Mount Sterling

9-21-19

Two hikers faced the strenuous hike up Baxter Creek Trail to the observation tower on Mount Sterling. The trail had been cleared of brush and the creeks were nearly dry so the most daunting part of the hike was ducking under or scrambling over blow-downs on the upper half of the trail. We met many other hikers on the trail including a family going up the trail to camp overnight. It was a beautiful day and we were rewarded with gorgeous views over the lush green mountains.



Pete Berntsen

Note: view from Mt Sterling on page 1 was submitted by Pete

Defeat Ridge Woman-way

9-21-19

Twelve happy hikers met for a trek along the Defeat Ridge Woman-Way. The ladies leading the hike had arranged a day full of adventure and enjoyment. A swarm of bees and a few stings were the only obstacles encountered along the way. Upon reaching

Thunderhead Mountain, hikers relished in some play time by using trees as a jungle gym. After taking in the beautiful view from Rocky Top, everyone set off for a pleasant stroll down Bote Mountain Trail and Lead Cove Trail.

All in all, it was a remarkable day with delightful company.
Cindy McJunkin



AT-Sweat Heifer-Grassy Branch-Dry Sluice trails 9-25-19

It was a cool clear day as eight hardy hikers (all members) gathered at Newfound Gap to head out the AT for a fairly strenuous hike. The hike down Sweat Heifer was a pleasant surprise. The trail is in good shape and the surroundings were very attractive. Lunch was scheduled for the Grassy Branch- Dry Sluice gap intersection but when we got to Kephart shelter it was almost noon so lunch just happened for most of the group. Wonderful Diane brought goodies to celebrate the birthday this past Sunday of one of the hikers. Then we commenced the trudge up Grassy Branch to Dry Sluice Gap. At that intersection lunch was finished along with a good rest. But the uphill was not yet finished. We still had 5.8 miles and about 1,200 feet of elevation gain to go. Coming back on the AT no one stopped at Charles Bunion but Michael climbed up the trail to the spot above the Bunion for some pictures. At the intersection with the trail that leads to the Bunion, we met a couple from Texas that had just visited the Bunion. He recognized some of us because we had met this same man last June when some of us were visiting Hensley Settlement. He had hiked up on a different route than ours but we met and talked to him there. The totals for this hike were 13.9 miles with 3731 feet of elevation gain in 8.5 hours. Ron Brandenburg



Cucumber Loop family hike 9-28-19

We had lovely weather for the family hike from Little River Trail to the Cucumber Gap Trail intersection and then down Jakes Creek Trail. Unfortunately, we had no families on this hike. We did have five hikers including one visitor. The streams were nearly dry so we had no wet crossings. We learned about the Christmas Fern, Hearts-a-Bustin (Strawberry flower), and the Cucumber plant for which the Cucumber Gap Trail is named. We were also provided information about a host of other flowering plants. At the end of the hike we toured Elkmont but the Appalachian Clubhouse was reserved for a wedding party. Pete Bernsten



Jackson Bend Branch - East Lakeshore Trail 10-9-19

It was a cool somewhat foggy morning as 13 hikers gathered at the Peterson Road parking area & readied themselves for the 8 mile hike on the Jackson Bend branch of the East Lakeshore trail. There were several hills but they were not long. The trail was covered by fallen leaves in many places and we might have lost



our way if not for the trail blazes. We had lunch and a rest at the designated camping area then headed back to our cars. The sky had cleared. It was a beautiful day. The cumulative elevation gain for the hike was 1,434 feet. Terry Nyenhuis



AT Work Trip 10-5-19

We cleaned waterbars and drains, to include improving many of them. We removed two very large rocks from the trail while we had such energetic volunteers and three rock bars. We improved about 40 feet of tread by removing protruding rocks, both large and small, and re-seating them or discarding them. We learned to be very careful when discarding as one of the rocks disturbed a yellow-jacket nest. We moved on and returned at the end of the day to complete the area near the nest. We had 6 visiting Virginia Tech students on Fall Break who did a superb job with all of our maintenance projects! Thanks to all of our outstanding volunteers. We got a lot of work done with no injuries other than yellow-jacket stings. VT students were led by Diane Petrilla and they stated that they learned a lot about trail maintenance during the day. It was a terrific day to work on the trail and explain our work to a multitude of hikers. Peter Berntsen



SAVE THE DATE!
Annual SMHC Installation Dinner
Saturday December 14, 2019,
5pm- 8:30pm
Fox Den Country Club
12284 N. Fox Den Drive
Knoxville, TN. 37934

5-6 pm Reception- Oak Ridge High School String Quartet
6-7:30 pm- Dinner and Business meeting
7:30- 8:30pm- Guest Speaker, Andrew Herrington. Mr. Herrington is head of the BUSAR (an all-hazard, all-volunteer, non-profit, highly trained Search and Rescue team) who assist the GSMNP and NPS in search and rescue missions. BUSAR was founded by Andrew in 2015 and was recognized with the NPS Search and Rescue Award in 2018. He will be accompanied by two crew members and will be talking about his experiences assisting the national park, as well as best safety practices, even for the most experienced hikers!
8:30pm- Handbook distribution

Reservation information coming soon!