



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Newsletter

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

July 2021

President Message

Dear SMHC Members,

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website! Please visit the new site at smhclub.org. You should have received an email about logging into the new website, on the Wild Apricot software platform. Please follow the emailed directions using the temporary password, to [log into your membership profile](#). You can review and edit your Profile and Privacy settings (all are currently set to members-only view for the same contact information we provide in the Handbook). You can register for hikes on the website and pay annual dues as they become due.

Note that the first email from our website may go to your promotions folder or tab. You can "teach" your email to land future newsletters and other SMHC communications in your primary inbox by dragging the message from promotions to primary.

We are grateful to the hundreds of hours spent by two Club member volunteers in creating the website, Amanda Beal, and Scott Walker. It will take time to learn new things and work out kinks, so please keep that in mind. For help or questions, please email tech-team@smhclub.org. You can also email me directly with questions or comments. As always, the Board of Directors appreciates your membership and participation in all of the missions of our amazing SMHC!

Sincerely,

Diane Petrilla M.D.

President

SMHC Hiking Guidelines During COVID

1. One hike leader will serve as pre-registration contact, with e-mail and phone number available in the write-up.
2. **Pre-registration is still required for all hikes.**
3. **Group size may now be up to 20.** Higher numbers of registrants should be split into two groups.
4. **Meet-up locations with carpooling to the trailhead, shuttles, and key swaps are acceptable.** Hikers may still choose to drive to the trailhead independently, depending on their comfort level.
5. **Unvaccinated individuals should wear a mask for carpooling, shuttles, or key swaps, and at crowded trailheads. Masks are not required for fully vaccinated people. In the GRSM NP, people that are unmasked are assumed to be fully vaccinated.**
6. Hikers must sign a release form with accurate contact information.
7. Inform hikers if anyone becomes ill within a few days of the event, with symptoms concerning COVID-19, to contact the hike leader immediately. (In addition to the usual pre-hike info). For regular pre-hike prep, see <http://www.smhclub.org/outingpreparation.htm>.
8. All participants should have hand sanitizer or wipes.
9. If the leader(s) or any participant feels sick, please stay at home.
10. If the leader(s) need to alter planned activity, please contact an SMHC Board member ASAP to discuss proposed changes.
11. Guidelines for A.T. maintainers will have to be reconciled with the National Park, National Forest, and ATC, particularly in regard to group size.

Hikes Open to the Public

Beginning in July and in adherence with CDC guidelines, all SMHC hikes will again be open to the public.

Road Closures

Cades Cove Loop Road- Vehicle-free Wednesdays May 5-Sept 1, 2021

Cades Cove Loop Road- Fully Closed for resurfacing Sept 7-Sept 27, 2021

Forge Creek Road- closed to all vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and horse-back riders for bridge repair through July 31, 2021.

Newfound Gap Road- Expect nighttime delays on Newfound Gap Road (Hwy 441) from Chimneys Picnic Area to Newfound Gap. Lane closures are permitted from 7:00 p.m. on Sundays through 7:00 a.m. on Fridays. No lane closures will occur on weekends or holidays. Due to heavy summer traffic, daytime work will not resume until August 16, 2021. Beginning August 17, 2021, expect single-lane closures between Chimneys Picnic Area and Newfound Gap from Monday mornings through Fridays at Noon while contractors repave this section of Newfound Gap Road (Hwy 441). Please allow for extra time when traveling through the project area.

Meet Your 2021 Board Members



This month's board member is the Club's Membership Secretary, Amanda Beal.

I did not start hiking until 2009, after I met my husband, Adam. He was working on his 900 miles and was spending most weekends in the Smokies. We started hiking together and I decided to take up the 900 mile torch as well. I joined SMHC, completed my 900 in December 2018 and am now planning to thru-hike the AT ... someday.

I told myself after the 900 was done I would adopt a section of the AT. I did my first trail maintenance work on Forney Ridge when the Trails Forever crew was rehabbing it and loved it. I have volunteered with that crew a few times, done various Saturday work trips and a couple of hitches on Rocky Top and SWEAT Crews. Adam and I now maintain the AT section between Spence Field and Thunderhead. I am a UT alum so could not resist having Rocky Top all to myself, and I usually listen to the song on my way to the trailhead.

I joined the board in 2019 and participate on the program committee that plans the next year's hike schedule. I am currently helping with the launch of a new website for smhc.org.

When I am not hiking, I enjoy reading, lifting weights, and trying new recipes. My family also has 12 chickens and 15 beehives, so those keep us busy and well-stocked with eggs and honey.

Have You Heard

Every year someone says, "Why don't they schedule this hike" Why can't I lead a hike". Every year someone says, "Next year I will lead a hike" "Next year I will suggest this hike". Instead of putting it off until next year, reach out to the Program Committee Chairman and tell him the hike you would like to see scheduled. Reach out to him and tell him the hike you would like to lead but have been hesitant to voice your opinion. Do it this year by contacting Ken Wise.

Ken Wise and the Program Committee are looking for hike suggestions in 2022 for the following dates: Feb 19, May 21, July 30, Sept 24, Nov 19 and Dec 17. If you think you are interested in leading a hike in the Smokies, or any of the surrounding National Forests, National Parks or State Parks, you need to respond to this request immediately. Email Ken at kwise@utk.edu and put Hikes 22 in the subject line. Suggest what hike or hikes you would like to lead and when. You should include in your email a brief write up of the hike similar to upcoming hikes in this newsletter.

If you are interested in leading hikes, but do not have a specific hike, email Ken, and tell him where you would like to lead a hike, what time of year, and how long of a hike.

Slate of SMHC Officers for 2022

Each year the membership is provided notice of the slate of officers to be voted on. This year it will be at the August picnic. Last year due to the COVID, it was not possible to have the picnic, but on August 14th, the SMHC will hold its annual picnic. Details will be provided in the August newsletter but make plans to attend this year's event. It will be at a location that most will want to check out. The slate of officers was selected by a nominating committee. However, the nominations of the committee do not preclude club members from making nominations for the respective offices at the meeting wherein the election is held.

The nominees for 2022 are:

President: Ken Wise

Recording Secretary: Steve Dunkin

Membership Secretary: Scott Walker

Trust Liaison: Jean Gauger

Director: Will Skelton

Director: Taylor Weatherbee

Vice President: Dale Potter

Historian: Brian Worley

Treasurer: Diane Petrilla

Communication Director: Cindy Spangler

Director: Tim Bigelow

Director: Kristi Knight

A Huge Appreciation for National Trails Day Sponsors

The SMHC expresses our huge appreciation to the following sponsors for this year's Smokies AT Trails Day! Their generous support was pivotal to the success of this event. Please remember these businesses with your shopping dollars!

REI – Knoxville

Publix Super Market-Pigeon Forge

Little River Trading Company-Maryville

Food City-Bearden

Ham 'N Goodys-Knoxville

Home Federal, Knoxville

Blount Wellness Center, Maryville

Uncle Lem's Outfitters, Pigeon Forge

Todd White/Froschauer Fine Catering-Knoxville

REI - Pigeon Forge

Foothills Milling Company Restaurant-Maryville

River Sports Outfitters-Knoxville

Food City-Seymour

Sawdust and Other Things/Artist Michael Grizzle

Hot Rods Restaurant-Maryville

NOC, Gatlinburg

Starbucks, Pigeon Forge

Dunkin Donuts - Pigeon Forge

From The Archives

The SMHC has recognized member achievements throughout its history. The first such official recognition was the "veteran hikers" listed in the 1935 handbook, as mentioned in a previous history blurb. This list was continued through 1941, with a total of 14 individuals recognized at one time or another. Interestingly, the historical list was not consistent from year to year. Still, the 1941 handbook provided the complete historical list, absent Harvey Broome, who had appeared on the first and several subsequent lists. Why he was dropped is an open question. The 1942 handbook no longer listed veteran hikers, with an editor's note that it was being replaced with the first full list of member/family addresses and phone numbers.

World War II brought about new changes, including a list of members serving in the military. The 1943 handbook included the names of 16 members in service; the 1944 handbook included the names of 23 members in service, and the 1945 handbook included the names of 33 members in service. As a side note, all hikes during these years had to be accessible from public transportation because of the restrictions on the use of private vehicles during wartime.

It was not until the mid-1980s that the club established new recognition awards and the introduction of a life membership category in 1987. These two new awards and the life membership were due in large part to some of the many innovations suggested by Bob Cook, club vice-president in 1984-85 and president from 1986-87. The two new awards approved by the board in 1984 were the Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award and the Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation. The Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of outstanding long-term contributions to the spirit and objectives of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. An awards committee consisting of three past presidents makes the decision on this award. It need not be presented each year. The Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation is made by the president at his /her discretion for a special or extraordinary contribution to the club during the past year. The first of each award was announced in the 1985 handbook. The Harvey Broome Distinguished Service Award has been awarded 26 times, and the Marshall Wilson Presidential Citation has been awarded 27 times. The complete updated historical list of these award winners is published each year in the handbook.

~ Brian Worley, Historian

UPCOMING HIKES

Meeting Places

Pre-registration with the leader is required for the hike and to ensure you know when and where to meet. We request that you cancel your registration ASAP if unable to hike to allow someone on the waiting list to take your spot. Please familiarize yourself with the Club guidelines in this newsletter.

A.T. Maintenance Work Trip

Saturday — July 10

This year, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Konnorock crew will be working in the Nantahala National Forest July 9/10/11. *Smoky Mountains Hiking Club maintainers are encouraged to come out and volunteer with them!* Work will be 1.5 miles south of Locust Cove, building nock staircases and doing treadway rehab. There are overnight camping options available for Friday and/or Saturday nights.

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

Please contact Franklin LaFond if you are interested in helping or need more information at 678-464-3380 or at OX97game@aol.com

Knoxville Botanical Garden

EASY HIKE

Saturday — July 17

We will hike a loop around KBG, visiting a community garden, a native pollinator garden, an orchard, a bamboo squeeze, a book nook (bring a book if you have one for the Little Free Library). We will look for special trees: American chestnut, Cedars of Lebanon, yellowwood, Kentucky coffee, and more. The route will go through the sunny areas first, and then shade as the day warms up. We will end at the Native Plant Rescue Squad. Distance: about 3 miles.

Meet at the parking lot across from the KBG Visitor Center 2743 Wimpole Ave, Knoxville, TN at 8:00am.

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

Leaders: Doris Gove, dorisgove@aol.com; 865-456-8198, Betty Glenn

Rich Mountain to Campsite 6

Wednesday — July 21

Rich Mountain Trail at **Ace Gap** to Indian Grave Gap Trail to Scott Mountain Trail to Campsite 6 and return. 8.3 miles. Rated moderate due to a 1,600-foot climb in the first 2.3 miles, 2,100-foot total elevation gain. Meet at Food City in Alcoa to leave at 8:00 am or at Ace Gap Trail head to begin hiking at 8:30 am. Drive 40 miles roundtrip at .05 / mile = 2.00

Pre-registration with the leader.

Leader: David Grab, 865-405-5779, digrab@aol.com

Steeltrap Falls

Off Trail

Saturday — July 24

The Steeltrap Falls hike was on last year's hike schedule but was cancelled in recognition of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Steeltrap Falls may well be one of the best kept secrets in the Great Smoky Mountains. To reach the falls, we will hike down the Forney Creek Trail to the famous Forney Creek Cascade where we will take a short break for those daring to ride down the waterslide. After venturing off-trail to Steeltrap Creek, we will wade in knee to waist-deep water up the steep south face of Mount Buckley, stopping to eat lunch at the obscure Steeltrap Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the park. Then, continuing to the state-line divide, we will return along the AT. This hike is rated difficult with rough terrain, deep water, and steep cliffs. Distance is 8 miles roundtrip. Please contact the leader for meeting place and time.

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

Leader: Tim Hernandez, guitar83@juno.com, 865-607-9362.

Cumberland Trail to New River and Lick Creek Peak

Saturday — July 24

We will caravan or possibly car-pool a short way from Oak Ridge over to New River valley to the Norma Road trailhead of the Cumberland Trail. We will hike southwest along the New River then tributary Lick Creek a ways then climb to the top of the ridge and hike out to Lick Creek overlook for views of the New River valley and surrounding mountains. If there is interest in the party, we will drive back a different route up to the headwaters of the new River and look at a few historic railroad and coal mining sites and Brushy Mountain penitentiary along the way.

Hike 8 miles roundtrip. Rated moderate. Drive 80 miles roundtrip (\$4.00 to driver).

Meet at 8:00 at Golds Gym/Books a Million parking lot along Illinois Ave in Oak Ridge

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

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

Fighting Creek Gap/Elkmont Loop

Wednesday — July 28

Laurel Falls Trail head (Fighting Creek Gap) to Elkmont by the old road to Little River Trail to Huskey Gap Trail to Sugarland Mtn Trail to Laurel Falls Trail head. 9 miles. moderate. Meet at Food City, Alcoa to leave at 8:00 am or at Laurel Falls Trail head by 8:45 am. Drive 66 miles RT at .05 / mile = 3.30.

Pre-registration with the leader.

Leader: David Grab, 865-405-5779, digrab@aol.com

Little River Trail and Elkmont

EASY HIKE

Saturday — July 31

This is a family friendly 4-mile hike on the beautiful Little River Trail to the awesome Huskey Branch Cascades where we will head back. Will we find the old toll bridge? On return we have the option of exploring the vacation cabins at Elkmont, learn some history and see what is new. Will we find the Mayo House, one of the oldest which was originally on Jakes Creek? We will follow club COVID protocols. Please contact leader if you have signed up but cannot attend. Roundtrip 110 miles to and from West Knoxville. Meet 10 am at the Little River trailhead. Carpool fee \$0.05 / mile for \$5.50.

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

Leader: Adele Soucy, fthom4141@aol.com, 865-352-9156

Charles Bunion

Saturday — July 31

From the Newfound Gap parking area, we will hike northbound on the AT for approximately four miles to Charlies Bunion. Here we will enjoy lunch and, weather permitting, panoramic views of the Smokies and beyond. We will return to NFG with a short side trip to the Jump-Off for a total round trip of 9 miles. Rated moderate. Meet at NFG parking lot at 8:45 am ready to hike at 9:00 am. Please contact the hike leader if you would like to arrange a carpool.

Pre-registration with the leader is required.

Leaders: Jeff and Angela Cooper, jeffcooper100@yahoo.com, 865-804-5065

“There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.”

~ Beverly Sills

SMHC Newsletter Editor: Dale Potter

Send post-hike write-ups to smhcnewsletter@gmail.com. Please include both email and phone contact information. Please submit photos from your hike if available.

For The Record

Ace Gap

May 8

Six hikers headed for Ace Gap, including one new SMHC member on her first club hike. We had nice weather – cool and dry under high cloud-cover – though some wished for sunshine. We watched for the Pink Lady Slippers usually seen here in May, and saw a few blooming by the trail, one or two at a time. But not the patch of Lady Slippers at old Campsite 4 some of us saw blooming there in prior years. The main attraction was Mountain Laurel flowering beautifully all along the trail, both pink and white, with many blossoms fully open. We also saw Flame Azalea, at least two kinds of Trillium, and many other kinds of wildflowers. On the way back from an early lunch at the Beard Cane Trail junction, we saw Pink Lady Slippers blooming beside the trail we had not noticed earlier. Also, some of us encountered a medium-sized black snake crossing the trail slowly enough to be photographed.

~ Eric Sundstrom & Ron Brandenburg

Canal and Baker Hollow Branches East Lakeshore Trail

May 12

To follow SMHC COVID guidelines on group size, an ingenious plan for this hike was created. Eight people started at the Canal Branch trailhead of the East Lakeshore Trail to hike south. Seven people started at the Davis Ferry trailhead to hike north. Along the way for both groups, we had pleasant rolling trail next to Tellico Lake, often pine needle covered, and well-maintained! Mizell Point provided a beautiful sandstone outcropping and view of the lake. It was a cool, somewhat overcast day, until towards the end, when the sun lit up blue sky. The groups passed each other of course twice, since this was an in and out hike for both, so there was time for a little visiting! Total hike distance about 9.5 miles.

. Leaders: Terry Nyenhuis and Ron Brandenburg.

~ Diane Petrilla



What is the correct spelling Smoky Mountains or Smokey Mountains? Is Smokies the correct spelling?

The correct spelling depends on who you ask. The Park uses the spelling Smoky for signs and the park name, but they also use the word Smokies. If you are from Western North Carolina the spelling used by many in that area is Smokey. If you are from East Tennessee, the spelling is Smoky.

The word Smokies is a short form for the word Smoky Mountains or Smokey Mountains.

For those who prefer the “E” in Smokey they have Smokey Bear and Smokey the Tennessee mascot as supporters.

Smokey is not considered proper use for an adjective, but it is for proper noun or names. The “Smokey Mountains” are a proper name so it would be acceptable to use the “e”.

In the end, it is your choice which spelling you use, but from some of the responses many of you are just as passionate about your choice of spelling as those you can find from a Google search regarding the spelling.



Newton Bald/Mingus Creek

May 15

Five hikers did not let a gas shortage keep them from hiking on the NC side of the Mountains. The weather was perfect and flowers abundant. Had lunch at campsite 52 on the Newton Bald trail where we had our picture taken by a Ukrainian photographer. Heading down Mingus Creek the upper section is a pleasant walk. On the lower section we encountered a couple of Elk on the trail. Once back at the parking lot we took a side trip to the slave cemetery.

~ David Smith and Claudia Dean



Visit our Website: www.smhclub.org

Reminder for Members: Dues for 2021 are now due. For information about membership and paying your dues visit our website.

Newton Bald Mingus Creek Hike

Bunches Creek

May 22

On a warm and sunny early summer day, twelve adventurous hikers and one enthusiastic appendage splashed their ways up beautiful Bunches Creek. They slipped on slick rocks, plunged into inviting swimming holes, scaled hidden waterfalls, and had a general good time. At least two of the hikers took unexpected rides down cascades after losing their grips, resulting in much merriment and laughter amongst the witnesses after the clumsy ones popped to their feet unharmed. Several of the adventurers were able to make a thrilling ascent through what passes for a slot canyon in the Smokies. There was no one left dry, too hot, or in low spirits by the end of the day.

~ David Sands



Joint SMHC/CMC Memorial Day Hike

May 31

Six SMHC members and three CMC members met at the Kephart Prong trailhead on an absolutely gorgeous day in the GRSM! At the Kephart shelter, everyone listened with patience as this leader talked about one of her heroes, Horace Kephart. Then began the long slog up Sweat Heifer, with good conversation, enjoyment of the waterfalls and trees, and sweating. We hiked north on the A.T., admiring all of the work the maintainers on those sections have performed. At Charlie's Bunion, the sand myrtle was bursting in bloom. We ate lunch at the "real" bunion which we had all to ourselves. Dry Sluice and Grassy Gap are both beautiful trails, as they led us back down the mountain. A wonderful day with members of our fellow hiking club.

~ Diane Petrilla and Cindy McJunkin



"Backpacking: An extended form of hiking in which people carry double the amount of gear they need for half the distance they planned to go in twice the time it should take."

~Unknown

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Officers and Directors

President: Diane Petrilla petrillad@gmail.com
Vice President: Ken Wise kwise@utk.edu
Recording Secretary: Steve Dunkin jsdunkin1302@gmail.com
Treasurer: Tim Bigelow bigelowt2@mindspring.com
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Director: Kristi Knight kcsknight@charter.net
Director: Dale Potter dalepotter55@gmail.com
Director: Will Skelton whshome@bellsouth.net
Director: Taylor Weatherbee tweatherbe@aol.com



Is there a reason that Apostrophes are not used for names in the park such as Clingmans Dome? Should it be Clingman's Dome Abram's Falls? Email the correct answer to smhcnewsletter@gmail.com along with why your answer is correct by July 10th.