



# Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Newsletter

*Exploring the Smokies Since 1924*

PO Box 51592  
Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

September 2022

## Upcoming Hikes

Pre-registration at [SMHClub.org](http://SMHClub.org) is required for all hikes.

Please contact the leader if you are not sure of 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.

### September 3, Saturday Jackson Bend Branch of the East Lakeshore Trail

The hike will begin at the Peterson Road Trailhead. We will hike 4 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, 325 Fort Loudon Medical Center**, by 8:30 am or at the Peterson Road trailhead by 9 am. Drive 40 miles RT {@ \$.10 = \$4}.

Pre-register at [SMHClub.org](http://SMHClub.org)

Leader: Terry Nyenhuis, [terrynyenhuis@gmail.com](mailto:terrynyenhuis@gmail.com), 865-206-9476

### September 7, Wednesday Jakes Creek and Meigs Mountain Trails to Campsite 19 and return

This hike is 10 miles and rated moderately difficult.

Meet at Alcoa Food City, 121 North Hall Road, at 8:00 AM or Jakes Creek trailhead at 9:00 AM .

Round trip drive: 68 miles x 10 cents =\$6.80.

Pre-register at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org)

Leader: Michael Zielinski 865-363-6527, [kf4yws@charter.net](mailto:kf4yws@charter.net)

### September 10, Saturday Fontana Lake and Hazel Creek Paddle

Bring your kayak or canoe (and life jacket, required) for a paddle across Fontana Lake to the mouth of Hazel Creek and the former site of the town of Proctor. The paddle will take about two hours, going at a leisurely pace. Once we get to Proctor and the creek, our agenda will be rather flexible. We will wander around the old Proctor site, but older, lazy members of our group may opt to lie around and relax, or fish. The young whippersnappers may opt to hike along the Lakeshore Trail or perhaps to Sugar Fork. The exact ending of this trip is also a bit flexible. Sept 10 will be a full moon, so one option will be to paddle back across the lake as the sun sets and the moon rises, so bring a headlamp if you prefer this option. Although, those who need to leave earlier may do so. We will meet at 10 am.

Pre-register at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org)

Leader: Greg Hoover, [ghoover@cn.edu](mailto:ghoover@cn.edu), 865-475-7832 Text or voicemail for meeting place

**September 10-Saturday  
A.T. Work Trip—Mulch Hauling**

With the assumption that Icewater privy will still be closed, we will plan to backpack mulch to Double Springs shelter for storage in the privy mulch boxes there. As many folks know, mulch is crucial for the function of the composting privies in the Park, and we want to be sure supplies are adequate for the southbound thru-hikers this Fall! We will have pre-bagged mulch in 20 lb. bags, as well as extra back-packing style backpacks if you need one. Please meet at Cracker Barrel off of the Strawberry Plains exit (1510 Cracker Barrel Lane) at 7am, or at the Clingmans Dome parking lot at 8:45 am. Bring plenty of water, sturdy shoes, and snacks/ lunch. Roundtrip gas mileage from Cracker Barrel to CD and back is \$11.00.

Pre-register at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org).

Leader: Diane Petrilla. [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com).

**September 14, Wednesday  
Jakes Creek-Cucumber Gap-Little River-Campsite 23 to Goshen Prong Trail and return**

This hike is rated Difficult due to distance of 14 miles.

Meet at Alcoa Food City, 121 North Hall Road, at 8:00 AM or Jakes Creek trailhead at 9:00 AM.

Round trip drive: 68 miles x 10 cents = \$6.80.

Pre-register at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org).

Leader: Michael Zielinski 865-363-6527, [kf4yws@charter.net](mailto:kf4yws@charter.net)

**September 17, Saturday  
Twin Arches at Big South Fork**

The Twin Arches are one of the most unusual and beautiful geologic features in the Big South Fork. The Arches themselves may be reached by hiking a short trail of seven tenths of a mile one way. The hike is easy to moderate with the exception of some very steep steps. Allow an hour for the round trip. The Twin Arches Loop is 4.5 miles long and includes some interesting rock overhangs (rock shelters) and cliffs, an old home site and the Charit Creek Lodge. The trail is moderate in difficulty and can be hiked in three to four hours. The Twin Arches trailhead is located on the western edge of the park off of Divide Road in Tennessee. We will hike both loops. The first loop descends 200 ft to the Arches. The second loop descends 400 ft to Charit Creek Lodge then climbs back up to the Arches. Total distance hiked will be around 6 miles. Those wanting to carpool plan to meet at the Hardee's on Buffalo Rd in Clinton (exit 122 from I-75) at 7:00 a.m. Drive from there is 75 miles. Round trip 150 miles @ 10 cents/miles = \$15.00 to reimburse driver. We will meet at the Twin Arches trailhead at 9:00 a.m Eastern Standard Time. Be aware that the trailhead is in the Central Time Zone and cell coverage is very spotty. If you use Google maps it may be best to download directions ahead of time. Pre-register at [www.smhclub.org](http://www.smhclub.org) AND with leader to help determine who is carpooling and who is meeting at trailhead. Leader: Randy Mitchell, [mitchell1982@tds.net](mailto:mitchell1982@tds.net), 865-406-6469

**September 17-18, Saturday-Sunday  
Backpack from Cades Cove to Spence Field Shelter**

We will hike from Cades Cove campground parking lot up Anthony Creek Trail (3.5 miles) to the Bote Mountain Trail (1.7 miles) and on the A.T. a short distance to the Spence Field Shelter for the night. Sunday we will walk on the A.T. over to the Russell Field Shelter (2.9 miles) and down that trail (3.5 miles), picking up the Anthony Creek Trail (1.6 miles) and back to the cars in Cades Cove. The hike is rated difficult due to elevation gain on Saturday as we climb up to Spence Field. If time permits, we can hike up to Rocky Top Saturday. The backpack leader will reserve six spots in the shelter 30 days out from the trip date, so space will be limited for the hike. Please contact the hike leader early to reserve a spot. Additional backpackers are welcome to join if they can make a reservation.

Pre-register at [SMHClub.org](http://SMHClub.org) and contact Steve Dunkin for meet-up location.

Leaders: Steve Dunkin, [jsdunkin1302@gmail.com](mailto:jsdunkin1302@gmail.com) Amanda Beal, [amandaw455@gmail.com](mailto:amandaw455@gmail.com)

**September 23, Friday**  
**Easy Hike on UT Agriculture Campus**

On this evening stroll, we'll visit a Cherokee Mound that was almost destroyed to build a road shortcut. Plants important to the Cherokee grow on and around the mound. After the mound, we'll look for female ginkgo trees and visit a mural about the reproductive strategies (including deceit and hitchhiking) of Tennessee river mussels. Then we'll swing along Third Creek to Neyland Drive, look for turtles and herons, and explore the ever-changing plantings of UT Gardens. Bring a kid's book to add to the Little Free Library (not required).

Meet at Parking for UT Garden (behind the UT Veterinary Hospital) 2518 Jacob Drive, at 5:00pm. Bring water and snack.

Hike: about 2.5 miles, rated easy.

Pre-register at [www.smhclub.org](http://www.smhclub.org)

Leader: Doris Gove, [dorisgove@aol.com](mailto:dorisgove@aol.com), 865-456-8198

**September 24, Saturday**  
**AT Family Hike—Sugarland Mountain Trail to Indian Gap**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy and its 31 trail maintaining clubs invite families to *Take A Hike on the AT* on its 12th Annual Family Hiking Day. Held trail-wide on National Public Lands Day, Family Hiking Day is an opportunity to introduce children to America's premier footpath and all the benefits that come from being active and spending time outdoors. Our hike will offer a respite from summer heat as we walk through lovely conifer and beech forests. We will start our hike by visiting the Mt Collins AT Shelter and then we'll walk north on the AT from the Sugarland Mountain Trail intersection to Indian Gap--both near Clingmans Dome Road.

Meet at the Indian Gap parking area (1.5 miles from Newfound Gap on Clingmans Dome Road--right hand side) at 9:30 AM. There will be a short car shuttle. Hike: 3.8 miles, rated easy.

Pre-register at [www.smhclub.org](http://www.smhclub.org)

Leader: Cindy Spangler, [spangler@utk.edu](mailto:spangler@utk.edu), 865-776-1301

## For the Record



**July 13**  
**Rich Mountain/Indian Grave Gap**

Fourteen hikers met at the parking area for Ace Gap Trail on Old Cades Cove Road in spite of weather predictions of rain. We did not however hike Ace Gap but went 50 yards up the road to the Rich Mountain Trailhead. Since it is always preferable to start your climbs in the morning, we ascended Rich Mtn for 2.3 miles to the junction with Indian Grave Gap Trail. The weather was muggy and calm in places during the climb but a breeze began as we reached Indian Grave and the temp declined a bit. At the junction, 10 hikers went on toward Scott Mtn trails junction while 2 hikers waited for the remaining 2 to catch up. After all had reached Indian Grave one hiker decided to return to his car and the other three went on to join the first 10. After meeting at Scott Mtn trail, the 13 went on to Campsite 6 for a leisurely lunch. During the 1.8 miles along Indian Grave Gap Trail there were some rain sprinkles. Just enough to cool us down but not enough to get us wet. Lunch was in the dry as well as the rest of the hike which transpired without any troubles. Wildlife was nonexistent except for the beautiful hawk that weaved in and out of the trees next to us while we were at the Rich Mtn / Indian Grave junction.

-Ron Brandenburg



**July 16**  
**Thomas Divide**

Six SMHC members gathered for a Saturday morning hike on the Thomas Divide Trail to Campsite #52. Under partly cloudy skies with no rain in the forecast, we couldn't have asked for nicer weather. The tree-shaded trail stayed pleasantly cool.

As we started we quickly split into typical subgroups, the faster 3 and slower 3. The faster 3 waited at the two trail junctions for the slower, who paused to take photos. We saw rhododendrons still blooming, also turk's-cap, fire pink, white bergamot, and others. And fungi, including squawroot, mushrooms, and chicken-of-the-woods. Our only wildlife sighting was a warbler, who gave a loud, extended scolding as we passed.

In an otherwise uneventful hike, one of us lost a sandwich (in a baggie) at a stop on the way out, but retrieved it on the way back. An enjoyable 10.2 miles, with ~2,050 ft. elevation gain. By our club definition it was rated difficult, though none of us found it so.

-Eric Sundstrom



**July 30**  
**Bald River Falls Trail**  
**South Cherokee National Forest, Tellico Plains TN**

Six hikers, all club members, met on a warm humid morning at the bridge next to the impressive final cascade of Bald River Falls. We started on the steep ascent at the left side of the parking area. The trailwork included natural stone steps, sturdy bridge spans, and fence made with old chain and narrow gauge train rails that were cut and repurposed for posts. After a sharp left trail turn at the top of the falls, the trail continued between being at river level and above after moderate short rises. There were many long river views where the trail was above the river. Abundant, clear and frothy water gushed almost continually dropping over smooth sculpted rock. We were able to rock-hop across the side streams. Between cascades were views through slow clear water to the brown and deep mossy bottom. The mostly cloudy sky kept the temperature moderate and occasional breaks sparkled sunshine on the frothy cascades. A lunch "spot" was suggested by one of the hikers. It was located about 0.2 mile back from the 5.6 mile trail end at Bald River Rd. What a fine lunch spot on top of huge boulders reaching almost to mid-river and just downstream of a 10 foot cascade. After a relaxing lunch while absorbing the flowing cascades, the return hike was quicker without repeating the many flora identifications, observations, and discussions using the SEEK app. The rhododendron tunnel flowers had dropped. The overstory umbrella magnolia trees had dropped deep red colored seed heads which littered the trail. We passed many inviting riverside campsites. There were a few mid-summer flowers such as yellow false foxglove. Bursting fungi occupied most observations. A few of the fungi were: Stalked Puffball-in-aspic, Eastern North American Destroying Angel, (Wikipedia lists as deadly poisonous), Ornate-stalked Bolete, Pinewood Gingertail. Hikers commented about the good trail conditions, beautiful river scenery, and interesting flora observations.

-Larry Johnson





### Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Officers and Directors

President: Ken Wise [kwise@utk.edu](mailto:kwise@utk.edu)

Vice President: [jsdunkin1302@gmail.com](mailto:jsdunkin1302@gmail.com)

Recording Secretary: Kristi Knight [kcsknight@charter.net](mailto:kcsknight@charter.net)

Treasurer: Diane Petrilla [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com)

Trust Liaison: Jean Gauger [jeangauger@yahoo.com](mailto:jeangauger@yahoo.com)

Membership Secretary: Scott Walker [swalker.dev@gmail.com](mailto:swalker.dev@gmail.com)

Communications Director: Cindy Spangler [spangler@utk.edu](mailto:spangler@utk.edu)

Historian: Brian Worley [baw2222@aol.com](mailto:baw2222@aol.com)

Director: Tim Bigelow [bigelowt2@mindspring.com](mailto:bigelowt2@mindspring.com)

Director: Randy Mitchell [mitchell1982@tds.net](mailto:mitchell1982@tds.net)

Director: Will Skelton [whshome@bellsouth.net](mailto:whshome@bellsouth.net)

Director: Taylor Weatherbee [tweatherbe@aol.com](mailto:tweatherbe@aol.com)

### CONSIDER GOING GREEN!!!

If you receive this newsletter by US Mail, please consider changing to the digital version distributed by email. To change from print to digital, just send an email to [swalker.dev@gmail.com](mailto:swalker.dev@gmail.com). Not only is the online version much easier to read, changing will help us save considerable time and will also cut the cost of printing and mailing.



### KROGER'S COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

**YOU** have the power to raise money for the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club! Follow these steps and help us:

- Create and login into your Kroger account.
- Select **My Account** and use the menu to choose **Community Rewards**.
- **Enter MV194** and hit **Save**.

By doing so, you will help support trail maintenance and other club projects. You can check each quarter to see how much money your spending at Kroger resulted in a donation to the club.

### Post Hike Write-Ups

Post-hike write-ups and photos should be submitted to SMHC Newsletter editors, Connie and John Tatgenhorst at [newsletter@smhclub.org](mailto:newsletter@smhclub.org) and Betsy Bohannon, [betsybo1964@gmail.com](mailto:betsybo1964@gmail.com), Facebook manager. For your write-up, please include the following: Hike name and date, total number of members and visitors, and description of hike.

