



PO Box 51592  
Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

## Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Newsletter

*Exploring the Smokies Since 1924*

December 2022

### **Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Holiday Installation Banquet**

**Sunday, December 11, 2022, 4:30-8:30 p.m.**

**The Foundry, 747 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, TN**

**SEE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM FOR MORE DETAILS**

**Speakers: Nancy East and Chris Ford**

**Register and pay online at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org)**

**OR**

**Print and mail the form included in this newsletter along with your payment.**

## **Upcoming Hikes**

Pre-registration at [SMHClub.org](http://SMHClub.org) is required for all hikes unless stated in description. Please contact the leader if you are not sure of when and where to meet.

### **December 14, Wednesday**

#### **Rich Mountain Loop, Crooked Arm Loop, Indian Grave Gap**

For this classic Smokies hike, we will start at the entrance to Cades Cove loop road. This counter clockwise hike begins 0.5mi on Rich Mountain Loop Trail and then we turn right on Crooked Arm Ridge ascending for 2.1 mi. As we climb, weather permitting, there should be excellent views of Cades Cove, the Great Smokies main range, Dry Valley and Tuckaleechee Cove. At the next junction we turn left for 1.8 mi. on Indian Grave Gap Trail. We will have lunch on Cerulean Knob (3686 ft. Elev.) After lunch, we continue 0.8 mi. passing the Rich Mountain trail junction and will turn left rejoining the Rich Mountain Loop trail. We complete the loop descending 2.0 mi. on a rocky section of the Rich Mountain Loop Trail. We will visit the log cabin of John Oliver, one of the early settlers in Cades Cove and then continue 1.4 mi to our starting point. Total 8.6 miles, 1,958 ft. elevation gain. Meet at Food City in Alcoa to leave at 8:00 am or at the entrance to Cades Cove loop road to begin hiking at 8:45 am. Drive 56 miles RT at \$0.10 / mile = \$5.60.

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

Leader: Larry Johnson, [larryj11320@gmail.com](mailto:larryj11320@gmail.com) or text 865-776-6434

### **December 3, Saturday**

#### **Ijams Boardwalk and Quarries**

We will park at Mead's Quarry, cross the road, climb Tower Trail, pass a huge white rock, descend to river level, then enjoy the recently-rebuilt River Boardwalk. Then it's up narrow rock stairs, back across the road, and up to Keyhole Quarry and maybe the Crag. There's an option of Tharp's Trace for the return. Bring water, snacks/lunch. Poles recommended--not a hard hike, but some steep places and wet leaves.

Meet at 9:00am at Mead's Quarry near bathrooms. Hike: about 5 miles.

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

Leader: Doris Gove 865-456-8198

[dorisgove@aol.com](mailto:dorisgove@aol.com)

**December 17, Saturday**  
**Old Settlers Trail from Tyson McCarter Barn to Steiner Bell Manway**

For this hike along historic Old Settlers Trail, we'll leave some cars at the Steiner Bell resort parking lot, then shuttle ourselves further down the road to the pull-out for the Tyson-McCarter barn. We'll visit the Tyson-McCarter barn, then start hiking west on OST. There are fine chimneys, rock walls, and the remote grave of Johnny Ramsey to see. There are some creek crossings, but this leader will scout the section we'll be hiking close to time, and let you know conditions. We are also starting further west than the original hike description in the 2022 handbook to avoid some of the bigger crossings near the Cosby end of OST. Hike approx 8 miles. Rated Moderate- Difficult (some off-trail). Meet at Strawberry Plains Cracker Barrel promptly at 8am or at Steiner Bell Lodge parking lot, 3610 East Parkway, Gatlinburg, at 9:15am. RT mileage 80 miles from Cracker Barrel= \$8.00.

Pre-Register at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org) or with leader.

Leaders: Diane Petrilla and Brain Worley. [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com)

**December 21, Wednesday**  
**Spicewood Trail to Mart Field or Chimney Top**

This hike starts with Old Mac trail to Spicewood Trail. After we hike this trail, we will hike another mile on the Chimney Top trail to Mart Field (a campsite). After a break, we will hike back down to the junction for Frozen Head Tower and hike up to the tower for lunch. After lunch, we will head down the North Old Mac trail to the parking lot. Total mileage: 10.5 miles, 2,000 feet elevation gain. The hike is rated difficult. For those wanting a bit more challenging uphill hike after the break at Mart Field, they can continue on the Chimney Top trail for six more miles and 1,300 additional feet of elevation gain. By choosing this option, they will end up at the Park Office which is only a very short distance from where all of us parked at Shelter C to begin this hike to the Spicewood trail. This option total mileage: 10.2 miles total, 3,300 feet elevation gain, rated as difficult. Meet at Books A Million in Oak Ridge ready to leave at 8:00 a.m. or Shelter C, Old Mac trailhead at 8:45. RT Drive 50 miles (\$5.00).

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

Leader: Larry Johnson, [larryj11320@gmail.com](mailto:larryj11320@gmail.com) or text 865-776-6434

## For the Record

**October 5**  
**Hannah Mountain/Rabbit Creek Remote sections**  
**Map marker Hike**

What a great day for an all-day hike in the Smokies! Six hikers participated. A few got an early start to avoid the early slow fall traffic in Cades Cove. After a car shuttle from Abrams/Rabbit Creek parking area to the Hannah Mtn trailhead on Parson Branch Rd., the hiking started on a fairly cool morning. The trail, which is originally an historic wagon route had been completely trimmed back and were quite clear. Hikers enjoyed early fall colors and pleasant hiking and the temperature warmed quickly. The early group and main group met up by the lunch stop which was at a nice gap where the Hannah Mtn and Rabbit Creek trails intersect. After lunch the Route turned right at the Rabbit Creek trail. This trail is also an historic route has one steep eroded rocky section down to the creek crossing but otherwise is a nice route through the woods. Low water made the creek crossing east. A few views of the nearby ridges could be seen. One encounter with a large hive of yellow jackets occurred near a rest stop and it was interesting to watch them attack a black colored backpack on the trail near the hive. At the end of the hike, one car was able to drive out Cades Cove the the other two took the long route back Parson Branch to pickup the other cars and drive on to the Dragon to return.

-Tim Bigelow





**October 15**  
**The Needle's Eye, Big South Fork**

Nine members and three visitors gathered at Leatherwood Ford on a beautiful Fall day to hike to a rarely visited, spectacular rock formation in Big South Fork. First hiking south on the John Muir Trail, we crossed the historic O&W bridge, then headed up to Devils Den (large rockhouse) and onward to a beautiful overlook of the BSF River. Next came the tricky winding around on (mostly) horse trails in the woods to get to the Needle's Eye. We were very fortunate however, that since weather conditions had been dry, the mud was virtually non-existent! The Needle's Eye of course is a large cave-like sandstone formation, with an arch *inside* of it. Everyone climbed down the sturdy ladder to the floor of the cave, and we ate lunch at the opening on the other side. The hike back included the "Oh Poop!" trail, which wasn't as rough as expected, thank goodness. Then back to our cars via the bridge and JMT. Some rain sprinkles were beginning as we ended the hike, so that was good timing! This leader thoroughly enjoyed the hike and this group of hikers :)

-Diane Petrilla



**October 26**  
**Mt. Cammerer**

Fourteen hikers assembled at the Cosby hiker's parking lot on this overcast Fall day to do our yearly hike to Mt. Cammerer. Many of us remembered the sunny blue skies of last year's hike; those never materialized on this day. However, the colors of green rhododendron, mosses, lichen and conifers provided depth and background for vibrant yellows, oranges and reds as we hiked up Low Gap. We were definitely in the foggy mist at the junction of Low Gap and the AT, and this continued all the way out to the Mt Cammerer tower. We saw a number of hikers, including several SOBO thru-hikers. The condition of the Mt Cammerer tower has deteriorated over the last year with broken windows and vandalism- this was sad for all of us to see. But we did talk about the great contributions Arno Cammerer made to the National Park Service during his tenure as 3rd Director of the federal agency. We all made it back down Low Gap safely, and were also able to take in vibrant fall colors on the Foothills Parkway on the way home.

Thank you for a great month everyone!

-Diane Petrilla





**October 29**  
**Mt. Cammerer and Lower Mt. Cammerer**  
**Map Marker Hike**

Five hikers participated in this long hike and enjoyed a beautiful day with nice views of fall colors. A few in the group had a nice introduction to AT trail maintenance and by chance were able to meet the Trail Runners enjoying their last day of work for the season. The hikers started at Cosby hiker parking lot and proceeded to the Low Gap trail. Everyone met up again after huffing and puffing up the trail at Low Gap. Quite a few hikers were on the trail that day including a group apparently worried about bears and we're frequently whistling which could be heard way down the trail. At the junction with AT, some light maintenance began. The trail is in great shape but of course is temporarily covered with deep leaves in some spots. At the Mt Cammerer Fire Tower there was quite a crowd and everyone was enjoying the fabulous views on a perfectly clear day. Great fall colors were visible down in the valleys below. The lunch spot was a nice rock over a ways from the crowd. The firetower itself, as been reported recently, is showing signs of wear and could use another renovation.

We didn't meet up with SMHC off-trail group however it sounded like they were calling to each other down in the woods on their hike to the top. On the hike down, the route headed east further on the AT and some more trail maintenance was undertaken including cleaning out several of the key waterbars and trimming of the constantly encroaching dog hobble and other brush. At the Lower Mt Cammerer trail the Map Marker portion of the hike began. The trail was long but in generally good condition however leaves were quite deep in places and hiding rocks and roots underneath.

-Tim Bigelow



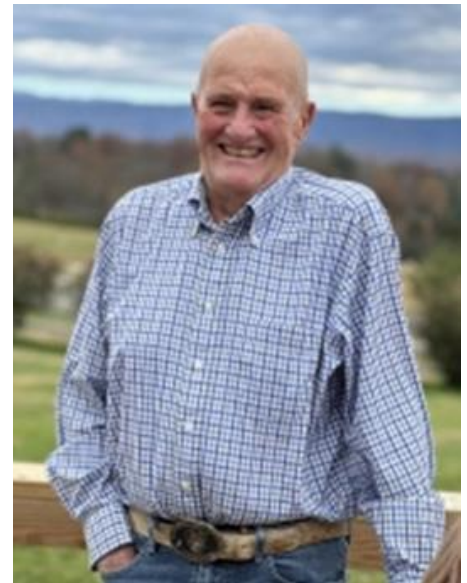
## In Memoriam

### **William “Mac” McNutt February 8, 1938-September 1, 2022**

William R. (Mac) McNutt age 84 of Maryville passed away on September 1, 2022. Mac was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years Gayle Holloway McNutt, son Jeffrey R. McNutt, and parents Mr. and Mrs. Hugh T. McNutt. Survivors include daughter Melissa McNutt Click (Rick), sons Tim McNutt (Rhonda Tindell) and Steven McNutt (Shawn McCormick), and 4 grandsons. Mac was an MHS graduate as were his wife and children, and he attended Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. In addition to owning many businesses including McNutt Chrysler Plymouth Dodge, McNutt Good Times Kawasaki Yamaha, Knoxville Kawasaki BMW Suzuki, and the Mountain View Stables located on his farm in west Maryville. Mac was also an avid hiker and volunteer for the SMHC Appalachian Trail Maintainers. Maintainers who worked with him remember his wonderful sense of humor and sense of fun and camaraderie with many group gatherings. He also graciously allowed the ATMC to store tools at his barn in Maryville for many years. As a very gracious and generous gesture, the family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to:

Appalachian Trail Maintainers, Smoky Mtns. Hiking Club  
PO Box 51592  
Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Thank you, Mac; you are missed.



### **Alice Xiques May 15, 1927-October 20, 2022**

*From her son, Peter: While watching the sun rise over her cherished Smoky Mountains on October 20, Alice Xiques finished her hike of more than 95 years on Earth. She lived a remarkable life and taught us to see the beauty in nature, friends, books, and family.*

Alice was born May 15, 1927 in China, the oldest of four daughters of Henry and Sarah Alice Refo whose parents worked for the Presbyterian Board of Missions. There will be a service of remembrance on November 27 at 3 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Friends of the Smokies, Conservation Fisheries, Inc., or Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

Alice was an active member of the SMHC from 1968-2021—53 years!

### 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 [jeanguager@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanguager@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.

### SMHC Merchandise available at the Holiday Banquet

Shirts (S, M, L, XL): \$15

Books: \$10

Patches: \$3

Caps: \$15

Cash or check only



**Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Holiday Installation Banquet**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2022, 4:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**The Foundry, 747 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, TN (parking on-site)**

*We are pleased to resume our Holiday Installation Banquet this year in a lovely, spacious venue!*

*4:30-5:30 p.m.—Music, Cash Bar, and Snacks*

*5:30-6:30 p.m.—Welcome, Dinner, and Fellowship*

*6:30-7:00 p.m.—2023 Officer Installation, Awards*

*7:00-7:45 p.m.—Guest Speakers, Nancy East and Chris Ford*

*7:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m.—2023 Handbook Distribution*

About our speakers: Nancy East and Chris Ford reestablished the Fastest Known Time to hike all the trails in the Smokies to support Preventive Search and Rescue in the Smokies. Their talk, however, is not just about establishing speed records but about their motivations, inspirations, and experiences on the trails, especially related to SAR issues. Nancy has written a book about their adventure called Chasing the Smokies Moon.

**Reservations are required and due no later than December 5, 2022. Dinner is \$30 per person.**

**Name:**

**Phone number:**

**Email:**

**Choose one entrée:   ☐ Chicken Marsala   ☐ Macadamia Nut-Crusted Grouper   ☐ Veggie Lasagna**

**Choose one dessert:   ☐ Cherry Cobbler A La Mode   ☐ Chocolate Fudge Cake A La Mode**

**Name:**

**Phone number:**

**Email:**

**Choose one entrée:   ☐ Chicken Marsala   ☐ Macadamia Nut-Crusted Grouper   ☐ Veggie Lasagna**

**Choose one dessert:   ☐ Cherry Cobbler A La Mode   ☐ Chocolate Fudge Cake A La Mode**

*All dinners come with salad, sides, rolls, coffee, tea, and water.*

Register and pay online at [smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org) OR print and mail form with check payable to SMHC and send to Priscilla Clayton, 11005 Sonja Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934. You may pay at the door, but please note, we must know if your plans change by December 5, 2022, so the Club will not be charged for your dinner. Questions? Contact Priscilla Clayton at 865-966-4142   [sigmtngirl@earthlink.net](mailto:sigmtngirl@earthlink.net) or Debbie Goddard at 865-382-3047   [smhcinstitutiondinner@gmail.com](mailto:smhcinstitutiondinner@gmail.com)

**We look forward to seeing you!**