



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

July 2015

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the Outdoor Chattanooga offices on River Street. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: chatthiking.com

Next meeting – Monday Aug 3, 2015



The “Before” picture, when we were all clean and fresh. Fortunately there was no “After” picture!



Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Pot Point House trail work day Wednesday May 26, 2015

It was a work day today! Bill, Stormy and Rick Huffines had gone before us and flagged a reroute of the loop trail to bypass the service road that has been a part of the loop. Last fall our group built water bars on this section. They were recently destroyed by fire fighting vehicles due to an arson fire set in the woods. It was decided not to replace the water bars as this road may be used again to gain access. With loppers, Pulaskis, garden rakes, chainsaws, Mc Leods, a rock bar, and pick/mattocks the crew worked hard until the "whistle blew" for "quittin' time". Lunches were enjoyed in the serenity of the woods. Giving back today were: Bill Kinnaman, Stormy McGauley, Rick Huffines, Debbie Lambert, Jack Lambert, Renee Grace, Larry Parks, Susan Garrett, Jean Dickinson, John Rowland, Gary Petty, Boe Rudder, Donald Box, Jennie Chandler, Sarah Frost, Tom Long, Wayne Chambers and Che Carico.



Trail building - can you dig it!
All pictures from Stormy

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| Upcoming Outings |
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Saturday July 11, 2015**Sunset Rock Lookout Mtn loop day hike**

Location: Lookout Mountain

Distance: 11 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 750 feet

Pace: Moderate

Driving Time: 15 minutes

This will be a loop hike beginning at the Cravens House. We immediately start with a climb on the Mountain Beautiful Trail on our way to the Bluff Trail, climb the steps to the overlook by Point Park, then go and climb to Sunset Rock. We will next hike on the Bluff Trail and use the Upper Truck Trail to return to our vehicles. Hike leader is Donald Box Donaldbox@epbfi.com.

Saturday July 18, 2015**Towee Creek Hiwassee day hike**

Location: Hiwassee, TN

Distance: 6.5 miles

Rating: Easy/Moderate

Elevation Gain: minimal

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 1 hour

Starting at the Childers Creek trailhead, we'll be hiking along the north side of the Hiwassee River, going up-river as far as Towee Creek. Then we'll return the way we came. Hike leader is Boe Rudder, boerudder@yahoo.com or 423.400.1103



Hiking along the Hiwassee

Saturday July 25, 2015**(open, but check the website)**

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| Upcoming Outings |
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Saturday August 1, 2015**Swinging Bridge on Benton MacKaye day hike**

Location: near Blue Ridge, GA

Distance: 6 miles

Rating: Moderate

Elevation Gain: no more than 900 feet

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 90 minutes each way

The Swinging Bridge near Blue Ridge, Georgia, is one of the largest suspension bridges east of the Mississippi at 265 feet - yet is in the middle of the woods and is for hikers only. Located on the Benton MacKaye trail, this will be a six-mile in and out hike through a very scenic section of the Georgia BMT. We'll meet up in Blue Ridge and carpool about 12 miles south of Blue Ridge on Highway 60 to the trailhead. No significant elevation gain, but several ups and down. We'll picnic at the bridge and hopefully see some kayakers enjoying the picturesque Toccoa River. Hike leader: Barbara McCollum 770.289.7143 or bpmccollum@yahoo.com.



The swinging bridge - picture from Barbara

Saturday August 8, 2015**Scenic Spur (Rock Creek #78) day hike**

Location: Ocoee, TN

Distance: 3.4 miles

Rating: Easy

Elevation Gain minimal

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 30 minutes

The Scenic Spur Trail is located in the Cherokee National Forest. The trail head is on Hwy. 30 about 100 yards from US 64. This is an easy walk to a nice waterfall in the Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area. During rainy periods the stream and waterfall are flowing full. Although the hike is rated as easy, please be aware there are a couple of stream crossings which could require wading if there has been recent rainfall. During dry periods, these are easy "rock-hops". This is a short walk for a spring day but we may revise the plan if it is too wet. (sebarnestorm@gmail.com)

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| Reports from the Field |
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Sugarlands, Rough Creek, Little River, and Huskey Gap trails

Saturday May 30, 2015

A shuttle was placed from Huskey Gap to the Sugarland Mountain trailhead on Clingman's Dome Road and off we stepped onto this beautiful sequence of trails. Though the temperature forecast was for high 80s, there were breezes and the forest was so very damp, cool, and fragrant. Plentiful ferns greeted us on the first section as we hiked down the mountain. Rhododendrons were blooming along the way also. At the Rough Creek intersection we lunched and then divided into two groups - one heading down Rough Creek to then hike on the Little River trail to the Huskey Gap trail up and out. 3 of our hikers turned left on Little River and hiked an extra 3.6 miles to campsite 30 and back to join us. The other group hiked straight on the Sugarlands trail to the intersection with the Huskey Gap trail and out to Newfound Gap Road. This group graciously expedited the gathering of the cars, which meant "some of us" stepped off of the trail not having to wait the @ hour for the retrieval. Thanks! Memorable was the vast blow down on the Rough Creek trail, the varied greens of the ferns on the Sugarlands and the Huskey Gap trails as they carpeted the forest floor, the profuse Mountain Laurel which spread out in the forest like we have never seen before, the wild boar sitting, a turkey that took flight after rustling the underbrush, the bear activity signs posted near campsites, the fungi growing on the trees that was red in color and looked like it had been varnished, and the flame azaleas. Tom Long had a cooler with favorite beverages iced down at trail's end - just not regular Coke! Always impressed by the Smokies trails were: Tom Long, Sarah Frost, Gwen Brimer, Boe Rudder, Jerry Wright, Debbie Lambert, Barbara McCollum, Sonja Parker, Beth Jones, Bill Kinnaman, John Rowland, Bob Butterfield, and Che Carico reporting and Wayne Chambers leading.

Bob, Sarah, Barbara, Sonja, and Beth camped at Elkmont Saturday night and on Sunday, facilitated by Tom Long, hiked from the AT at Clingman's Dome down the Goshen Prong trail, and out via the Little River trail. They caught the very special firefly show!



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| Reports from the Field |
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Lots of green on Sugarland Mountain trail
Pictures from Barbara

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| Reports from the Field |
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| Reports from the Field |
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Chilhowee Mountain**Wednesday June 3, 2015**

Most of our hikers are familiar with the Clear Creek, Benton Falls, and Clemmer trail loop from 64 up the mountain and down. Today we stayed on top and explored a route beginning at the parking lot above the lake. The first section was on the Azalea trail, then left onto the Clear Creek trail which in a short distance splits left away from the Arbutus trail, right at the intersection with the Rim Rock trail, right again on the Clemmer trail and on up this trail to the intersection with the Benton Falls trail and the entrance to the waterfall area. There was an abundance of lush ferns, Mountain Laurel, and we did spot the coveted flame azaleas. The waterfall was lovely and it was a nice refreshing surprise for first timers. There are more trails to be accessed from the Benton Falls trail and that had been our plan. However, frequent thunder off in the distance made us leery of completing the Slick Rock loops before rain set in. So we decided to complete our loop via the Benton Falls trail back to the lake (some hiked the trail around the lake) and the parked cars. There are great new maps available at the ranger station at the bottom of the mountain. Glad for new trails and no missteps were: Suzanne Dorough, Renee Grace, Bill Kinnaman, Tom Carter, Wayne Chambers, Gwen Brimer, Larry Parks, Patti Giles, Linda Busby, Cecile Shenouda, Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Bob Rahn with "grands" Nick and Jordon, Wendy Gunn, Barbara McCollum, Bill Slack, Duane Baker, Kathy Seymour, Charlie Breeding, Gary Petty, Gwen Brimer, Susan Garrett, Boe Rudder, Wanda McCarter, and Che Carico reporting.

Hiwassee trail maintenance**Saturday June 6, 2015**

We met with a half-dozen other groups to honor National Trails Day by taking on several trail maintenance projects around the Hiwassee River. After coffee and some delicious cinnamon rolls, we listened to brief remarks from the Cherokee National Forest rangers, then introductions from the leaders of the trail organizations represented. Then we dispersed to our projects. Most of our group did some much needed brushing out of the upper section of Gee Creek Trail, beyond the water falls. Although the creek crossings were more than a little bit challenging, we persevered, finally deciding to just do some boots-on wading. But we did get a great deal of work done, much to our satisfaction and to the pleasure of Ranger Matt Henry. And after the work was done we were rewarded with hot dogs and cold drinks (and more cinnamon rolls!) back at our meeting place! Representing our club were Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Ralph Van Pelt, our leader Steve Barnes, and John Rowland reporting.

Little Cedar Mountain**Wednesday June 10, 2015**

This new area is near the city and is a pretty 5 mile (if you do a figure 8 and get it all!) trail, well marked and laid out to show off the Nick-a-Jack Lake. There are impressive boulders, ups and downs, a pond and nearby sink hole. Having been in early spring I can assure you wildflowers are in abundance. You can print maps from TVA.gov or check your route from the map on the kiosk at the parking area and trail head. To get there take 24 W to exit 158, go down the ramp and turn left, drive under the freeway and a short distance more until you spot the Cedar Mountain sign on the right hand side of the road which points to the gravel entrance on the left. It was heating up by the time we finished and the humidity surrounded us so 26 hikers went their separate ways to home, errands, The Purple Daisy, or Miss Bs. Happy to find this nearby jewel were: Louis Spencer, Bob Rahn, Renee Grace, Boe Rudder, Tom Carter, Wayne Chambers, Cecile Shenouda, Kathy Seymour, Wanda McCarter, Patti Giles, Tim Chomyn, Gary Petty, Gwen Brimer, Sue Christensen, Larry Parks, Tom Long, Linda Busby, Suz Riggle, Bill Kinnaman, Susan Garrett, John Rowland, Gail Stokes, Nancy Hoover, Beverly Ligon, Hank Konigsmark, Suzanne Dorough, Wendy Gunn and Che Carico, reporting.

Keown Falls**Saturday June 13, 2015**

It was a good morning for a hike. The temperature was about 75 degrees and the sun was shining. We started the 1,180 foot climb about 9:30. It took us to the top of the falls and then to the top of John's Mountain in 1.4 miles. It was a clear day and the view was great. There was a good bit of poison ivy along the initial part of the trail. We returned back to the falls along the upper loop trail. There was ample water coming over the falls for a pretty view. We took a brief break to enjoy the falls. We returned by way of the lower loop trail for a total 4.5 mile hike. Hikers included Diehl and Merry Boggs, Bo Rudder and Tim Chomyn



Picture from Tim

Reports from the Field

Shackleford Ridge Park, Mushroom Rock and picnic lunch

Wednesday June 17, 2015

Summer is surely here and we are looking for morning only hikes in beautiful places. Such was today as we hiked from the soccer fields at the end of Sam Powell Parkway to Mushroom Rock and back to then step onto the blue perimeter trail that circles around the Signal Mountain Middle/High School property. This trail had a heavy sheltering canopy and with breezes it was a good 4 mile hike. The features are splendid ferns, minor water crossings, ups, downs, and switchbacks. The path is wide enough that you do not have to get close to poison ivy. This area accesses trails to Edward's Point and ultimately to Rainbow Lake and Signal Point. A real find in an urban community. The celebration of a visit by Val Hargis (once a regular but now "on the road" in an RV with husband Carl), a siting of Ray Myers, Mary Hannon, Karen Ramsey, and Pete Rittenberry (not able to come on a regular basis), and all of the new hiking friends turned out to be a grand picnic featuring favorite covered dishes and Guthrie's chicken fingers. Enjoying the shaded pavilion and playground behind the Signal Mountain Golf and Country Club were: John Rowland, Val Hargis, Sarah Frost, Diehl Boggs, Bob Rahn, Karen Rahn, Bill Kinnaman, Kathy Seymour, Wayne Chambers, Patti Giles, Gwen Brimer, Stormy McGauley, Larry Parks, Susan Garrett, Anne Huckaba, Cecile Shenouda, Mary Hannon, Renee Grace, Tennyson Carico, Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Linda Busby, Tom Blewett, Wanda McCarter and grandchildren Cole and Samantha, Suzanne Dorough, Ray Myers, Sue Christensen, Jean Dickinson, Joyce Campbell, Pete Rittenberry, Margaret Newton, Tim Chomyn, Hank Konigsmark, Tom Long, Sonja Parker, Art Dees, Karen Ramsey, and Che Carico, reporting.



Reports from the Field



Picnic pictures from John

Kidde Trail, Bluff Trail, Sunset Rock

Saturday June 20, 2015

There is no other view like Sunset Rock on Lookout Mountain! Bob Butterfield made the comment, "Why do you go to the Smokies?" After a slight detour from Skyuka Springs, we were on our way for almost an 11 mile hike. The rain helped us out, and there was actually a cool breeze on top of the mountain! Those attending were Barbara McCollum, Beth Jones, Donald Box, John Rowland, Margaret Newton, Tim Chomyn, Wayne Chambers, Mistie Clements, Bob Butterfield, Diehl Boggs, Tim Frost, and first time hike leader Sarah Frost! Thanks to Tim Frost for acting as the sweep! (And thanks to Sarah for joining the ranks of hike leaders!)



Sunset Rock pictures from Sarah

Outings Schedule

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| 07/04/15 | open because of the holiday | |
| 07/11/15 | Lookout Mtn loop day hike (S) | D Box |
| 07/18/15 | Towee Cr. Hiwassee day hike (S) | B Rudder |
| 08/01/15 | Benton MacKaye, GA day hike (M) | B McCollum |
| 08/08/15 | Scenic Spur day hike (E) | S Barnes |

Wednesday Day Hikes - Che Carico - The Wednesday group hikes many of the same trails as the weekend hikers. Since a schedule is not published in advance, please call Che at (423) 886-5135 on Monday or Tuesday and listen to the week's hiking plan or before Sunday email her at MidWeek@chatthiking.com to be added to the email distribution list to receive the week's plan every week.

Hike Difficulty Ratings

The information below is provided as a guide only. Each hiker assumes the risks associated with hiking in the great outdoors, including the responsibility of paying any bills associated with rescue efforts or medical care. The wise hiker always carries water, food, and first aid items.

Easy (E): 6 miles or less; mostly level or only slight incline.

Moderate (M): 6-10 miles with an elevation gain that will generally not exceed 350 feet per mile, with a total elevation gain of no more than 1000 ft.

Moderately Strenuous (MS): 6-10 miles in length, but include rocky trail conditions, tricky stream crossings, or elevation gain of more than 1000 ft but less than 2000 ft.

Strenuous (S): a distance of 10-14 miles or with more than 2000 ft total elevation gain, but no more than 3000 ft.

Extremely Strenuous (S+): Usually involves distances of more than 14 miles or more than 3000 ft in elevation gain.

There might be very steep/rugged climbs, deep stream crossings, or unmentioned trails.

Pace: Standard pace is 2 miles an hour; less on steep or rugged terrain. Fast pace is 2.5 to 3 miles an hour or more and may not vary much regardless of terrain.

Attention: When calling to go on an outing, please specify exact number of people who will be attending. Do NOT just show up with a friend or family member unannounced! This puts your hike leader in an awkward position as most hikes involve some planning of transportation. Also we frequently hike in wilderness areas and other places where the number of hikers in a group is limited. If that is the case, and the hike is already full, you may be turned away!

Cancellations: Hike leaders are entirely at the own discretion regarding the weather. It is possible that a leader may decide that, due to weather conditions, they do not feel safe hiking on that day. Lightning kills many people every year and can strike hikers on a trail. Also many of the areas where we hike are prone to flash floods that can kill or injure. The leader will call if deciding to cancel before the day of the hike. In the event that the decision to cancel is made on the day of the hike, the leader will give you the courtesy of showing up at the designated meeting place to announce that the hike is cancelled.

Other Items

From Betty's archives...



Bob's Bald backpack, July, 2003



Piney River backpack, July, 2004

Summer Len Foote overnight trip

I originally had 10 rooms reserved, room for 20 people for Wednesday, August 19. I have 20 paid so far, so I requested an additional 8 spaces. So, I now have 8 open spaces left. They have had a rate increase since our February trip. The new rate is \$99.00 per room, or \$49.50 per person. Please let me know for sure if interested. Note that the average high temperature in August is 82 at the Inn. Wayne

Club Officers and Support:

President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954
Vice President - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525
Treasurer - Donald Box (423) 892-6754
Secretary - Kendra Cross (423) 785-7425
Outings - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103
Newsletter/Webmaster - John Rowland (423) 802-7704
Membership Database - John Rowland (423) 802-7704
Membership Information - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220
Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019
Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 886-5135
Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)