

Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

August 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

Andy Carroll will be our speaker. Andy serves as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager for the Center for Academic and Innovative Technologies and adjunct graduate professor for the department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at UT-Chattanooga. Andy's professional interests are in applications of GIS for regional and urban planning, environmental management, conservation design, and mapping with unmanned aerial systems. He plans on updating us on the THRIVE 2055 Natural Treasures project, and will also talk about a Chattanooga trail inventory project.

(From the Tennessee Regions Roundtable Network website: The National Treasures Initiative focuses on creating a regional blueprint for coordinating actions, investments, and policies to protect, preserve, enhance and provide access to the region's natural treasures and open spaces.)



The gang at Craven's House ready for the assault on Lookout Mtn. Picture from Sonja

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Lookout Mountain day hike Saturday July 11, 2015

Today's hike nearly got off on the left foot. . . . 2 of them in fact. Arriving at the trailhead, Jerry informed me, "We have a problem." - - The passenger in his vehicle had put a pair of boots in Jerry's vehicle at our meeting place, and upon arriving at the trailhead discovered he had 2 left boots. We concluded he probably would not do well hopping only on his left foot for 11 miles. Fortunately it was only a 10-12 minute trip back to the meeting place to swap one of the left boots for a right one. Therefore a bit after 9:00 we began our climb of the Mountain Beautiful Trail from the Cravens House. Reaching the Bluff Trail, we immediately climbed 106 stair steps to the overlook at the edge of Point Park. Returning to the Bluff Trail, we made our 3rd climb of the day a little over a mile later, up to Sunset Rock and a break. The next 7 or so miles continued us on the Bluff Trail, down the Jackson Gap Trail, and then the Upper Truck Trail toward our vehicles, parked below the Cravens House. It was a great hike (except there were some disparaging remarks from several participants regarding the heat and the humidity). Those surviving all of the conditions were Diehl Boggs, Wayne Chambers, Tim Chomyn, Kendra Cross, Susan Faidley, Wendy Gunn, Hank Konigsmark, Sonja Parker, John Rowland, Boe Rudder, Kate Rudder, Jerry Wright, and Donald Box, reporting.



Toward Lookout Valley from Point Park
Picture from Donald

Upcoming Outings

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)

Saturday August 15, 2015**Chattanooga Nature Center, Betty Petty memorial day hike**

Location: west side of Lookout Mtn

Distance: 6+ miles

Rating: Moderate

Elevation Gain: minimal

Pace: Standard

August being Betty Petty's birth month, we'll honor her memory on this date. We'll hike from the Chattanooga Nature Center to Skyuka Springs, then on our return we'll make the short side trip to the site of Betty's memorial bench and marker, where we'll stay a while and share our fond memories of that wonderful lady. Hike leaders are Ralph Van Pelt and John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com or 802-7704.



Upcoming Outings

Saturday August 22, 2015**Towee Creek to Coker Creek day hike
BMT Sections 13D-13E**

Location: Hiwassee, TN

Distance: 11.6 miles

Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 600+ ft

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 1 hour

We will park in the Towee Creek overflow parking lot at the trailhead. We will almost immediately have to cross Towee Creek. If it is up we may have to use water shoes. There is a climb from the Towee Creek at 848 ft to the top of McCulley Mtn at 1489 ft in the first mile or so but after that it is mostly short up and downs. We will have good views of the Hiwassee River and some of its back flow eddies. We may see river otters in that area. There are a number of large creeks that cross the trail but most are shallow or have large rocks for crossing. We will eat and rest at Coker Creek (a great place to take off your boots and cool your feet) before returning by the same route. Call or text hike leader Boe Rudder at 423.400.1103 with any questions.

Saturday August 29, 2015**Newfound Gap to Charlie's Bunion, down to
Smokemont day hike**

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 13 miles

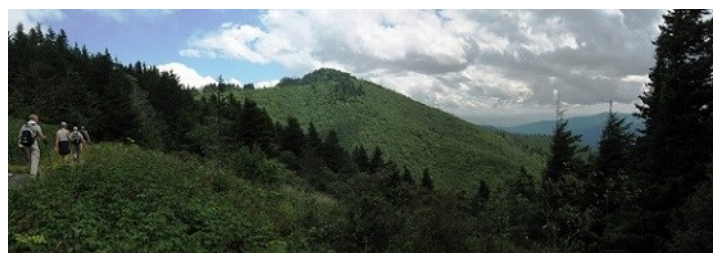
Rating: Strenuous

Elevation Gain: 1000 feet

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 3.5 hours

OK all you Smokies map markers, this one's for you. The initial 1.7 mile 900 foot climb out of Newfound Gap will be our only noteworthy climb of the day and will be done in the morning beginning at over 5000 feet elevation, so hopefully we'll be relatively cool. From Charlie's Bunion we'll continue out the AT to Dry Sluice Gap trail, then follow that and Bradley Fork trail all the way down to Smokemont campground. We'll do just a little piece of Cabin Flats trail, but for those who wish to do so, the whole thing can be polished off with just an extra 1.2 miles round trip. A fairly lengthy car shuttle will be involved. Hike leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com or 802-7704.



Reports from the Field

**Moccasin Bend: Brown's Ferry Federal Road,
Trail of Tears, Blue Blazes trail
Wednesday June 24, 2015**

We went down to the Tennessee River today to hike these short but historic trails. What luck to run into Jim Ogden, local naturalist, historian, and National Park Ranger! He was conducting an archaeological dig along the site of a newly marked portion of the Federal Road. It was not difficult to distract this man who is so passionate about the history of the area as he began to share his knowledge. We learned much we did not know about the road, how it was surveyed and mapped originally and then later with modern technology and about the crossing of the river by the Cherokee at the Brown's Ferry site. Jim also gave just a hint of what is inside his head about the Confederate and Union troops and war efforts there and on Stringer's Ridge behind us - a story and hike for another day. A team of trail workers is currently working on the Blue Blazes trail. We could see where they have worked to improve this 3 mile gem enjoyed by hikers, walkers, and runners. When you hike the trail and approach what seems to be a dead end into the river, look to your left and you will find the other side of the loop which brings you back to your starting point. It was a really hot day, so finishing at lunch time and on to the coolness and good food at Slick's were: Patti Giles, Wayne Chambers, Linda Busby, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Louis Spencer, Renee Grace, Gwen Brimer, Sue Christensen, Charlie Breeding, Susan Garrett, Trish Appleton, Cecile Shenouda, Sarah Frost, Sonja Parker, Tom Long, Tom Blewett, Bill Kinnaman, Hank Konigsmark, Betsy Parson, Karen Ritchie, Bill Whiteside, Suz Riggles, Tennyson Carico, Autumn Carico, Ravyn Carico and Che Carico, reporting.

**Enterprise South
Wednesday July 1, 2015**

We followed Boe today on a sequence of trails to give us at least 5 miles of walking or 2.5 hours. This made it a morning hike with lunch to follow at a fairly new Italian restaurant called Toscano's (Lee Highway and 153). Runners, hikers, bikers, and walkers should be so very grateful to have this "wilderness" area right on the edge of town. Beginning at parking area 3, we stepped onto Poe Run Road for a short distance, Hawk's Ridge trail, Dogwood Ridge trail and then looped back to the parking area. These trails are easy underfoot as many have been padded with mulch and pine needles. Plenty of ups and downs, too, to make a reasonably challenging route. Boe pointed out an area on the Eagle Scout trail (a section of Hawk's Ridge) where Pink Lady Slippers COVER the forest floor when in bloom! Also Dwarf Crested Iris and Bull Thistle. There are new maps at the Visitor's Center and what a maze of trails it shows. High on a great hike and the camaraderie that goes with it were: Louis Spencer, Patti Giles, Ned Giles, Linda Busby, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, John Rowland, Wayne Chambers, Renee Grace, Bill Kinnaman, Wendy Gunn, Stormy McGauley, Sarah Frost, Tim Chomyn, Bob Rahn, Lori Holland, Susan Garrett, Sue Christensen, Tom Long, Sonja Parker, Monty Simmons, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Trish Appleton, Cecile Shenouda, Che Carico reporting and Boe Rudder Leading.

Reports from the Field

**Elsie Holmes Nature Park
Wednesday July 8, 2015**

In extreme weather times of year this group of hikers looks for shorter hikes close to home. These "finds" are often family friendly also and are nice to know about. Such is the Elsie Holmes Nature Park off of Ooltewah Ringgold Road. There is a maze of not always gentle trails that total to about 3.1 miles with ups and downs, switchbacks, some views, and a good bit walking along the South Chickamauga Creek. We covered it all with Tom Carter picking the route from a map of the system. The front hikers made clear directional arrows with the corn meal so the tail end of 32 hikers always knew which way to turn. This lovely park includes a playground, bathroom, and enclosed/screened pavilion which can be rented and enjoyed by large groups. Enjoying this bit of wilderness just outside of town were: John Rowland, Sue Christensen, Gwen Brimer, Linda Busby, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Patti Giles, Karen Ritchie, Bill Whiteside, Susan Garrett, Debbie Lambert, Renee Grace, Val Hargis, Tim Chomyn, Kathy Seymour, Bob Rahn, Wayne Chambers, Stormy McGauley, Boe Rudder, Trish Appleton, Bill Kinnaman, Tom Long, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Barry Ligon, Beverly Ligon, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Sarah Long, Bill Needham, Che Carico reporting, and Tom Carter leading.

**Stringer's Ridge/Moccasin Bend
Wednesday July 15, 2015**

A blessing fell upon us today as there was a cloud cover and there were breezes down on Moccasin Bend Road where we met Ranger Jim Ogden. He planned to take us on a hike up the lower end of Stringer's Ridge while telling stories and sharing the history of the Civil War battle fought here against the opposing Lookout Mountain. The "lecture" began in the field where we parked and gathered around to hear a little about the geology, facts about land acquisition, preservation, and hopes for the future. Soon we started down the road just a bit and turned left into the forest climbing on an old farm road. All along the way Jim portrayed vividly the plight of the soldiers, war time conditions, and how they utilized this end of the ridge as they (the Union army) set up armaments for the battle with the Confederates holding the northern point of Lookout Mountain. Never can you imagine until you hear him in person the depth of Jim's knowledge and his passion for preserving these historical sites and facts. We covered about 3 miles and learned so much! Agreeing to come again for a hike and lesson in the American Indian area on the point were: Bill Needham, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Betsy Parson, Debbie Malone, Gwen Brimer, Joyce Campbell, Linda Busby, Margaret Reisman, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Riggles, Tim Chomyn, Tom Carter, Trish Appleton, Jean Smith, Phil Thomas, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Vicki Hill, John Dever, Sharon Hogan, Karen Ritchie, Bob Rahn, Larry Parks, Che Carico reporting, and Jim Ogden leading.

Reports from the Field

Hiwassee Hike and Float trip

Wednesday July 22, 2015

It was a perfect day for our annual Hiwassee River float/hike/picnic trip. The temperature was hot, the skies blue with some sheltering clouds at times, and the water was up a bit so not so much getting stuck on rocks. We all met at the Ooltewah BiLo, made sure the picnic food was in the cars going up, then took off for Webb Brothers float service in Reliance Tennessee. Boe led the hikers beginning at Whispering Pines, following the BMT/John Muir trail to Towee Creek and back (2.5 miles) and rafters were put in just below the Appalachia Powerhouse. The hikers always hustle their hike so as to be back to set up the picnic area just in time for the floaters to come in to Big Bend in their duckies. Bill Kinnaman is our master hot dog chef cooking them on a charcoal grill there at Big Bend. Delicious sides, fruits, desserts, and condiments including chopped onions and chili lined the tables. Conversation was relentless and compliments to the cooks were definitely in order. When it came time to pack up, the site was cleaned, cars packed, and the rafters headed downstream again to enjoy maneuvering the rapids. The hikers drove cars back to Webb's then headed home. Many cars turned into Gilliland Peach Orchard to purchase same day picked delicious peaches. With happy memories of the day: Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Reggie Jay, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Gwen Brimer, John Rowland, Joyce Campbell, Larry Parks, Linda Busby, Patricia Smith, Patti Giles, John Dever, Sonja Parker, Stormy McGauley, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Weldon, Tim Chomyn, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Merry Boggs, Diehl Boggs, Bill Whiteside, Karen Ritchie, Sonnia Lambert, Wendy Gunn, Phil Thomas, Jeanne Smith, Seth Carico, Tristan Carico, Ravyn Carico, Tennyson Carico, Autumn Carico, Sarah Frost, Renee Grace, Tim Grace, Bob Rahn, Betsy Parsons, Gary Petty, and Che Carico reporting.



“I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,…”

Sea Fever by John Masefield

Picture from Gary

Reports from the Field

Little Greenbrier, Round Top

Friday July 24, 2015

We had a clear but humid day in the Smokies. Several in our group had never been to the Walker Sisters cabin and other facilities in Walker Valley. Very tough life in the late 1800's. Having a few educators, the Greenbrier school house was also a treat. We saw several yellow fringed orchids, Turk's-Cap lily, and blooming rattlesnake plantain. Thank you Mac Dean for hiking part of the way and helping with the car shuttle at the end of our hike. The final water crossing at the Townsend Wye was a breeze for everyone, except me. It seems that I needed to get wet to cool down, unintentionally. We finished with Dead End BBQ in Maryville, a new place that everyone enjoyed. Hikers were Tim Chomyn, Barbara McCollum, Boe Rudder, Beth Jones, Sarah Frost, Merry and Diehl Boggs, Tom Long, Sonya Parker, Stormy McGauley, Teresa and Mac Dean. Hike leader, Wayne Chambers.



The Little Greenbrier/Round Top hikers, and one of their nice views. Pictures from Barbara

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

Summiting Mt Katahdin
Bob Butterfield's Taking On The AT

Having recently retired and disposed of all his unnecessary worldly goods, our own Bob Butterfield has set out on a north-to-south AT through hike. To kick things off he rounded up a bevy of beauties and sweet-talked them into helping him get started by climbing Mt Katahdin. Gotta' love the guy's strategy! Anyway, here's some pictures from Bob (I think...) via Barbara.



Already looking scruffy!



Up through the boulders



Now the support team looks a lot better!



THEY MADE IT!

Outings Schedule

08/01/15	Benton MacKaye, GA day hike (M)	B McCollum
08/08/15	Scenic Spur day hike (E)	S Barnes
08/15/15	Chatt Nature Ctr/Betty Petty day hike (M)	J Rowland
08/22/15	Towee Creek/Coker Creek day hike (S)	B Rudder
08/29/15	Newfound Gap/Smokemont day hike (S)	J Rowland

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 Page 1...



At Sunset Rock atop Lookout Mtn - pictures from Donald



Remember in basic training they yelled at you, "You're OTHER left! You're OTHER left!" Now we know what that meant!

Summer Len Foote overnight trip

Need to finalize. Anyone else interested? We have 25 going, and there are a few extra spots if needed. They have had a rate increase since our February trip. The new rate is \$99.00 per room, or \$49.50 per person. 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)