



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

March 2017

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 April 3, 2017

Dues will be due again by April 1, 2017

Yes it will soon be time to renew membership. There will be a renewal form available on the website, under the "About Us" tab. You can print it and mail it in along with your check. And *please* tell us about any changes to your address, phone number, email, etc.

Shortly after April 1, we will be mailing new name and address labels to renewed members to place on your Rock Creek discount cards to verify your continued membership. The cards themselves are intended to be permanent, and this will be our way of keeping them up to date.



Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

BMT/Unicoi Mtn Trail/John Muir Trail Wednesday February 1, 2017

21 hikers with the CHC left the Hwy 68 trailhead of the Unicoi Mtn Trail headed east to Coker Creek camp site. The trail starts with a gentle rise to the crest of the ridge. The trail follows the ridge line with views of the Blue Ridge mountains to the east and McCulley Mtn and Duckett Ridge to the west. The trail then heads down to Coker Creek. At 3.6 miles the trail intersects with the John Muir Trail. Coker Creek campground is about 0.3 miles east. After lunch we headed back by the John Muir trail to its Hwy 68 trailhead, hiking the north side of the Hiwassee River. The BMT was an easy walk but the JM trail had many blow downs, rocks and roots. The total hike was a little longer than 10 miles but the last 5 seemed to go on forever. We hiked at about half our normal speed. Fortunately the weather was cool and clear. Challenged by this new trail were: Suzanne Dorough, Renee Grace, Wayne Chambers, Susan Garrett, Charlie Breeding, Barbara McCollum, Barry Ligon, Beverly Ligon, Bill Kinnaman, Diehl Boggs, Jean Dickinson, Mac Dean, Merry Boggs, Patti Giles, Susan Basch, Teresa Dean, Tim Chomyn, Wayne Chambers, Stormy McGauley, Che Carico reporting, Boe Rudder leading.



Pictures from Teresa

Upcoming Outings

Friday-Saturday March 10-12, 2017

Pine Mountain Car Camp (near Callaway Gardens, GA)

Don't miss the opportunity to hike in one of Georgia's most beautiful and frequently visited state parks--FDR State Park near Warm Springs and Callaway Gardens, Georgia. The 23-mile Pine Mountain Trail is well maintained and a very popular hiking destination. Dowdell Knob, one of FDR's favorite picnic sites while he was at The Little White House, is a popular stop along the trail. Anyone interested, please contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143. Group will be limited to 18 people so first come, first serve.

Thursday-Friday March 17-18, 2017

Smokies, Cataloochee area

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Distance: 13.3 miles

This will be a combination of the Mt Sterling, Long Bunk, and Little Cataloochee trails. A shuttle will be required, so who may be willing to drive is important. The plan is to go up Thursday afternoon and stay the night in Newport, then return Friday evening after the hike. Organizers are Barbara McCollum, bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143, and Wayne

Saturday April 1, 2017

Smokies, near Cherokee, NC

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 13.1 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,600 ft

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 2.5 hrs

This will be a shuttle hike. We'll drive to Cherokee, NC and take Big Cove and Straight Fork Roads to the Hyatt Ridge trailhead where a car will be left. We'll then drive to Round Bottom to start hiking. We'll hike up Beech Gap I which is 2.5 miles and 1,850 feet in elevation gain. We'll return along the same trail to Beech Gap II which is 2.8 miles and 1,800 feet in elevation gain. For the map markers, we'll hike in and out to Campsite 44 and another 1.8 miles. After the campsite diversion, we'll be hiking all downhill on the Hyatt Ridge trails (3.5 miles) back to our cars on Straight Fork Road. We'll have the Hyatt Ridge car to take drivers back to Round Bottom. With the longer daylight hours, there are no plans to drive up the night before. Contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 to register.

Saturday April 8, 2017

Lula Lake work day

This is one of Lula Lake's regularly scheduled work days. It's a wonderful spot that we use fairly often, so investing a little "sweat equity" seems quite appropriate. John Rowland will be organizing, jrowland_1@hotmail.com

Reports from the Field

Jakes Creek/Miry Ridge Saturday February 4, 2017

Today's hike was all about the numbers - 21 degrees at the start, 14 hikers, 17.2 miles and 3,200 feet in elevation gain. Even though the hike was advertised as 16.6 miles and almost 3,000 feet of elevation gain, it was nice to get more than what we bargained for. An overnight stay in Townsend helped with an early morning start at Elkmont on the Jakes Creek Trail. After a quick break at Jakes Gap, it was on to the Miry Ridge trail with the Appalachian Trail (AT) being the designated lunch and turnaround spot. Despite the cold start, the day turned out to be sunny with the Miry Ridge trail offering fantastic views of the surrounding mountains. Several spots along the trail were frozen and a couple of large chunks of ice and icicles offered a nice photo opportunity. With a quick lunch on the AT and a few photographs, all hikers were happy to head back to Elkmont. Given the varying speed of hikers, some were off the trail quicker than others, but all were off the trail before dusk. Most of the group opted for dinner at the Mexican restaurant in Townsend while others chose a quick return to Ooltewah. Everyone agreed it was another great day in the Smokies: Betsy Parson, Bob Butterfield, Boe Rudder, Bonnie Smith, Carolyn Brannon, Che Carico, John Hyler, Joyce Campbell, Ken Smith, Monty Simmons, Rick Glisson, Tim Chomyn, Wayne Chambers, and Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Picture from special guest photographer Spears McAllester



Pictures from Barbara

Reports from the Field

Cloudland Connector

Saturday February 11, 2017

A few hikers met at the Ascalon Road Trailhead of the Cloudland Connector Trail on a spring-like morning. It was cloudy but warm with a few sprinkles of misty rain. This section of the CCT is mostly level with some rolling hills and is well-built and well-blazed. The area has signs of old mine activities with some old coal spoils visible along the way although Mother Nature has definitely returned the area to a scenic woodlands. We encountered a solo biker with a warning bell on our outward trek to the Bear Creek Bridge. Bear Creek was resurgent with the recent rains which was a welcome sight after the recent drought. We stopped at the bridge and enjoyed the sounds of clear flowing water through the lush streambed. After a short stop, we returned via the Can't Hardly Trail.

According to the Lula Lake website, Can't Hardly is a nod to the area's history, as miners used to insist that you can't hardly get to the coal seam underfoot. This is a quiet hikers only trail with interesting rock formations that follows a stream for most of the return. Those along for the pleasant walk included Sonja Parker, Angela Wallace, and new CHC member Jenny Wallace. Steve Barnes reporting.

Picture from Steve



(continued...)

Amazing rock work made crossing gullies and uneven terrain safer and easier, while eliciting admiration and appreciation for the workmanship. The moderate pace allowed for savoring the beautiful blend of colors in the landscape and in the rocks used in the trail construction. A leisurely lunch was enjoyed beside McGill Creek before turning back. Appreciating this experience were Susan Basch, Donald Box, Bill Kinnaman (hike leader), Barbara Miller, Boe Rudder, plus his daughter, Kate, and grandson, Miles, age 12, and Madelaine Box (reporting).

Picture from Kate Rudder



Len Foote Hike Inn

Wednesday-Thursday February 22-23, 2017

In 1998 Wayne Chambers discovered the newly opened Len Foote Hike Inn and began planning trips to this unique wilderness lodge in Georgia. The group of Chattanooga hikers was small at first but the numbers increased as the years went by. Then Wayne discovered that often, in the months of January and February (slow months for Len Foote) the cost was half priced. With the numbers of Chattanooga Hiking Club members also growing, the interest in this trip grew. This year CHC hikers, surrounding area hikers, and Rome, Georgia hikers filled the lodge with folks who have enjoyed many trail adventures together. In spite of morning rain the trail was not slippery underfoot. The woods were misty with fog masking the usual mountain views. Dinner was once again fabulous featuring pork roast, green salad, and vegetables. The after dinner "lecture" was presented by Merry and Diehl Boggs with the emphasis on sharing local adventure places they have discovered and maps and pictures of long trails out west. After this learning experience the group moved down to the recreation room where a fire was burning in the pot bellied stove, "puzzlers" were busy with a hard waterfall scene puzzle, and Charlie, Jack, and Ray were cranking up guitar, banjo and voices. The "all sing" was loud, tender, countrified, reminiscent, sentimental, old fashioned, spiritual, and sweet as the musicians tried to remember all of the words to the requests thrown out at them! It was tough to pull away from this special sharing time to retreat to rooms for sleep, only to rise in the morning to enjoy the big breakfast prepared by Jacob (soon to embark on the PC trail) and helpers. The sun broke through on the hike out and we were bathed in it by the end of the trail. On to Poole's Barbeque in Ellijay for lunch then home were: Terry Holcomb, Noel Holcomb, Barbara McCollum, Catherine Love, Susan Garrett, Bob Garrett, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Helen Owens, Ron Owens, Angela Evans, Chuck Evans, Patti Giles, Ned Giles, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Stormy McGauley, Sarah Frost, Bill Needham, Bill LaRoque, Jack Clayton, Jeff Pollard, Charlotte McNabb, Linda Goble, Ray Goble, Sue Christensen, Joyce Campbell, Carolyn Brannon, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Tom Carter, Tim Chomyn, Renee Grace, Edie Behringer, Charlie Breeding, Vicki Chambers, Che Carico reporting, and Wayne Chambers leading.

Lookout Mountain

Saturday February 18, 2017

How does the song go? "Just walkin' in the rain, . . ." It was raining when we met to hike. Radar and its projection indicated the rain would last about 4 hours. It did. However, we came to hike, . . . and we did. Leaving from the parking lot behind Ruby Falls, the rain quietly and gently enhanced the color and texture of the bare trees, fallen leaves, rocks, moss, etc. Climbing the Mountain Beautiful Trail from the Cravens House, we passed into a world blanketed in fog and mist, resulting in limited visibility. At the bottom of the hundreds (I am sure) steps up to the Point Park Overlook, the decision was to "overlook the Overlook" since there would be nothing to see but fog/mist. Therefore we continued along the Bluff Trail. Later, we climbed "those rock steps" to the Sunset Rock Overlook and were enclosed by an opaque wall of gray. Descending to the Upper Truck Trail on our way back to the parking lot, the fog/mist thinned and the rain stopped, . . . briefly. Enjoying our rainy trek through an enshrouded world we don't often get to experience were Edith Behringer, Joe Teringer, Bill Kinnaman, and Donald Box, reporting.

Cumberland Trail McGill Creek

Wednesday February 22, 2017

Today's hike to and from McGill Creek gave eight people a delightful and refreshing experience. A light rain fell as the hikers headed into the woods veering left off the path leading to Roaring Creek, flowing south. The moisture intensified the muted tan, gold and bronze colors of all the fallen wet leaves.

Outings Schedule

03/17-18/17	Smokies day hike (S)	B McCollum
04/01/17	Smokies day hike (S)	B McCollum
04/08/17	Lula Lake work day	J Rowland
04/29/17	Collins Gulf wildflower day hike (M/S)	D Box

Other Stuff



Len Foote pictures from Barbara



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.

Rock/Creek Discount Info

Show your Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Card, along with your ID at any Rock/Creek Store.
 Chattanooga Hiking Club - 10% off one Item
 *Applies to one non-sale, in-stock item. Can not be combined with other discounts or promotions. Offer does not apply to gift cards, boats, boards, coolers, & electronics. **In-store only.**

Club Officers and Support:

- President** - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954
- Vice President** - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525
- Treasurer** - Donald Box (423) 892-6754
- Secretary** -
- 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)