

Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

February 2018

### 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](http://chatthiking.com)

### Next meeting – Monday February 5, 2018

\*\*\*\*\* in the IMAX Theater \*\*\*\*\*

Ben Friberg, a Chattanooga native, has long been an avid outdoorsman, especially when it comes to water-based activities. About 8 years ago he started stand up paddle boarding on the Ocoee River which then grew into exploring endurance paddling (long distances). Those long distances have since come to include the Yukon River in 2012, and from Cuba to Key West in a little over 27 hours in 2013. In the summer of 2015, Ben and Kim Friberg headed to Papua New Guinea, to the Sepik River. They went with intentions of exploring as far upstream as circumstances would allow. Papua New Guinea is one of the most diverse cultural destinations in the world containing over 800 languages (200 languages on the Sepik River), hunter gatherer societies still exist, and many aspects of life still connect to the Stone Age. Come hear Ben's presentation about how he and Kim explored the lesser known Upper Sepik region via dugout canoe.



Pictures from Ben Friberg

# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### CT Prentice Cooper Monday January 1, 2018

What a way to start the New Year – willingly getting out of nice warm cars and striking out through the woods when it was 10 degrees out there! But nine of us did it, and generally somewhat cheerfully. It really wasn't too bad; the sun was out most of the time, and frigid breezes were few and far between. We came upon a tent under the bluffs at Indian Rock House, and decided we should investigate for possible frozen bodies, but the two occupants were apparently alive and well. After we briefly admired the view from Snooper's Rock, the stiffening breeze encouraged us to get on out to the shuttle cars, where Tim treated us to some great semi-frozen banana pudding. But the prospect of doing the longer option over on the Mullens Cove side was a bit too daunting, especially with the danger of icy footing in spots, so we shut it down and headed for home. I once saw an entry in a journal at one of the Smokies shelters that said, "There are only five of us now; we had to eat the other two." Thankful that it didn't turn out that way today were Sue Chistensen, Joyce Campbell, Bill Kinnaman, Tim Choymn, Boe Rudder, Jennifer Yarbrough, Wayne Chambers, and co-leader Barbara McCollum, John Rowland leading and reporting.



Pictures from Tim



<b>Upcoming Outings</b>
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**Saturday February 3, 2018****Bluff Trail/Upper Truck Trail**

Location: Lookout Mountain

Distance: 7.5 miles

Rating: Moderately Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 20 minutes

The hike will start at Ochs Gateway. We will start on Bluff Trail and then turn left onto John Smartt Trail. A short hike later we will turn right onto Upper Truck Trail and take it north to Gum Spring Trail. We will take Gum Spring up to Bluff Trail, passing the historical Gum Spring on our left. We will go south on Bluff Trail back to our point of origin. Total hike should be about 7.5 miles and the valley views should be good this time of year. Contact Boe Rudder at [boerrudder@gmail.com](mailto:boerrudder@gmail.com) to register for the hike.

**Saturday-Sunday February 10-11, 2018****Benton MacKaye Trail Project**

Twelve hikers are signed up for the first leg of the club's Benton MacKaye Project. Lodging has been arranged at The Lodge at Tellico, and we are looking forward to a great weekend of hiking, fun, and socializing. This project was developed to complete the 10 sections of the 287.3-mile Benton MacKaye project over two years. Four section hikes are planned for 2018 with more information on the club's website under Benton MacKaye Project. The next one will be June 2-3 with plans for a car camp at McNabb Creek group campground. You don't have to sign up for the entire series, but we do request that you register for each section. Contact Barbara McCollum [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) 770.289.7143 to register for the June segment.

**Saturday February 17, 2018****Smokies day hike**

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Details not yet available. Hike leader, Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717.

<b>Upcoming Outings</b>
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**Saturday February 24, 2018****Fiery Gizzard**

Location: Tracy City, TN

Distance: 4.5 miles

Rating: Moderately Easy

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 1 hour

This can often be a great hike for admirers of icicles – LARGE icicles. And on a couple of trips we have been lucky enough to have had a wonderful snow hike. So, we'll just watch the weather and hope. We'll do the Day Loop, with the additional side trip on down the gorge to Sycamore Falls, and to the base of those huge overhangs where the Dog Hole Trail begins (or is it "used to begin"?). Late lunch at Papa Ron's in Monteagle is a distinct possibility. Hike leader is John Rowland, [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com).





### Reports from the Field

#### Gahuti Trail, Fort Mountain Saturday January 6, 2018

It was a cold day to hike the Gahuti Trail on top of Ft Mountain. We started out at 19 degrees with a windchill of 13 degrees. Tom Baker and Betsy Darken braved the cold. The loop hike was 8.1 miles with 1,800 feet elevation gain. Our pace was 2.4 mph. Ice was on all the falls which added to the beauty of our winter hike. Tim Chomyn reporting.

#### Cloudland Canyon West Rim Loop Wednesday January 10, 2018

After nearly two weeks of sub-freezing temps, and with the prospect of seeing a frozen waterfall, a large group of hikers was lured to Cloudland Canyon State Park, led by Susan Basch and Jenny Hopkins. After 36 hours of warming, however, the previously frozen Cherokee Falls was quickly thawing out. Beautiful nonetheless! After a quick jaunt down to the falls, the group climbed back up and proceeded to hike the 5-mile West Rim Loop. It was a warm 50+ degree day, and the views were spectacular. Nearing the end of the loop, the sound of large chunks of falling ice could be heard crashing into the canyon. Lunch was eaten at picnic tables near the parking lot. Betsy Parson generously shared her birthday cake, a decadent strawberry layer cake. Today's hikers were: Barry Ligon, Beverly Ligon, Bill Kinnaman, Bob Rahn, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Gail Stokes, John Rowland, Larry Parks, Linda Keown, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Richard Park, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Wanda McCarter, Betsy Parson, Rachel Dean, Edith Behringer, Carla Schunk, Jennifer Yarbrough, Monty Simmons, Betsy Parson, Che Carico, Tristan Carico, Joy Ward, Susan Basch, and Jenny Hopkins, reporting.



Pictures from Jenny



### Reports from the Field

#### Cumberland Trail, Soddy Creek Saturday January 13, 2018

Sometimes it's better to be lucky than smart. The original plan was for a 12.1-mile thru hike of the Soddy Creek Gorge North section of the Cumberland Trail. Because there was no parking at the southern trailhead, a shuttle had been prearranged for hikers to be dropped off at the Sluder Lane/Hotwater Road access and hike north to Heiss Mountain Road where cars had been left. A greater turnout than expected despite the frigid temperatures necessitated that three hikers (Rick, Boe, and Tom) begin southbound at Heiss Mountain Road as an "in and out" to meet the four thru hikers (Betsy, Barbara, Joyce, and Cathy) at the suspension bridge over Big Soddy Creek. About 5 miles into the hike, the three men encountered a dangerous icy section of the trail with wrong step or slip resulting in a 30 to 40-foot fall into Big Soddy Creek. Boe decided to turnaround while Rick and Tom safely navigated the section to meet up with the ladies and warn them about this stretch of trail. The rendezvous at the 100-foot long impressive suspension bridge was accomplished and it didn't take much for the men to convince the ladies to turn around and head back to Hotwater Rd. Fortunately, there was cell coverage in the gorge and the hike leader was able to contact Boe for pickup and transport back to cars left at Heiss Mountain Road. The good news is that everyone was safe, Rick and Tom completed the 12.1 miles and Boe saved the day by turning around and transporting the stranded hikers to their cars. A special thanks to Don Deakins for providing shuttle services, to Rick and Tom for being some gallant, and to all hikers (Boe Rudder, Rick Glisson, Tom Baker, Joyce Campbell, Betsy Parson, and Cathy Love) for being such good sports when the hike didn't go as originally planned. Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Pictures from Barbara



## Reports from the Field

### Lookout Wild Film Festival Saturday January 20, 2018

For six years the Lookout Wild Film Festival has brought the best outdoor adventure and conservation films from around the world to Chattanooga for one incredible weekend. The club decided to take advantage of this event by attending the Saturday afternoon matinee as a group. Nine club members attended the 3 ½-hour matinee held at the Walker Theatre of the Memorial Auditorium. Eighteen films were shown ranging from the shortest at 3 minutes and 24 seconds to the longest at 45 minutes. Film topics included caving near Fort Payne, Alabama, the vanishing lowlands rainforests of Borneo, the economically distressed coal fields of West Virginia, to the couple who quit their jobs and have been traveling for two years in a VW bus from Alaska to Patagonia. Participants were asked to vote for their favorite film. Since several club members had recently hiked in the Grand Tetons, the film "A Walk in the Park" about a Teton triathlete who biked 23 miles, swam 1.3 miles and hiked 3 miles at 6,000 straight up and then turned around and did in reverse was voted our favorite. At the end of the matinee, the group enjoyed dinner at nearby Jefferson's with some club members returning for the evening event. Attending were: Carolyn Brannon, Joyce Campbell, Bill Needham, Betsy Parson, Debbie Lambert, Tim and Elaine Chomyn, and Greg and Barbara McCollum, reporting.

### Five Points Wednesday January 24, 2018

It was a brisk 28 degrees when we set off at Five Points, part of the extensive Cloudland Canyon system. The sky was a cloudless blue, and we warmed up quickly. We meandered through a labyrinth of well-maintained trails, hiking a 5.5 mile loop on trails named North Hogsback, Shale Flats, Caprock, Torino Hill, Cross Cut, and Bankhead. Torino Hill is aptly named, as the remnants of an old Torino rests along the trail. Quite an odd sight in the middle of nowhere! We finished in time for lunch, with several folk going to Purple Daisy before heading home. Enjoying the beautiful woods were: Bob Rahn, Wanda McCarter, Richard Park, Bill Kinnaman, Patti Giles, Charlie Breeding, Larry Parks, Suzanne Dorough, Stormy McGauley, Debbie Lambert, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Betsy Parson, Wayne Chambers, Barbara Miller, Joy Ward, Susan Garrett, Rachel Bryant, Lisa and Lynn Taylor, Bill LaRoque, Che Carico, Susan Basch and Jenny Hopkins leading and Jenny Hopkins reporting.



That old wreck out in the woods; and also that old car. Pictures from Jenny



## Reports from the Field

### A Welcome Update on Work on the McGill Creek CT Segment

Back on January 4 Che received this note from Don Deakins, our regular connection to Cumberland Trail hiking and trail work.

"The old logging road we cleared on December 2, 2015 from Brayton Mtn Road down to McGill Creek Bridge site is now being used to haul construction material for the new bridge. We hauled 9000 pounds of redi-mix concrete and other stuff down there yesterday. Thought you might like to know all that work was not in vain."

Seriously – 9000 pounds? We must have really cleared a path! We appreciate the update from Don. It's nice to hear and see that we have made a positive contribution to the myriad of trails that surround us.



Pictures from Don Deakins



## Outings Schedule

02/03/18	Lookout Mtn day hike	B Rudder
02/10/18	Benton Mackaye Project	B McCollum
02/17/18	Smokies day hike	W Chambers
02/24/18	Fiery Gizzard day hike	J Rowland
03/03/18	Virgin Falls day hike (S)	B McCollum
03/10/18	Smokies Abrams Falls day hike (S)	J Rowland
03/17/18	Smokies day hike (S)	W Chambers
03/24/18	Walls of Jericho day hike (S)	J Rowland
03/31/18	Sycamore Creek, Tellico day hike	B Rudder
04/06-08/18	Big South Fork car camp	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, notification of each week's plan is sent out by email on Sunday or Monday. Please call Che at (423) 718-9271, leave your email address, and ask to be added to the group list; or email her at [MidWeek@chatthiking.com](mailto:MidWeek@chatthiking.com) and likewise ask to be added to the group list.

### 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.

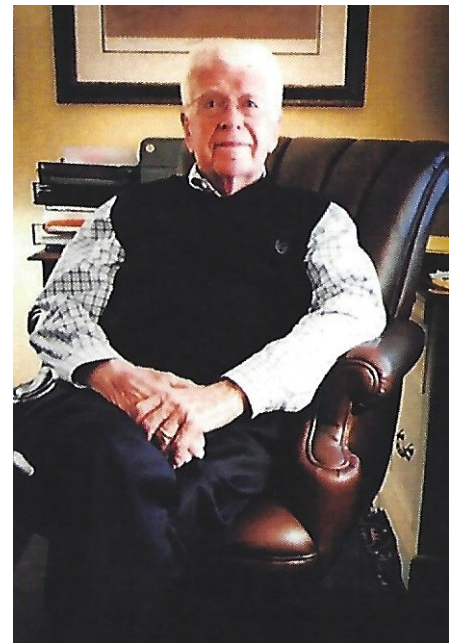
**Attention:** When calling to go on an outing, please specify exact number of people who will be attending. Do NOT just show up with a friend or family member unannounced! This puts your hike leader in an awkward position as most hikes involve some planning of transportation. Also we frequently hike 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.

## A Recent Loss

### Gordon Sweeney

The folks who have hiked on Wednesdays for more than just a few years lost a dear friend on January 10, 2018. Gordon began hiking with the group around 1992-1993, and was an active participant for many years. Even in recent years he often showed up at more socially oriented events such as picnics or the Christmas lunch. He once, a couple years ago, surprised the group with hot coffee and donuts when they took their lunch break on a cold day atop Fort Mountain. And he is credited with being the first to claim that the bottle of wine he brought to the Christmas lunch was his "covered dish". We create a lot of wonderful memories on our outings, and Gordon surely is a part of those memories for a good number of our members.



### 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** - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750

**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](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)