



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

November 2018

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the REI store at 2507 Lifestyle Way, behind the Embassy Suites off Shallowford Road. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: chatthiking.com

Next meeting – Monday February 4, 2018

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Pinhoti Trail

Saturday September 29, 2018

Four of us enjoyed the beautiful day as we hiked from Snake Creek Gap to Swamp Creek, in and out, for a total of 10.3 miles. Although it was foggy when we started out, we were able to get a couple of nice views along the ridge on our way back. Attending: Trey Causey, Lora McBride, Joe Teringer, and Susan Basch reporting.



Picture
from
Susan

Roaring Creek

Wednesday October 3, 2018

16 CHC club members hiked about 6.5 miles from the Roaring Creek trailhead to the Cranmore Cove overlook on Graysville Mtn and back. The weather was great. Not too sunny or muggy. The trail is in pretty good condition except for one new tree down and a section along the ridge that needs an additional marker. The views from the overlook are spectacular when the weather is so clear. This hike is always a good excuse to eat lunch at the Screen Door. Those participating were Bill Kinnaman, Carla Schunck, Charlie Breeding, Edie Behringer, Mac Dean, Renee Grace, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Joy Ward, Joe Teringer and John Budka. Boe Rudder reporting.

Upcoming Outings

**Smokies Backpack, Lakeshore Trail
Friday-Monday November 9-12, 2018**

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Rating: Strenuous

Club members will be undertaking a 35 mile, 3 day/2 night BACKPACK of the BMT/Smokies Lakeshore Trail on November 9-12, 2018. Lodging, shuttle, and campsite reservations have been secured for a group of five (5): C. Brannon, B. Smith, Joyce C., R. Glisson, and C. Love. Contact Cathy Love at lovecat@charter.net if you wish to be notified of a cancellation/vacancy.

**Bald River Falls
Saturday November 17, 2018**

Bald River Falls Trail is an 8.2 mile in and out hike rated moderate. We will start at the falls, hike to Bald River Falls Road and then back for a snack/lunch at the upper shoals. The trail is entirely different this time of year. We should have good views all along the hike. The first part of the hike is along the river in the gorge. The second part is along the ridge of Henderson Tops and has views of the gorge from the top. Driving time is about 1.75 hours each way. The falls are a short way east of Tellico. Contact Boe Rudder: tssboerrudder@gmail.com or 423.400.1103

**Bear Creek Backcountry Trail
Friday November 23, 2018**

Location: Cloudland Canyon State Park (\$5 GA State Parks fee)

Distance: 9.1 miles

Elevation: 1,600 ft. plus some small, short bursts

Rating: Moderate with several strenuous sections

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 40 minutes

Let's Opt Outside on Black Friday which is a tradition started by REI four years ago by closing their stores on the busiest shopping day of the day to encourage outdoor enthusiasts to get outside. We'll hike the newly-reopened Bear Creek Backcountry Trail at Cloudland Canyon State Park near Trenton, Georgia. We'll start at the Backcountry trailhead and hike towards Bear Creek which will be a steep descent and a steep ascent on the return. The creek should be an easy rock hop given the current rainfall. After the creek, there are several small, short bursts of elevation, but once we start hiking on the 4-mile loop, the trail will be relatively flat. This trail is on the eastern rim and will provide some beautiful views of the canyon. If you didn't have enough to eat on Thanksgiving, we can always enjoy one of the nearby restaurants after the hike: Mountain Top Café (formerly Geneva's), Trading Post Smokehouse, or Thatcher's Barbecue in downtown Trenton. To register for the hike, contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at 770.289.7143 or bpmccollum@yahoo.com

Upcoming Outings

**Georgia Pinhoti Trail
Saturday December 1, 2018**

Location: Floyd and Chattooga County, GA

Driving time: 90 minutes from Chattanooga

Distance: 12.2 miles

Elevation: Minimal

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard/Brisk

Let's hike two sections of the Georgia Pinhoti (Sections 18 and 19) starting at Huffaker Road in Floyd County, Georgia near Rome. We'll hike the Simms Mountain Trail to Highway 100 near Holland and then continue north to the Highpoint parking lot. Most of these two sections are relatively flat and goes through beautiful farm land with good views of the northwest Georgia mountains. This will be a shuttle hike. If you want a good workout with a brisk pace, be sure to join this one. For those who are working on the Pinhoti Trail, there will be another hike on Sunday, December 2nd with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club so this would be a great opportunity to hike three sections of the Pinhoti in one weekend. If interested in both dates, please let me know. To register for the Saturday hike, contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at 770.289.7143 or bpmccollum@yahoo.com

**Christmas Lunch
Wednesday December 19, 2018**

Our usual short hike followed by lunch at the Pot House with the Tennessee River Gorge Trust folks.

Reports from the Field

Balsam Mtn, Smokies Saturday October 6, 2018

Pin Oak Gap is where you will find the Balsam Mountain trailhead. From here 5 determined hikers began the climb and trek to the AT and a night spent in the Tri Corner Knob shelter. The weather was reasonably cool but humidity a factor. The first 4.3 miles to Laurel Gap shelter is easy to follow and with its ups came some flat sections and some downs as you would expect in the Smokies. The flat stretches were covered as far as the eye could see by the white blooms of Snake Root when hikers passed through there on their way to Gunter Fork in September. Here in October the blooms were faded and dry, but the plants stood tall and lined the trail. From Laurel Gap shelter it was 5.8 miles on to the Tri-Corner Knob shelter. This shelter is said by some to be the most "luxurious" on the AT as it has a privy and the water source is right beside it! After enjoying the new folks we met in the shelter, and after a night of restless sleep, we headed back the way we came. The exception is that Carolyn and Wayne exited to Balsam Mtn. Road via Beech Gap Trail. It was a bit longer and MUCH steeper downhill on the return. Since we had to keep our eyes cast down on the rocky trail it is a good thing the ferns were still green and there were interesting mushrooms along the way. Blessed to have safely made more memories were: Carolyn Brannon, Wayne Chambers, Betsy Parson, Monty Simmons, and Che Carico reporting.

Mushroom Rock to N. Suck Creek Wednesday October 10, 2018

The route for today's hike began at the SMMHS soccer fields and the blue blazed trail that encircles the school property. Not long after stepping onto the loop trail we took a right-hand turn, hiking downhill with left-hand winding turns, crossing creeks by rock hopping and ending at Mushroom Rock. You can see a picture and read a description of the feature by goggling. Looking beyond the rock you will find the white blazes of the Cumberland Trail. Following these blazes, the trail goes left back toward Edward's Point or downhill rather steeply with switchbacks, and finally flattening out at the bridge that crosses North Suck Creek. Here we rested with a snack break before beginning the climb back up. It is only a half mile from top to bottom, but footsteps should be taken with caution as rough and steep. Glad the light sprinkles that were hitting us in the beginning did not "make" a real rain were: Charlie Breeding, Joe Tehringer, Boe Rudder, Betsy Parson, Joy Ward, Susan Garrett, Wendy Gunn, Debbie Lambert, Bill Kinnaman, Tom Carter, and Che Carico, reporting. Lunch included GREAT burgers at Rollo's Bar and Grill over the Sequatchie county line and just past Grandview. Really nice place, in spite of its name!

Reports from the Field



Pictures from Joy

Benton Mackaye trail maintenance, Hiwassee Saturday October 13, 2018

We brushed out the entire section, removed downed trees and repaired tread in four locations. Someone has just been through with a chain saw and taken out all but one tree near eastern end. It is pretty big, and I suspect a bigger saw is needed to remove it. It is too big to get around and only 20 inches to crawl under. We did not get the tread repaired where it is most needed. At the shale ledge at the high point on the eastern end. There used to be footholds in the ledge, but time and hikers have broken them off. The tread is only 6 to 10 inches wide on either side, but we ran out of energy at that point. We can fix it but need some direction from you on how BMTA wants it done. This was a Chattanooga Hiking Club volunteer day. Carolyn Brannon, Bill Kinnaman, John Budka, Steve Barnes, and Boe Rudder reporting.

Enterprise South Wednesday October 24, 2018

18 hikers set out to enjoy a beautiful day and headed to Enterprise South Nature Park. We covered 6 plus miles hiking a loop comprised of the Poe Run Path, Dogwood Ridge Trail to Hawks' Ridge and back via Poe Run Path. Participating were Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Bill LaRoque, Boe Rudder, John Budka, Joe Teringer, Larry Parks, Linda Keown, Linda Rudder, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Stormy McGauley, Tom Carter, John Searcy, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Gail Stokes and Cecile Shenouda Stormy McGauley reporting.

Outings Schedule

11/17/18	Bald River (M)	B Rudder
11/23/18	Cloudland Canyon (M/S)	B McCollum
12/01/18	GA Pinhoti (M/S)	B McCollum
12/08/18	Keown Falls (M/S)	T Chomyn
12/15/18	CT Soddy-Daisy or Lookout Mtn	M Boggs
12/19/18	Wednesday Christmas lunch	C Carico
12/22/18	Harrison Bay Loop <u>sunset</u> hike (E)	J Rowland
01/01/19	Prentice Cooper New Year's (E/M/S)	J Rowland

Other Stuff

MotionX Instructions

Several club members have discovered the benefits of having an app on your cell phone that helps you navigate a hiking trail. MotionX is one such app that has found a lot of favor within our ranks. Teresa and Mac Dean have taken it upon themselves to create an instruction sheet that can help those of us who want to take advantage of this opportunity, but are a little bit technically challenged. This instruction sheet has been added to the website under the "More..." and "Helpful Hints" tabs. Many thanks to Teresa & Mac for their work!

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 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 unmaintained 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, email, text, etc., 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.

Regarding the above...



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) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Outings - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Newsletter/Webmaster - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 781-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)