



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

February 2019

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months (except December) at the REI store at 2507 Lifestyle Way, behind the Embassy Suites off Shallowford Road.

Next meeting – Monday February 4, 2018

Between an Army hitch and working for the Dept. of Defense, the Dept. of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining, and TVA, Bill Godsey has been heavily involved in mapping nationally and even around the globe. We all love maps, especially topo maps which show us how *crazy steep* that trail is! Bill's primary topic is going to be the making of topo maps, so we'll no doubt have a much better understanding and appreciation of them at the end of the evening. Gary Petty is also going to speak to us about how GPS works and how to read a map using GPS coordinates.

Also, current paid members who attend will be eligible for a drawing for a \$25 REI gift card.



The hike ain't over until
Brunnhilde sings!



Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

New Year's Prentice Cooper, Snooper's Rock Tuesday January 1, 2019

Far, far different from last year's bone-chilling cold, this year's outing was downright balmy, somewhere in the 50's the whole time. Somebody even wore shorts! We delayed our start a little to let some rain clear out, then trekked from the CT trail head parking lot, down past Indian Rock House, and on out to Snooper's Rock. Along the way we had the usual nice views through the trees of the river, including some fog blanketing a large portion of the river like cotton. All but two of the original group then completed their day with a short hike up to Tower Road where the shuttle cars were waiting. But two of us chose to return the way we had come, and were joined by two others who had arrived late and were wanting to do the hike in that direction. The warmer weather resulted in a total crowd of 21 showing up, some familiar faces not seen in a while, and some new faces. Starting off what hopefully will be a great hiking year for all of us were Boe Rudder, Joe Teringer, Bill Kinnaman, Sue Christensen, Faye and Melvin Nunez, Linda Keown, Teresa and Mac Dean, Debbie and Glenn Nickelson, Merry and Diehl Boggs, Bob Shafto, Trey Causey, Jerry Wright, Betsy Parson, Marti Smith, Denise Whitaker, JD Dickinson, and John Rowland reporting.



Picture above from Teresa,
pictures at left from John

Upcoming Outings

Bear Paw, Chestnut Mtn. Loop Saturday February 2, 2019

Location: Ocoee Whitewater Center
Distance: 7.2 miles
Elevation change: 527' ascent, 492' descent
Pace: Standard

Driving time: 50 minutes from Ooltewah
We will park at the Ocoee Whitewater Center, parking fee is \$3 per vehicle. The hike starts across the bridge from the Visitor Center on the Bear Paw Loop, which will lead us to the Chestnut Mtn. Loop. The majority of the trail follows old logging roads. We will stop for lunch on the trail, then continue on the loop back to the Bear Paw Trail and the Visitor Center. Allow four (4) hours for the hike. To register contact hike leader Susan Basch at 706-633-6159 or sbasch@nexband.com.

Pine Log Creek Trail Saturday February 9, 2019

Location: Rydal, GA
Driving time: 1 hour from Chattanooga
Distance: 4.6 miles
Elevation: 800 ft. approx.
Rating: Moderate
Pace: Standard

The Pine Log Creek Trail is a 4.6-mile double loop which winds through a beautifully rugged, rolling forest through shady pines and deciduous trees near Adairsville, GA. The hike's highlight is the remote, water-filled pond on Pine Log Creek's eastern loop, where crystal-clear, chilly water fills the remains of a historic rock quarry (built by the CCC) framed in giant, jagged rock outcrops. This is a perfect spot for lunch or snack. To learn more about the trail, here is a great article from Atlanta Trails: <https://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/pine-log-creek-trail-and-quarry/>. To register, contact hike leader Bill Needham at texasatea123@gmail.com or 832.614.2737.

Cloudland Connector, Ascalon to Nickajack Saturday February 16, 2019

Location: Lookout Mtn., GA
Distance: 8.5
Elevation gain: Minimal – relatively level with a few dips and climbs
Rating: Moderate
Pace: Standard
Driving time: 20 minutes from Chattanooga
The hike will begin at the Ascalon Road trailhead. We plan to hike out the main CCT trail, passing the 5 Points trailhead and then crossing Hwy 157 and proceed to the Nickajack trailhead. We will take a water/snack break near the midpoint. Contact Steve Barnes at sebarnestorm@gmail.com or 423-339-3019

Upcoming Outings

AT, Stecoah Gap to Nantahala Outdoor Center Saturday February 23, 2019

Location: Robbinsville/Nantahala Gorge, NC
Distance: 13.4 miles
Elevation: NOBO 3,300 ft. in 7.9 miles or SOBO 2,000 ft. in 5.5 miles
Rating: Very strenuous
Pace: Standard

Driving time: 2 hrs. 15 minutes from Ooltewah
Cheoah Bald at 5,062 feet is considered one of seven hardest day hikes on the Appalachian Trail according to this REI blog: <https://www.rei.com/blog/hike/seven-hardest-day-hikes-appalachian-trail>. Located between the Nantahala Outdoor Center and Stecoah Gap, who is brave enough to tackle this section of trail? The hike leader plans to hike south starting at Stecoah Gap (near Robbinsville, NC) which is still a tough climb, but a longer descent. If any are interested in going northbound, we can execute a key swap to make for an easier car shuttle. For those interested, we plan to drive up Friday afternoon for overnight at the Quality Inn in Robbinsville, NC in order to get an early start on Saturday morning. The weather will be a determining factor for the success of this hike, as there could be snow at the higher elevations. If you're section hiking the Appalachian Trail, or you like a challenge, this hike is for you. To register and receive more details regarding overnight accommodations, contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143.

Ritchie Hollow Saturday March 2, 2019

Location: Tennessee River Gorge, Chattanooga, TN
Distance: 5.4 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,200+ feet
Rating: Moderate to moderately strenuous (see description)
Pace: Standard

The March 2 hike will be the Ritchie Hollow Trail. This trail begins at the level of the Tennessee River at Pot Point cabin and winds its way through lovely woods, rising to its intersection with the Cumberland Trail. It will combine a good climb (over 1,200 feet elevation gain) with contemplative pauses to enjoy nature's displays, including a snack break at the 30-foot Blowing Winds waterfall. At this time, our hike is expected to be 5.4 miles round trip. It should be noted that at the top, the trail meets the Pot Point Loop trail in Prentice Cooper Forest. If the weather is propitious with hints of spring, as the time approaches, we may extend the hike along the Pot Point Loop trail to the Natural Bridge and back. With an extended hike and the inherent elevation gain, the hike may approach being moderately strenuous. Register with Edie Behringer at ebehringer@att.net if you plan to hike.

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**Pine Mountain
Saturday January 5, 2019**

After weeks of rain, dreary weather, and cancelled hikes, we finally had a sunny day for a hike. Thirteen hikers met up in Cartersville, Georgia, at the West Pine Mountain trailhead just off Interstate 75. We hiked both the east and west loops as well as visited several interesting sites along the way - the David Archer Overlook, the Laurel Ridge Trail to the Allatoona Dam Overlook, and Cooper's Furnace, a pre-civil war iron works furnace and the last remaining structure of the Etowah community which was flooded by the Army Corps of Engineers to build Lake Allatoona. At the David Archer Overlook, the sky was crystal clear which offered fantastic views of Lake Allatoona, the Atlanta skyline, as well as Big Kennesaw, Little Kennesaw, and Stone Mountains. Even though some hikers had planned to shorten their hike and only hike the two loops, everyone hiked the entire 8 miles making us all "map markers" according to one wise hiker which was our "quote of the day." Pine Mountain is a very popular trail as evidenced by the number of hiker families (children and dogs included) we met along the trail. Feeling accomplished and happy to be on the trail were Mary Ann Pawlowski, Helen and Ron Owens, Sonja Parker, Betsy Darken, Brian Kinder, Anne Moore, Trey Causey, John Rowland, Tim Chomyn, Wayne Chambers, Che Carico, and Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Pictures from Tim

**Soak Creek
Wednesday January 9, 2019**

A grand day to take off following Don Deakins on a brand-new section of the Cumberland trail. The hike began at the parking lot of Stinging Fork (we left some cars at the recreation area at the Piney River trail head for the shuttle) and walked to the intersection with Soak Creek. Turning left here you can walk a short distance to the Stinging Fork waterfall and return to then go on downstream along Soak Creek to end at the Piney River trail head. Water in the falls was tremendous and the creek roared fast and wide! The rock work on this trail by trail builders is the best we have ever seen. Yes, there are downs and rather steep ups, but none lasted too long as the trail wandered through the woods and in and out of gorges, passing several campsites. Lunch was by the creek in a nice flat spot just before the trail took a steep with switchbacks upturn. After intersecting with an old road bed, the final 2-mile walk was rather flat, only now and then rocky, and periodically marked with mud puddles easily bypassed. As this trail is in the Piney River area, we will return in the spring surely to find an amazing array of spring wild flowers. Enchanted with this newly completed section of our CT were: Bill Kinnaman, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Joy Ward, Jean Dickinson, Charlie Breeding, Bob Shafto, Susan Basch, Jenny Hopkins (loaded with her delicious oatmeal apricot cookies to share), Tim Chomyn, Stormy McGauley, Betsy Darken, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Gary Petty, Boe Rudder, Renee Grace, Carla Schunck, John Rowland, Jane Ellett and Carol Deakins companion trail builders with Don Deakins our leader, and Che Carico, reporting.



Pictures above and left from Don, below from Joy.



Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**Keown Falls
Saturday January 12, 2019**

It was a cool windy day eight hikers completed a 5-mile hike at Keown Falls. The two falls were beautiful after the heavy rains. It was a good aerobic hike to the top of John's Mountain with a gentle downhill back to the cars. Cheryl's lost phone was found by a Good Samaritan who posted it on Facebook. Hikers included Boe Rudder, Merry and Diehl Boggs, Bill Needham, Betsy Darken, Cheryl Hale, Brian Kinder with Tim Chomyn leading.



Pictures from Tim, above, and Boe



**Stringer's Ridge
Wednesday January 16, 2019**

Wednesday's hike along Stringers Ridge was a combination of Hill City - Double J - and Gig City trails for a total of about 4 and a half miles. With a full parking lot and moderate temperatures, 20 plus hikers (and one runner) spent a cool but wonderful morning inside the city limits. Everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company as we separated into groups according to our desired speed. With winter's views, many of the houses both old and new could be seen from the trail. Once the first set of hikers finished, they hurried to First Watch at 300 Cherokee and reserved tables for the rest of the hikers before the lunch rush. Both the food and the camaraderie were a great ending to the morning. Hikers included Barry Ligon, Betsy Darken, Betsy Parson, Beverly Ligon, Carla Schunk,

(continued...)

Edie Behringer, John Budka, Joe Teringer, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Tim Chomyn, Tom Carter, Gail Stokes, Elaine Lagoda, Spears McAllester, Cheryl Hale, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Bill Kinnaman, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Jenny Chandler, Charlie Breeding, Che Carico, Diehl and Merry Boggs leading.

**GA Pinhoti
Sunday January 20, 2019**

Two strikes didn't dissuade seven hikers from completing sections 18 and 19 of the Georgia Pinhoti on a cold, blustery day in January. Originally scheduled for December 1, 2018, the hike was postponed to January 19th because of rain. Another rainy Saturday, so we opted for the next best day—the Sunday after the rainy day. We all met at the Highpoint trailhead near Holland, Georgia, and were shuttled to the Huffaker Road trailhead near Rome, Georgia by father and son duo, Greg and Clark McCollum, to begin our 12.2-mile hike. This section is commonly referred to as the Simms Mountain Trail. Relatively flat, we were able to keep a brisk pace even though numerous puddles were in the trail from the previous day's rain. We dodged most of the puddles but encountered some pesky briars along the way. This trail section is along an old railroad bed and many private homes adjoin the railroad right of way. Prior warnings about aggressive dogs in this section prompted the hike leader to bring bear spray. It was retrieved a couple of times, but most of the dogs ran the other way when confronted with seven hikers. The sun came out mid-day and all agreed it was better to be on a hiking trail full of puddles and briars, than sitting on the couch eating too many calories. Hikers included club members

Amanda and Brian Kinder, Jenny Hopkins, and Cathy Love. Guests from the Rome area were Mary Ann Pawlowski and Millie Lockley. Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Pictures from Barbara

Outings Schedule

02/02/19	Chestnut Mtn/Bear Paw Loop, Ocoee	S Basch
02/09/19	Pine Log Creek, Adairsville, GA	B Needham
02/16/19	Cloudland Canyon Connector	S Barnes
02/23/19	AT, Stecoah Gap to NOC	B McCollum
03/02/19	Ritchie Hollow	E Behringer
03/09/19	Gibbs Gardens, GA	Rowland/McCollum
03/16/19	Kennesaw Mtn, GA	S Parker
03/23/19	Smokies, AT/Blvd/Trillium Gap	K Smith
03/23/19	Ft Mtn, Gahuti Loop	S Basch
03/30/19	Smokies, Abrams Falls/Little Bottoms	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 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.

Other Stuff

More from the Soak Creek hike



Picture from Teresa.

A brief
guest
editorial

"Hiking - I don't like either the word or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not hike! Do you know the origin of that word 'saunter?' It's a beautiful word. Away back in the Middle Ages people used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages through which they passed asked where they were going, they would reply, 'A la sainte terre,' 'To the Holy Land.' And so they became known as sainte-terre-ers or saunterers. Now these mountains are our Holy Land, and we ought to saunter through them reverently, not 'hike' through them.'"

~ JOHN MUIR

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) 718-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)