



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

April 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 April 1, 2019

Barry Allen and Ralph Heller from the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) will be presenting a program about the trail, it's conception, building of the trail, the BMTA's mission, volunteer service and outreach events. Barry is the current President of the BMTA and served as the Georgia Director of Maintenance for the organization from 2014-2018. Ralph is the past BMTA President, GA Maintenance Director and Hiking Director. Our club has a history with the BMTA, since our beloved Betty Petty was a past President of and very active in the BMTA. It will be good for us all to learn more about the trail and the organization responsible for it.

Also, there will be a drawing for a \$25 REI gift card at the meeting! All paid members are eligible.

It's Dues Time Again

April 1 is time to renew membership. If you have joined the club since the first of the year, your membership is good through March 31, 2020. And of course if you've already renewed, thank you! There is a renewal form available on the website, under the "About Us" tab. You can print it and mail it in along with your check. Or bring it to the meeting Monday evening. And *please* tell us about any changes to your address, phone number, email, etc.

We welcome Boe Rudder as our new treasurer and send a huge "Thank You!" to Donald Box for his years of service as both treasurer and, before that, president. Donald has been a mainstay of the club for years, and we look forward to still seeing Madelaine and Donald on the trail with us for a long time.



Reports from the Field

Cloudland Canyon, Sitton Gulch Wednesday February 27, 2019

The clouds parted today, and the sun came out as well as 31 club hikers! As predicted the waterfalls and water roaring in Daniel Creek were fast and furious. Thanks to the post on Facebook over the weekend, we knew this trail was passable and had emerging wildflowers. Random blood root and yellow violets showed their beauty alongside the new leaves promising soon to bloom trillium. Never have we seen toothwort so numerous and spread across the forest floor as far as one could see!! Spirits were high as these friends were back in the woods and on a trail together. Enjoying hiking to lower falls, upper falls, and some on beyond to the West Rim loop were: Bill Kinnaman, Cecile Shenouda, Susan Garrett, Tom Carter, Barbara Miller, Stormy McGauley, Linda Keown, Sue Christensen, Donald and Madelaine Box (welcome back!), Betsy Darken, Diehl Boggs, Edith Behringer, Jean Dickinson, Mac Dean, Merry Boggs, Patti Giles, Ned Giles, Renee Grace, Richard Park, Teresa Dean, Tim Chomyn, Wanda McCarter, Mary Ann Langevin, Joe Tehringer, Bob Shafto, Steve Boone, Karin Dering, Suzanne Dorough, Che Carico reporting, and Debbie Lambert leading.



Pictures above and at left from Tim

Upcoming Outings

Abrams Falls via Little Bottoms Saturday March 30, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Distance: 11 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet in rollercoaster fashion
Rating: Strenuous
Pace: Standard
Driving Time: 2 hrs

We'll enter the SW corner of the park at the Abrams Creek ranger station, where we'll leave the cars. After hiking through the nearby campground, we'll cover a short section of Cooper Road trail, then turn onto Little Bottoms trail/manway. Up over a steep ridge, back down to the river for a while, then up some more, we'll connect with Hatcher Mtn trail. A quick downhill to the river again, and we'll use the Abrams Falls trail to reach the falls. If it's still been as rainy as it has been, water shoes might come in handy on an early creek crossing. And you might want to wade a little in the pool below the falls! Early spring wildflowers should be out, the waterfalls itself should be strong, and after the hike we'll likely make a little side trip drive and another half-mile walk to check out Look Rock Tower on the Foothills Parkway. Dinner will be at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore! Contact John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com, or 423 802-7704.



Big South Fork car camp Friday-Sunday April 12-14, 2019

Location: Big South Fork Nat'l River & Rec Area
Drive Time: 2.5 hrs

Back to Bandy Creek Campground, complete with heated bathhouses and hot showers for those camping wanna-be's or newbies! We'll do the usual set of hikes starting with the 4.6 mile O&W Railroad Bridge hike on Friday afternoon. Then we'll make the 5.5 mile loop from Twin Arches down to Charit Creek Lodge and back on Saturday. Sunday we'll do the 5.6 mile Angel Falls Overlook hike (at right). Last time we did this in the spring we found lots of wildflowers! And on the way up and back I'll definitely make time for burgers and old-fashioned shakes at Cumberland Mtn General Store; yum! Campsites will need to be reserved, so please let me know as early as possible if you want to join us. Campsites are \$10 per night with a Golden Age/Golden Access/America the Beautiful senior pass (I'll need serial numbers so we can have one at each site). With individual tents, 4 per campsite is the norm. So I'm thinking 3 campsites, maybe 4 if there's that much interest. Campsite fees plus purchased firewood will probably come to around \$7-10 per person. Contact John Rowland at jrowland_1@hotmail.com or 423 802-7704.



Upcoming Outings

Meigs Mtn/Meigs Creek Saturday April 20, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Distance: 10.0 miles
Elevation: Gain 1200 feet, Descent 2000
Rating: Moderate
Pace: Standard
Drive Time: 2.5 hrs

We'll start by dropping cars at The Sinks parking area and shuttle up to Elkmont to begin our hike. Due to limited parking we'll leave the minimum number of cars to shuttle us back to Elkmont at the end of the hike. From Elkmont, we'll hike in a short .4 miles on Jakes Creek trail to Meigs Mountain trail. Meigs Mountain is a relatively easy, 6.1 mile hike which we'll follow to Meigs Creek trail. Meigs Creek trail is 3.5 miles but will have 18-20 stream crossings on its way down to The Sinks and our cars, so water shoes are a must. To register, contact hike leader Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or call at 864-809-1800.

Virginia Creeper Bike Ride Wednesday-Thursday April 24-25, 2019

Location: near Damascus, VA

I have reservations for 25 on this date. We will drive up Wednesday, spend the night Wednesday in Abingdon, VA, and be at the Sun Dog Bike Outfitters in Damascus at 9:30 Thursday morning. Their address is 331 Douglas Dr, Damascus, 1-276-475-6262. We usually stay at the Comfort Inns and Suites, Abingdon, exit 14 off I 81. When we get to Sun Dog Outfitters, each person will pay for the bike, helmet, bottle of water, and shuttle. The cost for all is \$25.99, plus tax per person. The shuttle will leave the outfitters at 10:00. It is approximately 30 minutes to White Top Mountain to start. The only thing to hinder our trip is rain/temperature. That decision will be made a few days before we leave. Please call or email me for additional information and get on the list. Some might want to go up early and go to the Barter Theater for a play. Wayne Chambers, [423-593-3717](tel:423-593-3717), or waynevc@epbfi.com



Benton MacKaye backpack Friday-Monday April 26-29, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC
This time it's a 3 day/2 night backpack of BMT Section #21 - 26.5 miles, from Lakeshore Drive west of Bryson City to Smokemont Campground (also known/qualifies as GSMNP 900 Noland Creek, Pole Road Creek, Martins Gap, Newton Bald trails). Since group size will be limited to 8 per GSMNP rules, sign up early. Contact Cathy Love, lovecat@charter.net

Upcoming Outings

Tommy Point

Saturday April 27, 2019

Location: Savage Gulf, north of Dunlap, TN

Distance: 12.8 miles

Elevation Gain: minimal

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Moderate

Driving Time: 1 hour

Tommy Point is a large overlook of the three separate gulfs as they come together. Across the way, homes near Beersheba Springs are visible. There are also several other overlooks on the way. We'll take a combination of the Savage Day Loop, North Rim, North Plateau, and Mountain Oak trails. Elevation gain really will be minimal - very flat for a hike this long on the Cumberland Plateau. But still a strenuous hike due to length and some uneven footing. There's a possibility of dinner at the Cookie Jar in Dunlap on the way home! Hike leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com, or 423 802-7704.

Ace Gap, Beard Cane, Cooper Road

Saturday May 4, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 15.4 miles

Elevation: Gain 2000 feet, Descent 2200

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Drive Time: 2.5 hrs

We'll spend Friday night in Townsend where we'll arrange to drop cars at the Abrams Falls parking area in Cades Cove prior to sunset. Saturday morning we'll simply drive up Old Cades Cove Road to the Ace Gap trail head to begin our hike, hiking the entire 5.6 miles length where we'll join Beard Cane trail. Beard Cane is 4.2 miles but has a crossing of Hesse Creek which may require water shoes. From Beard Cane we'll intersect with Cooper Road trail, following it to our cars at Abrams Falls Parking area. To register, contact hike leader Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or call at 864-809-1800.

AT, Goshen Prong, Little River

Saturday May 25, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 13.5 miles

Elevation: Gain 200 feet, Descent 3300

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Drive Time: 2.5 hrs

After spending the night in Townsend, we'll drop cars at Elkmont as we head up Clingman's Dome Road to start our hike. After the .5 mile hike up to the AT, the remainder of the hike will be downhill, following the AT for 1.9 miles to Goshen Prong. Goshen Prong will be a steep downhill for the first four miles of the 7.6 mile trail. From there it's an easy 3.6 miles out Little River Trail to our car. To register, contact hike leader Ken Smith at KenSmith323@gmail.com or call at 864-809-1800.

Reports from the Field

Ritchie Hollow

Saturday March 2, 2019

Ritchie Hollow was a new trail for almost all 7 hikers, including 2 guest hikers that we welcomed to have join in with us. This hike is marked by its 1200+ foot climb up from the Tennessee River (at Pot Point House) to meet with sections of the Cumberland Trail in Prentice Cooper State Forest. We proceeded to explore, and even with our small number, bunched, as usual, into smaller groups. Two hikers climbed up Ritchie Hollow to Pot Point Loop and ventured to Snoopers Rock and back in astonishing time. Three hiked forward and back to Davis Park Campground - the trailhead at the other end of Ritchie Hollow trail. And two communed with nature and lingered at Blowing Wind Falls, stupendously voluminous, and whose roar could be heard far down the trail as one approached. All met up at the trail's intersection with Pot Point Loop in Prentice Cooper, and then proceeded to enjoy the descent back to river level. Ritchie Hollow trail had very few soft, muddy, or slippery places despite the record recent rainfall, testimony to the design and construction of this great trail. Weather was overcast and comfortable, just cool enough to require one to

put on another layer when one stopped for more than a moment. Wildflowers observed along the trail included hepatica, and, nearer the river, colonies of trillium (Sweet Betsy) and toothwort unfolding their blooms, announcing that spring was on the way. Kudos to our hiking guests! Hikers: John Budka, Sue Christiansen, Tim Chomyn, Rick Glisson and guest hikers Monika Burschky and Jennifer Walls, with Edie Behringer reporting.



Pictures from Tim

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**Foster Falls
Wednesday March 6, 2019**

By suggestion from our friend Bob Butters, this hike began at the platform overlook above the falls then continued counterclockwise along the bluff on the Fiery Gizzard Trail. We had hoped to hike the Climber's Loop but lots of water and freezing temperatures created a potential hazard from falling icicles from the bluff above the trail and ice underfoot. A few curious hikers did walk out to the bluff via the Climber's Loop spur only to find lots of ice on the steps down to the floor below. Bob's suggestion gave us a hike that was just as long as the Loop would have been without the ice threat. Most hiked all the way to the Small Wilds sign and then returned. At this point the trail would have turned down into the gorge as the Fiery Gizzard trail made its way to the Grundy Forest trail head. Rocks, moss, ferns, some minor water crossings, and pounding waterfalls - all added to the beauty of this wilderness on a day when the sun was finally shining! Glad to be in the woods after so many rainy days were: Barbara Miller, Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, John Budka, Joe Tehringer, Wanda McCarter, Tim Chomyn, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Mary Ann Langevin, Linda Keown, Renee Grace, Charlie Breeding, Suzanne Dorough, Cheryl Hale, Sue Christensen, Trish Appleton, Susan Garrett, Stormy McGauley, Vicki Chambers, Wayne Chambers, Tom Carter, Patti Giles, Bob Shafto, Doug Graydon, Che Carico reporting, Susan Garrett leading.



Pictures above & below from Teresa



Picture above from Tim

**Gahuti
Wednesday March 13, 2019**

Sixteen sturdy souls braved the unexpectedly high winds and cold temperature to hike a portion of the Gahuti Backcountry Trail. We hiked the trail counterclockwise from the Cool Springs Overlook approximately 2½ miles to what the rangers call the Big Rock waterfall because of its proximity to the Big Rock Trail. Most of us sat by the Falls and ate lunch before heading back up the steep trail to our cars. The Falls were unusually full because of all our recent rain and provided us with an excellent photo opportunity! Enjoying the day and our fellow hikers were: Bill Kinnaman, Renee Grace, Jean Dickinson, Boe Rudder, Jennifer Yarbrough, John Budka, Joe Tehringer, Mary Ann Langevin, Stormy McGauley, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Bob Shafto, and Che Carico, with Jenny Hopkins and Susan Basch leading. Susan Basch reporting.



**Kennesaw Mtn
Saturday March 16, 2019**

On March 16th, a very pretty day was enjoyed as we hiked 5.8 miles on Big Kennesaw, Little Kennesaw, and Pigeon Hill in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Afterwards, a few hikers ate at a local restaurant, Capers, and others enjoyed some shopping! Those hiking were Barbara McCollum, Terri and Noel Holcomb, Brian and Amanda Kinder, John Budka, and Sonja Parker.



Picture from Barbara

Outings Schedule

03/30/19	Smokies, Abrams Falls/Little Bottoms	J Rowland
04/12-14/19	Big South Fork car camp	J Rowland
04/20/19	Smokies, Meigs Mtn/Meigs Creek	K Smith
04/24-25/19	Virginia Creeper bike ride	W Chambers
04/26-29/19	BMT backpack (Smokies)	C Love
04/27/19	Tommy Pt, Savage Gulf	J Rowland
05/04/19	Smokies, Ace Gap, Beard Cane	K Smith
05/11/19	Cow Camp Lead	B Rudder
05/18/19	Smokies backpack (Bear Creek)	C Carico
05/25/19	Smokies, AT, Goshen Prong, Little River	K Smith
06/01/19	Nat'l Trails Day trail maintenance	S Barnes
06/01/19	Smokies backpack (Lakeshore)	C Carico
06/07-10/19	BMT slackpack	C Love

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 Kennesaw Mtn, from Barbara



Also, a note

The club made a donation (\$100) to the Cumberland Trails Conference early this year in memory of Sam Powell, one of the Conference's founders, and hiking club friend. We have received a letter from the Conference thanking us. More than 230 miles of the ultimately 300+ miles of the CT have been completed. —Donald

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

Club Officers and Support:

President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954

Vice President - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525

Treasurer - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Outings - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

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)