



## Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

September 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 October 7, 2019

(We have decided to forgo summer meetings..)

### Happy Anniversary to Us!

2019 marks our 30th year, so we're going to have a picnic at Cloudland Canyon on Saturday, October 19. There will be covered dishes to feed the multitudes, a little bit of hiking (or maybe more for those with more energy), lots of current members, but hopefully lots of former members or friends that we just don't see much any more. So mark the date on your calendars, round up some old pictures, dust off your best tall tales, and join us for a day of hiking, food, friendship, and laughter!



To whet your appetite for the 30th anniversary gathering, above is Ray's birthday party at LeConte in 2012, and below is Kendra's 76-person hike at Lula Lake in 2010.



## Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### Pot Point Loop, Snooper's Rock to Davis Pond Wednesday July 31, 2019

Typical summer forecast of high temperature for today! We found ourselves reasonably cool under a thick canopy following the trail from Snooper's Rock to the Narrow Bridge. Turning around here we hiked back to where the Ritchie Trail crosses over the Pot Point Loop trail. A left hand turn led back to cars at Davis Pond. This section is new and completes the Ritchie Trail as it comes up from the Pot Point House trailhead on Mullins Cove Road. Another trail section complete as the Prentice Cooper complex of trails grows. Enjoying this new section and discovering the pond and recreation area in the forest were: Bill Kinnaman, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Bill Prince, Jean Dickinson, Edith Behringer, Barbara Miller, Joe Tehringer, Suzanne Dorough, Betsy Darken, Donna Mahros, Joe Dumas, Che Carico reporting, Wayne Chambers leading.

#### Pot Point Loop Trail Maintenance Wednesday August 7, 2019

Steve Barnes is the trail steward for the Pot Point Loop trail in the Prentice Cooper State Forest. Today we went with him there to work on refreshing old trail blazes, clipping back branches and small growth on the trail, and sawing down trees. Steve planned for teams to start from each end of the section from Snooper's Rock to Tower Road along the part of the trail that includes Hemlock Branch and Ransom Hollow spur trail. Each team had a bucket of paint, a scrapper, clippers, loppers, and several saws. The plan was to swap keys - Steve had driven down Tower Road where the Pot Point Loop crosses over. We finished the section much to the pleasure of Steve! There is a little more to do on that trail - it is a long one - and we should plan another trip to make the job complete. Feeling the reward of payback for all the trail building and maintenance that has gone on before us were: Bill Kinnaman, JD Dickinson, Caroline Woerner, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Sue Christensen, Tom Long, Charlie Breeding, Joe Tehringer, Che Carico reporting and Steve Barnes leading.

<b>Upcoming Outings</b>
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**Flat Creek Loop****Saturday September 14, 2019**

Location: Blue Ridge, GA

Distance: 5.7 miles

Elevation Gain: 500 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 90 minutes from Ooltewah

This is a nice loop hike in the woodlands of the North Georgia mountains. Lunch after the hike at Serenity Gardens Café in Blue Ridge for anyone who's interested in joining me! Contact hike leader Susan Basch at sbasch@nexband.com or (706) 633-6159.

**Smokies, Thomas Divide Trail****Thursday-Friday September 19-20, 2019**

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 15.5 miles

Elevation Change: a long downhill

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 2 ½ hours

This will be a hike on Thomas Divide from trail head on U.S. Highway 441 to Deep Creek. I will camp at Deep Creek campground near Bryson City on Thursday night September 19th through Sunday the 22nd. Interested hikers can meet me at the end of Deep Creek parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning to carpool to trail head on Hwy. 441. The hike will be a return of 15.5 miles to Deep Creek. We will have to pick up cars at the end of the day, so plan on a long day. If you're trying to get into the 900-mile club I will try to accommodate you to drop off cars along the way. Just let me know if you're interested, and you make the reservations at the campground. This hike is in conjunction with the Noland Divide hike to be led by Ken Smith on September 21st. To register, email Tom Sewell at sewelltom@yahoo.com or text 706.669.6406.

**Smokies, Noland Divide Trail****Saturday September 21, 2019**

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 11.6 miles

Elevation Change: gain 800, descent 5,000 feet

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 2 ½ hours

Join trip leader Ken Smith on Saturday, September 21 on a shuttle hike from Clingmans Dome Road to Deep Creek Campground. After dropping cars at Deep Creek, we will shuttle to the trailhead of the Noland Divide Trail to begin our descent, covering the full 11.6 miles to Deep Creek Campground. Noland Divide is mostly a continual downhill trek with only one stretch of moderate uphill for 1.8 miles. As this is a shorter hike than some, we will plan to meet at Deep Creek to drop cars at 9:00 a.m. This will allow hikers to have a choice of driving over the night before or driving over the morning of the hike. Interested parties should contact Ken Smith via email, KenSmith323@gmail.com, or by text or phone call at 864-809-1800.

<b>Upcoming Outings</b>
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**Smokies, Lakeshore Trail "Boat Camp"****Thursday-Sunday September 26-29, 2019**

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Drive to Fontana Lake Thursday, September 26. This hike has become a tent camping trip and reservations must be made by August 26 to reserve the campsite. The campsite is # 86 and the hike will be broken up into three segments - day 1 campsite # 74 to # 76, day 2 # 76 to # 86, day 3 # 86 to # 90. This trip will not require backpacking as pontoon shuttle delivery to campsite at Hazel Creek. Total distance 25.4 miles. Contact Che Carico - mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net for campsite reservation.

**Bald River****Saturday September 28, 2019**

Location: Near Tellico Plains, TN

Distance: 8.2 miles

Elevation Gain: ~500 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 90 minutes from Ooltewah

Bald River Falls Trail is an 8.2 mile in and out hike. We will start at the falls, hike to Bald River Falls Road and then back for a snack/lunch at the upper shoals. 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. Contact Boe Rudder: boerrudder@gmail.com or 423.400.110

**Virginia Creeper Bike Ride****Wednesday-Thursday October 9-10, 2019**

Location: Abingdon &amp; Damascus, VA

Drive up to Abingdon on Wednesday; bike ride on Thursday. Contact Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717, for more details.

**Len Foote Inn dayhike****Saturday October 12, 2019**

Location: Amicalola Falls State Park, GA

Distance: 10 miles

Pace: Moderate

Elevation Gain: 800 ft.

Rating: Moderate/Strenuous because of distance

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes

The Chattanooga Hiking Club has been to the Hike Inn for several overnight hikes. It is called the Hike Inn because you have to hike 5 miles to get there. It is a unique Inn that has 20 rooms and is Gold Star Leed Certified for its conservation and ecological friendly structure. If you have not been there before, this would be a good time to take a peek. The hike starts above Amicalola Falls. The approach trail for the Appalachian Trail starts at the Ranger's Office below the falls. We will start on the Approach Trail then split off to the Hike Inn Trail. It is 5 miles to the Inn. At the Inn there will be a dining room where we can have lunch. They usually have tea, lemonade and water to drink. Sometimes they have snacks. After lunch we will hike 5 miles back to the cars. The hike leader is Tim Chomyn (706)346-6746 chomyn@catt.com.



## Reports from the Field

### Snake Den & Maddron Bald

**Saturday August 10, 2019**

Avid map markers set off to the Smokies leaving scorching concrete and temperature forecast in upper 90s. Never disappointed we started up a trail with the rating of difficult sheltered by overhead leaves and a cooling breeze. The rating is difficult because it is 5.3 miles almost relentless uphill (632 feet per mile) to the intersection with the AT. At mile 4.6 we found the trail sign leading off to the right for Albright, Maddron Bald, and Gabe's Mtn. Carolyn and Tom took off on this trail after hiking to the AT, touching the trail sign, and coming back down to the sign. They added miles and more trails than previously planned! Monty and Che retraced their steps to Cosby campground, picked up the car and drove to the Maddron Bald trailhead on Baxter Road off US321 to pick up Carolyn and Tom. Joyous after another day in the Smokies were Tom Bock, Carolyn Brannon, Monty Simmons, and Che Carico reporting.

### Cloudland Connector

**Wednesday August 14, 2019**

Nineteen intrepid hikers met me at the Ascalon trailhead to hike a portion of the Cloudland Connector Trail, despite the heat! Some of us hiked 3.4 miles along the Trail to Route 189 and then back to the trailhead along the same path, while others chose to return via the scenic "Can't Hardly" trail. Still others enjoyed a shorter hike to the bridge over Bear Creek and back again, for a total of approximately 4 miles. All of us enjoyed ourselves! Marching along were: Tom Carter, Wayne Chambers, Jennie Chandler, Sue Christensen, Betsy Darken, Patti Giles, Tammy Hendrick (G), Jenny Hopkins, Linda Keown, Bill Kinnaman, Stormy McGauley, Danielle Mountain (G), Joyce Mountain (G), Bill Needham, Richard Park, Larry Parks, Boe Rudder, Cynthia Skidmore, Joe Teringer and Susan Basch, leading and reporting.

### DeSoto State Park, AL

**Saturday August 17, 2019**

Three sturdy souls ignored the heat and met at the DeSoto Country Store. We started off on the Quarry Trail which led us past the old CCC Quarry, then picked up the Campground Trail to the Orange Trail to complete our loop. We stopped at both Lost Falls and Laurel Falls, but neither one had any water! From there we went to the Wildflower Café in Mentone for lunch, which we enjoyed very much. Hiking were Sandra Fenton and Betsy Parsons, along with Susan Basch, leading and reporting.



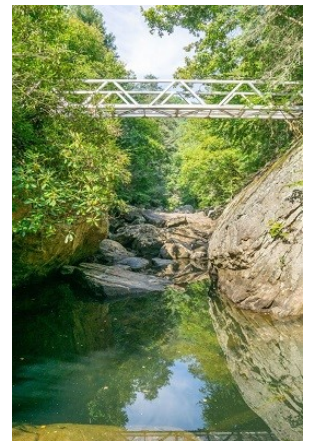
Wildflower Café - from Susan

## Reports from the Field

### Furnace Rock, Cain Creek Bridge

**Wednesday August 21, 2019**

Correct me if I am wrong, but today's hikers may be the first Wednesday hikers to cross the newly installed Cain Creek bridge. As the Cumberland Trail grows to completion, sections like this one require bridges. Cain Creek bridge will make possible the hike from Signal Mountain to Barker Camp and beyond to North Chickamauga Creek Trailhead. Don Deakins warned of difficult footing as the trail on each end of the bridge is not yet "polished". We tackled the rocks, roots, and steep climb assisted by ropes and with great care. I think Don was pleased that everyone hiked without injury and seemed to greatly enjoy the adventure. Several pools of deep greenish blue water have formed swimming holes - deep and clean for swimming by Tristan Carico. It is obvious the water runs with great passion in rainy weather - the bridge has been built high so as not to be washed away, to span the gorge between the bluffs, and to allow the passage of kayakers under it. Once again led on a CT adventure were: Jean Dickinson, Judy Varner, TC Varner, Wayne Chambers, Susan Garrett, Bill Kinnaman, Renee Grace, Carol Deakins, Tristan Carico, Bill Prince, Che Carico reporting and Don Deakins leading.



Pictures from Don Deakins



## Reports from the Field



Tristan swimming - picture from Don Deakins

### Chattanooga Riverwalk Saturday August 24, 2019

The saying, "it takes a village" applies to this hike. I signed up to lead this hike before I found out that I would have to have surgery and hiking is on hold for a couple of months. I volunteered to organize this hike and meet everyone for lunch.

Before I share the details of this hike, a special thanks to Carolyn and Barbara for helping led the hike. A special thanks to Tim and Elaine Chomyn for helping shuttle hikers to their car.

Hikers met at the Riverwalk Dam parking and hike 6.5 miles to Rembrant's for lunch. Carolyn pointed out the special features of this section of the Riverwalk. Thankfully the clouds were present on the first leg of this hike keeping everyone a little cooler.

Diehl and Merry Boggs and Tim and Elaine Chomyn met the group of hikers at Rembrant's for lunch and conversation.

After lunch, many hikers hiked back to their cars while the car shuttle operators deposited hikers at their cars.

A special warm welcome to Ed and Rita, their first hike with the CHA Hiking Club.

Hiker Present: Joyce Campbell, Terri and Noel Holcomb, Vicki and Wayne Chamber, Susan Basch, Rita Perderuex, Barbara McCollum, Ed Stokes, Carolyn Brannon, Diehl and Merry Boggs, and Tim and Elaine Chomyn.



Picture from Merry

## Reports from the Field

### Rome, GA, Riverwalk and Berry College Friday-Saturday August 30-31, 2019

Tucked in the foothills of the Appalachians, Rome's rivers frame the historic downtown for shopping, dining, and recreation. (The Oostanaula and Etowah converge to form the Coosa River.) A group of club members met Friday afternoon to kick off the Labor Day weekend and walked over six miles of the riverwalk and enjoyed some downtown dining at Moe's Barbecue and Honeymoon Bakery. Dinner was enjoyed by Ron and Helen Owens, Cathy Love, Carolyn Brannon, Terri Holcomb, and Greg and Barbara McCollum. Enjoying the pleasant walk, which included some history in Myrtle Hill Cemetery (the final resting place of President Woodrow Wilson's first wife, Ellen Axson Wilson) and the Between the Rivers Historic District (Sherman occupied Rome in 1864), were Carolyn, Cathy, Terri, Helen, Ron and Barbara.

With a goal of hiking an additional 6 miles on Saturday, five hikers (Carolyn, Cathy, Noel, Terri, and Barbara) met at 8:00 a.m. at Berry College's Victory Lake and hiked an hour before meeting up with the rest of the hikers at Frost Chapel. A quick tour of Frost Chapel was enjoyed by some of the newcomers and then it was off for an 8-mile hike which included the House o' Dreams atop Lavender Mountain, the reservoir, and the Old Mill. Not to be outdone by college football fans, a tailgate party was enjoyed at the end of this portion of the hike which may become a new end-of-hike tradition. We'll add lawn chairs to the list for next time!

After the tailgate party, some hearty hikers finished another three miles which made a total of 14 miles for Carolyn, Cathy, Noel, Terri and Barbara. Tom Bock (a new member) who is training for some AT backpacking joined this group which made 11 miles for him while carrying a 20-pound backpack.

Others participating in Saturday's hike were newcomers Gina Stafford, Bill Phelps, Rita Pendergast, and Michele Crowe. Seasoned club members included Wayne Chambers, Noel Holcomb, Mary Ann Pawlowski, Susan Basch, and John Rowland. Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Pictures from Barbara



