



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

February 2020

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 3, 2020

Rick Glisson will tell us about his Mt Kilimanjaro trip. You might want to bring some extra oxygen!



Picture from Barbara



Reports from the Field

Prentice Cooper, Snooper's Rock/Ransom Hollow Wednesday January 1, 2020

Our traditional New Year's Day trek was quite well-attended, and hopefully got us all started on a year filled with great hiking experiences. Everyone did the part from the Cumberland Trail parking area out to Snooper's Rock and its magnificent view, then up to Tower Road. A few stalwart souls continued across the road and hiked out to Ransom Hollow Overlook for a second view of the river, before finishing farther on out Tower Road. Bright-eyed and with no evidence of hangovers, the hikers were Barbara McCollum, Betsy Parson, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Bob Shafto, Che Carico, Merry and Diehl Boggs, Donna Mahrous, Edith Behringer, Faye and Melvin Nunez, JD Dickinson, Joe Teringer, Joy Ward, Joyce Campbell, Patti and Ned Giles, Renee Grace, Pam and Richard Park, Shelly Claiborne, Susan Faidley, Elaine and Tim Chomyn, Pete Williams, John Prescott, Rita Pendergast, and John Rowland reporting.



Picture from Betsy Darken

Upcoming Outings

BMT Project, Sandy Gap to TN Hwy 68 Saturday February 8, 2020

Location: Cherokee National Forest north of Ducktown, TN
Distance: options: 8.5 or 13.1 miles
Rating: options: Moderate, Strenuous
Pace: Standard

I just realized that Boe and I could work together to offer this whole section that we missed in February of 2018. We will start at Sandy Gap and hike SOBO.

Option 1: stop at Unicoi Gap for a total of 8.5 miles OR
Option 2: complete the whole missed by going on to TN Hwy #68 for a total of 13.1 miles

Boe is arranging shuttle(s); Barbara is arranging lodging.
* Let us know whether you want to do Option #1 or #2; and
* Let us know if you need lodging (and which night(s)?).
Contact Cathy Love, lovecat@charter.net

Len Foote Hike Inn Overnight Wednesday-Thursday February 12-13, 2020

There were some cancellations for this trip; there may still be some vacancies. For newcomers you can google the Hike Inn to see what it is like before contacting Wayne at waynevc@epbfi.com The cost per person is \$52.

Stringer's Ridge Hike and Potluck Lunch Saturday February 15, 2020

Location: North Chattanooga
Distances: 3-3.5 or 5 miles
Elevation gain: minimal
Rating: Easy
Pace: Standard

This is a social outing where we will enjoy a hike followed by lunch. We will hike various combinations of trails on the Stringers Ridge trail system. The hikes here are easy to moderate. There are some hills. We will leave from Pinnacle Condos. This adds about a half mile to the hike.

This is a good opportunity to invite new members to the Chattanooga Hiking Club.

We will meet beginning at 9:00am at the Pinnacle Condos. Food and drinks will be dropped off at the Clubhouse.

The hike will begin at 9:30am. We will have two hikes. A longer hike of approximately 5 miles. Then, a second hike of 3 to 3.5 miles. We will organize at the Pinnacle Clubhouse.

Additional details will be sent to participants who RSVP.
Please RSVP to Merry Boggs, with food choice and for hike, at boggsm@hotmail.com or 423-314-4108

Upcoming Outings

Mullens Cove/Ransom Hollow, Prentice Cooper Saturday February 22, 2020

Location: Prentice Cooper State Forest
Distance: 7.8 miles
Elevation gain: rolling ups and downs; maybe 500 ft?
Rating: Moderately strenuous
Pace: Standard at best

We'll start at the Cumberland Trail Head parking area and work our way around to Mullens Cove Overlook, then on to Hemlock Branch campsite, probably our lunch stop. Then it's on to Ransom Hollow Overlook, before finishing at Tower Road where we'll likely have a short road walk to reach our shuttle cars. Hike leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com.

Virgin Falls Saturday March 7, 2020

Location: Sparta, TN
Driving time: 2 hrs. one way
Distance: 9-mile loop
Elevation: 1,300 ft.
Rating: Strenuous
Pace: Standard

Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness is one of the most unusual waterfall hikes (four falls on a 9-mile loop) within driving distance of Chattanooga. This hike offers 4 waterfalls, subterranean tributaries, and scenic overlooks. One of the most unusual aspects of the pocket wilderness is its karst features - Virgin Falls being a prime example. Its high-volume tributary bursts out of a cave and flows several hundred feet above ground, before plunging 110 feet. At the base of the falls it immediately disappears back underground. The hike also offers a great cave mouth at Big Laurel Falls, with its 80 ft. ceiling and expansive breadth. When we did this hike in March of 2018, it was spectacular! Dinner at The Cookie Jar in Dunlap is a definite possibility. To register, contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.



Virgin Falls in March, 2018 - picture from Rick Glisson

Reports from the Field

Mullins Cove Section of CT Wednesday January 8, 2020

Another amazing day in Prentice Cooper State Forest! Here you will find a web of beautiful and often challenging trails - some foot paths and some jeep trails. Distance today was 6.53 miles marked with white blazes. We began at the parking area at the trailhead to Indian Rock House (left side of Tower Road) and Mullins Cove going off into the woods on the right side of Tower Road and near the new and improved out house! A shuttle had been placed at the Snooper's Rock access road and parking. This trail has just the right amount (?) of ups and downs, rocks and roots, overlooks, huge rock structures typical of the Cumberland Plateau, and rushing creeks to rock hop. No wildflowers as of yet, but ferns undaunted! There are a couple of places when the blazes are not right in front of you and you may have to seek them out to follow the trail correctly. Having a map is really helpful. When you do come out onto Tower Road, take a little extra time to hike on down to the gorge overlook at Snooper's Rock. So happy to not have been denied this trail today because of bad weather were: Barbara Miller, Betsy Parson, Bob Shafto, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Diehl Boggs, Edith Behringer, Ed Stokes, Hank Konigsmark, Joe Tehringer, Mac Dean, Merry Boggs, Richard Park, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Tristan Carico, Todd Roeder, Hannah Wood, Micah Long, Julia Dooley, Che Carico reporting, Debbie Lambert and Susan Garrett leading.

Laurel Falls, Laurel/Snow Pocket Wilderness Wednesday January 22, 2020

So happy for sunshine on this cold start in the morning which promised a frozen spectacle surrounding a roaring waterfall and warming on the return trip. A huge group came out in spite of upper 20s temp. As usual the energy exerted warmed us up! The trail was beautiful with the tumbling sound of Richland Creek alongside, enormity of the rock bluffs on either side, and interest for the history of coal mining (coke ovens, rock walls, and tunnel openings into the mines). As the Cumberland Trail completion effort continues, today we found a new kiosk at the trailhead featuring new maps of the trails accessed here. The structure was built with room for more such signs planned for the future. Fresh white trail blazes make the trail easier to follow. Then there is the new fantastic bridge crossing Laurel Creek. Having a map of this area will help you follow the trail to Laurel Falls where it splits right at the intersection with the Snow Falls trail. As the trail is freshly marked with white blazes, avoid taking shortcuts along the way which only serve to increase erosion especially on the switchbacks. We will return to the Laurel/Snow wilderness later in the spring when the amazing wildflowers begin to emerge. Safe and on the way home or to favorite eating spots in Dayton (Delias and Screen Door) were: Edith Behringer, Boe Rudder, Tom Baker, Tod Roeder, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Carla Schrunck, Bill Kinnaman, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Renee Grace, Jenny Hopkins, Susan Bausch, Tom Long, Joe Tehringer, Betsy Parson, Pam O'Neal, Neal Sneed, Wayne Chambers, JD Dickinson, Che Carico reporting and Susan Garrett and Debbie Lambert leading.

Reports from the Field

Laurel Falls pictures



Picture from Che



Picture from Teresa

Outings Schedule

02/08/20	BMT Project, Sandy Gap to Hwy 68	C Love
02/12/20	(Wed.) Len Foote Hike Inn overnight	W Chambers
02/15/20	Stringers Ridge	M Boggs
02/22/20	Mullens Cove/Ransom Hollow	J Rowland
02/29/20	Smokies (TBD)	W Chambers
03/07/20	Virgin Falls	B McCollum
03/21/20	Smokies (TBD)	T Chomyn
03/28/20	Trail maintenance	B Rudder
04/04/20	Wolf Ridge	S Barnes
04/11/20	Keown Falls Loop	T Chomyn
04/18/20	Chattanooga Connector Trail	S Basch
04/25/20	Smokies Long Hungry Ridge	S Barlett
	(more on the website...)	

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

Car shuttles can be so much fun...

From Betsy Darken



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 - 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)