



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

January 2024

Upcoming Outings at a Glance

Sunday, January 7, Lookout Mountain

Trail: Guild Trail to Glen Falls

Miles: 4

Elevation gain: 551'

Contact Rita at rita.pendergast11@gmail.com

Saturday, January 13, Prentice Cooper State Forest

Trail: Mullens Cove Loop

Miles: 10 or 6.5 miles

Elevation gain: 1,700' (10-mile loop)

Contact Susan F. at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 17, Walden's Ridge Park

Miles: ~ 5

Contact Jenny at jenhop60@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 24, Enterprise South

Trail: Summit Knobs

Miles: ~ 3.5

Contact Bill (billkinnaman@gmail.com) or Che (mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net) to register.

Saturday, January 27, Prentice Cooper State Forest

Trail: Cumberland Trail to Lawson's Rock

Miles: 6.5

Elevation gain: Gentle ups and downs

Contact Kendrick at LKMills@gmail.com or 615-944-5320.

Saturday, February 3, Greenway Farm (Hixson)

Miles: 5-6

Elevation gain: ~ 300'

Text Shelly Lewis at 925-683-6095.

Saturday, February 10, Resaca Battlefield

Miles: 5.1

Elevation gain: 435'

Contact Barbara at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.

Saturday, February 17: Lookout Mountain

Trail: Jackson Gap

Miles: ~ 3.5

Elevation gain: 250'

Steve Barnes at sebarnestorm@gmail.com.

Making

TRACKS



Wed/Thurs, February 21-22, Len Foote Hike Inn

Join us for our annual club trip to the Hike Inn. Contact Wayne at waynevc@epbfi.com.

For details on these hikes, see page 3.

Hike Leaders Needed!

The hiking club is looking for hike leaders. This month, we are particularly in need of mid-week leaders. Want to know more about what it takes to be a hike leader? Email Che Carico at MidWeek@chatthiking.com.



Hiker Links

Chattanooga Hiking Club:

www.chatthiking.com

Facebook: Chattanooga Hiking Club

Walden's Ridge Park:

www.waldensridgepark.com

Cumberland Naturalist:

www.cumberlandnaturalist.com

Lookout Mountain Conservancy Trails:

<https://lookoutmountainconservancy.org/trails/>

Reports from the Field

**Wednesday, December 6
Snooper's Rock**

About 15 hikers tackled the Ritchie Hollow Trail in Prentice Cooper State Park up to Snooper's Rock. The group stopped at the 30-foot Blowing Wind Falls on the way up, but the falls were dry. When they reached Snooper's Rock, the group enjoyed some German Christmas gingerbread offered by Renaud. The temperature was a chilly 44 degrees, but the views were fantastic! Thanks to Debbie for leading.



**Saturday, December 9
Raven's Point**

Several members of the hiking club set out on the Cumberland Trail, leaving from the Grundy Forest Trailhead in Tracy City, to Raven's Point. The hike was about 9 miles, roundtrip, and included a beautiful creek and some stunning waterfalls. Unfortunately, due to the foggy day, there was little in the way of views.



**Wednesday, December 13
Christmas Party and Hike at Cloudland Canyon**

Cloudland Canyon State Park was the site of our annual Christmas get-together. About 60 members attended the potluck lunch where we thanked Che for her long-term efforts in support of the club.

Before the lunch, around 16 club members set out on a 5-mile hike along the West Rim Trail. With temperatures in the low 30s, it was a chilly, but beautiful hike. Thanks to Jenny for leading.



**Saturday, December 16
2nd annual Santa Hat Hike on Lookout Mountain**

Hikers old and new joined in for a 7-mile loop hike from Reflection Riding to Point Park and back.



Upcoming Outings

Sunday, January 7**Guild Trail to Glen Falls****Location:** Lookout Mountain**Driving time:** ~ 10 minutes from Chattanooga**Distance:** 4 miles**Elevation gain:** 551'**Rating:** Moderate

We will begin our hike at 9 a.m. Expect a little elevation gain and switchbacks in the beginning, then downhill to the falls. Contact Rita at rita.pendergast11@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 13**Mullens Cove Loop****Location:** Prentice Cooper State Forest**Driving time:** 20 minutes from the foot of Signal Mtn.**Distance:** 10 miles or 6.5 miles**Elevation gain:** 1,700' (10-mile loop)**Rating:** Moderately strenuous

There are two options to choose from: the full 10 miles or 6.5 miles. The shorter hike will end at Snooper's Rock for great views of the river. There are ups and downs, but no long or steep climbs. To register, contact Susan Faidley at susanf.chchiker@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 17**Walden's Ridge Park****Location:** Mountain Creek Road trailhead**Driving time:** ~ 11 minutes from Chattanooga**Distance:** ~ 5 miles

Join us for our first hike in this new hiking, mountain biking, and climbing park. To register, contact Jenny at (jenhop60@gmail.com). For maps of the area, visit www.waldensridgepark.com/parkplan.

Wednesday, January 24**Summit Knobs Trail****Location:** Enterprise South Nature Park**Driving time:** ~ 30 minutes from Chattanooga**Distance:** 3.5 miles**Rating:** Moderate

This is a great hike for the novice hiker. We will hike the loop portion of this longer trail. For more, contact Bill at billkinnaman@gmail.com or Che at mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, January 27**Cumberland Trail to Lawson's Rock****Location:** Prentice Cooper State Forest**Driving time:** ~ 30 minutes from Chattanooga**Distance:** 6.5 miles out and back**Elevation gain:** Gentle ups and downs**Rating:** Moderate

Join us on the Cumberland Trail along the bluffs above Suck Creek. Expect gentle ups and downs, modest rock hops, some small streams, and two narrow rock passageways. To register, contact Kendrick Mills at LKMills@gmail.com or 615-944-5320.

Saturday, February 3**Greenway Farm****Location:** Hixson**Distance:** 5-6 miles**Elevation gain:** ~ 300'

This is a great easy hike at Greenway Farm along Chickamauga Creek. Those who want a little more challenge can add the Boy Scout Trail. Register with hike leader Shelly Lewis by text at 925-683-6095.

Saturday, February 10**Resaca Battlefield****Location:** Just off I-75 at Exit 320 in Georgia**Driving time:** ~ 45 minutes from Chattanooga**Distance:** 5.1 miles**Elevation gain:** 435'

Walk in history as we discover Resaca Battlefield, a new hike for the club. It's conveniently location off I-75 and is only open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Contact Barbara M. at bpmccollum@yahoo.com to register.

Saturday, February 17**Jackson Gap Trail****Location:** Lookout Mountain**Driving time:** 30 minutes from Chattanooga**Distance:** 3.5 miles**Elevation gain:** 250'**Rating:** Easy to moderate

Contact Steve Barnes at sebarnestorm@gmail.com

Wednesday and Thursday, February 21-22**Len Foote Hike Inn****Location:** Amicalola State Park**Driving time:** ~ 2 hours from Chattanooga**Distance:** 5 miles each way**Elevation gain:** 1,207'**Rating:** Moderate

Join us for our annual overnight at the Hike Inn. The cost is \$58 pp and will begin at Amicalola Falls SP (\$5 entrance fee). Hikers must check in at the ranger station by 2 p.m. For more information on the Hike Inn, visit hike-inn.com. Contact Wayne Chambers at waynevc@epbfi.com or 423-593-3717 to register.

Members on the Move

Unforgettable New Zealand

Five members of the Chattanooga Hiking Club flew to New Zealand for a 23-day trip on both the north and south islands. After two days in Queenstown to get over jetlag, we flew to Auckland to begin the 'Sweet North' portion trip with New Zealand Trails. On the north island, we hiked on a sheep



farm, kayaked at Cook's Beach in the Pacific Ocean, visited thermal pools in Rotorua, watched glow worms at Waitomo Caves, and trekked on the spectacular Tongariro Crossing in Tongariro National Park. Lauded as the best day hike in New Zealand, the views are outstanding with a lunar-like landscape and sites from the Lord of the Rings movies.



Our 13-day 'Kiwi Classic' trip began on the south island in Queenstown. Here, we hiked to Mt. Cook and swam with dolphins on the northeast coast, one of the highlights of the trip.

Our first overnight hike was to Nydia Lodge in a picturesque rainforest on Marlborough Sound. Accommodations were similar to Len Foote Hike Inn, with flush toilets and showers. The second overnight hike was in Nelson Lakes National Park, in the northern part of the island, to Bushline Hut with a group of 14. Our guides carried most of our food, but each

hiker carried a portion of their dinner and breakfast. Our cycling activity carried us from Arrowtown (a very touristy, picturesque town) to Queenstown where we crossed the stunning Kawarau River, home of what some claim is the world's first and most popular Bungy Jumping site. Although we enjoyed watching the thrill seekers, our group stayed grounded.

Our last two hikes were on the southwest coast in Fiordland National Park and included portions of the popular Routeburn and Kepler Tracks. The trip ended with a cruise on Milford Sound, the 8th Wonder of the World, known for its cascading waterfalls and jaw-dropping views.



New Zealand is known for producing first-class merino wool, delicious lamb for the dinner table, and the world-famous Fergburger in Queenstown. The country proudly embraces its indigenous people, the Maori, and many New Zealanders are taught the Maori language in elementary school. Also, no matter how small, it seemed like every town or village had clean public toilets.

Spectacular glaciers, rugged mountains, vast plains, subtropical forests, miles of coastline with gorgeous sandy beaches - its all in New Zealand. Club members Ray and Maricruz Sherman, Noel and Terri Holcomb, and Barbara McCollum (reporting) will savor the memories of this trip for years to come.



Hiking News

Lookout Mountain Trails Ranked as a Favorite

Lookout Mountain Trails in Chattanooga were voted the #2 New Years Day Nature Walk in the country (second to a hike in Oahu, Hawaii). Other nearby hikes named on the list include Amicalola Falls State Park in Georgia (see our February club hike), Radnor Lake State Park in Nashville, and the Alum Cave Trail in the Smoky Mountains National Park. The list was compiled by Sustainable Jungle and you can read up on all 150 top nature walks on their website: www.sustainablejungle.com/sustainable-living/nature-walks/.



Club Officers and Support

President - Stormy McGauley

Vice President - Tony Morales

Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins

Secretary - Susan Basch

Membership Database - Susan Basch

Outings - Susan Faidley

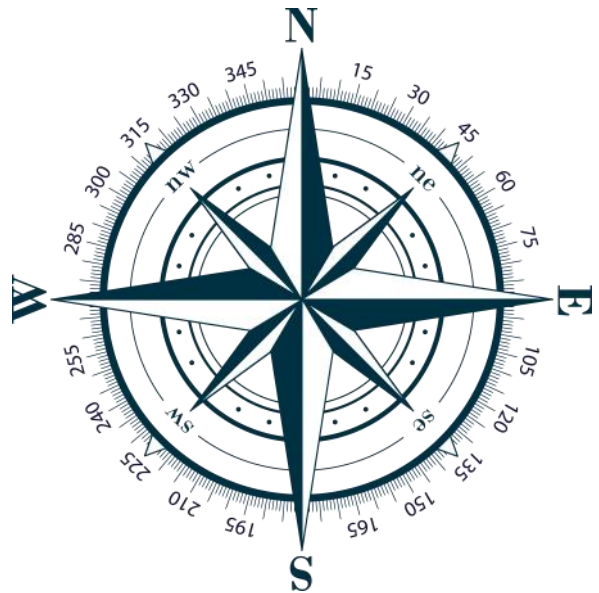
Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico

Newsletter - Betsy Archer and Steve Barnes

Webmaster - Renaud Courbiere, Christianne Montoya

Trail Maintenance - Bill Kinnaman

Visit our website chatthiking.com to learn more about upcoming hikes, read archived newsletters, and more!



Finding Your Way

Ever wondered how to convert coordinates from Google Maps or Google Earth to your GPS? [This video](#) offers an explanation of the process. The [PGC Coordinate Converter](#) from the University of Minnesota has a tool that allows you to convert your coordinates.



Visit us on Facebook at
Chattanooga Hiking Club.