



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

April 2017

### Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the Outdoor Chattanooga offices on River Street. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com)

**Next meeting – Monday April 3, 2017**

**We're changing the location for the April meeting to 720 Cherry Street**, minutes from Outdoor Chattanooga just across the river. Parking should not be a problem at 6:30. There are some chairs there but maybe bring a lawn chair if you have one. Club member Barry Ligon will present a slide show about his experience with the Alaska Iditarod.

### Dues will be due again by April 1, 2017

Yes it will soon be time to renew membership. There will be a renewal form available on the website, under the "About Us" tab. You can print it and mail it in along with your check. And *please* tell us about any changes to your address, phone number, email, etc.

Shortly after April 1, we will be mailing new name and address labels to renewed members to place on your Rock Creek discount cards to verify your continued membership. The cards themselves are intended to be permanent, and this will be our way of keeping them up to date.

## Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### **Rich Mtn Loop Saturday March 4, 2017**

A herd of deer, several turkeys, and a red-headed woodpecker welcomed us to the start of our Rich Mountain Loop hike. The day started cold but sun made the weather bearable. The first 2.5 miles were straight up on the Crooked Arm Trail. Then, we hiked along the mountain's ridge with amazing overlooks on both sides of the trail. Everyone agreed to add the Indian Grave Gap trail, 2.0 miles for Bonnie and Betsy, who needed this section of the trail for their Smokies map marking. It was easy 1 mile straight down. However, we were all surprised when greeted with our 1 mile straight back up the mountain. Lunch was enjoyed at the start of the next section. The last section, Rich Mountain Trail was a gradually down hike for 3.5 miles. We completed the hike by 2:00pm. We did start the hike on Friday afternoon when we met up for dinner at Allison Catfish Farm and Restaurant. Members present: Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs (reporting), Janet Hale, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Tim Chomyn, Richard Glisson, and Shelly Claiborne.

#### **Clear Creek, Rim Rock, Benton Falls, and Clemmer trails Wednesday March 8, 2017**

This loop is one Gary Smith guided our hikers on years ago! Those who hiked then and the new hikers were challenged by the elevation gain, impressed by the views from the leafless trees along the ridge and at the top, refreshed by the damp fragrance after rain the night before, and dampened a bit while rock hopping several swift but shallow stream crossings. The minimum distance was 8.4 miles while Gary Petty, Stormy, Susan Garrett, and Sandy Fenton tagged on an extra 1.8 miles by adding on the section from the Rim Rock/Clemmer intersection to Benton Falls and back. Having been kept off the trail by several rainy Wednesdays, all were in great spirits on this workout trail in the Ocoee. We did spot 2 dwarf iris in bloom, and some spotted Rainbow Falls far below from the Clemmer Trail. Enjoying a SPECTACULAR day were: Gary Petty, Kathy Seymour, Stormy McGauley, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Jean Dickinson, Bob Rahn, Bill Kinnaman, Susan Basch, Barbara Miller, Edie Behringer, Sandy Fenton, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Wayne Chambers, Tom Long, Gary Smith, Che Carico reporting and Boe Rudder leading.

**Upcoming Outings**

**Saturday April 1, 2017**

**Smokies, Clingman's Dome down to Bryson City**

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park  
 Distance: 12.5 miles  
 Elevation **Loss**: 4,000 ft  
 Rating: Strenuous  
 Pace: Standard  
 Driving time: 3 hrs

This will be a shuttle hike. We'll drive to Clingmans Dome to start the descent on Forney Ridge Trail. At 1.75 miles we'll pass by Andrews Bald, a popular spot when the flame azaleas are in bloom. At 5.6 miles, we'll connect with the Springhouse Branch Trail for 2.8 miles and descend to the Noland Creek Trail for the final 4.1 miles. There are two minor elevation bumps on Forney Ridge and Springhouse Branch, but the majority of the hike will be a gradual descent. No stream crossings. Tom Long plans to hike in from Noland Creek and meet the drivers to drive them to their cars at Clingmans Dome. This will be a long day because of the shuttle at the end of the hike, so please plan accordingly. With the longer daylight hours, we should be fine, but there will be fewer breaks given that we are descending most of the hike. Contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 to register.

**Saturday April 8, 2017**

**Lula Lake work day**

This is one of Lula Lake's regularly scheduled work days. It's a wonderful spot that we use fairly often, so investing a little "sweat equity" seems quite appropriate. John Rowland will be organizing. [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com)

**Thursday-Friday April 20-21, 2017**

**Smokies, Cataloochee area, NC**

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park  
 Rating: Strenuous  
 Distance: options of 11 or 13.3 miles  
 Pace: Standard

This will be a combination of the Mt Sterling, Long Bunk, and Little Cataloochee trails. A shuttle will be required, so who may be willing to drive is important. The plan is to go up Thursday afternoon and stay the night in Newport, TN, then return Friday evening after the hike. Check with organizers Barbara McCollum, bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143, and Wayne Chambers for travel and lodging details.



Lush grass on upper Long Bunk trail



Hannah Cabin on Little Cataloochee trail

**Upcoming Outings**

**Saturday April 22, 2017**

**Shakerag Hollow Wildflower Hike**

Location: Sewanee  
 Distance: 3.5 miles  
 Elevation Gain: minimal  
 Rating: Easy to Moderate  
 Pace: Standard  
 Driving time: 1 hr one way

We'll start at the University Gates at the entrance to the University of the South Domain. Almost immediately we will gently descend below the bluffs, and hopefully began to find a smorgasbord of wildflowers. The turnaround point is reached by a very short but steep climb back up to the top of the bluffs. From there we will continue on top until we return to our cars. This has been a great wildflower hike in past years, featuring Yellow Poppy, Larkspur, Purple Phacelia, and too many others to mention. Leader is John Rowland, rowland\_1@hotmail.com



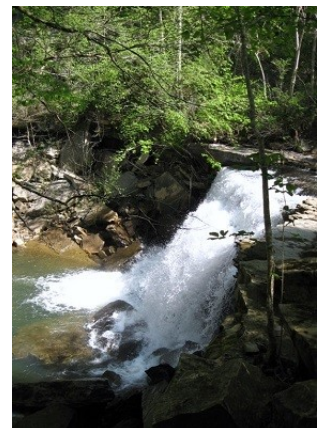
Yellow Poppy and Larkspur

**Saturday April 29, 2017**

**Collins Gulf Wildflower Hike**

Location: South Cumberland State Rec Area  
 Distance: 4.9 miles  
 Elevation Gain: 400 ft  
 Rating: Moderately Strenuous  
 Pace: Standard

Driving time: 1 1/4 hrs one way  
 Beginning at the Collins West Access parking lot in Gruetli-Laager, primarily hiking on the pretty Collins Gulf Trail, we will descend into Collins Gulf (crossing in front of Suter Falls), traverse the rocky hillside, and continue to Horsepound Falls (our lunch destination). There should be an abundance of wildflowers (2 dozen+?). Rated Moderately Strenuous due to the elevation change (400' down, and then back up), and the rocky areas. Leader is Donald Box - [Donaldbox@epbfi.com](mailto:Donaldbox@epbfi.com)



Horsepound Falls

**Reports from the Field**

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**Pine Mountain Car Camp  
Friday-Sunday March 10-12, 2017**

Nestled in west central Georgia, the 23-mile Pine Mountain Trail follows the Pine Mountain ridge made famous by President Roosevelt and is partially located in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park. The trail runs east/west between Warm Springs, Georgia and the Callaway Gardens Country Store. The trail is perfect for day hiking with many loop options, backpacking, or a one-day 23 miler if so inclined. A group of eight hikers met Friday for lunch at the Whistling Pig Barbecue in Pine Mountain, Georgia, which had been recommended by trail maintainers (the Pine Mountain Trail Association.) After setting up camp, a five-mile hike was enjoyed Friday afternoon by a couple of hikers while others enjoyed a drive into Warm Springs to see the town made famous by FDR. Everyone contributed to Friday night's meal which included two kinds of chili with all the fixings, spinach dip, fruit salad, brownies, and blueberry pineapple crunch. A warm glowing fire was enjoyed Friday night before turning in early in anticipation of an early start for those attempting the 23 miles in one day. Highlights of the trail included several small waterfalls near Warm Springs, Dowdell Knob (FDR's favorite picnic spot), lunch at Mollyhugger Hill, Buzzard's Roost, and finally dinner on Saturday night at the Callaway Gardens Country Store after everyone finished hiking. Completing the 23 miles in on day were Tim, Terri, Bonnie, and Barbara. Helen completed the 23 miles in 2 days while Angela hiked 13 miles of the most scenic portions, and Tom enjoyed hiking and providing his famous Sherpa services. Ron enjoyed a little fishing and kayaking in Delano Lake. A little rain on Saturday night cut the trip short for a few, but several stayed over for a rainy night in Georgia. A great trip to this beautiful and historical area of Georgia was enjoyed by all: Tim Chomyn, Tom Long, Ron and Helen Owens, Terri Holcomb, Bonnie Smith, Angela Evans, and Barbara McCollum reporting.



Pictures from Tim



**Fiery Gizzard Loop  
Wednesday March 15, 2017**

We would have loved to see a little snow, but we mostly went this time hoping for the large icicles that are so common here in winter. But with the mild temps we had in the days leading up to the hike, forget it! There were several puny little foot-long samples, but none of the big ones, and none of the icicle walls that form alongside the creek in spots. But there was plenty of water flowing, Sycamore Falls and all the cascades in the creeks were going strong, it was a beautiful day (although 21 degrees when we started!), and most of us topped off the day with lunch at Papa Ron's in Monteagle. So another enjoyable visit to one of our favorite spots for Betsy Parson, Bill Needham, Bob Rahn, Charlie Breeding, Boe Rudder, Che Carico, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Edith Behringer, Renee Grace, Susan Garrett, Susan Basch, Katy Kirkpatrick, Thomas Kirkpatrick, Sydney Kirkpatrick, Sadie Hobbs, and John Rowland leading and reporting.

**Smokies Big Creek  
Friday March 17, 2017**

The choice of trails for today was Long Bunk and Little Cataloochee with a car shuttle CAREFULLY thought out. However, the element of change was the snow and ice on the road into Cataloochee. We got an early start only to be stopped by a closed and locked gate blocking our way to the trails. A phone call to a ranger confirmed no one was on the way to unlock! Big Creek trail won the toss as plan B so back down the hard-packed dirt road we went to its trail head. The creek and its wild water stayed with us as we walked this gentle uphill trail for 5.6 miles to the junction with Low Gap. Yes, it was cold and yes, there was snow and ice in places on the trail. Even so yellow trillium were blooming. Ending the day sitting on the fence to chat briefly before heading home, and enjoying Tim's famous amaretto brownies were: Monty Simmons, Joyce Campbell, Tom Long, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Boe Rudder, Tim Chomyn, Bill Needham, Che Carico reporting, and Wayne Chambers and Barbara McCollum leading.



Pictures from Tim



**Outings Schedule**

04/01/17	Smokies day hike (S)	B McCollum
04/08/17	Lula Lake work day	J Rowland
05/21/17	Smokies day hike (S)	B McCollum
04/22/17	Shakerag Hollow day hike (E)	J Rowland
04/29/17	Collins Gulf wildflower day hike (M/S)	D Box
05/06/17	Rock Creek day hike	B Rudder
05/13/17	Smokies day hike (S)	B McCollum

**Other Stuff**



This very impressive Red-Tailed Hawk is sheltered right out in front of the South Cumberland Visitor Center between Tracy City and Monteagle.

**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, please call Che at (423) 886-5135 on Monday or Tuesday and listen to the week's hiking plan or before Sunday email her at [MidWeek@chatthiking.com](mailto:MidWeek@chatthiking.com) to be added to the email distribution list to receive the week's plan every week.

**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 unmentioned 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 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.



And from Piney Mountain, assuming the guy on the left is FDR, he must have had quite a stash of Diet Mountain Dew

**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** -
- Outings** - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103
- Newsletter/Webmaster** – John Rowland (423) 802-7704
- Membership Database** - John Rowland (423) 802-7704
- Membership Information** - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220
- Trail Maintenance** - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019
- Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico (423) 886-5135
- Website:** [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)