

Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

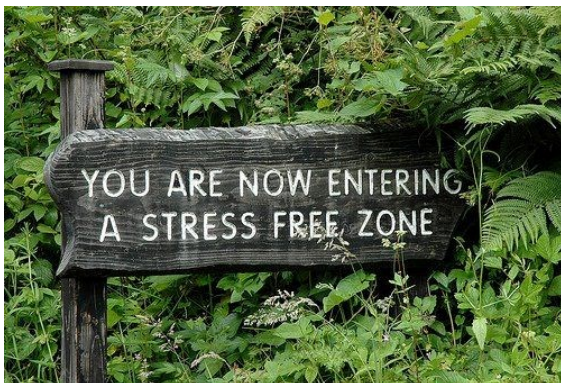
August 2017

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

Next meeting – Monday August 7, 2017

Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the Roof of Africa, at 19,340 feet is the tallest mountain in Africa and the tallest free standing mountain in the world. Of the Seven Sisters, Kilimanjaro is climbed by more people than any other. A climb of Kilimanjaro has been described as a journey from the Equator to Antarctica. Most start at 6,000 feet in a rain forest and travel through several vegetation zones as altitude increases. Lush forests, arid savannas, alpine deserts, and glaciers will give the trekker a chance to view and experience the highest mountain in Africa first hand. **Louis Spencer** will give us a slide presentation that will cover routes, camps, food, equipment, immunizations, altitude sickness and other pertinent factors. How much does a Kilimanjaro trek cost, how long does it take, how do you get there, should you extend your visit to include a safari, and other questions will be addressed. Camping or sleeping in cabins, using porters or carrying your own gear, using a guide or going it alone, tipping and general costs will be covered.



Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Big Soddy Creek Gulf Wednesday July 5, 2017

Weather had been iffy, but finally there appeared a window of opportunity in the radar and the hike was definitely on. Fifteen hikers set out from Big Soddy Creek Gulf off Back Valley Road, a recreation area owned by the City of Soddy-Daisy and enjoyed by many locals. The first leg of the hike was on the wide gravel path along Big Soddy Creek now full of water and tumbling over rocks after all the recent rain. Reaching Board Camp Creek, we followed it for a pleasant stretch, then found a few downed small trees to climb over before reaching the Cumberland Trail portion of the hike. The CT was much overgrown from recent rains, a few slippery rocks here and there kept one's attention, and the humidity of the warm morning soaked in. Along the CT we saw vividly colored mushrooms and a spotted fawn on the move. We paused for a bit at Big Soddy Creek Bridge, the 100 ft suspension bridge completed in 2015, and then moved eagerly back to our starting point to enjoy lunch at a picnic table along Big Soddy Creek. (We had missed Che during the hike, and there was disappointment at the lack of chocolate also!) Despite all the recent rain which had enhanced the waterfall cascading along the Big Soddy Creek path, the characteristic greens and turquoises of the pools along Big Soddy and Board Camp Creeks were as beautiful as ever. No one decided to jump in for a swim however. As the last of the group were getting into their cars at the parking lot, a cool breeze blew in with dark clouds. Rain and thunderstorms moved in over the surrounding areas not long after we were on our way. Glad to have had a chance to hike during a break in the rainy weather were Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Patti Giles, Bob Rahn, Wanda McCarter, Linda Keown, Susan Garrett, Kathy Seymour, Sue Christensen, Wendy Gunn, Lori Holland, Stormy McGauley, Shirley Wright, with Edith Behringer and Renee Grace leading.

"If you pick 'em up, O Lord, I'll
put 'em down."

- Prayer of the Tired Walker

Upcoming Outings

Saturday August 26, 2017

Chattanooga Nature Center, Betty Petty day hike

Location: Lookout Valley

Distance: 4 miles

Elevation Change: minimal

Rating: Easy

Pace: Standard

We'll keep it short and relatively flat as we go out to the far end of the Reflection Riding property. Then we'll turn back along the foot of Lookout Mountain, stopping by Betty's memorial marker and bench, where we'll swap yarns, funny stories, and other memories of Betty. Lunch afterward in somewhere air conditioned is quite likely. Hike leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com



Friday September 1, 2017

Smokies Welch Ridge day hike

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 17.2 miles

Elevation Change: long 4500 ft descent

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 3+ hrs

We'll plan to stay overnight in Bryson City on Thursday, August 31st and place cars at Tunnel to Nowhere to make Friday morning more efficient. We'll drive to Clingman's Dome on Friday morning to start the day's hike on the Appalachian Trail. We'll hike southbound on the AT to Welch Ridge trail, where we'll start descending to Jonas Creek, and then on to Forney Creek at Campsite 70, Whiteoak Branch and out the Lakeshore Trail. There will be some ascent on Whiteoak Branch and the Lakeshore Trail before returning to our cars. Stream crossings on Jonas Creek may necessitate water shoes. We'll need to retrieve cars at Clingman's Dome after the hike. Contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143 to register.

Reports from the Field

Berry College

Saturday July 8, 2017

Thirteen hikers enjoyed the trails as well as historic sites and structures of Berry College near Rome, Georgia. Two options were offered for the climb to the highlight of Lavender Mountain--the House O' Dreams, the mountaintop retreat built in 1922 for the founder of the college, Martha Berry. Those who chose the more difficult route were not disappointed. Who knew a climb to 900 feet above sea level could leave you breathless? All hikers met up at the summit to enjoy the lush gardens, beautiful vistas, and the nice facilities nicknamed the "Outhouse O' Dreams". After a snack break and a tour of the home, it was on to the mountain reservoir where all enjoyed having lunch besides the shores of the lake made possible by donations to the school from Henry Ford. The hike concluded at the Old Mill which is one of the most photographed spots on Berry's 26,000 acres. After-hike refreshments at Jandy's Yogurt helped to cool off everyone before the return trip to Chattanooga. Hikers included Diehl and Merry Boggs, Devin (a friend of the Boggs), Tim Chomyn, Shelly Claiborne, Edith Behringer, Susan Basch, Betsy Parson, Joyce Campbell, Steve Barnes, Lawana Pitts, and Greg and Barbara McCollum, leading.



Pictures at House 'O Dreams and the Old Mill from Tim

Reports from the Field

Shackleford Ridge Park Wednesday July 12, 2017

Thank you Sam Powell and Bill Fronk for the system of trails you created at Shackleford Ridge Park on Signal Mountain! You can find maps for the trails online and today we followed the map beginning at Noland School on the blue trail. It was cool enough in the forest on this summer day as we circled around to the spur trail to Mushroom Rock. Most of the hikers did take this 1.1 mile trail to the rock and back to then to resume on the blue trail. After crossing the swinging bridge, we made a left hand turn. When the yellow trail forked off this trail, we took the right fork and soon crossed over the covered bridge. Picking up the blue trail again, it was a short walk back to the cars. Many improvements are in evidence: lots of benches and bridges along the trail and newly built steps from the parking lot at the soccer fields down to the trail. Enjoying this morning only hike and on to Southern Star for lunch were: Patti Giles, Wayne Chambers, Boe Rudder, Suzanne Dorough, Linda Keown, Bill LaRouque, Cecile Shenouda, Bob Rahn, Jenny Hopper, Susan Basch, Renee Grace, Bailey Phillips, Hallie Fuller, Weston Carico, Ellie Carico, Emery Carico, Bill Kinnaman, Hank Konigsmark, Sue Christensen, Teresa Dean, Tom Weldon, Mac Dean, Edith Behringer, Jenny Hopkins, and Che Carico reporting.



Pictures from Teresa

Reports from the Field

Gahuti at Fort Mountain Saturday July 15, 2017

After carefully checking weather predictions for July 15th, even with the threat of afternoon thunderstorms looming, we decided to go ahead with the hike. We met Saturday morning at 7:30am to carpool to the Gahuti Trail. We were on the trail by 8:30am. We started the trail at the entrance to Fort Mountain State Park and walked up to the Gahuti Trail parking lot then around. This is counter clock wise to the usual way we hike. The temperature was in the low 80's but a little humid. The trail was slippery from Friday's rain. Several hikers slipped during this section, but nothing major. We ate lunch at the waterfall. I have never seen the waterfall this beautiful. Thanks to all the rain this summer. Luckily, we made it back to our cars right before the rain started! Great day and thanks to everyone for making this a great hike! Hikers that attended: Rick Glisson, Tim Choyrn, Joyce Campbell, Boe Rudder, Merry and Diehl Boggs.



Picture from Merry

Hiwassee float trip and picnic Wednesday July 19, 2017

When the temp goes above 90 and rarely is there a cloud in the sky, the best place to be is floating in a duckie on the Hiwassee with lots of friends! 16 rafters were put on the river by Webb Brothers Outfitters. 6 hikers stopped with the picnic supplies at Big Bend, claimed the tables with cloths and "readied camp", then took off down river on the trail that runs back toward Benton and along the river. Right on time the floaters began to arrive @ 12:45 and helped empty the coolers which held perishables like pasta salads, deviled eggs, fresh sliced tomatoes, potato salad, fruit and watermelon, humus, chili, chocolate amaretto brownies and zucchini bread. Master chef Bill brought the fire to just the right temp for grilling and the feasting began. Tom Long had hung a couple of hammocks and offered "free trials". It was a really good float for the rafters who pulled into takeout raving about the beauty of the river and the grand run. They were also quite appreciative of the preparation for lunch by the hikers. Back home with great memories of another good float trip on the Hiwassee were: Bill Kinnaman, Tom Weldon, Cecile Shenouda, Joyce Campbell, Jim and Linda Keown, Sue Christensen, John Dever, Stephanie Evans, Shirley Wright, Susan Garrett, Patti Giles, Suzanne Dorough, Susan Basch, Edith Behringer, Dean Hutson, Barbara McCollum, Tom Long, Angela Evans, Mary Ann Pawlowski, Renee Grace, Larry Parks, Tim Chomyn, and Che Carico reporting.

Outings Schedule

08/26/17 Chatt Nature Center day hike (E) J Rowland
 09/01/17 Smokies day hike (S) B McCollum

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 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.

Other Stuff

From the Archives, the July 2007 Newsletter

A Citico Bear Tale

A few weekends ago the Forest Service received reports of a bear wandering around vandalizing a popular campsite in the Citico Creek Wilderness. Not too unusual at this time of year with the camping season in full swing and with this year's phenomenal drought making food in the woods scarce for the bears. So a wildlife control officer together with the recreation director were dispatched to handle the situation. The wildlife officer was armed with the usual tranquilizer gun to sedate the bear for removal to another part of the forest. He got off his first shot well and darted the bear in the appropriate place. However the first dart frequently just makes the bear a little woozy and a second shot may be needed to bring them down. While he was taking aim for his second shot a very drunken camper came charging out of his tent with a rope. He charged the bear trying to lasso it placing himself squarely between the wildlife officer and the bear. While the wildlife officer may have been tempted to dart the camper as well, he refrained from doing so but could not get off a second shot at the bear. The bear went splashing off across a creek with the camper in hot pursuit. Fortunately the camper was too inebriated to actually lasso the bear! However the whole thing appeared as a slow motion movie because of the intoxicated state of both participants. It ended with the bear disappearing into the undergrowth and the camper face down in the creek. The camper returned to his tent to sleep it off while the bear with a sore tail wandered off into the brush to do likewise.. - Betty Petty (as related to me by Ken Jones)

Club T-shirts

If you're interested in buying a Chattanooga Hiking Club t-shirt, Bo has worked to put together an opportunity to do so. Check out this link:

https://stores.inksoft.com/chattanooga_hiking_club

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 - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750

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 (includes link to newsletter)