



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

September 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 October 2, 2017

Note from a Board of Directors meeting on August 16, 2017

TREASURER'S REPORT/FUNDS IN THE CHC ACCOUNT: Donald reported that the Club currently has \$6514 in its checking account. We determined that a yearly budget of \$1500 would cover all of our operating expenses as well as providing a cushion for unexpected expenditures. We discussed what should be done with the funds we have over and above that amount. It was decided that we would donate \$1000 to the Cumberland Trail Conference, \$1000 to the Tennessee River Gorge Trust, and in addition pay \$250 annually for the use of the Pot Point house for the Club's Christmas party.

(The choices were based on our frequent use of the trails and amenities of both organizations. Che contacted the Cumberland Trail Conference, and Robert Weber responded with a grateful acknowledgement of our intended donation. Stormy contacted the Tennessee River Gorge Trust, and also has already received a response from Sarah Quattrochi acknowledging the donation and our generosity.)



Reports from the Field

Bay Point trail, Harrison Bay St Park Wednesday July 26, 2017

This trail begins above the Marina at Harrison Bay and is a loop trail rarely leaving the banks of Chickamauga Lake. It is a mostly flat walk, few ups and downs, easy underfoot, and has nice benches along the way to pause, look at the lake, and take a little rest. John led the hikers as he is the most familiar with the random off trails that could lead you astray. He kept us on the proper path for the full enjoyment of the lake. Lunch for most was at the marina cafe and it was delicious. The menu is varied and does have foods for special nutritional needs. Tables are set next to large windows from which you can see the many fish and turtles swimming below. Really enjoying this summer day were: Larry Parks, Wanda McCarter, Patti Giles, Sue Christensen, Susan Basch, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Rachel Bryant, Edie Behringer, Cecile Shenouda, Boe Rudder, Stormy McGauley, Ned Giles, Melba Smothers, Suzanne Dorough, Che Carico reporting and John Rowland leading.



Pictures from Teresa

Reports from the Field

Mt Sterling, Mt Sterling Ridge, Swallow Fork, Big Creek, Baxter Creek Friday July 28, 2017

It was a day of choices! Leaving town at 6:30 the hikers drove to Newport McDonald's for a quick breakfast, then on to the horse trailer parking lot at Big Creek. There we met Sandy Barlett from Ohio and Betsy and Bonnie who had been camping at Cosby and hiking in that area since Wednesday. Leaving cars at Big Creek we drove on up the mountain road to the Mt. Sterling pull-off parking and began the hike. After 2.3 miles of unrelenting uphill we came to the junction with Mt. Sterling Ridge. Some continued .5 miles on up the trail to the Mt. Sterling tower. John and Bonnie hiked to the tower then continued down the Baxter Creek trail - reportedly John's favorite trail in the Smokies. The others returned to the junction with Mt. Sterling Ridge, hiked 1.4 miles, took a lunch break and then turned down Swallow Fork. At the junction with Big Creek they turned right and followed the trail and creek back to the Big Creek parking area. The woods were filled with lush ferns, unusual mushrooms, later blooming wildflowers, and rushing water in the creek and at Mouse Creek falls. Out safely and headed to McDonald's for quick supper were: Jenny Hopkins, Rick Glisson, Sue Christensen, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Sandy Barlett, Tim Chomyn, Monty Simmons, Che Carico reporting (still dealing with pack weight + gear distribution = back muscle spasm = slowed and impaired hiking), with Wayne Chambers and John Rowland leading.

Canyon Ridge hike and lunch Wednesday August 2, 2017

Jenny Hopkins invited all to come to her home in Canyon Ridge and hike a trail within that property. We stopped upon arrival and put perishable foods in her refrigerator then geared up for the 4 mile walk that began down the street from her house. Many commented on how "wilderness like" the trail was in this gated residential community. We did cross a few golf course greens, but for the most part enjoyed ups and downs, huge rock formations, unusual mushrooms, splendid ferns, incredible bluff views, and a few of those later in the summer wildflowers blooming in the dense woods. Upon finishing the hike and back at Jenny's we gathered up the food and drove down to the community clubhouse for one of our famous covered dish lunches. The entree was pork from the Purple Daisy supplied by Jenny and the sides were beyond compare! Seems no matter how many times we have one of these meals the foods brought are different from the last one and so very delicious. We enjoyed the meal seated at long tables and looking down on (I think south!) a beautiful valley. Enjoying a vigorous walk and gracious hospitality today were: Susan Basch, Bob Rahn, Richard Park, Patti Giles, Boe Rudder, Linda Keown, Sue Christensen, Monty Simmons, Betsy Parson, Susan Garrett, Tracy and Luke Spiekermann, Cecile Shenouda, Bill LaRoque, Larry Parks, Che Carico reporting, and Jenny Hopkins leading.

PS Two of our hikers were celebrating birthdays - Richard Park (August 1) and Bill LaRoque (August 2). I think they were delighted to hear us sing the Happy Birthday song to them on the bluff of Lookout Mountain and with a great lunch soon to follow!

Reports from the Field

Laurel Falls Wednesday August 9, 2017

Hot summer day and morning only hike in order. Laurel Falls trail was the destination and quite a few turned out in spite of storms in forecast for the afternoon and the pretty intense humidity. The bridge over Richland Creek has not yet been replaced but rock hopping was easy as very little water in the creek. There was enough water in the waterfall to make a noise but surely not as full forced as we have seen in the past. This is a pretty trail alongside Richland Creek with challenges of crawling through a short cave, rocks and roots underfoot, and a short lived steep switchback section. Spotted a few summer wildflowers and ferns plentiful. We were saddened to find many places where hikers have hiked off trail taking shortcuts on the switchbacks. It would be easy to get confused and this causes trail erosion! In good spirits and ready for the next part of the day - lunch at the Screen Door in Dayton - were: Boe Rudder, Patti Giles, Susan Garrett, Eileen Del Piano, Sue Christensen, Betsy Parson, Jenny Hopkins, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Rachel Bryant, Cecile Shenouda, Bob Rahn, Bill Kinnaman, Jean Dickinson, Stormy McGauley, Edith Behringer, Susan Basch, Wanda McCarter, Savannah Steele, Suzanne Dorough, and Che Carico, reporting.

Mill Creek CT section Wednesday August 16, 2017

Chattanooga Hiking Club members have lent a hand on at least 3 occasions to help prepare and build sections of this trail. Proud they were to hike the trail (now groomed, well marked, and easy to follow all the way to the creek) and enjoy seeing the fruits of their efforts along with the efforts of other volunteers and CT employees. This 2.4 mile section rated moderate to strenuous begins just past the gate at the parking lot for the Roaring Fork and Graysville Mountain trails on Brayton Road. Look for the slightly grown up path and white CT blazes to the left. Shortly after getting on the trail it will take you out onto the road where you must walk across the road bridge to then reenter the forest on the path to the right. From here it is an often uphill climb through beautiful forest with frequent vistas. The trail crosses Brayton Road and resumes another 1+ mile to a dead end with McGill Creek. You can prowl a little more up and down this side of the creek. The Southern Trail Crew is working from the Downey View trail head off of Leggett Road toward McGill Creek which must be crossed by a bridge not yet in place. The CTC June newsletter mentions the McGill Creek waterfall spur and the picture is beautiful! We had been warned about yellow jackets but had no mass encounters or stings! Hot and humid today so gratefully we were not far for a return to the Screen Door and delicious food! Enjoying this pretty addition to the CT in spite of the heat were: Boe Rudder, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Jennifer Yarbrough, Sue Christensen, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Betsy Parson, Trish Appleton, Edie Behringer, Susan Basch, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Bill Needham, Larry Parks, Stormy McGauley, Wayne Chambers, and Che Carico reporting.

Reports from the Field

Fall Creek Falls, Gilbert Gaul trail Wednesday August 23, 2017

Fall Creek Falls is another beautiful Tennessee State Park encompassing 26,000 acres! It has amenities to include a lake for paddling and fishing, hotel accommodations, hiking trails, biking trails, and a restaurant serving delicious Southern cuisine. There is a maze of short trails, a longer perimeter trail, a back country trail, a trail to the bottom of Cane Creek Falls, and one that is fairly new - the Gilbert Gaul trail. With a distance of 4.45 miles and a rating of moderate it wanders through a beautiful forest, takes you by the Gilbert Gaul homestead, and includes a view of the lake. Today our hikers walked this easily followed loop trail, and finished in time for lunch at the park restaurant - the Gaul Restaurant. You can order from a menu or choose from an incredible layout of foods in the buffet line which includes banana pudding! Dominating the conversation in the crowded restaurant were: Boe Rudder, Susan Basch, Susan Garrett, Stormy McGauley, Barbara Miller, Wayne Chambers, Bill Kinnaman, Renee Grace, Edie Behringer, Barbara McCollum, Tom Long, Sue Christensen, Tim Chomyn, and Che Carico, reporting. Visit our beautiful Tennessee State Parks!

Chattanooga Nature Center, Betty's Memorial Saturday August 26, 2017

Enjoying a relatively mild day for August, we followed the loop road through Reflection Riding, checking out the many signs that identified different types of trees (most of which we didn't know...). At the far end of the road, we turned back on the trail system that criss-crosses the lower slopes of Lookout Mountain, following it to the junction where Betty's bench and marker are found. We sat on the bench for a while (that's what it's for!), talking about our dear friend. We also made note of the fact that the bench needs a good refinishing; that's something that we hope to take care of this fall. Joining me were Barbara McCollum and Tom Long; John Rowland reporting.



Another picture from Teresa of Chickamauga Lake from the Bay Loop trail

Reports from the Field

Little Cedar Mountain Wednesday August 30, 2017

You can find this trail just off 24 W at exit 158. Take the exit, turn left, and soon you will see a sign to the trail head on the right pointing to a left hand turn. This trail is an example of dedication and continuing hard work. It had been neglected until Bob Butters began his revitalization project. After brushing out the original trail and adding mileage, he created a figure 8 trail that can total 4.1 miles and is splendid with wild flowers in the spring. It has ups and downs, views of the river, and a pond with frogs and cattails. This day we noticed the new and improved trail signs that made our experience even better. If Tim, Rick, Teresa, John, or Bill had been on this hike we would have pictures of the armadillos that came curiously out of the woods toward us! They have a den near the major overlook as reported by Bob Butters. These folks take such good pictures, always at the ready. One armadillo came within a foot of me but no picture as I was sure he planned to bite me and I scared him away! In good spirits as we out hiked the approaching Hurricane Harvey rain, we headed back to Haletown and the Lookout Winery for great pizza enjoyed outdoors on their covered deck and with a view of the river. Heading home just as the rains came were: Cecile Shenouda, Linda Busby, Sue Christensen, Bob Rahn, Monty Simmons, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Susan Garrett, Edie Behringer, Renee Grace, Bill Kinnaman, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Stormy McGauley, Wendy Gunn, Jenny Hopkins, and Che Carico reporting.



A nice picture from Barbara from near LeConte Lodge back in 2015

Outings Schedule

10/13/17 Smokies day hike (S)
 11/18/17 Citico Creek day hike (M)

B McCollum
 J Doyal

Other Stuff

The Rock Creek stickers will be on the way shortly!

And club name and address listings in digital format will be emailed soon. If you don't wish to have your phone number, or your address, or even your name on the list, please let me know the specifics by September 15. Thanks, John.

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.

A request from John

Sunday, September 17th will be Chattanooga's fourth annual 911 Memorial Stair Climb honoring the firefighters who gave their lives on that day. We climb 112 flights of stairs to symbolically complete their climb of the 110-story Twin Towers. The climb is done in 8 laps of 14 stories each, riding the elevators back down each time. It's not really anywhere near as tough as it sounds; you climb for about 4-5 minutes, then it's 10-15 minutes before you go again. It is a fundraising event, with a \$35 registration fee. Send me an email if you might be interested. Thanks!

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)