



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

December 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 February 5, 2018



Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Daddy's Creek

Wednesday October 25, 2017

This new section of the CT is so fine! There is an end to end hike from the southern terminus on Hebbertsburg Road to the northern terminus on East Keyes Road. Distance 7.4 miles. An option is there for a 3 mile hike which begins on Hebbertsburg Road and spurs off to exit at the yellow gate. The trail is beautiful with ferns, running water, rock bluff views of Daddy's Creek from above, trail wide and easy underfoot. There are a few rather short uphill treks on the first part of the trail, one steep step down over large rocks, then @2 miles of gentle uphill near the end of the trail. When admiring the trail, Don Deakins said the best is yet to come as new trail will be built on either end of this section. A trail crew is currently in the Catoosa Wildlife Management area working south toward the current end point of Daddy's Creek on E Keyes Road - a distance of 4 miles. Next spring the Break Away program will work on connecting Black Mountain with Ozone Falls. Later a trail will be built connecting Ozone Falls to the Hebbertsburg Road end of Daddy's Creek. Remarking that the 80 minute drive is worth it were: Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Charlie Breeding, Bill Kinnaman, Bob Rahn, Jean Dickinson, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Edith Behringer, Susan Basch, Renee Grace, Sue Christensen, Jennifer Yarbrough, Nancy Lewis, Joy Ward, Lonnie Rogers, Che Carico reporting, Judy Varner and Don Deakins, leaders and avid CT trail builders.



Above picture from Don Deakins, the two pictures to the left from Teresa

Upcoming Outings

Saturday December 2, 2017 Georgia Pinhoti Section 25

Location: near Dalton, GA

Distance: 15.8 miles

Elevation Change: up 2700 ft, down 1800 ft

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 45 minutes

Commonly referred to as "The Snake" by mountain bikers, join Barbara on this up and down section of the Pinhoti Trail near Dalton. The total ascent is 2,707 feet over 15.8 miles while the descent is 1,874 feet. The largest climb of the day is no more than 500 feet. We'll plan to meet up at the Dalton McDonald's (Exit 333) off I-75 to place cars at Dug Gap Road, and then drive to the starting point at Snake Creek Gap on Highway 136. The hike leader has hiked this section in two different hikes and is confident it will make a great day hike for the club. Lots of great views and a very pretty hardwood forest. Here's more info: <https://www.mtbproject.com/trail/2501298/pinhoti-snake-creek-gap-to-dug-gap-the-snake>
Contact hike leader Barbara McCollum
bpmccollum@yahoo.com or 770.289.7143

Monday January 1, 2018

Our Annual New Year's Day Hike

We'll continue our tradition of starting off the new year with a hike. Hike leader to be determined, but check for details in the January newsletter and/or the website.

A Long-Range Project

The Entire Benton MacKaye Trail

Cathy Love and Barbara McCollum have developed a plan to hike all of the Benton MacKaye Trail over two years. The plan is to do 20-35 mile sections over 10 weekends, with some multiple-day day hikes, and some backpacks. It will be a Chattanooga Hiking Club project, and as such will be tracked in the newsletter and on the website.

The first trip is scheduled for February 10-11, 2018 over Section 5. It will involve day hikes with a night in a motel or cabins in/near Tellico Plains, TN.

Further details will soon be available in the Upcoming Outings section of the website.

Reports from the Field

Laurel/Snow Pocket Wilderness - Buzzard Point Wednesday November 1, 2017

Water was rushing in Richland creek as we started out on the main trail leading to lots of concern about getting across the creek at the site where the bridge is out. Sure enough the crossing (Laurel Creek) had to be made with great care via a log. Reaching the trail intersection, we turned left and headed off on the Snow Falls trail. After coming around a huge boulder, right before the 150' bridge that crosses Richland Creek, the fall foliage was a beautiful picturesque scene of red, orange and yellow. A short stop allowed for taking a few pictures on the bridge. The trail continued along beside Richland Creek until it turned up the mountain with a elevation change of 900 ft. The climb paid off! Once we reached the top, there were remnants of a wedding that had taken place on the bluff before reaching Buzzard Point. They had made a window frame out of twigs and flowers (picture attached). Of course, we all had to take advantage of the beautiful work they left behind by posing in front of it. Continuing on to Buzzard point, we noticed they had also built a bridge, steps leading down to the outer point and also left behind bales of hay for seating. We appreciated the use of the bales of hay to take our break and have lunch. Boe, Joyce, and Hank started back before the remaining 8 hikers. We took our time on the descent. We were also wondering what happened to the other group. Mac could see Sue on the MotionXGPS and noticed she was back at the parking lot. What a nice feature of Motion X to be able to spot hikers you cannot see! Hoping all were safe: Wanda McCarter, Hank Konigsmark, Jenny Hopkins, Boe Rudder, Jennifer Yarbrough, Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Joyce Campbell, Susan Basch, Edith Behringer, Larry Parks, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean reporting and Mac Dean leading.

A "rogue" group of hikers had noticed and explored a pink flagged trail that split off from the main trail at the top of the downturn from the bluff to the trail below. This new trail ran parallel with the familiar trail below and came back out onto the main trail above the mine shaft opening. A CT employee in the parking lot explained that this trail is the extension of the CT and will connect eventually with the trail being built coming toward Laurel/Snow pocket wilderness from Graysville Mountain. The current trail will be a "spur" from the CT. New signs have been installed along Richland and a nice bench. There you will find a history of the area including its original ownership and later designation as a state natural area. Enjoying a shorter hike and exploration were: Bill Kinnaman, Sue Christensen, Cecile Shenouda, Che Carico reporting, and Jean Dickinson leading. (This group of hikers also was able to spot the ones at Buzzard Point with Sue's MotionX app.)



Picture from Boe

Reports from the Field

More Buzzard Point pictures from Teresa



Reports from the Field

Pot Point Loop - Prentice Cooper Wednesday November 8, 2017

Always happy to "give back" with trail work, today the hikers became trail blazers. Organized by Steve Barnes the work began on the Pot Point Loop where it is bisected by Tower Road. One group went toward Mullins Cove and the other group took off toward the Natural Bridge and Snooper's Rock end of the trail. Each group had two volunteers with white paint (CT is blazed with white blazes) and each group had 5 volunteers carrying loppers and clippers for cutting back intruding vegetation along the trail. Bill Kinnaman carried a saw and cut what he could, leaving behind the large blow downs for the park employees. Mac noted the waypoints for the blow downs on his side using his MotionX GPS hoping to help the park crew locate them more quickly. The plan was to hike in and work for 1 1/2 hours then turn and start back. Steve was quite pleased with the effort and success of the day! As the entire loop is 9 miles, the work will be done in sections. It was cloudy and chilly but hungry hikers stopped at the park pavilion on the way out long enough to eat lunch. A little laughter, also, as the conversation included tales of unusual names some of which should not be published here! Promising Steve to return another day were: Bill Kinnaman, Larry Parks, Edith Behringer, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Renee Grace, Jennifer Yarbrough, Teresa Dean, Che Carico reporting, and Mac Dean and Steve Barnes leading.

Clingman's Dome/AT/Goshen Prong/Little River to Elkmont; plus Husky Gap Saturday November 11, 2017

A perfect day for a Smokies Hike! Clear skies (after the low-lying clouds cleared out), high upper 60s, no rain!! The section of AT from Clingman's Dome to the Goshen Prong junction is so very beautiful with "forever" views, fallen trees covered with vibrant green moss, and that Christmas fragrance of healthy hemlocks. This part of the trail is reasonably flat but the downturn on Goshen Prong was steep and had steep step downs between boulders. So careful footing until the trail began to level off and approach campsite 23. Lots of logs here around a fire ring providing plenty of seating for packed lunches. Then came the challenge of crossing the first of two stream crossings - this one rock hopped with "a little help from a friend". Shortly, however, we came to the second crossing. "Boots off" and wading was the only way to cross safely. From here on out the trail was mostly flat with a bridge just before getting to the Little River Road trail. The group that split off onto the Husky Gap trail headed gently up, over a ridge, and on out to Newfound Gap Road as the brilliance of the setting sun brought the stunning fall color. The others completed the hike ending in Elkmont - cars had been left at both trail heads. Headlamps were needed as Monty and Che came out after dark. Just before dark caught them they saw a bear coming up the trail toward them. Hearing Che's "hollering" and seeing the flashing headlamp lights in the dusk, the bear soon turned off the trail and disappeared! Both groups together again we headed to a fine dinner at Subway in Townsend. Rejoicing in today's display of God's artwork were: Carolyn Brannon, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Rick Glisson, Shelly Claiborne, Monty Simmons, Che Carico reporting, Wayne Chambers leading.

Reports from the Field

Riverwalk - St. Elmo

Wednesday November 15, 2017

Celebrated the coming of Thanksgiving today as a huge group of hikers met at the St. Elmo end of the Riverwalk. We found this end to be really polished - an improvement since we first walked here after the initial opening of this section. Landscaping has "taken hold", the old factory buildings look like they have been freshened up, and new and interesting modern art sculptures line the walk. The river was splendid! Instructions were given to hike at your own speed and as far as you wanted - just return to trail end by 11:30. From this point we headed to Mount Vernon where the staff had set the back room for us and were completely "company ready" with delicious food. Bob Rahn asked the blessing for the food and our time together. Conversations never ceased! Laughter prevailed! A highlight of the day was John Rowland taking off down the Riverwalk on his beloved scooter! Easily accommodated by the Mount Vernon were: Edith Behringer, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Susan Garrett, Bob Garrett, Joy Ward, Cecile Shenouda, Wayne Chambers, Barbara McCollum, Betsy Parson, Charlie Breeding, Tom Carter, Sue Christensen, Jennie Chandler, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Rachel Dean, Renee Grace, Vicki Chambers, Boe Rudder, Bill LaRoque, Bob Rahn, Gail Stokes, Jenny Hopkins, Joyce Campbell, Larry Parks, Patti Giles, Richard Park, Nancy Dell Konigsmark, Hank Konigsmark, and Che Carico reporting.

(continued...)

cabin at this time and by the end of our lunch break the guns had grown silent. We waited a bit before we felt safe enough to return to the car via the trail but only after we made sure we had our red bandannas attached to our pack shoulder strap & flapping in the breeze, Bill wearing his bright green reflective vest & me with my bright green cap. Renee was wearing brown colors; we put her between the two of us. Jeanne E. Dickinson reporting



Audubon Trail Maintenance

Friday November 17, 2017

Audubon Trail - 1.8 miles one way (off of Leggett Road)
Participants: Bill Kinnaman, Renee Grace, JD
Bill and I picked Renee up at her house and the three of us drove down to the Audubon Trail Head which is not even a mile from Renee's house. It is a tiny parking area and we made sure to park where we couldn't get blocked in by another car, which isn't a big concern really. This hidden gem of a trail doesn't receive much foot traffic. Renee has spent many hours locating the original trail, marking & maintaining it with blue marking tie tape. Like a mother with a child, Renee has taken this orphaned trail under her protective wing and is doing what she can to preserve it for the rest of us to enjoy. At one time the Audubon Trail was going to be part of the Cumberland Trail System, but was abandoned. As you hike along you can see splashes of white paint on the trees here and there. It does occasionally receive attention from strangers. One such "trail angel" is Andrew James Gennett. In 2008 his Eagle Scout Project was to '*construct a portion of the trail*' in the bottom of the hollow, not too far from the cabin. Andrew is from BSA Troop 166 - Mountain District of the Cherokee Council. As we worked our way down the rocky ridge area (about a 1500' drop to the bottom), Renee and Bill spent their time sawing and clearing down trees blocking the trail. I used my time to clear the heavy leaf accumulation off the rocky steps in our descent into the bottom of the hollow and to document our day with pictures. We set out on our journey at 9:15 am and returned to the car, tired but happy, about 3:00 pm. During our day we experienced the beauty of fall colors, marveled at the antique "seeder" rusting out along the trail and being barraged by hunters shooting multiple rounds of ammo lasting $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. We were near the

Pictures from JD

Outings Schedule

12/02/17 Georgia Pinhoti section 25 day hike (S) B McCollum
01/01/18 Annual New Year's Day hike

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 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



Che found this interesting fungus (?) on the Daddy's Creek hike



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)