



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

April 2018

### 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 2, 2018

Rick Rogers, a longtime marathon runner, now a bicyclist and golfer in addition to running, will be our speaker. He says he also enjoys bike packing, easier than backpacking. His topic will be 'Backpacking the Alaskan Wilderness', hiking from Iceberg Lakes to Tebay Lakes in southeastern Alaska. This was a 14-day hike covering approximately 100 miles, including several glacier crossings.

### \*\*\*\*\* Annual Dues \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, the \$20 annual dues are due April 1, 2018, unless you have joined since the first of this year or have already paid for this year. Go to the website, "About Us" tab, and "Renewal Form" tab, to print the form.

Hopefully we can get the stickers to update your Rock Creek discount cards out to you by the first of May.

### A reminder

If traveling to the hike involves carpooling and gas money for the drivers, let's all try to remember to have a couple fives and some ones. Change for a \$20 is quite often hard to come by.

# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### Virgin Falls Saturday March 3, 2018

It was a picture-perfect day for a hike to one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the state of Tennessee. With all the recent rain, the abundance of water heightened our anticipation as well as raised concern about a cable creek crossing about a mile into the trail. An alternate trail to bypass the creek crossing was discovered which also took us to an outstanding overlook, Martha's Pretty Point. After enjoying the vista, we climbed our way down into the gorge to connect with the main trail to Virgin Falls and found wildflowers in bloom - hepatica, trout lily, and budding trillium. After a stop and a few photos at Big Laurel Falls, it was on to the highlight of the day - Virgin Falls, which was spectacular. The falls were roaring and water spewed over ledges. A misty fine spray from the falls and a couple of rainbows added to our enjoyment. Lunch included a view of the falls and all Virgin Falls newbies hiked the spur trail to the top of the falls to see the cave where it actually begins. The hike out was arduous, but the cable creek crossing was easier than expected as the water levels were down by the afternoon. A

quick drive to Welch Point ended the day's hike with a stunning view of the gorge and the overflowing Caney Fork River. A much-anticipated stop at The Cookie Jar in Dunlap provided the necessary calorie replenishment along with some tasty, decadent desserts - coconut crème pie, carrot cake, and chocolate cake! Many thanks to John Rowland for his pre-hike scouting and communication with the park ranger to ensure a successful day. Enjoying an almost 11-mile day on the trail were: Anne Moore, Carolyn Brannon, Janet Hale, John Rowland, Joyce Campbell, Lora McBride, Rick Glisson, Ron Williams, Tim Chomyn, Shelly Claiborne, and Barbara McCollum, reporting.



Pictures from Carolyn and John

### Upcoming Outings

#### Friday-Sunday April 6-8, 2018

##### Big South Fork Car Camp

Location: Big South Fork Nat'l River & Rec Area, north of Crossville, TN

Three years ago, I switched from doing Big South Fork in the fall to trying it in the spring. Bingo! Weather was great, and the wildflowers were quite a welcome surprise! So, let's try it again in the spring. Back to Bandy Creek Campground, complete with heated bathhouses and hot showers for camping wanna-be's or newbies! We'll do a tried and true set of hikes starting with the 4.6 mile O&W Railroad Bridge hike on Friday afternoon. Then we'll make the 5.5 mile loop from Twin Arches down to Charit Creek Lodge and back on Saturday. Sunday we'll do the 5.6 mile Angel Falls Overlook hike. And on the way up and the way back I will definitely stop for burgers and old-fashioned shakes at Cumberland Mtn General Store; yummy! Campsites are already reserved, so please let me know as early as possible if you want to join us. Campsites are \$10 per night with a Golden Age/Golden Access/America the Beautiful senior pass (I'll need serial numbers from 2-3 people so we can have one at each site). We can have as many as 6 per campsite, but with individual tents 4 is probably a more likely arrangement. So, I'm thinking 3 campsites, maybe 4 if there's that much interest. Campsite fees plus purchased firewood will probably come to around \$7-10 per person. Leader is John Rowland, [jrowland\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:jrowland_1@hotmail.com) (preferred) or 423 802-7704.

One of the  
Twin  
Arches



Angel  
Falls  
Overlook



#### Saturday April 14, 2018

##### Coker Creek Falls

Hike leader is Boe Rudder, [boerrudder@gmail.com](mailto:boerrudder@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Outings

#### Saturday April 21, 2018

##### Big Creek, Camel Gap, AT, Low Gap

Location: Great Smoky Mountains N.P.

Distance: 15.4 miles

Elevation Gain: 3,400 ft

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 3 hours

We will spend the night at Newport Friday night and get an early start on Saturday. We need to drop a car off at Cosby campground and drive to Big Creek campground to start our hike on Big Creek trail. Then Camel Gap to the AT and down to Cosby campground. I recommend bringing a light source just in case. Hike leader, Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717.

#### Saturday April 28, 2018

##### Wolfe Ridge

Location: Big Frog Mtn area near Ocoee

Distance: 5.2 miles

Rating: Easy/Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

We will walk the lower portion of the Wolf Ridge trail beginning from the Peavine Sheeds Creek Road trailhead. It is a ridgetop route. After the first mile, it follows the Blue Ridge which is on the Tn Valley Divide. After 2.6 miles, we will stop at the junction with the old Chestnut Mtn. Trail where we will break for lunch before descending back along the trail - total distance is 5.2 miles at a moderate pace. We should have some good views of the surrounding mountains. Steve Barnes ([sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com)) or 423-339-3019.

#### Saturday May 5, 2018

##### Moonshine Trails

Location: Lula Lake Land Trust, Lookout Mtn

Distance: 5 miles, plus an optional 2

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 25 minutes

The newly finished Moonshine Trails are located across the road from Lula Lake Land Trust. There are several stream crossings, mostly over foot bridges. Some sections include large boulders and rhododendrons and mountain laurels. After the 5 mile loop, there's an optional 2-mile round trip hike to view Lula Lake and perhaps hike to the bottom of Lula Falls. May 5 is a regularly-scheduled Open Gate Day at Lula Lake with parking available at the core property. A \$2 per person suggested donation is asked. Rain date is Sunday, May 6. To register for this hike, contact the leader, Jenny Hopkins, 423-605-3456 ([jenhop60@gmail.com](mailto:jenhop60@gmail.com)).

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

More Virgin Falls pictures



Pictures from John



Pictures from John and Carolyn



Pictures from Tim

Welch Point

Len Foote Hike Inn

Wednesday-Thursday March 7-8, 2018

This trip to Amicalola State Park and the hike to the Len Foote Lodge has become so popular that this year the lodge was booked and filled by Chattanooga Hiking Club members. It has grown each year to this year's max. Wayne Chambers discovered several years ago that there is often a reduced rate during the months of January and February. Allowed this discount the first week of March, 38 hikers headed up the trail from the ranger station. Hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, and clean sheets greeted each person upon arrival. You must make your own bunk bed, but this is a small price to pay for the excellent food, wood burning stove fires, shelves of library books, puzzles, towels, indoor plumbing and hot showers at this mountain retreat. Everyone gathered for dinner at 6, listened after the meal to a wonderful talk about owl identification, then headed to the common room for more conversation, guitar and banjo playing, and rousing singing. It was hard to prepare for lights out at 10 with the strains of Kansas City, Lucille, and Mercedes Benz running around in our heads! Breakfast of eggs, sausage, and grits also included biscuits and gravy. Fortified with such a meal and a hospitable send off by the staff, the descent of the mountain was made either by the Inn Trail, or the Approach Trail. A quick stop in Ellijay at Darvin Poole's barbecue restaurant, then on home with great memories. Thanks Wayne for organizing another memorable trek to the Len Foote Lodge!



Picture from Barbara



A beautiful sunrise and two bright sunny faces - pictures from Susan Basch



### Reports from the Field

#### Roaring Creek to McGill Creek Wednesday March 7, 2018

Nine hikers were met at the trail head by two, cute local dogs with ("let's take these folks to McGill Creek for a free lunch") on their mind and that's what they did. The hike out was under cloudy skies with a brisk wind. Good views off to the south to see the forest and the clear-cuts. Saw tire tracks where they brought the bridge and abutment materials down a jeep road that we had brushed out in the past for that purpose. Lunched at the new bridge site. The deck wasn't installed yet, so we couldn't cross but knew from previous hike from Leggett Road to the bridge that the trail was already complete and waiting to be hiked. This section of the Cumberland Trail has some of the most beautiful trail construction. Starting back, one of the hikers was in distress and needed help. Debbie Lambert led the group back to the cars and returned to be a nurse to the hiker, meanwhile, cars went to a road crossing on the trail to pick up the hiker. Everyone was accounted for and thankful that it all worked out. Enjoying the event were Mary Ann Langevin, Edith Behringer, Deloris Ladd, Carla Shunck, Debbie Lambert, Bob Rahn, Boe Rudder, Tom Long, and Bill Kinnaman reporting.



Upper Piney Falls from below and from above



Pictures from Don Deakins

#### Waterfall Tour led by Don Deakins Wednesday March 14, 2018

Hikers met Don Deakins at the Sequoyah Crossing Shopping Center then headed off toward Spring City on a very blustery day. The sun was shining, however, so spirits were high. The first trail was to the Stinging Fork Creek and falls. This trail is @2 miles long but rather difficult in places due to big rocks and a final steep descent into the gorge and falls. Well worth it - just take your time! Then on up the highway to Piney Falls State Natural Area. Here Don led us to three waterfalls, each one taller and more powerful than the last. Again, the terrain is rough, but the area is incredibly beautiful. The distance here also @2 miles. Turns out it was warm enough, in spots where the sun shone through on rock faces, to eat packed lunches. Safely home and proud of Tennessee's linear state park, the Cumberland Trail, were: Charlie Breeding, Edith Behringer, Wayne Chambers, Joy Ward, Susan Garrett, Bill Kinnaman, Bob Rahn, Renee Grace, Barry Ligon, Carol Deakins, John Rowland, Mac Dean, Teresa Dean, Susan Basch, Tim Chomyn, Che Carico reporting, and Don Deakins leading.



Stinging Fork Falls - picture from Don Deakins

### Reports from the Field

#### Moonshine Trails Wednesday March 21, 2018

It was a blustery 32 degrees with snow flurries when we gathered at the core property of Lula Lake Land Trust. The land manager, Patrick Kelly, gave us a brief history of Lula Lake and the recent completion of the Moonshine Trails which is part of the long connector trail between Chattanooga and Cloudland Canyon State Park. We walked across the road to hit the trail head (located directly across from the entrance gate, but no parking is allowed along Highway 157). We meandered along a 5.0 mile loop on trails named Firewater and Bathtub Gin, with several creek crossings (mostly via foot bridges) and passing swaths of mountain laurel, hemlocks, and large boulders. Arriving back at the core property, everyone agreed it was still too cold and windy to add the hike to view Lula Lake and Lula Falls for lunch. Enjoying this new area: Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Larry Parks, Linda Keown, Mac Dean, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Richard Park, Susan Garrett, Teresa Dean, Tom Carter, Monty Simmons, Rebecca Beckham, Jenny Hopkins reporting, and Jenny Hopkins and Susan Basch leading.

## Outings Schedule

04/06-08/18	Big South Fork car camp	J Rowland
04/14/18	Coker Creek Falls	B Rudder
04/21/18	Smokies (S)	W Chambers
04/28/18	Wolf Ridge	S Barnes
05/05/18	Moonshine Trail, Lookout Mtn	J Hopkins
05/12/18	Smokies Huskey Gap	B McCollum
05/26/18	Stringer's Ridge	E Behringer
06/02/18	BMT Series	B McCollum
06/14-15/18	Big Hump/Little Hump (road trip)	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, 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](mailto: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

### Charit Creek Lodge in October

From Barbara McCollum

I have secured **22 reservations for Charit Creek Lodge** in Big South Fork near Jamestown, TN for the night of **Wednesday, October 24, 2018**. I have two detached field cabins - one for the men and one for the women as well as the corn crib which will accommodate two people. My goal is to put 10 people in each detached cabin and two in the corn crib. The cost is \$115 per person and includes an evening and breakfast meal. Meals are provided in the lodge and served family style.

Charit Creek Lodge is similar to LeConte Lodge in its accommodations with no power in the cabins or the main lodge, but there is a solar shower and flush toilets in the bathhouse. Bed linens are provided; however, you must bring your own towels and washcloths. Not sure I can place couples in the same cabin but will do my best to accommodate everyone.

**I will take the first 21 who sends a check for \$115 (single) or \$230 (couple) payable to me: Barbara McCollum, 10 Huntington Rd., S.W., Rome, GA 30165-8553.**

My tentative plan is to leave Chattanooga fairly early Wednesday morning, eat lunch at Litton's in Knoxville, and then drive to the trailhead to begin the hike. There are two options for hiking into the lodge--one is only 1.4 miles and the other is around 5 miles which includes the Twin Arches route. We will hike out Thursday morning and possibly do another hike in the park before returning home on Thursday afternoon.

I encourage hikers to look at the Charit Creek Lodge website (<http://www.ccl-bsf.com/aboutus/>) before sending their check.

There is a 28-day cancellation policy with a cancellation fee involved and I suggest interested parties read this.

More details as the date gets closer. Sure hope we have a good group!

### 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

**Membership Database** - Susan Basch (706) 375-7750

**Outings** - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

**Newsletter/Webmaster** - John Rowland (423) 802-7704

**Membership Information** - Chris O'Conner (423) 991-3220

**Trail Maintenance** - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

**Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico (423) 781-9271

**Website:** [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)