



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

October 2018

### Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months at the REI store at 2507 Lifestyle Way, behind the Embassy Suites off Shallowford Road. Directions to the meeting site are on the club website: [chatthiking.com](http://chatthiking.com)

### Next meeting – Monday October 1, 2018

The next Chattanooga Hiking Club Membership Meeting will be Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the new REI store in Chattanooga. The address is 2507 Lifestyle Way, Chattanooga, TN 37422. **THIS IS A NEW LOCATION!** Our speaker will be Shane Petty, Chief Ranger for Tennessee State Parks, under the Department of Environment & Conservation. Also, current paid club members who attend will be eligible for a drawing for a \$25 REI gift card. Hope to see you there!



Kayaking at Trish's – pictures from John

# Making

# TRACKS



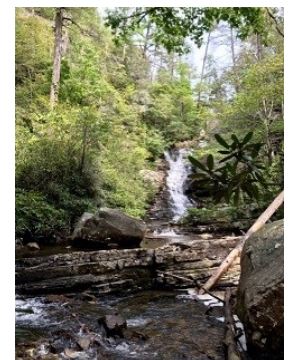
### Reports from the Field

#### Big Soddy Gulf Wednesday August 29, 2018

Hot and humid day for this easy trail along Big Soddy Creek, in and out to its end point at the picnic area bridge. The trail has been extended, turning to the left after crossing the bridge and continuing for another half mile. This makes the in and out 3 miles unless you want to turn right and continue on to the Cumberland Trail. Taking this path opens up lots of other sections of the CT. This trek was perfect for the temperature, humidity, threat of rain, and pot luck picnic at the lakeside home of Trish Appleton. Her hospitality was boundless, the breeze as we sat on the lawn by the lake cooling, and the food endless. Trish took several out on the water a short distance (storm clouds were moving in) on her pontoon boat. Debbie and Jack raced to the end of the cove and back in lake kayaks. Only as the last person began to pack up did the rain move in. How blessed were we on this day!!

#### Scenic Spur/Goforth Creek Wednesday September 5, 2018

Nineteen hikers showed for the trip to the Ocoee. Overcast day which helped with the humidity, a little. We took the Scenic Spur trail. Some saw a Copperhead (well ... without the head). We crossed two creeks that we had to rock hop. Elevation climb of almost 800 ft. All of the falls did have normal water flow. About 10 of us went to the third falls, Rainbow. It was somewhat tricky scrambling up and down the boulders, but it was worth the climb. Back at the Clemmer trailhead, three hikers decided to head home. The other 16 headed to Goforth Creek just up the road a piece. The trail is a dirt road most of the way. The creek running beside the trail is beautiful. The meadow at .9 miles (where we were going to have lunch), was too high with wildflowers. Although very beautiful, there wasn't a spot to sit. We headed back to the creek and everyone found a spot to have lunch. Everyone was well behaved (especially Bill K). LOL. Attending: Teresa Dean (reporting), Mac Dean, Charlie Breeding, Luke Spiekermann, Bill LaRoque, Patti Giles, Joy Ward, Betsy Parson, Barbara Miller, Joe Teringer, Trish Appleton, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorrough, Beverly Ligon, Barry Ligon, Susan Garrett, Betsy Darken, Renee' Grace, Bill Kinnaman.



Picture from Luke

### Upcoming Outings

#### Smokies Backpack, Balsam Mtn Friday-Sunday October 5-7, 2018

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Rating: Strenuous

The hike in will now be on Saturday the 6th and out on the 7th with one night in Tri Corner Knob shelter. The hike to the shelter via Balsam Mtn. trail will be 10.2 miles and the hike back to Pin Oak Gap also 10.2 miles. 5 shelter spaces have been reserved **and claimed**. Number for AT Shelter Reservations is 865-436-1231. Anyone who can get a reservation at this late date please let me know (mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net). We will spend the night of Oct. 5 in Bryson City or Maggie Valley then begin the hike on Saturday morning.

#### Trail Maintenance Saturday October 13, 2018

Location: Hiwassee River near Reliance, TN

Rating: Strenuous

Chattanooga Hiking Club will do maintenance on the John Muir/Benton MacKaye Trail on the north side of the Hiwassee River. We will work on the section from Big Bend to Towee Creek. This section has the area where we have our annual Wednesday picnic and float trip. The work will consist mostly of clearing weeds on both ends, some limb cutting at the Big Bend bridge and possibly some side work on the ridge section east of the picnic area. Contact Boe Rudder: boerrudder@gmail.com or 423.400.1103 or Steve Barnes: [sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com)

#### Virginia Creeper Bike Ride Wednesday-Thursday October 17-18, 2018

Location: Damascus, VA

Driving time: 3 1/2 hrs to Abingdon, VA

I have reservations for 25 on Thursday, October 18th. We will drive to Virginia on Wednesday the 17th, spend the night at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Abingdon, and be at the Sun Dog Bike Outfitters in Damascus at 9:30 Thursday morning. When we get to Sun Dog Outfitters, each person will pay for the bike, helmet, bottle of water, and shuttle. The shuttle will leave the outfitters at 10:00. It is approximately 30 minutes to White Top Mountain to start. The cost is \$25.99 plus tax per person. The only thing to hinder our trip is rain. That decision will be made a few days before we leave. There is the possibility the leaves will start to change since this is October in the mountains. Please call or email me for additional information and get on the list. Wayne Chambers, 423-593-3717, or waynev@epbf.com.

Each person will be responsible for making their own room reservation. Comfort Inn and Suites, 1093 Old Berry Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210, telephone: 276.698.3040. An alternative lodging choice would be Fairfield Inn & Suites, 923 E Main St, Abingdon, VA, telephone 276.619.5501.

### Upcoming Outings

#### Chickamauga Creek, N. Georgia Saturday October 20, 2018

Location: Trailhead is located on FS Road 219, off Ponder Creek Road, which is off GA 136

Mileage: 6.3 miles

Elevation Gain: 540 feet

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

This hike is a pleasant loop trail with little ups and downs through hardwood coves, paralleling East Chickamauga Creek and crossing the Tennessee Valley Divide. Caution: the FS Road is in rough shape, SUV's or Pickup trucks only. Allow 3 hours for the hike. To register, please contact hike leader Susan Basch at [sbasch@nexband.com](mailto:sbasch@nexband.com)

#### Sycamore Creek Saturday October 27, 2018

Location: Tellico Plains

Distance: ~5 miles

Elevation gain: Minimal

Rating: Easy

Pace: Standard

The hike will be out and back along the beautiful Sycamore Creek on an old logging road. The trail head is near the Pheasant Field picnic area parking lot on Tellico River Road next to the fish hatchery. The trail starts right beside the bridge over the river to the fish hatchery. The trail is relatively level and may be wet and slightly slippery in places. Hiking sticks are recommended. There is a bathroom at the parking lot. We will have a snack along the trail. We can take a side trip to an old logging company HQ, if desired. Hike leaders are Boe Rudder: boerrudder@gmail.com or 423.400.1103 and Steve Barnes: [sebarnestorm@gmail.com](mailto:sebarnestorm@gmail.com)

#### Smokies AT Backpack Friday-Sunday November 2-5, 2018

Location: Newport, TN/Gatlinburg, TN

Driving time: 2 1/2 hours one way

Distance: 30.3 miles

Elevation: Est. ascent 6,400 ft., Est. descent 8,760 ft.

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

The goal is to secure 12 shelter reservations at Peck's Corner and Cosby Knob Shelters on the nights of November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll leave Ooltewah on Friday afternoon and drive to Newport, TN for overnight in a hotel. We'll place cars at our ending point--either Cosby or Big Creek on Friday night with probably one car needed to transport drivers back to the hotel. The plan is to hire a shuttle to deliver us to Newfound Gap on Saturday morning where we'll start hiking north on the Appalachian Trail. The backpack is full at this point, but if you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please contact Barbara McCollum at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com) or 770.289.7143. As soon as shelter reservations are secured, those on the list shall be notified and details finalized.

### Reports from the Field

#### Smokies Balsam Mtn, Gunter Fork, Big Creek Saturday September 8, 2018

We have heard ominous stories about Gunter Fork and they were proven true! As we started out on the first 4.3 miles on Balsam Mtn. trail we found it to be uphill but not too steep and with some leveling off places as we approached Laurel Gap Shelter. The flowers were amazing and unexpected as it is so far into the season. After a leisurely lunch at Laurel Gap we hiked .9 of a mile to the intersection with Gunter Fork trail. Unsuspecting of what lay ahead and since it was only 4.1 miles to Wet Bottoms, we were jubilant to be making good progress and soon to have completed this trail. We had been warned that the trail was quite narrow in places, loose rock lay underfoot, rutted step downs, vegetation that hid the edges of the trail and its steep drop off, tall briars and stinging nettle. This made for slow progress down a trail that this writer thinks should be closed until maintained and improved! Finally near the end of the trail we encountered several crossings of Gunter Fork, and Big Creek that are often impassable in high water. Today OK to cross with water shoes, poles, and caution. It was a sight for sore eyes to finally see Barbara McCollum across the creek waiting for us. Barbara had run the very long shuttle for us, placing us at Pin Oak Gap then driving around to Big Creek and hiking up the creek to meet us. She had begun to worry! It seemed like a forever trek on out Big Creek but all made it safe and sound as dark approached. Grateful to have completed Gunter Fork, grateful to Barbara for the shuttle, and grateful to Carolyn for driving were: Monty Simmons, Carolyn Brannon, Che Carico reporting, and Barbara McCollum directing and encouraging - "You've got to get this trail before Heintooga Road closes for winter!"

#### Richie Trail Maintenance Wednesday September 12, 2018

The Ritchie Trail may be the most recently built, finished, and opened up trail in our immediate area. A short 2-mile section coming from Davis Pond lacked raking out and stump and root removal. Mariah met us at Davis Pond with tools and she led us to the beginning of the trail section that needed improving. From here we worked toward the Pot Point Loop trail and the intersection of the Ritchie Trail coming up from the Pot Point House parking lot. Mariah said we had achieved her goal for the day, but I just bet she would not have objected if we had worked on to 3 pm rather than knocking off at 1:30! So close, when our group stopped, we could look through the trees and see orange flags down below on the Pot Point Trail - so close, but she did encourage us to stop as the drainage work would be a little more demanding in that last part. Working out with tools today were: Sue Christensen, Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, Tom Carter, Wayne Chambers, Jenny Hopkins, Joe Teringer, Che Carico reporting.

### Reports from the Field

#### CT Rock Creek Gorge Segment Saturday September 15, 2018

It was a hot but beautiful and clear day when hikers Barbara McCollum, Boe Rudder and Carolyn Brannon welcomed Trey Causey and John Budka on their first hike with the CHC. A car was left on Upper Leggett Road and then the hikers drove to the Retro Hughes parking lot to begin their hike on the Rock Creek segment of the Cumberland Trail. They had never used hiking poles and soon learned why they are important. He found sticks along the way to help support him across the rocks. The water was low, but we were still grateful for the 4 bridges over the creek. We enjoyed lunch and beautiful views at the Rock Creek and Leggett Point overlooks and hiked 6.5 miles in total. All agreed it was a great hike. Carolyn Brannon reporting.

#### Buggy Top Wednesday September 19, 2018

Renee Grace loves this trail and by her request we returned! It was to be a really hot day and we thought a short hike on a cooler (?) Monteagle Mountain would be in order. For those of you who know this trail, it ascends at first, levels off somewhat, then descends to the trail's end at the bluff and steep trail down to the cave entrance. Several new hikers today then followed Renee into the cave entrance. They climbed up and over the rocks and out the Peter's Cave entrance. Headlamps are a must for this part as at times it is so dark you can only get your bearings by the visual of the exit cave opening and the light coming through that entrance. The new hikers loved it and Susan, Renee, and Charlie loved helping them find their way back to those of us who chilled out and got chigger bitten. The trail is not well marked from entrance to entrance. Enjoying new friendships and off to lunch at Mountain Goat Cafe were: Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, Betsy Darken, John Budka, Joe Teringer, Charlie Breeding, Che Carico reporting, Susan Garrett and Renee Grace leading.

#### Lost Creek Saturday September 22, 2018

After a brief stop at the Ooltewah gathering site, nine hikers made the drive to the Hiwassee River State Canoe Launch parking area. The Lost Creek Trail trailhead is a short but steep walk and is located in the Cherokee National Forest near the confluence of Lost Creek with the Hiwassee. The weather was warm and somewhat humid, but the trail follows Lost Creek which has an abundance of canopy which shades the trail from the sun. Lost Creek was flowing steadily thanks to an abnormally wet summer. The trail was well maintained, and the only obstacles were the two creek crossings and an occasional muddy patch from horse and wild pig traffic. We set a mild pace and the group enjoyed the scenic trek through the woods, along the bluffs and ridgeline to the Lost Creek Campground. As we neared the campground the water was low, and we found a gravel bank which was the perfect place for a rest and a snack. The gurgling creek provided for a cool respite from the heat. This is a good walk for a warm day. It is also spectacular in the fall as the colors are stunning. Those enjoying the 7 plus miles out and back were Teresa Boswell, Kaye and Katie Freeman, John Budka, Trey Causey, Lindy Johnson, Joe Teringer, Boe Rudder and Steve Barnes reporting.

## Outings Schedule

10/05-07/18	Smokies backpack (S)	C Carico
10/13/18	BMT trail maint	S Barnes
10/17-18/18	VA Creeper bike ride	W Chambers
10/20/18	Chickamauga Creek (M)	S Basch
10/27/18	Sycamore Creek (E/M)	B Rudder
11/02-05/18	Smokies backpack (S)	B McCollum
11/10-12	BMT Project backpack (Smokies)	C Love
11/17/18	Bald River (M)	B Rudder
11/23/18 or 11/24/18	Arkaquah	B McCollum

## Other Stuff

### MotionX Instructions

Several club members have discovered the benefits of having an app on your cell phone that helps you navigate a hiking trail. MotionX is one such app that has found a lot of favor within our ranks. Teresa and Mac Dean have taken it upon themselves to create an instruction sheet that can help those of us who want to take advantage of this opportunity, but are a little bit technically challenged. This instruction sheet has been added to the website under the "More..." and "Helpful Hints" tabs. Many thanks to Teresa & Mac for their work!

**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 unmaintained 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, email, text, etc., 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.

Regarding the above...



### 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

**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)