



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

December 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

Next meeting – Monday February 4, 2018



Virginia Creeper pictures from Barbara

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Boyd Gap to Thunder Rock, Ocoee Wednesday October 17, 2018

Finally, the sun was shining and the temperature pleasant! We hikers hit the trail to enjoy this hike after so many humid days and so many days of rain. For the shuttle, several cars were left at the Thunder Rock campground (Powerhouse # 3) and the rest were left at the large trailhead parking area at Boyd's Gap. From Boyd's Gap the trail heads mostly downhill and toward an intersection with the Old Copper Road where it then follows along beside the rushing waters of the Ocoee to the Whitewater Visitor's Center. Follow signs carefully so as not to miss the trail as it turns left briefly down a paved road and then picks up near and behind a restroom. The stone walls at the visitor's center provided comfortable seating for lunch, bathrooms are on site, and the gift shop is open and welcoming. To complete the hike back to Thunder Rock, cross the bridge and turn right for a clear trail back to the powerhouse and parked cars. Enjoying an unrushed 5-mile hike in the beautiful Ocoee were: Barbara Miller, Barry Ligon, Betsy Parson, Beverly Ligon, Bill Kinnaman, John Budka, Joe Teringer, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Suzanne Dorough, Bill Needham, Che Carico reporting and John Rowland leading.

Virginia Creeper Biking Thursday October 18, 2018

Thousands of visitors each year hike, bike, and horseback ride on the Virginia Creeper Trail. As a former railroad grade, the trail has a long and gentle grade crossing 47 train trestles and bridges from the community of Whitetop to the town of Abingdon. Rushing mountain streams, rural farms, wildflowers, and cool mountain air are just some of the many sights along the trail. Fifteen from the Chattanooga Hiking Club enjoyed biking 17 miles of the trail starting at Whitetop and ending at Sundog Outfitters in Damascus which provided the bicycles, helmets, and shuttle. It was a picture-perfect day with temperatures in the 50's, and some leaf peeping at higher elevation. This was the first ever club event for the Virginia Creeper, and we hope to make it an annual event. It was a gentle coast for 10 miles starting at Whitetop to the Creeper Trail Café which is world famous for its chocolate cake. After lunch at the café, it was an easy ride into Damascus but did require some pedaling. Anyone who can ride a bicycle would enjoy this trip. Participating were Jerry Wright, Stan and Theresa Reed, Susan Faidley, Phil Ryder, Brenda Nunn, Sue Christensen, Susan Garrett, Jo Beth Kavanaugh, Sue Glascock, Vicki Chambers, and Karin and Scott Deering. Thanks to Wayne Chambers for planning and leading. Barbara McCollum reporting.

Upcoming Outings

Keown Falls

Saturday December 8, 2018

Location: Walker County, Georgia

Distance: 4.5 miles

Elevation gain: 1,180 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Drive time: 45 minutes

Located on John's Mountain, Keown Falls is in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The hike is a double loop made up of the Keown Falls loop and the John's Mtn. loop. The Keown Falls loop is 1.5 miles and the John's Mtn. loop is 3 miles. Starting at the base of Keown Falls we hike for .6 miles and a steep 630 feet to the top of the falls. From there we will continue on the John's Mtn. loop uphill for .8 mile and a 550 foot elevation gain to the top of the Mtn. There are observation decks above the falls and on top of John's Mtn. It is mostly downhill from there. We will head back to the falls and take a snack break where the trail goes under the falls. The water coming over the falls is dependent on any rain. From there we will descend back to the parking lot. There is some poison ivy along the Keown Falls trail. There are restrooms at the parking lot. Call Tim Chomyn in the evening at (706) 346-6746 or email to chomyn@catt.com.

Bear Creek Backcountry Trail

Saturday December 15, 2018

Location: Cloudland Canyon St Park, Trenton, Georgia

Distance: 7.3 miles

Elevation gain: 200 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Drive time: 1 hr

Bear Creek Backcountry Trail...this trail has just re-opened. It is one of our favorite hikes! However, if it rains or has rained, we will take Back-Up Hike (See below). There is a water crossing that rises when it rains. Bring snack, lunch and water. Not too many great places for lunch on the trail, but it can be managed. Something easy to eat.

Back-Up Hike Details:

* Approximately 11.5 miles

* Moderate...there are a couple of strenuous sections...stair case to West Rim Trail.

Please email Merry Boggs at boggs@hotm.com if you are interested in attending this hike.

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday December 19, 2018

This is the correct date.

Our usual short hike followed by lunch at the Pot House with the Tennessee River Gorge Trust folks. Contact Che Carico, mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net

Upcoming Outings

Harrison Bay Loop at Sunset

Saturday December 22, 2018

Location: Harrison Bay St Park, Hwy 58

Distance: 4.5 miles

Elevation gain: none

Rating: Easy

Pace: Standard

Drive time: 15 minutes

If you've got all your Christmas planning done, or if you've given up and just want to escape, join me on an easy outing with the hopes of seeing a nice sunset, and maybe a few early stars. The Bay Loop trail is a virtually flat multi-use trail that winds around the lakeshore, never being more than a few yards from the water. There are two benches with nice views, as well as several other views along the way. We'll try to time it so that we reach the second bench about sunset. After lingering a while, we'll continue not much more than half a mile to the parking lot. Headlamps or flashlights will be needed for that stretch, of course. Contact John Rowland, preferably via jrowland_1@hotmail.com, or 423 802-7704

Snooper's Rock on New Year's Day

Tuesday January 1, 2019

Location: Prentice Cooper Wildlife Mgmt Area.

Distance: options: 3.7, 6.8 miles

Rating: options: Easy, Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 35 minutes

Our traditional New Year's Day hike with options: We will all begin with an easy 3.4-mile hike starting at the Cumberland Trail parking area, passing by Indian Rock House, passing many through-the-trees views of the river, and going to Snooper's Rock. So, everybody gets to visit Snooper's Rock, an iconic viewpoint in this area. Cars will be placed on Tower Road, .3 mile away, to allow folks who choose this option to then leave. The moderate option will be to return the way we came, from Snooper's Rock via Indian Rock House to the original parking area; this will provide an out-and-back hike of 6.8 miles. Last year's hike was the stuff of legends! We only did the short version and got the heck outta there; it was 9 degrees when we started, and 19 degrees when we finished! Hopefully it will be more moderate, this year, but a little cold weather won't stop us! Hike leader is John Rowland, preferably via jrowland_1@hotmail.com or 423 802-7704.



If for no other reason, you should come for Sue's hat!

Reports from the Field

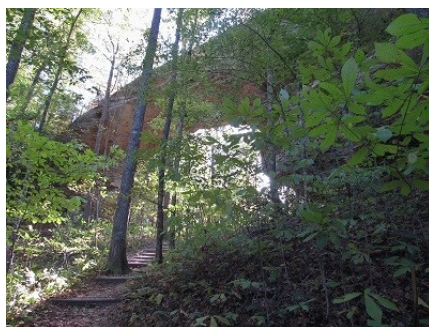
Reports from the Field

Charit Creek Lodge Overnight
Wednesday-Thursday October 24-25, 2018

Most of us first drove to Litton’s Restaurant and Bakery in the Knoxville area for lunch, meeting a few additional participants there. The ambiance was wonderful, as was the food (many of us opted for burgers), and several succumbed to the temptations of the yummy baked goods available. Then we traveled north and west to Big South Fork River and Rec. Area, driving all the way through the park; we then hit the dirt roads to our trailhead, where we met a few more participants, and anxiously wondered about a missing carload of folks. Wednesday’s hike took us down some steep stairs and then under the north arch of Twin Arches, then beneath a stretch of impressive bluffs, before winding down into the valley. Along that stretch we encountered two of the missing and learned that they had taken a “more creative” route; but it was nice to know that everyone was accounted for! We cut it a little bit close as far as being to Charit Creek in time for dinner, but we made it in time to get settled in our cabins and listen to an introductory speech from our host. Dinner by kerosene lamp in the dining room heated by fireplace was delicious and filling. Then we spent the rest of the evening in laughter and song, led by that intrepid duo of Jack and Charlie. After a comfy night’s rest in the cabins, breakfast was just as good as dinner had been, and fueled us for the short but steep climb back up to Twin Arches. Here we walked underneath the south arch, some checked out the “fat man’s squeeze” through the rocks, then we all climbed the stairs to the top of the arches. A few made the short hand-over-hand scramble to a great overlook near the south arch, then we all traversed the tops of both arches on our way back to our cars. We learned a lot about the history of the place from our host, and we’d like to get a little history of our own going there, i.e., we’d like to make this an annual trip! Participants were Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Sue Christensen, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Alyx Hogg, Helen Owens, Sonja Parker, Jennifer Yarbrough, Che Carico, Ken Smith, Joyce Campbell, Stephen Turner, Charlie Breeding, Jack Clayton, Jane Trentin, Beverly and Barry Ligon, Vicki and Wayne Chambers (who honeymooned in the “corn crib”), trip organizer Barbara McCollum (thanks!!!), and John Rowland reporting.



Pictures from John



Pictures from John



Pictures from Barbara

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

Sycamore Creek
Saturday October 27, 2018

After a 90 minute drive passing the stupendous Bald River Falls to the far end of the Tellico River Road we arrived at the Pheasant Fields Picnic area near the TWRA hatchery. We delayed the start to allow a brief shower to run its course and then set out on the Sycamore Creek Trail. The trail gradually rises up the watershed following the course of the creek. It is scenic with lots of rapids and a continuous roar after the previous days' rains. The leaves were in the initial stages of color change and we were treated with an array of yellows, reds, orange, and green foliage. We passed a couple of trout fisherman trying their luck in a clear pool. After a couple of miles, the skies opened up for a short shower and we elected to return on the downslope. In spite of a few sprinkles and a few muddy sections we enjoyed a good hike and took a short lunch break in the picnic area.

Afterwards we drove across the bridge for a quick tour of the hatchery. The pools contain a number of trout of various sizes with rainbows, brook, and brown not to mention some colorful golden albinos. After watching the feeding cycle we began the return journey back home. Those enjoying the cool trek were Bill Kinnaman, John Budka, Trey Causey and Steve Barnes reporting.



(continued...)

look down at the Tennessee River from high places and with great views. The trail features rock typical of the Cumberland Plateau, caves, rock hopping water crossings, lush ferns, and interesting mushrooms (color and shape). Nearing the end of the hike, Susan Garrett called husband Bob who had been on standby. Answering her call, Bob headed out to pick up the drivers of the shuttle cars, handed out bananas and water, then took drivers to the Indian Rock House trailhead to retrieve the cars. Bob claims to now be the Wednesday Hiker Shuttle Service and we are all so very grateful he helped us experience this part of the CT without the worry of damage to our cars if left on Suck Creek Road! Enjoying the hike and meeting Bob Garrett were: Beverly Ligon, Betsy Darken, Barry Ligon, Bill Kinnaman, Bill LaRoque, Charlie Breeding, Joe Teringer, Jenny Hopkins, John Budka, Edith Behringer, Mac Dean, Ned Giles, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Ronnie Williams, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Che Carico reporting, and Susan Garrett leading.



Cauliflower mushroom



Pictures from Steve

Indian Rock House to Suck Creek Road
Wednesday October 31, 2018

This section is part of the Cumberland Trail and is 5.6 miles. It has not been hiked in quite a few years because of our reluctance to leave cars on Suck Creek Road due to random break ins. For this day we had a plan!! We drove cars to the trailhead parking above Indian Rock House and began the hike. As the leaves were beginning to fall, there were opportunities to



Pictures from Che

Reports from the Field

Smokies AT Backpack, Newfound Gap north Saturday-Monday November 3-5, 2018

Memories from this "epic" 35 mile hike as twelve hikers began their hike in snow, ice, and surrounded by hoar frost flocked trees at Newfound Gap. In the next three days of hiking and two nights in AT shelters they encountered typical varied trail with ups, downs, and flat sections; roots and rocks; falling leaves; blue skies; cold nights with privies fairly near the shelters; ice cold water running out of the ground at water sources; views from very high places, and the best fall color we had seen this year; sharp foot paths cut through dog hobble and ferns covered with snow; rain on the shelter's tin roof; fire in the shelter fireplace; bowing heads to strong winds on the highest ridges; time change - headlamps required; snoring reasonably quiet in the shelters; a few mice visitors; found and rescued hunting dog who had been separated from his owners since Oct. 26; returned the dog to his owners after a good night's sleep in our shelter and some food ("even that dog would not eat those carrots!"); made new friends with through hikers Big Ben and Fancy Free; Big Ben also slept on the ground in our shelter, out of the rain, but not with the dog; "What time do you get up in a shelter? When you can see!"

At Cosby Knob this hardy group broke up into smaller groups for different exit points:
Barbara McCollum, Bonnie Smith, Wayne Chambers, down Low Gap II meeting John Rowland to retrieve cars at Newfound Gap.
Carolyn Brannon, Joyce Campbell, Rick Glisson, Terri Holcomb, Noel Holcomb exited at Davenport Gap after a side trip to Mt. Cammerer.
Ken Smith exited Chestnut Branch Trail.
Monty Simmons and Che Carico exited Big Creek after coming down Low Gap I.

All finished safely and headed home with the reminder that "Hikers are the most wonderful people!" Statistics from the three-day trek included mileage of 35+, 21 hours of time on the trail, 6,500 ft. in ascent and 10,000 ft. in descent. Ken Smith and Barbara McCollum, leading with Che Carico reporting.

Reports from the Field



Pictures from Barbara

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

More pictures from Smokies AT Backpack



Celebrated Barbara, our newest 900 miler, at Camel Gap! Formed the trekking pole arch for her on Monday morning before departing Cosby Knob.

Congrats to Barbara!

Pictures from Barbara

McGill Creek

Wednesday November 7, 2018

This new piece of the growing Cumberland Trail is almost finished - 4.2 miles. It features a new bridge over McGill Creek and we have been anxious to hike the trail through and admire this feat of construction deep in the woods. Don Deakins has permission to access the trail from Downey Road - there is not yet an official trail head on this end. Once on the trail it was not hard to follow except for 3 extreme blow downs. It "took a little help from a friend" to climb over and around! As you near an amazing waterfall, the creek and its bridge, the trail runs out and there is a distance of 0.2-mile tough hillside bushwhacking. This section of the CT has areas of very large rocks placed to create steps. After a snack break by the creek (we had crossed to the other side via the new bridge) we began the trek back to the cars that had been parked at the Roaring Creek trailhead on Brayton Road. The walking on this half of the trail is much easier underfoot. The blowdowns and bushwhacking were hard but most proud to have safely walked this CT section. Amazed by the trail building work evident on the McGill Creek section were: Barbara Miller, Betsy Parson, Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder (wants to organize a chainsaw crew for those blowdowns!), Jennifer Yarbrough, John Budka, Joy Ward, Mac Dean, Renee Grace, Ronnie Williams, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, John Searcy, Bob DeHart, Lonnie Williams, Carol Deakins, Che Carico reporting, Don Deakins leading.



Pictures from Don Deakins

Reports from the Field

Benton MacKaye Trail Section 20 November 9-12, 2018

Outing #4 of the Benton MacKaye Project began on Friday 11/9/18 in Bryson City, NC with dinner at Anthony's and a night at the Gracey Manor motel.

Beverly Carini shuttled the group to Fontana Dam on Saturday morning to start the 35 mile hike back to Bryson City; a 3 day/2 night backpack of BMT Section #20 (also known as the Smokies Lakeshore Trail). We camped Saturday night near the old town of Proctor (campsite #86). True to forecast, it was a cold night with temperatures dropping into the mid 20's. "I love being cold all night and breaking ice off my tent in the morning!", said NO ONE !!

Sunday's hike seemed to go on forever and the group exclaimed several times in exasperation: "I thought a lakeshore trail was supposed to be flat!". The girls finally caught up with Rick at Kirkland Creek (campsite #76) just as the sun was setting behind the hilltops. Tents were put up and dinners made in the light of a campfire that Rick had built.

Rick was up on Monday morning at 5:30 am with coffee just as the expected rain began. Everybody scrambled to get their tents down and packed. It had been a warmer night but now things were getting wet (and heavier!). Rick left out of camp before sunrise planning to complete a couple of additional trails along the way. The girls ate a hurried breakfast in the dark and left camp just as the sky was beginning to get light. Under a cold, steady drizzle, the team managed a brisk pace in spite of numerous blowdowns and slippery trail conditions. Joyce urged us to KEEP MOVING lest we get cold. So, instead of a proper lunch, we ate from our hip belt pockets (dried fruit and sugary snacks) and kept plowing ahead through the rain and slop. We whooped and hollered when we saw the tunnel at the end. Success!

Thanks be for a challenging trail, gorgeous fall colors, occasional glimpses of beautiful Fontana Lake, warm campfires, hot drinks, Skittles !!, a change into dry clothes, and crispy fried chicken (Bojangles). And most of all – for good friends and good health!

Participating: Carolyn Brannon, Bonnie Smith, Joyce Campbell, Rick Glisson, and Cathy Love. Reporting: Cathy Love



Pictures from Rick

Reports from the Field

Laurel Falls Wednesday November 14, 2018

Sixteen hikers showed up today in spite of the cold, cloudy and some drizzle-of- rain day. Debbie Lambert led 8 hikers to Laurel Falls, which was described as beautiful (round trip 4.8). The other half hiked to the new recently opened 50' bridge that crosses over Laurel Creek (round trip 3.4). All of the hikers, either hiking in or out, took the ATV route that was used to carry in the equipment to build the new bridge. The walk beside Richland Creek was gorgeous and the creek was flowing. A light drizzle started, as we approached the parking lot. Eleven hikers and 2 guests met for lunch at Monkey Town Brewery. Some sampled some cold brewskis (no names

mentioned, Renee). The food was delicious. I know a few were heading home to take a nap (Renee). Hikers: Sharon Hogan, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Sue Christensen, Bill Kinnaman, Edie Behringer, Renee Grace, Joe Teringer, Betsy Parsons, Debbie Lambert, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Bill Needham, Ronnie Williams, Joy Ward, Susan Garrett. Joined the hikers for lunch: Che Carico and Bob Garrett.



Bald River Saturday November 17, 2018

On November 17, 2018 eight of us hiked the length of Bald River Falls Trail from Tellico River Road to Bald River Road and back. The temperature in the river gorge was considerably cooler than Chattanooga. The mist from the falls was freezing on the bridge. The trail was very muddy in many spots due to the heavy rains and water crossings that are normally just stepped over had to be waded. But it was a beautiful sunny day, just made for hiking. We took a break at Bald River Road and the upper shoals for lunch and headed back. Even though the hike was only 9.5 miles it took almost five hours due to the trail conditions. We had two guests, Nancy Lewis and Colm Bane, from Montana join us. They are park rangers at Yellowstone National Park in visiting family. Participating in the hike were Joe Teringer, Nancy Lewis, Colm Bane, Cheryl Hale, Tim Chomyn, Shelly Claiborne, Rick Glisson and reporting, Boe Rudder.

Outings Schedule

12/08/18	Keown Falls (M/S)	T Chomyn
12/15/18	Cloudland Canyon	M Boggs
12/19/18	Wednesday Christmas lunch	C Carico
12/22/18	Harrison Bay Loop <u>sunset</u> hike (E)	J Rowland
01/01/19	Prentice Cooper New Year's (E/M/S)	J Rowland

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 unmaintained trails.

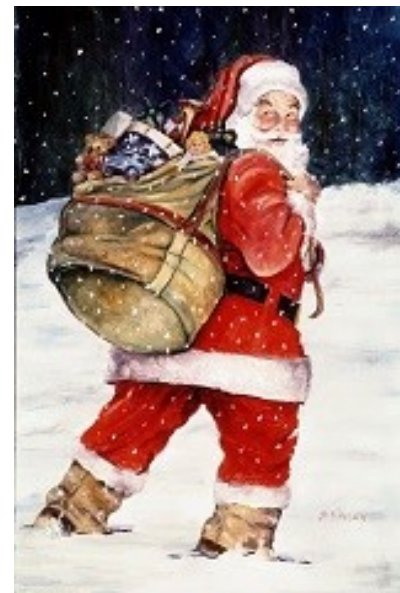
Pace: Standard pace is 2 miles an hour; less on steep or rugged terrain. Fast pace is 2.5 to 3 miles an hour or more and may not vary much regardless of terrain.

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.

Other Stuff

One of the Earliest Backpackers



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) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

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) 718-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)