



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

January 2019

### 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 February 4, 2018**



# Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### Lula Lake Wednesday November 28, 2018

Lula Lake Land Trust opened its gate for private access, and despite a frigid 21 degree start, hearty hikers bundled up to enjoy the beauty of this special property. We began by crossing Rock Creek via the foot bridge, hung a left on Middle Trail, and connected to North Creek Trail to reach the lake itself. Further downstream we enjoyed the view of majestic Lula Falls. Several daring hikers descended the steep (and icy) trail to reach the bottom of the gushing falls. We then backtracked a bit to ascend Bluff Trail and hike along the eastern edge of Lookout. By this time, everyone had warmed up significantly. The last bit of our hike was along South Creek Trail, a lovely serene spot lush with rhododendrons and mountain laurel. Braving the cold were: Barbara Miller, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, John Budka, Joe Teringer, Joyce Campbell, Mac and Teresa Dean, Renee Grace, Susan Basch, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Bill Needham, Jennifer Yarbrough. Jenny Hopkins, leading and reporting.



Pictures  
here and at  
left from  
Jenny

#### Chickamauga Battlefield Wednesday December 5, 2018

Seventeen Club members and four guests braved the cold to join me on this 5-mile double-loop hike from the Visitor Center, on an easy combination of the red, yellow and blue trails. Despite a few muddy spots remaining from all the rain the previous weekend, we all enjoyed our walk in the woods. After the hike some of us chose to move on down the road to the Park Place Restaurant in Fort Oglethorpe for a nice lunch. A good day all around! Members attending: Barbara Miller, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Boe Rudder, Charlie Breeding, Jenny Hopkins, John Budka, Mac Dean, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Teresa Dean, Tom Carter, Wanda McCarter, and William Needham. Guests participating in the hike were Carla Schunck, Cheryl Hale, Jackie Alvarez and daughter Elizabeth. Hike led and reported by Susan Basch.

### Upcoming Outings

#### Pine Mountain Trail Saturday January 5, 2019

Location: Cartersville, Georgia  
Distance: 8 miles  
Elevation gain: 1,500 ft.  
Rating: Moderately Strenuous  
Pace: Standard  
Drive time: 70 minutes

The Pine Mountain trail is in the City of Cartersville, Georgia, (just off Interstate 75), but don't let that fool you. There are two loops (the East Loop and the West Loop) and is considered a rugged and challenging hike that reaches 1,562 feet above sea level which is the highest point in the City. The trail offers beautiful summit views and a great mountain climb. It winds and climbs to sweeping views of Lake Allatoona, Stone Mountain, and Kennesaw Mountain. On a clear day, the skyline of Atlanta is visible. The entire figure 8 trail will be included along with a visit to the historic Cooper's Furnace. For more information on the trail, be sure to read this great review from Atlanta Trails: <https://www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/pine-mountain-trail-cartersville/>  
To register, contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at 770.289.7143 or [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com)



Picture from Sonja

#### Keown Falls Saturday January 12, 2019

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](mailto:chomyn@catt.com).

### Upcoming Outings

#### GA Pinhoti, Sections 18 & 19 Saturday January 19, 2019

Location: Floyd and Chattooga County, GA  
Driving time: 90 minutes from Chattanooga  
Distance: 12.2  
Elevation: Minimal  
Rating: Moderate  
Pace: Standard/Brisk

Let's hike two sections of the Georgia Pinhoti (Sections 18 and 19) starting at Huffaker Road in Floyd County, Georgia near Rome. We'll hike the Simms Mountain Trail to Highway 100 near Holland and then continue north to the Highpoint parking lot. Most of these two sections are relatively flat and goes through beautiful farm land with good views of the northwest Georgia mountains. This will be a shuttle hike. To register for the Saturday hike, contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at 770.289.7143 or [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com)

#### Bear Creek Backcountry Trail Saturday January 26, 2019

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@hotmail.com](mailto:boggs@hotmail.com) if you are interested in attending this hike.



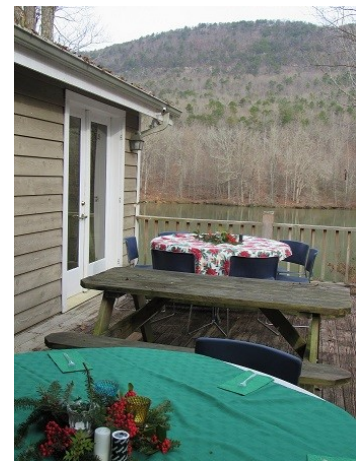
Picture from Barbara

Reports from the Field

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**Christmas Lunch  
Wednesday December 19, 2018**

Another Wednesday Christmas lunch without precip! Thanks, Stormy! (About the only thing that didn't get rained out in December!) After most did an enjoyable short hike on the Ritchie Trail while a few others went in another direction, the throngs regathered at the Pot House for the usual fantastic spread and great company. As always, it was especially nice to reunite with some long-time friends that we don't see very often! And "Thank you" to our hosts, the good folks at TRGT!



Left picture above from Che, right from John.  
Below pictures from John



Pictures from Teresa

## Outings Schedule

01/05/19	Pine Mtn, Cartersville (M/S)	B McCollum
01/12/19	Keown Falls (M/S)	T Chomyn
01/19/19	GA Pinhoti sections 18 & 19 (M)	B McCollum
01/26/19	Cloudland Canyon	M Boggs
02/02/19	Chestnut Mtn/Bear Paw Loop, Ocoee	S Basch
02/09/19	Pine Log Creek, Adairsville, GA	B Needham
02/16/19	Cloudland Canyon Connector	S Barnes
02/23/19	AT, Stecoah Gap to NOC	B McCollum
03/02/19	Ritchie Hollow	E Behringer
03/09/19	Gibbs Gardens, GA	Rowland/McCollum

## Other Stuff

### More from the Christmas Lunch



Left picture from Teresa. Below picture from John.

Poor guy, how does he always get himself in these miserably uncomfortable spots?



### 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](http://chatthiking.com) (includes link to newsletter)

**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.