



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

August 2019

Club Meeting

The Chattanooga Hiking Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of even numbered months (except December) at the REI store at 2507 Lifestyle Way, behind the Embassy Suites off Shallowford Road.

Next meeting – Monday October 7, 2019

(We have decided to forgo summer meetings..)

Happy Anniversary to Us!

2019 marks our 30th year, so we're going to have a picnic at Cloudland Canyon on Saturday, October 19. There will be covered dishes to feed the multitudes, a little bit of hiking (or maybe more for those with more energy), lots of current members, but hopefully lots of former members or friends that we just don't see much any more. So mark the date on your calendars, round up some old pictures, dust off your best tall tales, and join us for a day of hiking, food, friendship, and laughter!



Benton MacKaye picture from Cathy

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Benton MacKaye Section 12 Ocoee River @Thunder Rock to Hiwassee River Friday-Sunday June 28-30, 2019

Bees, Briars, and Blood, Oh My!
It was a "B" kind of weekend.

It's said that distance runners/hikers/cyclists find pleasure in (overcoming?) pain. That might explain these nine (9) happy campers. Prevailing over adverse conditions were Carolyn Brannon, Betsy Parsons, Bonnie Smith, Barbara McCollum, Terri Holcomb, Helen and Ron Owens, Tom Sewell, and Cathy Love.

The group set up a car-camp on Friday afternoon at the small and remote Lost Creek Campground. I'd tell you where it's near, but it's not "near" .. anywhere. Except for a particularly odiferous latrine and the resident Copperhead, it was a nice setting. We enjoyed a pot-luck dinner organized by Barbara and Terri, and a Used/Re-gifted Gear-Swap ("Dirty Santa" style).

On Saturday morning the group shuttled to Thunder Rock campground and hiked 13 miles back to camp. To call it HOT and HUMID would be an understatement: It was BRUTAL! A big climb at the beginning set the mood for a day of blow-downs, blackberries (waist high), and briars (humongous). We were all amazed at the way the brown powder worked on Tom's thumb (blood coagulant). We made a mental note to get some for our personal first aid kits. That and the duct tape made for a dandy field bandage.

It was a blessing that we found baths before going to the Flip Flop in Reliance. The beer and burgers were great! It was a fun place with outdoor seating, live music, and cornholes. We met a nice guy named Bobby.

Back at camp on Saturday night, we enjoyed a cheery fire built by Ron and a round of "Roses and Thorns". The group decided to dedicate this outing to Joyce Campbell and her husband NT who has recently been ill. The group congratulated Carolyn on her recent "half-retirement", Helen and Ron on their 40th wedding anniversary, and Ron for his new personal-best daily mileage!

On Sunday the group finished Section 12 with an easy, fast-paced 4-miler between Hiwassee Outfitters and camp. The trail ran alongside beautiful Lost Creek. It was a peaceful setting, except for the bees.

Reporting: Cathy Love and her new best friend, Benadryl

Upcoming Outings

Smokies, Snake Den Ridge

Saturday August 10, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Distance: 10.6 miles

Elevation Gain: 3350 feet

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

The trail begins and ends in Cosby campground. Meet at Food City at Ooltewah exit at 4 pm August 9. Drive to Newport, dinner, and sleep in motel. Begin hike morning of the 10th and drive back to Chattanooga after completing. Contact Che, mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net to sign up for this hike.

DeSoto State Park

Saturday August 17, 2019

Location: DeSoto State Park, AL

Distance: 5.5 miles

Elevation Gain: 280 feet

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

This loop combines pieces of a number of different trails within Alabama's DeSoto State Park to give us a nice overview of the Park. Lunch after the Hike at the Wildflower Café in Mentone for anyone who's interested! Contact hike leader Susan Basch at sbasch@nexband.com or (706) 633-6159.

Chattanooga River Walk

Saturday August 24, 2019

Location: Chattanooga

Diehl and I are working on a short and long hike along the Riverwalk for this Saturday date. We want to offer a choice for the hikers joining us on this hike. We are planning a lunch where we can all meet and the hikers on the short hike can eat and return home. The hikers on the longer hike can continue hiking after lunch. Please let us know early if you are interested in this hike. Merry Boggs boggs@hotmail.com or 423-314-4108.

Upcoming Outings

Berry College and Rome, GA, Riverwalk

Saturday August 31, 2019

Location: Berry College Mtn Campus and Rome Riverwalk

Driving time: 90 minutes from Chattanooga

Distance: 8 miles or 20 miles

Elevation: less than 900 ft.

Rating: Moderately Strenuous for 8 miles, Difficult for 20 miles

Pace: Standard

Choose your hike - 8 miles on trails at Berry College to include the Old Mill, Reservoir and the House o' Dreams. Or, continue on with the group training for the El Camino to make it a 20-mile day. After leaving the Berry trails, we'll have to do a short road walk to the Braves stadium for access to the Riverwalk along Rome's Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers. The Riverwalk is an asphalt trail. A little history will be thrown in the historic downtown area including a visit to the grave of Ellen Axson Wilson (President Woodrow Wilson's first wife) at Myrtle Hill Cemetery as well as a walk by the Omberg House, the site of the first oophorectomy. We'll also visit Julia Omberg's gravesite and you can determine for yourself whether she survived the oophorectomy. We'll end up in downtown Rome for a nice meal, a visit to Honeymoon Bakery (pastries and gelato) and maybe some musical entertainment while in downtown. To register for either or both (the Berry hike or the Rome Riverwalk) contact hike leader Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.



Part of the Rome Riverwalk - from Barbara

Flat Creek Loop

Saturday September 14, 2019

Location: Blue Ridge, GA

Distance: 5.7 miles

Elevation Gain: 500 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

Driving time: 90 minutes from Ooltewah

This is a nice loop hike in the woodlands of the North Georgia mountains. Lunch after the hike at Serenity Gardens Café in Blue Ridge for anyone who's interested in joining me! Contact hike leader Susan Basch at sbasch@nexband.com or (706) 633-6159.

Upcoming Outings

Smokies, Thomas Divide Trail Thursday-Friday September 19-20, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 15.5 miles

Elevation Change: a long downhill

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 2 ½ hours

This will be a hike on Thomas Divide from trail head on U.S. Highway 441 to Deep Creek. I will camp at Deep Creek campground near Bryson City on Thursday night September 19th through Sunday the 22nd. Interested hikers can meet me at the end of Deep Creek parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning to carpool to trail head on Hwy. 441. The hike will be a return of 15.5 miles to Deep Creek. We will have to pick up cars at the end of the day, so plan on a long day. If you're trying to get into the 900-mile club I will try to accommodate you to drop off cars along the way. Just let me know if you're interested, and you make the reservations at the campground. This hike is in conjunction with the Noland Divide hike to be led by Ken Smith on September 21st. To register, email Tom Sewell at sewelltom@yahoo.com or text 706.669.6406.

Smokies, Noland Divide Trail Saturday September 21, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Distance: 11.6 miles

Elevation Change: gain 800, descent 5,000 feet

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard

Driving Time: 2 ½ hours

Join trip leader Ken Smith on Saturday, September 21 on a shuttle hike from Clingmans Dome Road to Deep Creek Campground. After dropping cars at Deep Creek, we will shuttle to the trailhead of the Noland Divide Trail to begin our descent, covering the full 11.6 miles to Deep Creek Campground. Noland Divide is mostly a continual downhill trek with only one stretch of moderate uphill for 1.8 miles. As this is a shorter hike than some, we will plan to meet at Deep Creek to drop cars at 9:00 a.m. This will allow hikers to have a choice of driving over the night before or driving over the morning of the hike. Interested parties should contact Ken Smith via email, KenSmith323@gmail.com, or by text or phone call at 864-809-1800.

Smokies, Lakeshore Trail "Boat Camp" Thursday-Sunday September 26-29, 2019

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park

Drive to Fontana Lake Thursday, September 26. This hike has become a tent camping trip and reservations must be made by August 26 to reserve the campsite. The campsite is # 86 and the hike will be broken up into three segments - day 1 campsite # 74 to # 76, day 2 # 76 to # 86, day 3 # 86 to # 90. This trip will not require backpacking as pontoon shuttle delivery to campsite at Hazel Creek. Total distance 25.4 miles. Contact Che Carico - mtnhikerche@bellsouth.net for campsite reservation.

Reports from the Field

CT Section toward Hinch Mountain Wednesday June 26, 2019

As this pride of Tennessee Cumberland Trail grows, willing hikers followed Don Deakins as he guided us on yet another section. We drove back to the parking lot and trailhead for Stinging Fork and headed again down the trail. After 0.2 miles the trail has a fork left toward Hinch Mountain and ultimately Brady Mountain, Black Mountain, and beyond. This section is just as beautiful as the rest with huge rock formations, lush ferns, a few not previously seen wildflowers, minor rock crossings (Little Soak Creek), ups and downs not too tough, and an abrupt temporary ending at an "End of Trail" sign in 2.1 miles. We could see beyond a clearing and Don explained there is a short piece of private land still in negotiations. Beyond that short piece Shauna Wilson is currently working with a CTC trail construction team to mark and build the Hinch Mtn. trail to completion. It was a joyous day for those who were trekking on new ground! After returning to our cars some headed home and some headed to one of our favorite restaurants in Dayton - the Screen Door. Hikers happy in their happy places were: Carol Deakins, Bob DeHart, John Rowland, Betsy Parson, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Barbara Miller, Bill Needham, Caroline Woerner, Diehl Boggs, Edie Behringer, Jean Dickinson, Mac Dean, Merry Boggs, Renee Grace, Teresa Dean, Wayne Chambers, Joe Teringer, Seth Carico, Ronnie Williams, Betsy Darken, Tom Long, Charlie Breeding, Che Carico reporting,

Chattanooga Connector & Moonshine trails Wednesday July 10, 2019

Despite oppressive heat and humidity, a large contingent of hikers laced up their boots and were eager to hit the Chattanooga Connector Trail, beginning at the Covenant College soccer field (practice field, not to be confused with the soccer stadium!). We hiked the CCT to Gerber Branch, a lovely spot in the midst of the Moonshine Trails developed by Lula Lake Land Trust. Three brave souls opted to add 1.5+ miles by hiking a portion of Firewater Trail to Bathtub Gin, looping back to the same spot along Gerber Branch. The return to Covenant College was via White Lightning Trail, which formed the lollipop loop of our hike. The exact mileage was undetermined, but general consensus was that our 3.5 hours on the trail covered 6-8 miles, perhaps as much as 8.5 for those who ventured further on the trail. The heat was getting to everyone, and the occasional breezes were welcomed with delight. Some hikers went to Cafe on the Corner for lunch, while others eagerly departed from home, a cool shower, and rest! Hikers included Barry & Beverly Ligon, Betsy Parson, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Bill LaRoque, Bill Needham, Boe & Linda Rudder, Charles Breeding, Diehl & Merry Boggs, John Rowland, Richard & Pam Park, Stormy McGauley, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, Wayne Chambers, Joe Teringer, with Susan Basch & Jenny Hopkins, leading and reporting.

Reports from the Field

Hiwassee River Funyaks and Picnic Wednesday July 17, 2019

Never have you had a roasted hot dog as good as the ones grilled by Bill Kinnaman and eaten with sides piled high on the tables at Big Bend on the Hiwassee River! It almost did not happen as the bottom of the grill was completely rusted out. JD and Bill found large flat river rocks that they positioned in the bottom of the grill to then hold the charcoal needed for the preparation of the feast. Tom Long will attempt to contact Forest Service about replacing this grill at this popular picnic site. Rain and storms were in the forecast as we met in Ooltewah and headed for the river throwing caution to the wind. As it turned out it rained maybe 15 minutes as the funyakers were put on the river - they were wet anyway! By the time they arrived at the picnic site the dogs were mostly ready, dishes uncovered, dry cloths placed on the tables, and signs of rain had vanished. You have never seen "the like" of hungry boaters/hikers. Everyone floated safely down the river to end at Webb Brothers without another drop of rain nor any sounds of thunder. Susan Basch, Bill Kinnaman, Tom Long, Wayne Chambers, Maureen Brock, Jean Dickinson, and Larry Parks finished packing up, loading up, and taking picnic necessities back down to Webb's by car. On the river were: John Rowland, Susan Garrett, Autumn Carico, Ellie Carico, Emery Carico, Tennyson Carico, John Dever, Barbara McCollum, Terry Holcomb, Noel Holcomb, Betsy Parson, Charlie Breeding, Ellie Emanuel, Helen Owens, Ron Owens, Mary Ann Pawlowski, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Gary Petty, Rick Brown, Bill Prince, Kasi Hicks, Che Carico reporting.

Smokies, Round Top Trail Saturday July 20, 2019

We had a shorter than normal Smokies hike July 20, and a 40% chance of rain. Since I had 3 map markers that needed this trail, off we went. We started our hike before 10:00, and it was already very humid. We had to cross Little River at the Y at the end of the hike. It was really down when we drove by going to the other end of the trail. We hiked in 1.5 hours of steady rain at the last part of the hike. This was really a relief from the heat and humidity. As we approached the end and our river crossing, it had risen by a foot. No problem, Carolyn Brannon, Betsy Parson, Bonnie Smith, Boe Rudder, and myself waded across. Wayne Chambers reporting.

Clear Branch Loop Wednesday July 24, 2019

We don't often get to the North Chickamauga Gorge Natural Area. Today, led by Michael McCamish, we began the hike at the trail head on Hixson Springs Road. There are trail blazes but they are faded, so having Michael insured all would safely return to their cars miles later. This section is lovely. The trail is quite rutted in places but you can get around and then get onto a more easily walked woodland path. The first part of the hike is part of the Flipper Bend Loop and Clear Branch is a blue blazed loop off of it. This trek included Flipper Bend, the spur loop for Clear Branch, then return via the Flipper Bend. Warning: yellow jacket "season". Several were stung while taking a break on Clear Branch.

Reports from the Field

(continued...)

A good time to remind - if you have an allergy to stings or other health issue, please bring any meds you might require.

Today several hikers were carrying sting kill. Out today were: Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Wayne Chambers, Suzanne Dorough, Joe Tehringer, Susan Basch, Doug Graydon, Hank Konigsmark, Renee Grace, Caroline Woerner, Bill Kinnaman, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Diehl Boggs, Merry Boggs, Boe Rudder, Luke Spiekermann, Ronnie Williams, Che Carico reporting and Michael McCamish leading.



Picture from Che of a strange but beautiful mushroom

Cloudland Connector & Can't Hardly trails Saturday July 27, 2019

A few hikers met at the Ascalon Road Trailhead of the Cloudland Connector Trail to take advantage of the recent break from the typical late July heat. When we arrived, we were surprised to find Susan on the outside looking in, as the gate had failed to open. She pointed out a flock of black chickens that were free ranging along the roadside and they continued to scratch and dine in the shade. After a brief wait the ranger from Cloudland responded to Susan's call and opened the gate. We proceeded along the trail in the direction of Cloudland Canyon. This section of the CCT is mostly level with some rolling hills and is well-maintained and well-blazed. We encountered a family of hikers and a couple of mountain bikers, but the traffic was sparse. Susan spotted and shared some aromatic mint along the trail side. We arrived at Bear Creek bridge and dallied along the stream side for a while. There wasn't much flow, but the water was cool as it trickled along the rocky streambed. After a short stop we returned via the Can't Hardly Trail. This is a quiet hikers-only trail with interesting rock formations that follows a stream for most of the return. It made for a shady and picturesque summer stroll. Susan pointed out some colorful rare flowers which she identified as Cumberland Rose Gentians. We also sampled a bit of sassafras root nearby. After a couple of hours of refreshing morning hiking we returned to the Ascalon trailhead. Those enjoying the walk included Susan Basch, Lindy Johnson, and guest hiker Anne Aiken. Steve Barnes reporting.



Picture from Steve

Outings Schedule

08/10/19	Smokies Snake Den Ridge	C Carico
08/17/19	DeSoto State Park	S Basch
08/24/19	Chattanooga Riverwalk	M Boggs
08/31/19	Berry College & Rome, GA	B McCollum
09/14/19	Flat Creek Loop, Blue Ridge	S Basch
09/20/19	(FR) Smokies Thomas Divide	T Sewell
09/21/19	Smokies Noland Divide	K Smith
09/26-29/19	Smokies Lakeshore "Boat Camp"	C Carico

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

In Memoriam

Lin-Fa Lee June 27, 2019

Lin-Fa was one of our earlier members, so many of you may not have known him at all, or perhaps just known him a little. I find myself in that latter category, and now know that it is my loss. He was always glad to see you, always had a ready smile, and was always ready to get on with the hike. As closely as we can determine, Lin-Fa joined the club somewhere in the early 90's, just 3-5 years after we started. After retirement from DuPont, he through-hiked the AT in 1995. Perhaps more of a backpacker than a day hiker, he then went on to hike and backpack all over the globe. With a degree from his native Taiwan, four more - including a masters in Chemical Engineering - from this country, Lin-Fa was obviously a very intelligent and well-educated man, but one who also sought and found great enjoyment in the simpler world of putting a pack on his back and setting off on some trail through the woods.

There will soon be more pictures of Lin-Fa in the Remembered Ones section of the website.

John



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 - Boe Rudder (423) 400-1103

Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Outings - Barbara McCollum (770) 289-7143

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)