



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

January 2020

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 February 3, 2020



These fine folks, and a few others not pictured, have worked to put together a schedule of Saturday hikes through June, 2020. But there's always room for more! If you'd like to get involved as a hike leader, contact Barbara; we'd love to have you! We'd especially like more easy and moderate offerings, fairly close to home (but not necessarily); don't worry about being a new leader - everybody starts out that way - and it is quite rewarding!

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Lula Lake

Wednesday December 4, 2019

After two very cold, dreary days, the sun came out and warmed up 20 hikers as we gained private access to Lula Lake Land Trust. We hiked 5.5 miles, beginning on the south trail along lovely Rock Creek, meandered up to Bluff Trail, back down to see Lula Falls and Lula Lake. A handful of adventurous folks descended the steep Old Falls Trail to see the gushing falls from the bottom. We finished along the north trail beside Rock Creek before returning to our cars. Thanking (and donating to!) the Land Trust for this glorious day were: Barbara Miller, Betsy Darken, Bill Kinnaman, Bill Needham, Bob Shafto, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Ed Stokes, Joe Teringer, Joy Ward, Patti Giles, Renee Grace, Richard Park, Stormy McGauley, Susan Garrett, Susan Basch, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Baker, Wanda McCarter, and Jenny Hopkins, leading and reporting .



Pictures
from
Jenny

Upcoming Outings

Lookout Wild Film Festival Thursday-Sunday January 16-19, 2020

(Tickets must be purchased in advance:
www.tivolichattanooga.com)

This will be the 8th year the Lookout Wild Film Festival will be bringing outdoor adventure and conservation films to Chattanooga! Over 70 films will be shown Thursday night, Friday night, Saturday afternoon, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Tickets for all five cost \$45 plus fees, while each individual show costs \$15 plus fees. Many of our hiking club members are attending! If you would like to gather for dinner between the Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening showings please let me know and I will make arrangements when I know how many folks are interested. Contact Susan Basch at 706-633-6159 or sbasch@nexband.com.

Shuckstack Loop, Smokies Saturday January 25, 2020

Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Distance: 11.4 miles
Elevation gain: 2, 927 ft.
Rating: Strenuous
Pace: Standard
Driving Time: 2.5 hrs .

The hike is a loop up Shuckstack and return by the Lake Shore Trail. Most of the elevation gain will be in the first 4-5 miles, then downhill and flat. Rick Glisson, Bill Needham and Tim Chomyn will be leading the hike. We will leave in the morning from the Food City in Ooltewah and return that evening. Contact Tim Chomyn at chomyn@catt.com or phone 706-346-6746



View from Shuckstack

BMT Project, Sandy Gap to TN Hwy 68 Saturday February 8, 2020

Location: Cherokee National Forest north of Ducktown, TN
Distance: options: 8.5 or 13.1 miles
Rating: options: Moderate, Strenuous
Pace: Standard

I just realized that Boe and I could work together to offer this whole section that we missed in February of 2018. We will start at Sandy Gap and hike SOBO.

Option 1: stop at Unicoi Gap for a total of 8.5 miles OR
Option 2: complete the whole missed by going on to TN Hwy #68 for a total of 13.1 miles

Boe is arranging shuttle(s); Barbara is arranging lodging.

* Let us know whether you want to do Option #1 or #2; and

* Let us know if you need lodging (and which night(s)?).

Contact Cathy Love, lovecat@charter.net

Reports from the Field

Christmas Hike/Lunch Wednesday December 18, 2019

A week later than usual, but nonetheless well worth waiting for, our annual Christmas hike and lunch took place at the Pot House through the warm hospitality of our friends at TRGT. Most hiked a little on the Ritchie Hollow trail, while others put the finishing touches on decorations and set the tables for the meal. A few had even helped to place tables and chairs the afternoon before; many thanks to all who pitched in to help. The food was excellent and quite plentiful, and the company was very much enjoyed by all. John



Pictures from
Barbara and John

Outings Schedule

01/16-19/20	Lookout Wild Film Festival	S Basch
01/25/20	Shuckstack Loop, Smokies	T Chomyn
02/08/20	BMT Project, Sandy Gap to Hwy 68	C Love
02/12/20	(Wed.) Len Foote Hike Inn overnight	W Chambers
02/15/20	Stringers Ridge	M Boggs
02/22/20	Mullens Cove/Ransom Hollow	B Needham
02/29/20	Smokies (TBD)	W Chambers
03/07/20	Virgin Falls	B McCollum
03/21/20	Smokies (TBD)	T Chomyn
03/28/20	Trail maintenance	B Rudder
04/04/20	Wolf Ridge	S Barnes
04/11/20	Keown Falls Loop	T Chomyn

(more on the website...)

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

More Christmas Lunch pictures

From Barbara & 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)