



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

August 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 – maybe Monday, October 5, 2020 (???)**



Emery Creek Falls pictures from Barbara

*Making*

**TRACKS**



### Reports from the Field

#### **Elsie Holmes Nature Park Wednesday July 15, 2020**

On a hot, muggy day 18 eager hikers gathered to enjoy the outdoors and to social distance with friends close to home. In 1997 Ben Holmes donated 66 acres of land along S. Chickamauga Creek for the creation of a nature park in memory of his late wife, Elsie. He didn't want to see the property cleared for housing use. He chose to keep it preserved for the good of the county. The nature park is made up of five winding trails. Benefiting from Mr. Holmes' generosity were Joy Ward, Jennie Chandler, Che Carico, Bo Rudder, Joyce Campbell, Bill Kinnaman, Betsy Parson, Cecile Shenouda, Monty Simmons, Charlie Breeding, Silvia Peixoto, Bill LaRoque, Luther Killian, Wayne Chambers, Susan Garrett, Tom Carter, Ned Giles and Patti Giles, reporting.

#### **South Chickamauga Creek Wednesday July 22, 2020**

Thirteen folks hiked the South Chickamauga Creek trail, starting at the trail head at the Riverpark. Most of the hikers including Cecile Shenouda, Joy Ward, Patti Giles, Ned Giles, Richard Park, Suzanne Dorrough, Monty Simmons, Karin Dering, Tom Carter, and Charlie Breeding chose to turn around at the Sterchi Farm trailhead and hike 5 miles. Joyce Campbell, Betsy Parson, and Mark Parks continued on to the trail's end to get a 9 mile hike. The weather was warm, but some cloud cover made it tolerable. Charlie Breeding leading and reporting.

#### **Emery Creek Falls Saturday August 1, 2020**

Today's hike was eventful for several reasons: we celebrated Tim's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, it was the first Saturday hike since March 7<sup>th</sup>, and we found a yellow jackets nest! Emery Creek Falls is located in north Georgia's Cohutta Wilderness which has 37,000 acres and 90 miles of hiking trails. Most of the trails are difficult to access because of lengthy drives on forest service roads. However, the Emery Creek Falls trail is easy to access and provides a stunning waterfall. We all did our part to social distance and enjoyed a total of 20 stream crossings for the day. Before crossing the eighth stream, Tim and Barbara were the victims of a yellow jackets nest being stirred up by several hikers about 5 minutes ahead of us. Arnita and Morris were stung at least once. The cold stream water provided some much-needed relief and the others were warned to cross further downstream. We enjoyed a nice snack and photo break at the Falls and then returned to our cars for a birthday celebration with cupcakes from Honeymoon Bakery in Rome, Georgia. Enjoying an eventful day on the trail were new club members, Arnita Gray and Susan Holmes, guests Gayle Monk, Jana and Morris Collins, Anne Moore, and seasoned veterans Boe Rudder, Tim Chomyn, Noel and Terri Holcomb, and Barbara McCollum, leading and reporting.

## Outings Schedule

01/09/21 Flats Mountain, Citico Wilderness

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**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.

## Other Stuff

We have lost another beloved member. Bob Rahn passed away on his 80th birthday, July 28, 2020. He was a long-time faithful Wednesday hiker, always cheerful, always great company. We will all surely miss him.



### 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** - Jenny Hopkins

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