



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

January/February 2021

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 – possibly April. Who knows?

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines:

1. No car shuttles or carpooling allowed. Hikers must drive to the trailhead.
2. While assembling, preparing for the hike, hikers must wear face masks.
3. Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant number of the COVID-19 virus, or has been exposed within the past 7 days to a person who has been confirmed as or is even suspected of having COVID-19 must not come on a hike.
4. Hike leader may impose limits on number of participants.
5. Hike leader may limit to club members only.
6. Before, during, and after a hike, participants must maintain an appropriate distance from each other.
7. No after-hike socials, dinners, etc.

These are guidelines that we feel are reasonable. Note that we have always taken the position that the hike leader has the final say, period. Let's exercise appropriate caution, be respectful of one another, and not put a hike leader in an awkward situation. Thanks!

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Furnace Rock and access to CT at Cain Creek Wednesday December 2, 2020

Don Deakins first brought us to Furnace Rock after the Cain Creek bridge was finished. It is a mighty feat of engineering constructed to cross the creek and allow the Cumberland Trail to pass through here. Historically the bridges at this site had been low enough to be washed away in the spring by the rushing waters of the creek. The height of this one prevents that from happening. There is ample parking outside the gate at the end of Barker Camp Road. Hiking from the gate to Furnace Rock and the bridge is 3.4 miles round trip. Crossing under the huge overhanging Furnace Rock is tough as boulders are quite large and the path between them narrow. Today's hikers defied the morning temp of 25 degrees and found it a perfect sunny day to be standing on the new bridge. A few of the more adventurous crossed the bridge and followed the trail to the left, looked around the huge rock, and took a look at this new section of trail as it takes off toward the trailhead on Hall Road on Signal Mountain. Happy to have been out on the Cumberland Plateau and then seeing the section of the Cumberland Trail that heads south toward Signal Mtn. were: Betsy Parson, Charlie Breeding, Janna McKenna, Jo Jo Ciervo, Joy Ward, Suzanne Dorough, Tom Carter, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Patrick McKenna, Shelly Lewis, Greg Clark, Linda Benton, Reggie Jay, Renaud Courbiere, Che Carico reporting and Susan Garrett leading.

(More on page 3...)



Pictures from Joy

Upcoming Outings

Stone Door, Big Creek Gulf, Big Creek Rim trails Saturday February 06, 2021

Location: Stone Door Ranger Station, Savage Gulf
 Drive time: 1 hr. 15 minutes from Browns Ferry Rd
 Mileage: 9-mile loop
 Elevation gain: 1,574 ft.
 Rating: Strenuous
 Pace: Standard

The great Stone Door is part of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area which is one of Tennessee's most scenic state outdoor recreations areas. The Stone Door was used for centuries by the Indians as a passageway from the top of the escarpment into the gorges below. We'll start on the Stone Door trail and descend .9 miles to the Big Creek Gulf Trail. We'll continue on the Big Creek Gulf trail for 4 miles and then climb up the gorge to the Big Creek Rim trail for the remaining 3.2 miles. While on the gulf trail, we'll hike .8 miles up and back to Ranger Falls if the creek can be safely crossed. Trekking poles are highly recommended along with water shoes. This hike is for experienced hikers only and may be limited to 10 hikers or club members only. Contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com to register. (The hike may already be full, but check and see - Editor)

Harrison Bay Loop Saturday February 13, 2021

Location: Harrison Bay St Park
 Drive time: 15 minutes from Hwy 58/Hwy 153
 Mileage: 4.5-mile loop
 Elevation gain: practically none
 Rating: Easy
 Pace: Standard

We'll tour around several small peninsulas (peninsulae?) and inlets, mostly with the lake very close by. There is a bench with a nice view about half-way, and another nearer the home stretch. The trail does have some low spots that can be muddy and wet, so you might want to leave your white patent leather boots at home. Hike leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com

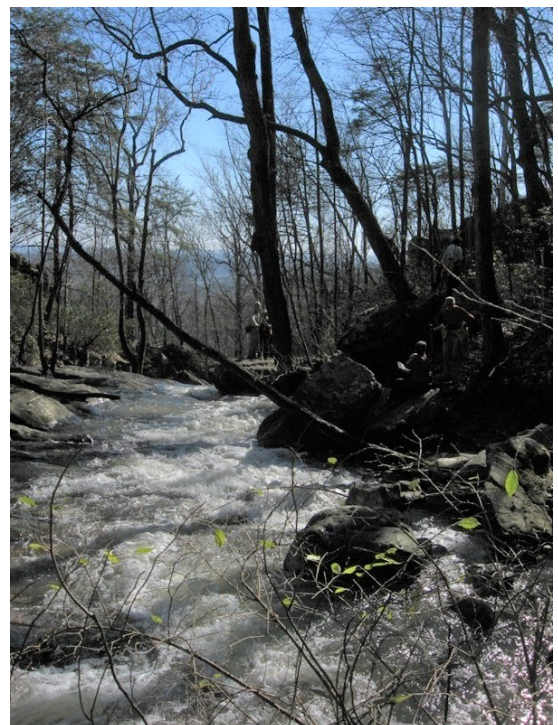


Upcoming Outings

Glen Falls, Lookout Mtn Saturday February 27, 2021

Location: Side of Lookout Mtn
 Mileage: 6.6 miles
 Elevation gain: ~500 ft.
 Rating: Moderate
 Pace: Standard

Starting from the lower parking area across from Ruby Falls, we'll hike down the Guild Trail, under the Incline tracks, then turn and go up the Whiteside Trail. Crossing Sanders Road and walking through a picnic area, we will then pick up the Shingle Trail, following it until it crosses Ochs Highway. From there we will follow the Glen Falls Trail to the falls. We'll return the way we came. Hike leader is John Rowland, jrowland_1@hotmail.com



Reports from the Field

The Cain Creek bridge on the Furnace Rock trail

Suzanne Dorough's son, John, helped to put that bridge in place. He said it was the most technically challenging project he has ever done! Many thanks to him and all the others who had a hand in that installation!

At right is how it looks now in a picture from Joy. Below are John's pictures that Suzanne shared with us.



Reports from the Field

**Atlas Trail, Enterprise South
Wednesday December 9, 2020**

The Atlas Trail is one of the newer trails in Enterprise South and was originally built for biking only. Recently it has been opened to hikers and has carefully placed signs indicating which direction each (hikers and bikers) should take on any given day. It is a popular moderately rated (blue) single track easy to follow and well marked. The distance is 6 miles. Bill Kinnaman introduced the Hiking Club members to the trail and carefully pointed out the direction hikers should take on this day. He pointed out the trail would wind all the way to within site of interstate 75 and loop back. The trail featured moderate ups and downs, easy for the most part, and passes through pine forest with pine needles underfoot and hardwoods. No waterfalls or bluff views, but tranquil woodland! Hiking along today were: Patti Giles, Wanda McCarter, Bob Shafto, Pamela Gonzelas, Linda Keown, Tom Carter, Shelly Lewis, Cecile Shenouda, Susan Garrett, Charlie Breeding, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Jean Dickinson, Jo Jo Ciervo, Linda Benton, Jason Gaylor, Che Carico reporting, Bill Kinnaman leading.



Picture from Teresa

**Craven's House to Point Park, Sunset Rock
Wednesday December 30, 2020**

We had a pleasant day to explore the trails along the side of Lookout Mountain, to take in some great views, and to discuss what it must have been like to be scramble up the side of the mountain as a Civil War soldier. We first climbed the Craven's House Trail to the Bluff Trail, then turned left and eventually climbed to the overlook at Point Park. Then we took the Bluff Trail in the other direction to ultimately climb to Sunset Rock. Then we returned to Craven's House via the Bluff Trail and Craven's House Trail. Some veterans and some newcomers made up the group: Beverly & Barry Ligon, Donna Bloh, Steve & Susan Boone and their son, Renaud Courbiere, Jehan Haddadin, and John Rowland leading and reporting.

Reports from the Field

Ritchie Hollow to Snooper's Rock

Wednesday January 6, 2021

Eighteen eager hikers gathered on this chilly first Wednesday of 2021. The Ritchie Hollow trail is on property owned by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust. It is a beautiful trail where the beech trees hang on to their golden brown leaves as they rustle in the breeze. For some of the hikers Blowing Wind Falls at mile 1.7 was the destination. The remaining 15 hikers continued to the junction with the Pot Point Loop (mile 2.2) in Prentice Cooper and then on to Snooper's Rock (mile 4). For most this was a new way to access this spectacular overlook and none were disappointed. It was the perfect place for an early lunch in the sunshine on a rather cool winter day. Those enjoying this picture perfect hike were: Barbara McCollum, Bill Kinnaman, Charlie Breeding, Gary Petty, Jenny Hopkins, JoJo Ciervo, Joyce Campbell, Stormy McGauley, Susan Basch, Wayne Chambers, Cynthia Skidmore, Greg Clark, Shelly Lewis, Bob Shafto, Renaud Courbiere, Doug Graydon, Debbie Lambert reporting and Debbie and Susan Garrett leading.



Picture from Stormy

McGill Creek, CT

Wednesday January 13, 2021

As the Cumberland Trail State Park linear trail grows, sections like McGill Creek are vital in linking up the completed sections. The McGill Creek trailhead is on Roaring Creek in Graysville (the northern terminus) and it heads south from the kiosk. The trail gently climbs a mountain and was easy for this group of hikers to follow. After the first mile + the trail crosses Brayton Mountain Road and then continues downward to McGill Creek and the wonderful bridge built there - vital access to the trail (as yet not complete) which will continue south toward the southern terminus proposed on Leggett Road. The bridge was built by the Cumberland State Park Rangers, help from CT volunteers, and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition. Our own Suzanne Dorough's son John was a key participant. Most stopped by the creek just before the bridge, others enjoyed looking down into the creek from the bridge and a few adventurous souls crossed and continued on the other side (.4 mile) to find the spur marked by a blue ribbon which leads to

Reports from the Field

(continued...)

the waterfall. Enjoy this section and imagine its progress south! Thanks CTC, Don Deakins and his pals, and the Coalition of Climbers Club. Thankful for the sunshine on this crisp winter day were: Bill Kinnaman, Bob Shafto, Boe Rudder, Debbie Lambert, Greg Clark, Joe Tehringer, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Reggie Jay, Linda Benton, Doug Graydon, Joy Ward, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Donna Bloh, Che Carico reporting, Charlie Breeding leading.



Picture from Teresa

Chickamauga National Park Walk/History with Tony Cook

Wednesday January 20, 2021

We stepped onto hallowed ground again today for another walk with Tony and a look back in time to the life and events of the north/south war battles and family dynamics that took place here on September 19th and 20th, 1863. The stories were of family relationships, struggles, triumphs. Tony has an amazing way of relating the history here and bringing history being made today together to illustrate how long valiant people have been pushing past struggles.

The theme of the hike was "how to live a fulfilling life" and was based on the book "Man's Search for Meaning" by Viktor Frankl, a psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor. During the hike we stopped at 10 places and thought about what each of those places tells us about how to live a fulfilling life. Place 1: LaFayette/McFarland road intersection (The Main Thing is to decide what is the purpose of our life). Place 2: Savannah Church (Our purpose must include Gratitude - see "The Little Book of Gratitude" by Robert Emmons). Place 3: Mullis Springs (Like drinking water, we must focus on our purpose every day). Place 4: Mullis house (Our purpose must guide us through Suffering until we reach Joy). Place 5: Snodgrass House (Our purpose includes Friendship and Music). Place 6: Horseshoe Ridge (Our purpose requires us to show Courage, which is fear moving forward). Place 7: Start of Battle Sign (We must celebrate when and where we were when we decided on our purpose). Place 8: Hardin Memorial (Our purpose requires that we be Unoffendable. See the book "Unoffendable" by Brant Hansen). Place 9: Kentucky Monument (Our purpose requires Reconciliation). Place 10: Florida Monument 1861 to 1865 (We have to stay focused on our purpose all the way to the end).

(continued Page 5)

Reports from the Field

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Chickamauga National Park Walk/History with Tony Cook
Wednesday January 20, 2021

(continued...)
Especially touching was the story of Benjamin Hardin Helm, brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln and a Confederate Brigadier General who was killed on the second day of the battle. The President had not been offended when Helm had declined Lincoln's offer to serve in a high ranking position for the Union Army and instead chose to fight for the Confederacy. Lincoln was only seen 3 times to weep in public - when two of his sons died and when he received news that General Helm had been killed at Chickamauga. Friendship matters more than politics.

The conclusion for today's lesson: "To live a fulfilling life we have to decide on what our purpose is and then make it our Main Thing. After we do that then the Main Thing is to keep our Main Thing, the Main Thing!"



Picture from Renaud



Picture from Wanda

Sherwood Forest Trail, Franklin St Park
Wednesday January 27, 2021

A small group of us braved the iffy weather forecast today and journeyed to the Franklin State Forest area just south of Sewanee. We started with a new trail, the Sherwood Forest Trail, that includes several bluffs towering overhead, a nice natural bridge, and lots of good views of the valleys below, especially with no leaves on the trees. There were even times when blue sky was seen and sunshine prevailed! Then we moved back up the road a ways to have a quick lunch in a picnic area by a small lake before doing another short hike to Tom Pack Falls. Hikers were Bill Kinnaman, Wayne Chambers, Jennie Chandler, Jim and Susan Fontenot, Linda Benton, Wendy Gunn, Renaud Courbiere, Che Carico, Teresa and Mac Dean, Bob Shafto leading, and John Rowland reporting.



Picture above from Teresa, below from Renaud



Outings Schedule

02/06/21	Stone Door, Savage Gulf	B McCollum
02/13/21	Harrison Bay Loop	J Rowland
02/27/21	Glen Falls, Lookout Mtn	J Rowland

If you would like to lead a Saturday hike, especially if you have a COVID19-friendly hike in mind, please contact Barbara McCollum

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 Sherwood Forest Trail pictures, above from Teresa, at left from Renaud

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 (includes link to newsletter)