



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

March 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 – we're getting closer!
Surely? Hang on!**

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. Now that vaccinations are available, maybe we can relax, but just a bit! 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

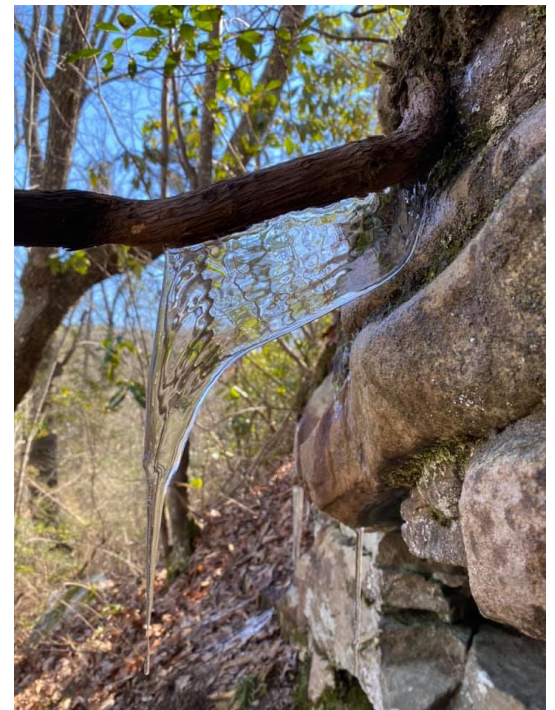
TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Cloudland Canyon West Rim Wednesday February 3, 2021

This popular trail was formerly rated by Backpacker Magazine as one of the top 10 hikes in the United States. It offers several scenic viewpoints of Cloudland Canyon as well as more distant terrain. The rocky, "rooty" trail is most easily accessed from the Main Trailhead. The West Rim Loop Trail is a lollipop-style hike; the first and last mile cover the same section of trail, and there is a three-mile loop in the middle of the hike. The trail and available maps offered a good site for Charlie Breeding's orienteering class using compasses. We huddled around a picnic table in the bitter cold as Charlie spread out maps and fought the wind to keep them flat enough to illustrate his comments about "finding your way home" using a compass. Then off to the trailhead to enjoy the beauty of this gorge, its waterfalls, and its views. The hike ended where it had begun and all made it back safely having hiked at different paces while staying socially distanced in groups. Learning the basics of using a compass and now better understanding how GPS coordinates available on iPhones can help were: Bob Shafto, Cynthia Skidmore, Delores Ladd, Doug Graydon, Jennie Chandler, Richard Park, Renaud Corbiere, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Monty Simmons, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Greg Clark, Che Carico, and Charlie Breeding reporting, and Charlie Breeding leading.



Strangest looking icicle!
Picture from Renaud

Upcoming Outings

Richie Hollow trail to Snooper's Rock Saturday March 06, 2021

(rain date March 13)

Location: Pot Point Cabin/Prentice Cooper State Forest

Drive time: 20 minutes from downtown Chattanooga

Mileage: 8 miles in and out

Elevation: 1,476 ft.

Rating: Moderate/Strenuous

Pace: Standard

We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the gravel parking area across the street from the Pot Point Cabin at 17805 River Canyon Rd., Chattanooga, to begin the hike on the Ritchie Hollow Trail to Snooper's Rock which is actually in Prentice Cooper State Forest. As we meander through a mature hardwood forest, we'll make a quick stop at the stunning 30-foot Blowing Wind Falls and then continue towards Snooper's Rock where we'll connect with the Cumberland Trail System's Pot Point Loop Trail before arriving at our turnaround point. We'll break at Snooper's Rock for snack/lunch, photos, and to enjoy the view of the Tennessee River. We'll return to our cars via the same route. Built by the Tennessee River Gorge trust in partnership with others, some of the nontechnical portions of this trail was built by volunteers from the Chattanooga Hiking Club. Onlyinyourstate.com (Tennessee) rates this trail as one of the best hidden gems in southern Tennessee. This hike is limited to 2 groups of 10 club members only so please contact Barbara McCollum at bpmccollum@yahoo.com to register.



Upcoming Outings

Glen Falls, Lookout Mtn Saturday March 20, 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



Walls of Jericho Saturday April 3, 2021

(rain date April 10)

Location: north of Scottsboro on the AL/TN line

Mileage: 7.4 miles

Elevation gain: ~1000 ft.

Rating: Strenuous

Pace: Standard or less

Driving time: 1:30 from Tiftonia; 2 hrs from Rome, GA

This is your standard plain vanilla spectacular spring wildflower hike; or it can be if the weather and the flowers cooperate! Don't let the distance lull you to sleep. You descend very easily at first, then climb on a somewhat rugged section. On the way out after descending that rugged section you then finish with the bigger climb. The 7.4 miles can seem more like 10. You'll likely have to wade the creek just below the Walls, so water shoes are highly recommended! We'd like to limit the group to 20 hikers in 2 groups. There is usually a crowd there on Saturdays at this time of year anyway. Hike leaders are Barbara McCollum (standard pace) and John Rowland (John's pace). Contact Barbara at bpmccollum@yahoo.com or John at jrowland_1@hotmail.com.

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**Stone Door and more
Saturday February 6, 2021**

The Great Stone Door is part of the Savage Gulf State Natural area located on Tennessee’s Cumberland Plateau. As you drive towards the area, you can’t imagine the spectacular scenery you are about to encounter. It was an overcast day for 10 hikers to assemble at the Stone Door Ranger station to begin the descent into the gorge through the Great Stone Door. We enjoyed the scenic overlooks and took a group photo in the Stone Door. Afterwards, it was a steep, rocky descent to Big Creek where we hiked along the Big Creek Gulf trail to the Ranger Falls trailhead. The creek was flowing swiftly with an abundance of water making a rock hop somewhat dangerous. However, two brave hikers (Rick and Janna) successfully crossed the creek to hike the .8 miles to see Ranger Falls. They weren’t disappointed and both managed to stay dry during both creek crossings. There were a couple of waterfalls to enjoy while we continued along the creek in anticipation of the rocky, arduous climb to the Big Rim trail. We enjoyed lunch at Alum Gap and then finished our hike along the rim stopping several times to enjoy one last view. After completing the planned route, a couple of waterfall seekers enjoyed a quick walk to view Laurel Falls which is just 287 yards from the parking lot. Happy to be hiking on Saturday again with the club were: Carolyn Brannon, Tom Bock, Noel and Terri Holcomb, Joyce Campbell, Rick Glisson, Tim Chomyn, Janna McKenna, Renaud Courbiere, and Barbara McCollum leading/reporting.



**Rock Creek Loop
Wednesday February 17, 2021**

A very cold day did not keep ten "regulars" at home as we gathered at the Upper Leggett Road trailhead in Sale Creek. The plan as proposed by Bob Shafto was to access the loop and hike in a counterclockwise direction. Arriving at Boiling Springs and the bridge there we crossed over and took a side trip along the Rock Creek trail (CT section) to the Rock Creek overlook (.25 miles in and .25 miles out). Returning to the bridge we continued on the loop (CT section) until the trail flattened out allowing easy access and a pleasant break beside the Rock Creek (there are campsites here). Soon it was time to continue on, this time uphill, to complete the loop back to the top. Before the loop ends there is a sign to Leggett Point - another spur (0.23miles in and 0.23 miles out) - and a tremendous view into the gorge. 4 mph wind allowed a comfortable respite in the sunshine on the boulder bluff. The final section to the cars was short. Total distance today 4.9 miles. Safe, sound, and plenty warm were: Bill Kinnaman, Lori Bowers, Joe Bowers, Steve Boone, Renee Grace, Edith Behringer, Greg Clark, Wayne Chambers, Che Carico, reporting and Bob Shafto leading.

PS You might not have noticed the Taqueria Los Primos in Dayton across the street from the Screen Door. It is a food truck/wagon in a field with goats wandering around. EXCELLENT authentic Mexican food, pavilion with picnic tables, and lots of parking. Well worth the trip into Dayton before heading home. And you can call ahead for take out.



Pictures from Rick and Renaud

Picture from Bob

Outings Schedule

03/06/21 Ritchie Hollow/Snooper's Rock B McCollum
 03/20/21 Glen Falls, Lookout Mtn J Rowland
 04/03/21 Walls of Jericho B McCollum/J Rowland
 04/18/21(SU) Pinhoti, Snake Gap-Pilcher's J Hopkins/S Basch

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



Another picture of the Stone Door hike from Rick

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)