



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

June 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 – ???

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines:

We're beginning to come out into the daylight, it would seem. But let's still exercise a bit of caution.

Car shuttles or carpooling seem to be much more acceptable. Hikers not comfortable with this may drive to the trailhead alone but please check with the hike leader about the availability of parking space.

Any potential hiker who is feeling ill, has traveled within the past 14 days to a location with a significant outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, or has been exposed to a person who has been confirmed as having COVID-19 must not come on a hike. Let caution and common sense prevail.

As always, the hike leader may impose limits on number of participants and/or may limit to club members only.

Please carry a mask with you even if you park your car and ride with someone else. It may not be needed, but if you have to go into a building when you weren't planning on it, you might want to have one.

After-hike lunch, dinner, etc. may be done with appropriate caution. There again, have a mask handy.

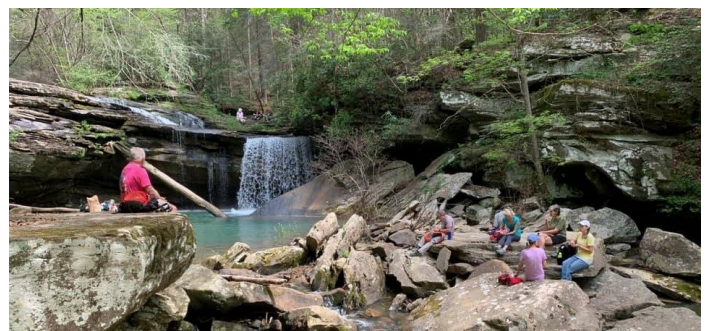
Let's continue to exercise appropriate caution and be respectful of one another. Thanks!



Reports from the Field

Poosum Creek Gorge to Imodium Falls Wednesday April 28, 2021

Having met at the Tractor Supply at the Sequoyah Road exit this group carpooled somewhat and caravanned to the trailhead on Retro-Hughes road. There is good parking here and a kiosk showing just where you are relative to the Poosum Creek Gorge section of the CT. The trail from here is 4.43 miles to Imodium Falls. Along the way the forest floor is cushioned with thick pine needles and there are rock step crossings (one was at least ankle deep and at times deeper) across several creeks. We only saw a few wildflowers but surely did spot Jack-in-the-pulpits, fire pink, and bluets. The Cumberland Plateau bluffs often rose impressively above the trail. We did not begin to feel the predicted temperature rise in the afternoon until after a leisurely break at the falls, sitting on rock edges, watching and listening to the ferocious water. The trail has some "generous" ups and downs! There is a short cut back to the main trail from the falls and we took it (shortening trek by about an hour) !! Total distance 8.86+. Happy to mark another CT section were: Wayne Chambers, Debbie Lambert, Mary Ane Langevin, Shelly Lewis, Greg Clark, Tom Monroe, Janna McKenna, Mike Kjeldgaard, Wanda McCarter, Che Carico reporting and Susan Garrett leader.



Pictures from Janna

Upcoming Outings

Covenant College to Moonshine Trails Sunday Jun 13, 2021

Location: Covenant College, Lookout Mtn
Distance: 10 mi.
Elevation gain: about 900 ft.
Rating: Moderate
Pace: Standard
Driving time: about 20 mins. from downtown Chattanooga
Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the end of South Campus Road on the southern end of the Covenant College campus, and be ready to hit the trail by 9:00. We'll hop on the Chattanooga Connector Trail for 2 miles and pick up White Lightning Trail to scenic Gerber Branch, loop around Firewater and Bathtub Gin Trails, coming back to Gerber Branch for a quick lunch break before heading back to the cars. The elevation gain is all quite gradual; there are no serious climbs. Hike leader reserves the option to limit the group size to club members only. To register, contact Jenny Hopkins at jenhop60@gmail.com

Cades Cove car camp, Smokies Friday-Sunday Jun 18-20, 2021

Location: Great Smoky Mtns National Park
Distance and Elevation gain: TBD
Rating: Strenuous or less TBD
Pace: Standard
A group site has been reserved in the Cades Cove campground for 2 nights. The main hike will be on Saturday (to be determined) and other options to be developed - maybe a moonlight walk or the Cades Cove Loop. Perhaps on Sunday, we can go to Abrams Falls or do the Rich Mountain Loop. Another option is simply to come and enjoy the camaraderie and choose your own hike or ask others if they are interested in something not as strenuous. The only requirement is to share hiking stories around the campfire! This car camp is limited, so please talk to Joyce regarding cost, tent site options and availability. Hopefully everyone will be fully vaccinated by June. If you are interested in attending and are not vaccinated, please contact one of the co-leaders. Co-leaders: Joyce Campbell and Reggie Jay. Please call or email to register: Joyce Campbell 423.314.7535 ntcjl@gmail.com or Reggie Jay 423.718.1941 jennic46@yahoo.com

Lost Creek, Reliance Saturday July 10, 2021

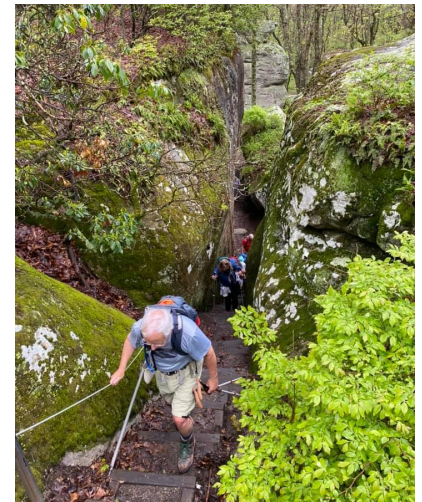
Location: near Reliance, TN by the Hiwassee River
Distance: 6 mi.
Rating: Moderate
Pace: Standard
Driving time: 1 hr.
In the Cherokee National Forest. Possible wet feet if it's been raining. Close to 6 miles, in and out, easy grade. Hike leader: Reggie Jay, 423-718-1941, jennicj46@yahoo.com

Reports from the Field

Black Mountain Segment of CT Wednesday May 5, 2021

A little drizzle greeted 19 hikers at the trailhead of Black Mountain. What turned out to be a glorious day was equally matched by the enthusiasm of the group. Many had never hiked this section of the CT and were they ever in for a treat. Pink lady slippers were spotted right away and, as we hiked to the top, we saw an abundance of yellow trillium, mayapples, larkspur, fire pink, Solomon's seal, along with patches of showy orchis. The special treat of the day was the rediscovery of the yellow lady slippers (thank you John!) The rock formations at the top are always an awesome sight. After lunch at our favorite overlook, 16 of the hikers decided to walk the loop on top and were rewarded with an abundance of pink lady slippers.

Those enjoying this 8 ½ mile hike were: Steve Boone, Mike Kjeldgaard, Janet Hale, Che Carico, Wanda McCarter, Charlie Breeding, Betsy Parson, Mary Ann Langovin, Joyce Campbell, Greg Clark, Susan Garrett, Reggie Jay, Wayne Chambers, Tom Monroe, John Rowland, Renaud Courbiere, Eric Anderson, with Debbie Lambert leading and reporting.



Pictures from Renaud

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

More pictures from Black Mountain



Pictures from Renaud (above), John (below)



**Ascalon Trailhead/Cloudland Connector Trail
Wednesday May 12, 2021**

Early morning rain, cold, and wind made for an uncertain start for our hike. The skies began to clear, and 14 members set off from the Ascalon Trailhead to lush Can't Hardly Trail before continuing on the Cloudland Connector Trail. A handful turned back before reaching our lunch destination at the picnic table at campsite #11, where a scarlet tanager graced us with his presence for several minutes. By the time we turned around to complete our 10 mile hike, the weather warmed and the sun made an appearance. A beautiful day after all! Hiking were Charlie Breeding, Joyce Campbell, Tom Carter, Bill Kinnaman, Michael Kjeldgaard, MaryAnne Langevin, Shelly Lewis, Wanda McCarter, Bill Needham, Richard Park, Betsy Parson, and Linda Benton, led by Stormy McGauley and Jenny Hopkins, reporting



Pictures from Jenny

Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

**Porter's Creek, Smokies
Saturday May 15, 2021**

Found in the Greenbrier area, Porter's Creek trail is one of the most popular in the Smokies! Not too much elevation gain, creek side all the way, waterfalls, moderate distance, and usually incredible flowers. The group trekking the trail today did not find so many fresh flowers - many fading, leaving remnants of their beauty. Notable, however, were the Maiden Hair ferns thickly covering the bank on the right as we began the hike. Historically heavily settled, early on one can see the foundation of the Cantwell house on the right with the John Whaley house and farm across the creek followed up by other house foundations, stone walls, and spring house foundations. Look for cement block steps up to the Ownby cemetery with gravestones dating from the early 1900s. Between the log bridge and Fern Falls you will find phacelia, toothwort, trillium, spring beauty, hepatica, bloodroot, blue cohosh, phlox, bishop's cap, and foam flower. As the trail climbs gently you will find, Dutchman's pipe vine, wild ginger, speckled wood lily, and Indian Pink. On this date we discovered freshly blooming Clinton lillies and one pink lady slipper. A week earlier and we would have been too early for this lovely wildflower. Lunch break was sitting on a fallen tree beside the creek at campsite 31. Campsite 31 has room for 15 tents and marks the end of the trail. However, beyond the spring and signpost for # 31 the trail continues upward to the AT at Dry Sluice with an elevation gain of 2000 feet in one mile - a rock scramble. Bidding farewell to Tom and Carolyn as they turned from Porter's Creek onto the Brushy Mountain trail (adding another trail to their map marking) were: Steve and Susan Boone, Gwen Brimer, Wayne and Vicki Chambers, Debbie Lambert, Tim Chomyn, Monty Simmons, and Che Carico reporting.



Pictures from Steve Boone

They did that; they took each other!



**Brady Mountain section of the CT
Wednesday May 19, 2021**

The hike started at the Brady Mountain trailhead on Hwy 68 after dropping two trucks at the trailhead on Jewett Road. Shorts would not be recommended even though the high temperature was supposed to be in the low 80's. We were told to expect a considerable amount of brush through which to "wade" for the last mile of the hike. The first 4 miles brought us uphill to the top of Brady Mountain and included the view from Brady Point Overlook and Brady Arch. We ate lunches and snacks on great stone "seats" before climbing just a bit more and then descending for the next 3.8 miles. The trail followed a ridge line mostly so views could be enjoyed in both directions in winter with no foliage. If you're looking for views, there's a spectacular view of Grassy Cove just 2.3 miles into the hike. The spur trail to the overlook is well marked. "Fields" of yellow trillium, large patches of fire pink, Virginia waterleaf, solomon's seal and false solomon's seal, blooming Mountain Laurel, wild geranium, May apples, European lillies, American columbo, wood sorrell, blackberry vines, branched dandelions, lush ferns, wild pink azaleas, and oodles of pink lady slippers marked the route! In addition, lots of poison ivy but long pants and a pretty well maintained trail offered protection. Temperature forecast for this day was to be over 80. It remained a pleasant 60+ with almost constant breezes! The shuttle for this trail section is long and the road is deeply rutted for 1 1/2 miles on Jewett Road. However, the trail is easily followed and well maintained until the last mile down to Jewett Road - quite overgrown, rocks underfoot, and a bit hard to follow as you encounter roadbeds and must pick up the trail on the other side. Currently under construction is a new trailhead to replace the one on Jewett Road. Bravely setting out with Steve Boone as leader and Greg Clark as sweep were: Susan Garrett, Charlie Breeding, Mike Kjeldgaard, Shelley Lewis, JoJo Ciervo, Renaud Corbiere, and Che Carico reporting.



Pictures from Renaud

Outings Schedule

06/13/21 (SU) Moonshine Trails (M)	J Hopkins
06/18-20/21 Cades Cove car camp	J Campbell / R Jay
07/10/21 Lost Creek, Reliance (E/M)	R Jay
07/24/21 Little Cedar Mountain	S Barnes
08/21/21 Smokies, Round Top (M)	R Jay

There may be details on some of these later hikes on the website.

If you would like to lead a Saturday hike, 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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE & TREASURY REPORT

The club now has 126 paid memberships. A handful of folks went above and beyond the \$20 annual dues and generously paid extra as donations! We thank you all. Huge shout out to Susan Basch for the monumental task of handling receipt of all those checks, maintaining our membership list, and mailing membership cards to everyone.

Accumulated funds allowed us to make sizable contributions last year to Friends of the Cumberland Trail for a new bridge, Tennessee River Gorge Trust for the construction of 2 camping platforms, and Lula Lake Land Trust toward development of 12 new miles of trails on the Durham property. Jenny Hopkins, Treasurer

Help Wanted

Anyone out there with plans to be in the club for the long term who has experience with Microsoft Publisher? I'm looking for someone to be my backup in creating the newsletter, and to possibly be my replacement in the future.

Likewise, does anyone have any website building and management experience? Even if you don't, are you computer savvy/comfortable enough to pick up a few things if I teach you? It's not all that difficult. More likely I'll just need a backup for this, but we do need someone to be that backup.

Thanks!

John Rowland at jrowland_1@hotmail.com

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)