



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

July 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

CT Graysville Mtn, Roaring Creek to Cranmore Cove Overlook Saturday May 29, 2021

A cool morning with a rippling breeze greeted the hikers as we assembled at the trailhead and headed down the flat old roadbed at the start of the trail. On the left Roaring Creek, minus its rush of spring water, exposed its dense bed of large boulders above which the water crashes in rainy months. The day warmed considerably as we started to climb. Only dry rocks were found at the seasonal stream crossing, insuring dry feet for the day. Up above a pleasant trickle of water made melody, but waterfall it was not. With such a capable group, it seemed we reached the top of the plateau in no time, and were soon striding through the pine forest, and then a plentiful crop of poison ivy on either side of the narrow trail. Reaching the Cranmore Cove overlook, we took a break and soaked in the sights, looking out at the blue sky and cloud formations, the birds gliding on the air currents, and picking out land features observable in the distance. From Cranmore Cover overlook we headed back, but when we reached the directional sign to Hell's Kitchen there was consensus we were good to hike another mile up to see this climbers' destination, and those who could afford the time proceeded. The name Hell's Kitchen may not derive from the steep climb to arrive there, but it's not impossible. Yet the guys out in front continued to set a great pace, and before too long we were wandering around the large rock structures. Wafting cool breezes were quite welcome at this point and during the return trip to the trailhead where we recorded approximately 8 miles for the entire hike. Kudos to our guest Koushik on his first hike with the club. Enjoying this little piece of the Cumberland Trail and convivial company were: Brian Kinder, Amanda Kinder, Renaud Courbiere, Koushik Thyagarajan, Joe Teringer, Steve Boone, Susan Boone, and Edie Behringer, leader and reporter.



Picture above from Renaud,
below from Brian Kinder



Upcoming Outings

Chilhowee Trails, Benton Falls Saturday July 10, 2021

Location: Benton Falls McKamy Lake Trailhead

Mileage: 8.31 miles (loop)

Elevation: 991 ft.

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

We'll meet up at 8:45 am at the McDonald's at the intersection of Hwy. 64 and U.S. Highway 411 Ocoee, TN. We'll caravan at 9:00 a.m. to the Chilhowee Recreation area at the top of the mountain at McKamy Lake. We'll begin hiking at the McKamy Lake trailhead with trails to include Benton Falls, Slick Rock Widow's Loop, Slick Rock Hancock Loop, Slick Rock Laurel Loop, and Clemmer Trail. Terrain is moderate and lunch will be at Benton Falls. Renaud Courbiere will be co-leading the hike with Barbara McCollum. To register, email Barbara at bpmccollum@yahoo.com.

Little Cedar Mountain Saturday July 17, 2021

Location: off I-24 near Jasper TN

Distance: ~3.2 mi

Elevation gain: minimal

Rating: Moderate

Pace: Standard

The hike will begin at the TN 27 trailhead near Nickajack Dam. We plan to hike the 3+ mile loop and return to the parking lot at the trailhead. We will meet @ 8:30 AM for carpool and drive to trailhead. Contact Steve Barnes, sebarnestorm@gmail.com.



Reports from the Field

Savage Gulf Day Loop, Savage Falls Wednesday June 2, 2021

The forecast was for scattered light showers clearing by mid morning so this group made sure everyone had rain gear, met at Tractor Supply on Sequoyah Road, then carpooled to the trailhead. There is a newly refurbished ranger station there with "indoor" bathroom facilities. Also a kiosk that usually has maps and a large one showing the trail system. Off we went in search of Mtn. Laurel. At the first intersection our trek was to the right, hiking the loop counterclockwise. Lady Slippers are often seen on this trail when the time is right - today only one that was way past its peak bloom. Rattlesnake Point offers view of the gorge and old growth forest. Savage Gulf overlook offered a view of the falls way below. When meeting up with the next signed turn of the trail, we turned right, crossed the bridge, and continued around to the stairs leading down to the base of the falls and the swimming hole. Backtracking to the intersection with the loop trail, our route choice was to the right to then complete the loop and access the 1 mile trail back to the ranger station. It was on this final mile that our strong and dear hiker Reggie slipped on a wet root, falling to her knees, resulting in a very long cut, and banging her upper lip. Gratefully no broken teeth! "Medics" offering first aid to bandage the cut and help Reggie to her feet were Greg, Wendy (ran up the trail to tell those ahead), Bill, Michael, Janna, and Wayne. When Wendy caught up with Betsy and me we were conflicted about going on out to the ranger station (could see our parked cars) not knowing if Reggie would need transporting. Decided to walk back toward the group and met them coming up the trail - Reggie hobbling, patched up a bit, valiant. It was decided that Wendy would take Reggie down to Dunlap emergency room as she knew the way. The rest of the hikers went over to Wolf Pen tower, climbed it, and waited for instructions about how we could help get Reggie home and her car home. Reggie's husband Rusty drove from Etowah to the ER and took her home after 12 stitches. Her brother-in-law, living nearby, picked up her car the next day and took it to his home. So Wendy was the trail angel this day and Reggie is recovering at home for 3 weeks minimum of no hiking. She has a good nurse, so I hear - Rusty.

Encouraged by efforts of those most involved with first aid care were: Bill Kinnaman, Renaud Courbiere, Wayne Chambers, Greg Clark, Betsy Parson, Janna McKenna, Jo Jo Ciervo, Linda Benton, Michael Kjeldgaard, Reggie Jay, Shelly Lewis, Wendy Gunn, and Che Carico reporting.

Picture from Renaud



Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

More pictures from Savage Gulf



Pictures from Renaud



Imagination Station and Veteran's Memorial Wednesday June 9, 2021

The forecast for today was predicting rain and storms by mid morning and early afternoon. Put "plan B" into place. Met at Ooltewah Food City as originally planned but drove over to Collegedale to walk closer to home (had originally planned on hiking a series of trails on Chilhowee Mountain). Eight walkers met, several of whom had never been to the Veteran's Memorial Plaza, a moving experience with flags of 50 states lining the plaza circle. Veterans of every branch of the military are honored and there are plaques commemorating our involvement in previous wars. Found here are military vehicles including a plane (Bill Kinnaman engineered the mount for this plane), helicopter and tank. There is a small plaque that details each one at the base. The newest cast bronze statue has been placed in honor of military nurses. The greenway takes you past a duck pond and on another 2 1/4 miles to its end. We paused here briefly at another playground (and watched the trains go by) then returned to "beat feet" to Raphael's for lunch. Enjoying a brisk walk in a place of honor and noticing the benches, hand built birdhouses, and the fast running Wolftever Creek were: Jean Dickinson, Joyce Campbell, Gwen Brimer, Bill Kinnaman, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Betsy Parson, and Che Carico reporting.

Covenant to Moonshine Trails Sunday June 13, 2021

On a hot and humid Sunday morning, 10 members plus 1 newcomer met at Covenant College to hike the Chattanooga Connector Trail to the Moonshine Trails (developed a few years ago by Lula Lake Land Trust). We were sweltering in 80 degree heat and nary a breeze to help! Yet it was a wonderful day, and we had the entire 10 miles to ourselves (saw only 2 mountain bikers). We spotted a turtle and a toad, plus some lingering flame azaleas. Our lunch break in the shade along beautiful Gerber Branch felt delightful. Hiking were Susan Basch, Wanda Budan, Joyce Campbell, Tim Chomyn, Renaud Courbiere, James Eldridge, Lance & Shelly Lewis, Joe Terringer, Esteban Perez, and Jenny Hopkins, leading & reporting.



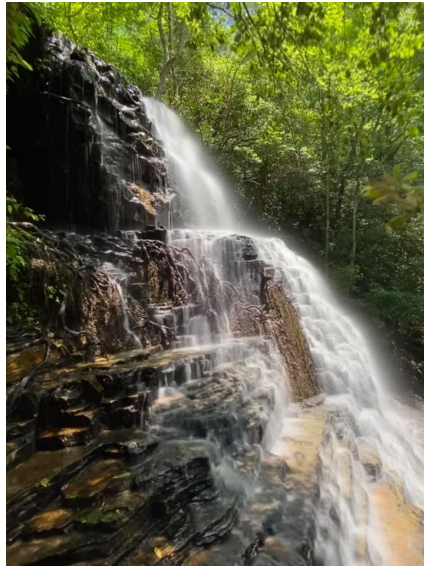
Pictures from Renaud

Reports from the Field

Chilhowee Mountain Wednesday June 16, 2021

Chilhowee Recreation Area in the Cherokee National Park has trails, a swimming lake, camp sites, picnic tables and grills, clean bathhouses - something for everyone! The hike today began at the parking area on the top of the mountain. Traveling down the Benton Falls trail (blue) a short distance, the planned route turned right on the Naked Widow trail (yellow), gained a bit of elevation and intersected with the Slick Rock Hancock loop (green). With a right turn onto this trail, we crossed a meadow of tall grass and then reentered the forest. The next right hand turn was onto Slick Rock Laurel loop (bear left after .2 miles) which came down to the Clemmer trail (dark green) which then led to the entrance to Benton Falls. Lots of stonework leading down to the falls has been placed by park rangers in this past year. Lunch was cool and musical as the falls fell loudly over the rocks into the pond below. After a fair amount of time we hiked up and out of the "gorge" and turned right again on the blue Benton Falls trail which led us back to the lake and parked cars. Sadly the flame Azaleas and Mountain Laurel were past their bloom prime.

Surprised by the cool temp and low humidity were: Bill Kinnaman, Bill Needham, Charlie Breeding, Delores Ladd, JoJo Ciervo, Joy Ward, Michael Kjeldgaard, Renaud Corbiere, Richard Park, Shelly Lewis, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Linda Keown, Susan Garrett, Kathy Seymour, Gary Smith, Che Carico, and Greg Clark leading.



Pictures from Renaud

Reports from the Field

Stringers Ridge Wednesday June 23, 2021

20 hikers turned out on this beautiful and "even tempered" day to hike on Stringer's Ridge - truly an "in town" gem of hiking trails. After meeting at the Spears Avenue parking lot and trailhead Greg started out on the Blue Trail (Hill City). The "Blue loop" consists of Hill City, Double-J and Gig City. This sequence is approximately 6 miles of single track. The trek included the Choo Choo loop and a spur up to the viewing platform on Cherokee trail with a return to complete the Blue Loop.

Enjoying a cool and canopied forest were: Richard Park, Wendy Gunn, Tom Carter, Teresa Dean, Mac Dean, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Shelly Lewis, Susan Garrett, Charlie Breeding, Cecile Shenouda, Betsy Parson, Edith Behringer, BJ Sherrill, Che Carico, Wayne Chambers, Jennie Chandler, Todd Roeder, Wendy Clark and Greg Clark leading.

Soak Creek Wednesday June 30, 2021

With some threat of rain but not to be fooled again, Wednesday hikers drove to the Piney River Recreation area, dropped a car, then drove on up to the top of the mountain to the trailhead for Stinging Fork Falls. This part of the trail leads to the fairly new Soak Creek trail, deceptively flat at first, then many rocks, roots, several wooden sets of steps, and a rather steep downhill pitch. At its end a trail sign points to a spur leading left to the falls or right down the Soak Creek trail. Expect typical Cumberland Trail footing with rocks, roots, ups, and downs. The creek today was flowing without much vigor alongside the trail. Greg found the largest pool of water with rocks for seating. Lunch was here - some having crossed the creek to the other side for the rock seating and some just "pulling up" a flat spot along the trail and a tree to lean on, resulting in very dirty pants. As we followed the trail down from the top of the mountain to the bottom, it seemed like there was a great deal of uphill! Ferns were lush and great rock bluffs were the features along with a few remaining Mountain Laurels still in bloom. Not bothered by any more than light to moderate sprinkles in the last mile were: Betsy Parson, Charlie Breeding, Steve Boone, Suzanne Dorough, Todd Roeder, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, Doug Graydon, Che Carico reporting and Greg Clark leading.

Memorable quote for the day: " A muddy bottom is a sign of a wise decision".

Outings Schedule

07/10/21	Chilhowee trails (M)	B McCollum
07/17/21	Little Cedar Mountain	S Barnes
08/07/21	Cherohala Skyway, 3 short hikes	B McCollum
08/21/21	Smokies, Round Top (M)	R Jay

Other Stuff



Parksville Lake from atop Chilhowee Mountain
- picture from Renaud

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.

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)