



Newsletter of the  
Chattanooga Hiking Club

August 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. (Meetings are still on hold until COVID-19... whatever!)

### Picnic/Hike Cloudland Canyon, Sept. 25

#### COVID-19 Safety Guidelines:

With variants still a significant concern, let's don't get complacent. We would hope that all of our hikers have been vaccinated, especially if carpooling is involved. In fact, hike leaders may request that of participants!

That said, 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.

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!

## Making

# TRACKS



### Reports from the Field

#### Raccoon Mountain Wednesday, July 7

In spite of a poor weather outlook, nine hikers met at the visitor's center on Raccoon Mountain. Two transport cars were left at the visitor's center and the others were driven to the parking circle at Laurel Point. From here Greg led us on a footpath (Laurel Point Trail) that had a few views down onto the Tennessee River.

Our trek took a left hand turn onto the Megawatt Trail. This section follows along under the dam and Suzanne began to question if there was indeed a lake up there on top and what would happen if that dam gave way. We hurried!! As the trail system on Raccoon Mountain welcomes hikers, it was built by Sorba with mountain biking in mind. Lots of ferns, some rocks and roots, wild blueberries for picking, switchbacks in the trail and an uphill at the end where our transport cars had been left.

The visitor's center was closed. There is more to be seen and learned inside but today we were content that the rain held off and there were some breezes to lighten the heat. Always enjoying hiking with friends were: *Charlie Breeding, Patti Giles, Mac Dean, Linda Keown, Richard Park, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Che Carico reporting, Greg Clark leading.*

### Float Trip—page 2&3



**Reports from the Field**

**Chilhowee Mountain/Benton Falls Trails  
Saturday, July 10, 2021**



With Renaud in the lead navigating the route, 17 hikers eagerly followed on a foggy, humid, cloudy day to the beautiful Benton Falls.

Trails included Benton Falls,

Slick Rock Widow's Loop, Slick Rock Hancock Loop, Slick Rock Laurel Loop, and Clemmer totaling 7.5 miles.

It was an indirect route, but beautiful wildflowers were still in bloom including Rosebay Rhododendron and Brown-Eyed Susan's. Ultimately the sun came out and with all the recent rains from Tropical Storm Elsa, numerous fungi made for some interesting photographs.



A baby copperhead spotted by Rick, while hiking in the rear, provided some excitement for those who nonchalantly walked by the very venomous snake. It was a beauty.



Lunch at the falls was enjoyed by all especially those who had never seen them. This could have easily been a "hike divided" as 11 of the hikers were from Georgia, but we had a very cohesive, capable group who just enjoyed being

together.

Happy to be off the trail before a few rain clouds opened up were guests Tina Meers, Ray Sherman, Maricruz Sherman, Karen Steinberg, Connie Nester, and John Urbaitis. *Club members included Tim Chomyn, Rick Glisson, Joyce Campbell, James Eldridge, Joe Teringer Wanda Budan, Rita Pendergast, Noel Holcomb, Terri Holcomb, Helen Owens, Renaud Courbiere (leading) and Barbara McCollum, reporting.*

Photos: Courtesy of Renaud

**Reports from the Field**

**Hiwassee Raft Trip, Trail Maintenance, Picnic  
Wednesday July 14, 2021**

The tradition of our annual Hiwassee River trip was foiled last year by the Covid virus. This summer the trip was "back on" and such fun.

We did approach the day with fear storms would fill the skies. Weather watchers Ken Smith and Reggie Jay gave a thumbs up the night before as chance for rain was decreasing and it would likely be a good day. However, after leaving the meeting site at the Ooltewah Food City, we did begin to encounter rain which was still falling lightly at Webb Brothers Outfitters as we stood in line to register, pay, collect a life vest, and board the bus for transport upriver to the put-in.



Boe Rudder was found at Big Bend still engaged in cutting back vines on the trail. Patti Giles, Ned Giles, Bill Kinnaman (master chef), Barry Ligon, and Beverly Ligon, and Che unloaded the cars which had been driven to Big Bend with the picnic foods. After setting up a canopy Barry and Ned joined Boe for a little more trail clearing and Bill prepared the fire as Beverly, Che, and Patti laid out tablecloths, food, and coolers. (cont'd page 3)



Photos Courtesy of Barbara McCollum

**Reports from the Field**

**Reports from the Field**

**Hiwassee Raft Trip, Trail Maintenance, Picnic  
Wednesday July 14, 2021—Cont'd from page 2**

In about 50 minutes the first of the floaters in funyaks floated to shore. One by one all were accounted for and one by one all began the feast which included hot dogs grilled to perfection or blackness as requested, pasta salads, baked beans, sliced tomatoes, chili, chips, fruit, potato salad, pineapple casserole, deviled eggs, and the usual condiments for dressing the hot dogs including chopped onions.



Floaters included Barbara and Greg McCollum, Seth, YouJin and Ravyn Carico, Gwen Brimer, Charlie Breeding, Susan Garrett, Renaud and Brae Corbiere, John Dever, JoJo Ciervo, Shelley Lewis, BJ Sherrill, Betsy Parson, Debbie Lambert, Noel and Terri Holcomb, Joyce Campbell with Aida Moncrief and Everest Moncrief, Rusty Garrison, Reggie and Rusty Jay, Greg and Wendy Clark, Linda Keown, Helen and Ron Owens, and Ken Smith.

"Keepers of the camp" were Bill Kinaman, Barry Ligon, Beverly Ligon, Patti Giles, Che Carico, Boe Rudder and special guest Casper Carico.



As we set up the picnic area, word came down from the put-in that we were not to get into the eggs. That warning was ignored!!!

Rusty has promised to return next year with Reggie, but she is not to have a paddle of her own!

And there were no storms! Just blue skies and passing clouds.

Photos Courtesy of Barbara McCollum

**Little Cedar Mountain Day Hike  
Saturday July 17, 2021**



Several hikers traveled to the Little Cedar Mountain Trailhead near Nickajack Dam to hike this relatively

new trail, which is only 20 minutes from Chattanooga.

When we arrived the clouds were widespread and there was a light sprinkle of rain. Once we began, the sprinkle subsided and we proceeded around the well maintained loop counterclockwise. The light rain cooled things but it was a typical muggy summer day.

This trail has rock outcrops and a host of cedar trees which tend to proliferate where limestone is near the ground. As we started the short ascent after a half hour stroll we spotted a young fawn in the underbrush.

Later we stopped at the Nickajack Lake overlook for a short break. This is not far from Nickajack Cave where thousands of grey bats roost in the summer and venture out every evening to feast on insects.



Renaud indicated that he has been leading water tours to the mouth of the cave on paddleboards to view the bats as they emerge at dusk. In spite of the humid weather we enjoyed the short stroll and the company of some new CHC members and guests. CHC members Edie Behringer, Wanda Budan, Renaud Courbiere, Trish Franklin, and guests Caron Guillo and James Levan. Steve Barnes reporting

Photos Courtesy of Renaud

## Reports from the Field

### Chickamauga Battlefield Wednesday, July 21



It was a warm day on July 21st as the Hiking Club members began their "walk in the woods" at

Chickamauga National Military Park.

For an approximate 4.5 mile trek beginning at the Park Headquarters, our group completed a loop trail in the Northeast section of the park.

This trail took us past the monument honoring the spot where Col. Peyton Colquit of Georgia was mortally wounded, as well as by the monument honoring Brig. General William Hardin Helms, who also was wounded and died from his injuries.

General Helms was the brother-in-law of President Lincoln, being married to Mary Todd Lincoln's half-sister. President Lincoln was very fond of his brother-in-law and had previously offered him an officer's commission in the Union Army, but Helms chose to lead and fight (and subsequently die) alongside his troops from Kentucky.

Our group also stopped at the spot where General Braxton Bragg, Commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, had his headquarters during the Battle of Chickamauga.

Despite an early light rain drizzle, our group proceeded on a rather flat and shaded trail.

Among the hikers were *Beverly & Barry Ligon, Betsy Parson, Charlie Breeding, Linda Keown, Larry Parks, Lori & Joe Bowers, Mac & Teresa Dean, Patti & Ned Gilles, Richard Park, Susan Faidley, Susan Garrett, Suzanne Dorough, Wanda McCarter, Wayne Chambers, BJ Sherrill, Gwen Brimer, and Roger Scheares; Ned Giles, reporting.*

**REMINDER! 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 contact Che at [Mid-Week@chatthiking.com](mailto:Mid-Week@chatthiking.com), give your name and email address, and 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.

## Outings Schedule

08/07/21 Cherohala Skyway, 3 short hikes B McCollum  
 08/21/21 Smokies, Round Top (M) W Chambers  
 09/25/21 Picnic/Hike Cloudland Canyon Details Coming!

### Saturday, August 7

#### *Cherohala Skyway, 3 short hikes*

**Location:** Tellico Plains, TN (3 hikes in one day)

**Mileage:** 6.2 miles total

**Trails:** Whigg Meadow (3.3 miles) Hooper Bald (1.2 miles) and Huckleberry Knob 1.7 miles

**Elevation:** 580 ft., 147 ft., 331 ft.

**Rating:** Moderate

**Pace:** Standard

#### **Vaccination required for participation**

We'll meet up at 9:00 a.m. at the Tellico Plains Hardee's restaurant. Then, we'll drive the Cherohala Skyway to Mud Gap to begin our first hike to Whigg Meadow which will be along the Benton MacKaye Trail. This is the longest hike of the day but will provide a most spectacular 360-degree view of the mountains of the Cherokee National Forest. Next, on to Hooper Bald which is a short hike but a great view. Lastly, to Huckleberry Knob which also provides a fabulous view. Parking is limited at these trailheads, so carpooling will be important. After the hike, maybe a milkshake at the Tellico Beach Drive-In. To register, email Barbara McCollum at [bpmccollum@yahoo.com](mailto:bpmccollum@yahoo.com). Renaud Courbiere will be co-leader and John Rowland will help with carpooling from Chattanooga.

### Saturday, August 21

#### **Smokies Round Top**

**Location:** Great Smoky Mtns National Park

**Distance:** 7.5 miles

**Elevation Gain:** 900 feet

**Rating:** Moderate

**Pace:** Standard

We will start on Wear Cove Gap Road near Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area and finish at the Townsend Wye. This is one of the least used trails in the entire park. This will be a car shuttle hike. At the finish of the hike at the Wye, you will get wet crossing the Little River. Based on recent rain or no rain for that week, the creek crossing should be about knee high for most people. Please bring water shoes. If you need to mark this trail on your map or enjoy a water crossing, sign up for this hike. This will be a shuttle hike which will be organized when participants sign up. Hike Leader, Wayne Chambers, 423.593.3717, [waynevc@epbf.com](mailto:waynevc@epbf.com).

## Other Stuff

### Treasury Report Details

*Jenny Hopkins, Treasurer*

Contributions last year were to the following:

- Friends of the Cumberland Trail—\$3,800 (new bridge)
- Tennessee River Gorge Trust—\$1,800 (construction of two camping platforms)
- Lulu Lake Land Trust — \$1,000 (towards development of 12 new miles of trails on Durham property).

Our current bank balance is \$3,020.63.

Normal annual expenses include post office box rental, website domain, SPOT subscription, postage and Christmas party. Obviously we were unable to hold our gathering this past December but fully expect to do so this year.

### From the April BMTA newsletter



“After 40 years, it is time for the BMT to move to the next step: Joining the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and nine others to become the 12th National Scenic Trail (NST). This won't be easy. We will need a great deal of local and regional support — including political support because the prestigious designation as a NST takes an act of Congress — literally!”

**Let's let our local US Congressional members hear our agreement.**

### 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

**Vice President** - Stormy McGauley

**Treasurer** - Jenny Hopkins

**Secretary** - Susan Basch

**Membership Database** - Susan Basch

**Outings** - Barbara McCollum

**Newsletter/Webmaster** - John Rowland

**Trail Maintenance** - Steve Barnes

Boe Rudder

**Midweek Outings** - Cheryl Carico

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