



Newsletter of the
Chattanooga Hiking Club

September 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.

Chattanooga Hiking Club Fall Picnic and Hike

Picnic Date: Saturday,
September 25
Time: 12 Noon
Location: Cloudland
Canyon,



Prior to picnic, there will be a hike starting at 8:45 am along the West Rim Loop Trail.

See Page 2,
Upcoming Out-
ings, for more de-
tails about both.

Hope to see you
there.



Covid Safety Guidelines

With Covid variants out there, let's continue to exercise caution. We will be monitoring health guidelines and make changes as necessary. See page 2 for current Covid related Club guidelines.

Making

TRACKS



Reports from the Field

Booker T. Washington State Park, Wednesday August 4, 2021



On August 4, we hiked at Booker T. Washington State Park. Hikers included Bill Kinnaman, Carolyn Brannon, Tom Bock, Charlie Breeding, JoJo Ciervo, Joe

Bowers, Mac and Teresa Dean, Ned and Patty Giles, Roger Scheeres, April Priest, Cecile Shenouda, Shelly Lewis, Susan Garrett, Suzanne



Dorough, Tom Carter, Wanda McCarter, and Wayne Chambers. The 5.5 mile hike was warm, with a great view of the Chickamauga Lake. Hike leader and write-up: Wayne Chambers. Photos: Shelly Lewis.



Upcoming Outings

Reports from the Field

**West Rim Loop Trail
Saturday September 25, 2021**

Location: Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA
 Mileage: 4.8 miles (loop)
 Elevation: 250 ft.
 Rating: Moderate
 Pace: Standard
 This hike will start and end at Picnic Shelter #4 for those interested in hiking before the Club's Fall Picnic. Plan on meeting at the picnic shelter at 8:45 a.m. We will head out at 9:00 a.m. to hike the West Rim Trail which is a 4.8 mile lollipop loop. The trail is rated moderate for roots and rocks and offers impressive views of the Park's canyon at several overlook points. We will be back at Shelter #4 in plenty of time to join the Picnic! To register for the hike, contact hike leader Stormy McGauley at Stormymcgauley@gmail.com.

**Club Fall Picnic
Saturday September 25, 2021**

Time: 12 Noon
Location: Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA - Picnic Shelter #4

Please join us for a potluck picnic. Bring a dish to pass, with serving utensils if needed and whatever you'd like to drink. The Club will provide paper goods and plastic utensils. We also will have a drawing for a \$25 REI gift card for members. You may get lucky! You do not need to register for the picnic but please contact Susan Basch at sbasch@nexband.com if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

That's it for September outings! Look for more Fall hiking adventures in October.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

With Covid still out there, let's continue to exercise caution.

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.

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. The hike leader may impose limits on number of participants

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.

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

Cherohala Skyway, Saturday, August 7, 2021



Three trails for the price of one today along the Cherohala Skyway.

Whigg Meadow first in the fog where we ran into a group of overnight campers from Highpoint International Church of Collegedale, TN.

We enjoyed a bit of fellowship and worship with them and even sang a couple of verses of Amazing Grace.

Then Huckleberry Knob with a bit more sunshine, but still cloudy enough to not have the normal gorgeous views from up there.



Finally a quick trip to Hooper Bald; even quicker on the return trip when it began to sprinkle. But at least we stayed rather cool all day due to the

cloudiness and the 4900-5300 foot elevations.

We did see a lot of high-country summer wildflowers, mainly Turk's Cap Lilies and Bee Balm. And we enjoyed ice cream and milkshakes at Tellico Beach Drive-in after the hiking.



John and Wayne arrived



early enough to snag a couple cinnamon rolls from Tellico Grains Bakery. Good day with friends on the trail! Quote of the day: "keep your hands off my sticky

buns." Hikers included Helen Owens, Betsy Parson, Joe Teringer, Wayne Chambers, James Eldridge, Barbara McCollum leading, and John Rowland reporting. Photos: Barbara and John



Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

Edwards Point, Julia Falls Overlook, Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Round Top, Smokies, Saturday, August 21, 2021

With a little hesitancy, we headed for the Smokies and Round Top.

The weather turned out great, with some humidity. We saw some late summer wildflowers-yellow



Not terribly hot but very humid weather today for our hike to Edward's Point. We started from Signal Point Park and went through an unexpected challenging rocky trail (congratulations to all the

participants) to the Julia falls overlook. We continued to the middle creek bridge and enjoyed a welcome ice cream. Susan, Greg, Steve and Renaud continued the hike to the



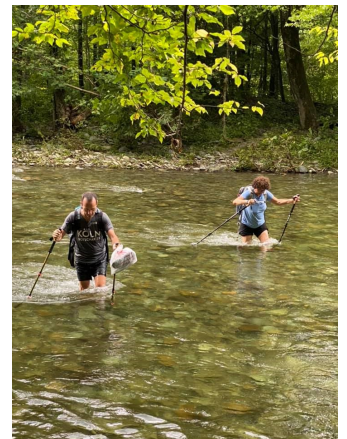
fringed orchids, Cardinal flower, Jewelweed.

This being one of the least hiked trails in the Smokies, it was really overgrown. The creek crossing at the end was

up a little and tricky, but no one fell in.

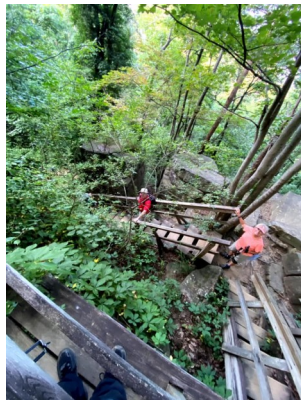
Renaud and Rick were the photographers for the day. Back in Ooltewah at 6:00.

Hikers: Renaud Corbiere, Betsy Parson, Rick Glisson, Elizabeth O'Conner and new hikers Wanda Budan, Chris Levan, Trish Franklin, Pam Dowden, and hike leader and reporting Wayne Chambers.



Edward's Point Overlook. We had a lunch and drink break in front of the beautiful

panorama and then came back on the Rainbow Lake Trail. Approximately 5 hours and 6 miles.



Reporting and Photos: Renaud Courbiere



Reports from the Field

Special Event

Blood Mountain
Wednesday August 25, 2021



Challenging hike on the Appalachian Trail. From Byron Reese parking lot to Blood Mountain and back to Neel Gap.

Greg suggested hiking to the top of a mountain to drop the

temperatures and it worked, we had pleasant 70 degrees instead of 90 degrees in Chattanooga. Well...the inconvenient is that there is some elevation gain too... We hiked to the top a total of 1400 ft in approximately 2,5 miles and Wayne said that he is not sure if he is going to hike again to Blood Mountain .



We had a nice reward with a beautiful view on the Appalachian Mountains during lunch. Blood Mountain is also the highest point on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia.

Blood Mountain shelter was



originally constructed from local stone in 1937 by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers stationed at Camp Enotah at Vogel State Park. We could also see Brasstown Bald the highest mountain in Georgia.

We then hiked 3 miles back to Neel gap (the gap was named after W. R. Neel, a government surveyor) and enjoyed a cold drink at the very nice Mountain Crossing at Walasi-yi shop.

Hikers: Wayne Chambers, Greg Clark, Renaud Courbiere.

Reporting and photos: Renaud



Nickajack Cave—Paddleboard Adventure to the Bat Cave
Friday, August 20, 2021



Thanks to Renaud Courbiere for arranging a special Chattanooga Hiking Club paddleboard evening with Sunshine Adventures (www.sunshines-adventures.com). Sunshine's

Adventures offers guided public paddleboard tours at Nickajack Lake during the summer with a paddle to the bat cave.

Over 14 members and friends took to the paddleboard (some for the first time) or watched from the viewing deck.



We were very lucky with the weather. We had a

blue sky, very pleasant temperatures and an almost full moon.



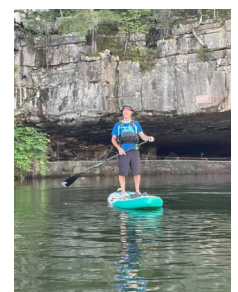
We had the opportunity to paddle to the cave and then watch all together approximately

100000 Indiana gray bats leaving the cave after sunset.

Thanks to all participants for this nice evening that we spent together.



Although bat season is nearing an end for the year, if other people are interested in the future, please talk to Renaud or go to Sunshine's Adventures website.



Club Information

Membership - As a reminder, you must be a due-paying member to receive email messages about upcoming hikes and events. Annual membership dues are \$20 per household, which includes a membership card good for 10% off non-sale items at Rock Creek Outfitters. Visit www.chatthiking.com for more information.

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



New Newsletter Editor—Shelly Lewis
Hello everyone - I wanted to introduce myself as your new newsletter editor replacing John Rowland who is taking a much deserved break. Thank you John for all the great work over the years, and especially thank you for helping me to get started. Hopefully I won't mess things up too bad.

I'm relatively new to Chattanooga and Tennessee arriving about a year ago with my husband Lance and dog Lucky from outside the San Francisco Bay Area. I'm retired from a career in parks, recreation and open space. Lance (also a member) is working remotely for Adobe Systems in San Jose...a few years away from his own retirement.

We are life long hikers and enjoying all of these beautiful hikes in Tennessee. The Chattanooga Hiking Club has been so friendly and introduced me to many amazing parks and trails. I wanted to give back, and hopefully I will with the newsletter.

Please contact me with any ideas, suggestions, corrections. I look forward to working with all of you.

Shelly Lewis
925-683-6095

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

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 - Shelly Lewis (925) 683-6095

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)