

Newsletter of the Chattanooga Hiking Club

December 2021

Board Meeting Update

The Chattanooga Hiking Club Board of Directors met in person on Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 PM to discuss future club meetings, changes in Board positions, and a policy review and discussion. See page 5 for update. In the January newsletter, we'll formally introduce the Board.

Christmas Hike/Potluck Lunch December 15

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Time: 11:30 am

Location: Cloudland Canyon (see page 2 directions)

Fee: Parking \$5, exact change

RSVP: stormymcgauley@gmail.com



Looks like we have outgrown our regular Pot Point House so we are venturing to one of our favorites—Cloudland Canyon State Park, group camp facility. Prior to lunch, there will be two hike options (see page 2 for more info) Hiking is not required if you simply want to enjoy lunch.

Along with Jenny Chandler's delicious ham, remember this is a potluck so bring a side dish to compliment it. Family and friends are most welcome but please let us know how many are attending.

There will be a short club business meeting during the luncheon. **Watch your email for more details closer to the date.**

Stay Connected

If you are not a member of the Chattanooga Hiking Club Facebook page, please consider joining. In 2022, we plan to be much more active on Facebook promoting upcoming hikes and events, connecting with other hikers and sharing photos. There are some restrictions on posting so please review on the page. Thank you to Gary Petty who manages the page and our members who share their wonderful experiences and photos!

Making

TRACKS

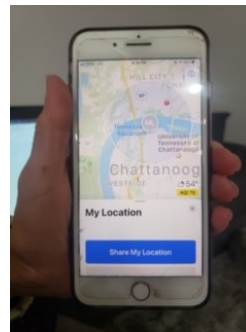


Be Safe, Be Smart

Technology at your Fingertips

Use your map app to let others know where you are if you become separated from your hiking group. By Stormy McGauley

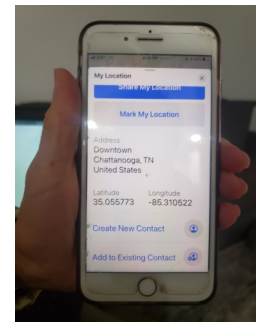
Everyone should know how to use one of the mapping apps on their phone to drop a pin. It can be used to let others know where they are in the event they become separated from their group.



Open one of your mapping apps (example:

Maps on the iPhone). You will have a dot

(typically blue) indicating your location. If you tap on the dot you will get a list of options that will include sharing. Click on share and send your location information via text to one of your fellow hikers. It will provide them with a map as to your location. You can do this on any map app on your phone.



Learn how to use it and make sure you have the phone number of your hike leader as well as one or two other hikers saved in your phone. We don't want to lose you!

The pin also shows latitude and longitude coordinates. **The Park Service uses this "drop a pin" feature to find lost hikers or those who require medical assistance. It is a very useful tool!**



to always carry a fully charged portable battery with appropriate USB cable.

It's also a good idea to download and familiarize yourself with GPS related outdoor hiking apps such as AllTrails and Gaia. Many hikers in our group use those apps and can help you learn more.

In most cases, you can use the mapping without a cellular connection. And a good practice is



Upcoming Outings

**Reports from the Field—
Virginia Creeper Photos**

Christmas Lunch & Hikes

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Lunch—Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA—Group Shelter
Turn left after passing the guard house and turn left again at the Group Shelter sign. Approximately ¼ mile off the main park road. Don't forget Cloudland Canyon has a \$5 parking fee per vehicle. Bring exact change. Horsd'oeuvres 11:30; lunch noon.
RSVP to Stormy at stormymcgauley@gmail.com

Hikes—Jenny Hopkins has put together two hike options for us this year; a short hike (2 miles) and a longer hike (5 miles) so pick which one is the best fit for you! The short hike will be the loop portion only of the West Rim Loop Trail. The longer hike will be the entire West Rim Loop Trail with a quick pop down to Cherokee Falls. Both begin and end at the same location.

Long hike meet at 9:15

Short hike meet at 10

If hiking—RSVP Jenny at jenhop60@gmail.com

Reports from the Field

**Virginia Creeper Overnight Bike Adventure
November 2&3, 2021**

A big thank you to Wayne Chambers for organizing this Chattanooga Hiking Club biking event. The mellow grade of the Virginia Creeper Trail makes a perfect relaxed, two-wheeled mountain adventure.

The rail trail runs through farmland, mountain streams and the wooded splendor of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

A popular option is to rent a bike from one of outfitters in Damascus, who shuttle riders to Whitetop Station. From there, it's a 17-mile ride into Damascus, almost all downhill.

We were very lucky with the weather despite the cold temperatures. Twenty seven members joined this event along with a few non-riding spouses.

We enjoyed the nice fall colors along the trail. This trail crosses the Appalachian Trail, and Damascus is also a well known AT town.

The Sundog bicycle renting store had everything we needed. Che had a special outfit matching her bicycle color. A good time was had by all, and we look forward to a return visit next year.

We did a fun group picture at Green Cove with a very old fancy Norfolk and Western railroad lock. *Write up and photos: Renaud Courbiere*



Reports from the Field

Reports from the Field

The Bluff Trail, Lookout Mountain, Wednesday, November 11, 2021



“Towering sandstone cliffs, magnificent views, geologic curiosities, history and nature intertwined: this is Lookout Mountain's Bluff Trail, where you may find you can't travel a hundred yards without stopping for a closer look.” And this is what we found today on the side of Lookout Mountain.

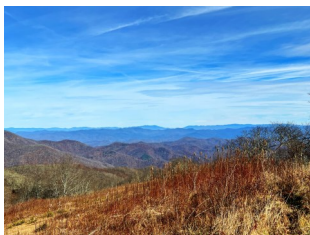
Ferns were still fresh - not yet defeated by the cold snaps - a few lingering fall wildflowers, incredible fall color, and ambitious rock climbers hanging from their rigging in this popular rock climbing spot.

After leaving cars at the Point Park visitor's center, we drove to the Ochs Gateway trailhead below Covenant College. As the trail paralleled the top of Lookout there were



opportunities to cut down to Skyuka Springs or Reflection Riding, climb up to Sunset Rock, exit through Point Park with its monuments, or keep on walking the Mountain Beautiful trail, passing under the Incline and looping back to Craven's House. There is quite a trail system here and you can pick up a map at the visitor's center.

North Carolina, AT Trail, Saturday, November 20, 2021



Nice impromptu Saturday hike on the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina. We hiked ten miles from Winding stair gap to Siler Bald. After 5 miles only going up, we had lunch at the top of Siler Bald with a beautiful weather, no wind and sunny. From there we could see some others

well known locations like Brasstown Bald, Wayah Bald and Nantahala Lake. Approximately 4,5 hours and around 2000ft elevation. Hikers are Renaud Courbiere, Barbara McCollum, and Tim Chomyn. Reporting and photos: Renaud

Th Bluff Trail, cont'd

This trail system was begun by the Civilian Conservation Core and foundations of their camp buildings can be seen below the bluff.



Grateful for a colorful fall day were: Barry Ligon, Beverly Ligon, Bill Needham, Charlie Breeding, Debbie Lambert, Donnah Bloh, Greg Clark, Janna McKenna, Joe Tehringer, Joy

Ward, Mac Dean, Ray Roque, Renee Grace, Shelly Lewis, Sue St.James, Susan Faidley, Susan Garrett, Teresa Dean, Tim Chomyn, Wanda McCarter, Suzanne Dorough, Gwen Brimer, Wayne Chambers, Che Carico reporting. Photos: Shelly Lewis



North Carolina, AT Trail—cont'd



Reports from the Field

Camp New Dawn, Chickamauga, GA
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
campnewdawn.org



Back at the camp we enjoyed a feast prepared by Alan and Jennie and were served so well by Judy Smith and Janet Pryor, camp board members. Beef

tips (Alan raised the beef), a delicious chicken dish, fresh vegetables including beets, broccoli, cauliflower, perfectly steamed rice, garden salad, corn muffins, rolls, and choice of peach cobbler, blueberry cobbler, and or chocolate cake with vanilla ice cream. Beverages included tea, apple cider, coffee, water, and an assortment of soft drinks. There was a "price to pay" but it was minimal for the elegance of the food.

Today marked a special early Thanksgiving celebration hike beginning with a tour of Camp New Dawn and ending with a delicious lunch.

Camp New Dawn is ideal for a personal quiet get-away or a bustling time of fun and fellowship. The property has been owned by the Everett-Chandler family since 1920 and is a working farm. Today we were guests of Jennie (Everett) Chandler and her son, Alan Chandler.

Jennie led us to the historic family barn and neighbor Jim Fontenot led a hike through sites of original farm buildings. For about three miles and two hours, we traversed across fields in the shadow of ridges and with fall color all around.



Camp New Dawn is a ministry of New Dawn International and also offers a variety of summer camps. Truly a gorgeous place for retreats, relaxing, quiet study, renewal, and fun. Surrounded by mountains on three sides, this rural cove is situated near Chattanooga and several small Georgia and Alabama towns. It was surely a day of fellowship and giving thanks as we enjoyed the beauty and hospitality of Camp New Dawn.

Thanks to nephew-in-law, Craig Savoie, for the freshly harvested bell peppers!

Later, we received a nice note from Jennie and Alan: "It is a pleasure to serve the Chattanooga



Hiking Club --your appreciation of our blessed location, the ministry of the camp and the farm encourage us and your generosity will allow underprivileged children to attend camp next summer. Thank you all !!!!"

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Reporting: Che and Renaud; Photos: Renaud

Reports from the Field

Club Information

Lookout Mountain, Wednesday, December 1, 2021

We had a pleasant hike from Cravens House to Sunset Rock and back. Approximately 4 miles in 2.5 hours. The views along the Bluff Trail and Sunset Rock were our rewards today. There were 17 hikers that enjoyed this beautiful day. Hike leader, reporting and photos: Renaud Courbiere



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.

The Board of Directors met in November. A discussion took place about officers, our Constitution/By Laws, and continued use of Facebook administration.

Officers Boe Rudder (Trail Maintenance), John Rowland (Website/Newsletter) and Barbara McCollum (Outings) have stated during the past year that they would like to resign from their positions. We have formerly accepted those resignation and send our gratitude to each of them for their valuable contributions to the success of the club.

In 2022, Shelly Lewis (Newsletter) and Renaud Courbiere (Website) will take over for John. Susan Faidley will take on the role of Outings Coordinator. Stormy McGauley will serve as President and Gary Petty will serve as Vice President.

Prior to the pandemic the Board had been working on updating the club's Constitution/By Laws. We discussed areas that still require attention; i.e. job descriptions for Outing Coordinators (s), Webmaster and Trail Maintenance Coordinator to name a few. Once we finalize the document we will adopt it and date it.

There was discussion about our statement being pinned so that it would be the first post that is seen anytime anyone goes to our page. It was also discussed who could post on our page and how it could be managed. We need to add an additional one or two administrators.

There was also discussion about combining club meetings with annual events such as the Fall picnic and Christmas lunch rather than hosting separate monthly meetings.



Club Officers and Support (beginning 2022):

President - Stormy McGauley (423) 505-4525

Vice President - Gary Petty (423) 488-5954

Treasurer - Jenny Hopkins

Secretary - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Membership Database - Susan Basch (706) 633-6159

Outings - Susan Faidley

Newsletter - Shelly Lewis (925) 683-6095

Webmaster - Renaud Courbiere

Trail Maintenance - Steve Barnes (423) 339-3019

Midweek Outings - Cheryl Carico (423) 718-9271

Website: chatthiking.com (includes link to newsletter)