



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for September 2007

(Extracted from the published Newsletter*)

*The printed Newsletter sent to members and subscribers also contains reports of hikes done, info on new members, full names of leaders plus e-addresses, plus the Appalachian Trail Maintainers Newsletter. To subscribe: \$10 to SMHC, Box 1454, Knoxville, TN 37901. (If start after August issue, subscription is good through next year.) After one signs in on 3 Club hikes (or 2 A.T. Work trips) an application for membership is provided.

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

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A T WORKTRIP

September 1 – Saturday
See ATMNews for details

STECOAH GAP TO CHEOAH BALD

September 8 – Saturday

Join us for a late summer hike in North Carolina along the AT from Stecoah Gap at 3200' to Cheoah Bald (5062') and back. The first mile climbs 600 feet up to the main ridge line. Up and down grades take us past Simp Gap and Locust Cove Gap, and through a rhododendron tunnel. The trail steepens as it nears Cheoah Bald, a large grassy meadow that offers panoramic views southward and into the Nantahala Gorge. If our timing is right, we may be able to snack on ripe blackberries. Be prepared for some stretches of rocky trail, and bring plenty of water.

Afterwards, hungry hikers might want to consider the option of following NC 143 over to Robbinsville to stop for a snack or quick meal before heading home. From Robbinsville, the Cherohala Skyway offers a scenic, less-traveled drive home.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> to leave at 7:00 AM. We plan to start hiking from Stecoah Gap about 9:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- return from Stecoah Gap via US 129- 125, return via Cherohala Skyway- 165 (5¢=\$6.25 or \$8.25), hike- 12.5, rated moderately difficult.

Leaders: Kathleen 696-0256 kkitzmillier@hotmail.com
Debbie 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

SCOUT-YOUR-HIKE FOR 2008

September 15,16 – Saturday, Sunday

This time is set aside so that you who have hike-leading assignments for 2008 may use it to do enough scouting of your trip to be able to turn in to the *Handbook Editor* a write-up for next year's Handbook by the **September 30th deadline**. Already on August 18 the Program Committee and the 2008 Executive Board met to adjust and approve the schedule and begin making the leader assignments. (Some hike leader jobs were chosen by members that day at the Election Picnic.) Please do **your** part to maintain the progress so the 2008 Handbook can be ready for distribution at the Saturday, December 8th Installation Banquet.

Please see the Handbook for examples of size and format of writeups. **Because this Program has many more hikes than previously, most writeups will have to be short.** Send e-mail in-message text, (please, **not** by attachment) directly to KlabundeCE@aol.com —if that method is available to you.

Otherwise, mail hand-written or typed or printed text to Charlie Klabunde (mail address in Handbook).

*** >>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<< ***

Two September Wednesdays

Sep 5 Tremont: Middle Prong Trail to Indian Falls ~8 miles
Sep 26 Rich Mtn Loop: Crooked Arm Ridge- Indian Grave Gap 8.4 miles
Both meet at 8:00 AM at Alcoa Food City Elfie 988-3377 elfiebeall@adelphia.net

**SEPTEMBER SUNSET & HARVEST MOON WALK
AT COVE LAKE STATE PARK
September 22 - Saturday Evening**

Our original plan was to walk the Foothills Parkway. That plan had to be changed because the NPS says that road will not be useable until November. So, join us for a leisurely evening stroll at beautiful Cove Lake. We hope to be rewarded with a gorgeous autumn equinox sunset and a big harvest moon. We'll enjoy a bit of dessert as we gather by the lake, then begin our walk as the sun sets. Perhaps the moonlight will inspire the more musical among us to sing a few moon ballads - "Moon River" comes to mind. The trail is paved and rated easy. It is partially wooded and partially along the lake. Perhaps we will see wildlife.

Hikers may meet in the Ingles parking lot at Emory Road (I-75, exit 112 one block east of the exit) at 6:00 PM or in the picnic area at Cove Lake State Park at 6:30. To reach Cove Lake State Park, take I-75 north out of Knoxville to Caryville exit #134. Turn right then left onto US 25W and follow the signs to the park. Once in the park, follow the signs to the picnic area (just go straight). We will meet at the end of the picnic area, past the playground. By the way, there is a nice restaurant at the park - a possibility for dinner before the hike for those interested. (Restaurant phone: 423-907-8202) Round trip mileages: drive- 47 from Emory Road (5¢=\$2.35), hike- 3 or less.

Leaders: Cata 982-3890 Carol 922-3920 carolandbill4033@aol.com

**BSF (KY): BLUE HERON LOOP
September 29 - Saturday**

Blue Heron once was a coal mining camp owned by the Stearns Company in the early 1900's. It got its name from the company as a way of advertising their grades of coal. Each mine produced a different grade, with names like Golden Pheasant, Scarlet Tanager, and Blue Heron. In the years since, it has been turned into an oral history center, where the people who actually lived and worked here tell their story through audio recordings housed in "ghost structures". The ghost structures are simply representations of where the actual buildings once stood. During our hiking day we will visit "Crack-In-The-Rocks", outstanding overlooks both in their construction and vistas, a reclaimed mine site, stone and wooden steps, a rock house, and many rock bluffs. Toward the end of the hike, we'll also see the Devils Jump River Rapids in the Big South Fork River. At the end of the hike, everyone will be afforded the chance to tour the reconstructed historical community.

Meet at **ex-Food City in Oak Ridge** <see list> at 7:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 160 (5¢=\$8.00), hike- 6.5. Rated easy side of Moderate. The two leaders will be having dinner at the Barthall Coal Camp Restaurant on the drive back before we leave the Blue Heron Area for any car groups that want to join us.

Leaders: Jim 660-3351 jqhiker37@aol.com Lynda 435-7924

WALKER SISTERS' CABIN & LITTLE GREENBRIER SCHOOL

EASY, Short Hike: September 29 - Saturday 4 miles
Wear Cove Gap Rd.- Little Greenbrier Tr.- Little Brier Gap Tr.- W.S. Cabin, farmstead, School- Metcalf Bottoms. Meet: Alcoa Food City 8:00 AM Jodie 216-0982 Lv2hyk@yahoo.com

MEETING PLACES: "Food City in Alcoa"= on right between 3 rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), just before Big Lots- where we are not wanted.

"**ex-Food City in Oak Ridge**" on NE side of Illinois Ave. (TN-62), just SE of O.R. Turnpike, (TN-95). There are no identifying signs now. Meet in front edge near street, to *right* as you enter.

COMING EVENTS - October

6 - Sat AT Work Trip
6-7 - S&S Backpack: Deep Creek - site #57
13 - Sat Maddron Bald & Cosby Knob Shelter
19 - Fri Fall Photo Show & Contest Results
21 - Sun Mt Cammerer via Toms Creek & Rocky Face <off-trail>
21 - Sun Mt Cammerer via Chestnut Branch Trail
27 - Sat Beech Gap- Bob & Stratton Balds- the Hangover

Photo Competition Reminder (Members Only)

Each year the SMHC has a photo competition. We awarded great prizes last year and prizes will again be awarded this year. Entries may be submitted to either of the two Thompson Photo Products locations between Sept 17th and Oct 6th. Prizes awarded Oct 19th. For further info and rules refer to p. 41 of your Handbook, our website smhclub.org or contact Nan Woodbury at tallwaters@earthlink.net.