

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for November 2008

(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. (New Subscriptions are not available now — See lead Article below.)

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

SMHC Membership Now Open to All

To make SMHC Membership more inclusive, the SMHC Board of Directors decided on 7/7/08 to drop the "traditional 3-hikes rule" as a requirement for basic membership in the club.

>>Please see our new Brochure for details on joining SMHC. <<

CONTENTS: Items listed here for November

- 1 - Sat AT Work Trip
- 1 - Sat Mystery Hike
- 2 - Sun Clingmans Dome – Double Springs
- 5 - Wed Fodderstack Trail, Citico Creek Wilderness
- 8 - Sat Cumberland Gap NHP: Sand Cave & White Rocks
- 8 - Sat EZ: Will Skelton Greenway
- 15 - Sat Jack Bradley Branch <off trail>
- 23 - Sun Hatcher Mtn & Little Bottoms
- 26 - Wed Three Loops at Ijams
- 28 - Fri Cove Mtn & Laurel Falls Trails
- 30 - Sun Big Stone Door

A.T. WORK TRIP

November 1 – Saturday

See ATMN for details of this work north from Stecoah Gap.

MYSTERY HIKE

November 1 – Saturday

This year the club will revive an old tradition: The Halloween Mystery Hike. The destination and route of the hike won't be revealed until it is time to leave our vehicles, but no matter how well you think you know the Smokies, we promise we'll take you somewhere new. The hike will be moderate to difficult, will be mostly off of maintained trails, and will have two creek crossings and potentially other adventures. Still curious, then come join us.

Leave from **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00 AM.

Hike about 10 miles, rated moderate to difficult. Drive 80 miles round trip {8¢=\$6.40}.

Leaders: Hiram 584-7310 hiramrogers@yahoo.com Nan 692-1212 tallwatersdsl@gmail.com

Invitation to TCWP's Annual Meeting

Subject: The Cumberland Trail

November 1 – Saturday

At Cove Lake S.P.'s Rickard Ridge BBQ Restaurant Speakers: **Bobby Fulcher** (CT Park Manager),
Tony Hook (CT Conference), **Dell Truitt** (Friends of CT).

After lunch hikes: Devils Racetrack, & Lakeside Loop
9:30 Registration Fee \$15 (includes breakfast bagels & lunch)

More Info: 522-3908 www.tcwp.org

CLINGMANS DOME TO DOUBLE SPRINGS
November 2 – Sunday

This is a great time of year to do this hike. Fall traffic might be reduced and most of the leaves fallen, enhancing the views. After climbing to the Clingmans Dome tower for initial views, we'll proceed westward and downward on the AT past Mt. Buckley and on to Double Springs Gap. We will have lunch and admire the recent work of the AT Maintainers Group in rebuilding the DSG trail shelter. We will return up Mt. Buckley and take the bypass trail back to the parking lot.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 8:00.

Round trip mileages: drive- 120 {8¢=\$9.60}, hike- 5.8, rated moderate.

Leaders: Tim 675-3822 bigelowt2@mindspring.com

Ed 436-4719 edwrdfilm@aol.com

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

Two November Wednesdays

Nov 5 Fodderstack Trail, Citico Creek Wilderness. 8.5 mi. Wear/display Orange.

Meet 8 at Alcoa Food City. Ron 922-3518 ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

Nov 26 3 Loops at Ijams (ea. from Visitors Ctr) ~8 mi total 9:00 AM sharp at Ijams Visitors Center.

Loops: River Boardwalk, Meads Quarry, Will Skelton Greenway. Do all or part. Dan 673-5822

< 11/8: **Sand Cave/White Rocks= Cancelled; No Leaders.** >

— **But, see the substitute hike, Next.** —

LOW GAP- CAMPSITE #37- CAMEL GAP LOOP

November 8 & 9 (Saturday & Sunday)

Last chance for a backpack this year? Pack an extra layer and join us. From Cosby Campground we'll climb 2000' to Low Gap, the A.T. and a lunch break. Then it's even more steeply down 1200' on the other side to the Big Creek Trail & Campsite #37. Sunday morning we will hike south along Big Creek about a mile to the Camel Gap Trail, which will be a gradual climb back to the A.T. We will hike 'north' on the A.T. with a side trip to the Cosby Knob Shelter for a lunch break and to check on the shelter. From there we continue on the A.T. to Low Gap to finish our loop. Group is limited to 8 so preregistration is required. Hike 5.4 day one & 10.6 day two; 16 miles total. Drive 130 miles RT {8¢=\$10.40}.

Leader: Bobby 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com

WILL SKELTON GREENWAY

EASY, Short Hike: November 8 - Saturday 4.2 miles

Meet at Ijams Nature Center, 9:00 AM. Les 690-3814

JACK BRADLEY BRANCH

November 15 – Saturday

We will start this off-trail trip where Wild Cherry Branch passes under the Newfound Gap Road 1.7 miles above the Kephart Prong trailhead. We will hike downhill a short distance through moderate rhodo to cross Beech Flats Prong (wet crossing) and then head up Jack Bradley Branch. We'll leave the branch after about two miles to climb onto the ridge to the left and up it to reach the old RR grade, which, to the right, shortly joins the Sweat Heifer Trail. Then it's down two miles on Sweat Heifer plus two miles on the Kephart Prong Trail to the trailhead. Rated moderately strenuous. Pre-registration required.

Leaders: Clyde 252/527-0146 iceaxe@suddenlink.net

Nan 692-1212 tallwatersdsl@gmail.com

HATCHER MOUNTAIN and LITTLE BOTTOMS

November 23 – Sunday

This approximately 11 mile hike starts at the Abrams Creek Ranger Station. After a gentle climb of 5 miles on historic Cooper Road, we will begin a gradual descent of nearly 3 miles down Hatcher Mountain Trail to the Little Bottoms Trail. Little Bottoms is an up-and-down footpath of 2.3 miles with winter views of nearby mountain ridges and scenic Abrams Creek. After this trail, we will turn back onto the Cooper Road to walk back to our vehicles.

Meet to leave at 8:30 AM from **Food City in Alcoa** <see list>. Drive 40 miles RT {8¢ = \$3.20}. Hike rated moderate.

Leaders: David 931/537-2288 d.starnes.2288@frontiernet.net

Debra 494-0276 dgbarton@tva.gov

ANNUAL "JIM/BOB" HIKE
November 28 – Friday

Join the leaders for the annual Jim/Bob Hike as we check out **Cove Mountain & Laurel Falls Trails** in late Autumn. With the leaves all gone from the trees, there should be more views of the valleys and ridges. After our first 3.5 miles ascent we will have a view of the top of the chairlift that belongs to Ober Gatlinburg. During our hike we will visit Cataract Falls, the fire tower now used as an air quality station and, of course, Laurel Falls.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8. Drive 100 miles {8¢=\$8.00} round trip. Hike 12.5 miles.

Leaders: Jim jqhiker37@aol.com Bobby 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com

BIG STONE DOOR
November 30 – Sunday

This is an area with disappearing creeks and waterfalls and beautiful gorge vistas. From the Stone Door parking area we will hike the Stone Door, Big Creek Gulf, Big Creek Rim Trails, and then back out the Stone Door Trail. If the water is not up in Big Creek, we will take the Ranger Falls spur for an additional 0.8 mile. For those who want an extra-full day of hiking, throw in the Greeter Falls and Loop Trails for an additional 3.7 miles.

Meet at 7:00 at the **ORNL Credit Union in Kingston** <see list>. Round trip mileages: drive- 212 {8¢=\$17.00}, hike- 9.2 (without the Greeter addition). Rated difficult because of the rocky terrain and climb out at the end.

Leaders: Brian 387-1183 brianschloff@yahoo.com Eric 423/432-2190 ewfalmp@aol.com
Tim 691-5970 tim_ryan@premierinc.com

INSTALLATION DINNER
December 6 – Saturday

Speaker: Dale Ditmanson, Supt. Great Smoky Mountains National Park will tell us about State of the Smokies and plans for the 75th Park anniversary year events. Also: see winning Photos from the Contest. Place: Church of the Good Samaritan on Cedar Bluff Rd. (same as last year). Cost is \$15.00 per person. (50 years + members are free.) Entrée choices: Roast Turkey or Vegetarian Lasagna.

Reservation deadline: Friday, November 21. Call either Cathy Hickam 691-9614 or Rae Jones 558-9154 or e-mail knxrae@aol.com.

COMING EVENTS - December

6 - Sat Installation Dinner < See registration deadline above (11/21) >
13 - Sat Frozen Head: The Two Macs [K. Mertz 982-7368]
27 - Sat Lead Cove- Bote Mtn- Spence Field
28 - Sun House Mtn

MEETING PLACES: "Asheville Hwy Food Lion"= From exit 394 **ramp off I-40 go left (east) out Asheville Hwy, US-11E/25W/70, 1.0 mi to signal light; turn left, then right into Food Lion lot (not visible from Hwy intersection). Park along front edge, to left of entry. **Caution: *must* be coming from I-640 to make this exit now.

"Food City in Alcoa"= on right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots
"ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville" = just south of where US-129 & US-411 join, (SW corner at traffic light, past Pilot/Conoco). Meet at front of lot.

"ORNL Credit Union in Kingston" at exit 352 off I-40: Turn left at end of ramp and go 1/2 block to entry on right. Park behind.
