

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for December 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.)

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

CONTENTS: Items listed here for December

3 - Wed Sugarlands: on & off trail
6 - Sat Installation Dinner
7 - Sun EZ: IC King Park
13 - Sat Frozen Head: The Two Macs
17 - Wed Cades Cove Ramble
27 - Sat Lead Cove- Bote Mtn- Spence Field
28 - Sun House Mtn

INSTALLATION DINNER December 6 - Saturday

Place: Church of the Good Samaritan on Cedar Bluff Rd. (same as last year): 0.3 mile north of I-40, on left just past Pilot & Dunkin Donuts. Time: Doors will open at 5:00 PM for registration and socializing (see winning Photos from the Contest) until Dinner at 6:00 PM. Followed by the Program: Installation, Awards and Speaker- Dale Ditmanson, Supt. Great Smoky Mountains National Park will tell us about the State of the Smokies and events planned for the Park's 75th Year Anniversary.

Cost is \$15.00 per person. (50 years + members are free.) Entrée choices: Roast Turkey or Vegetarian Lasagna.

Reservation deadline *has been extended to 12/1.*

Social Committee Chair: Rae Jones 558-9154 knxrae@aol.com

IC KING PARK

EASY, Short Hike: December 7- Sunday ~4 miles

Meet 9:00 AM at the North Park Entrance off US-129 (not the south entrance closest to Alcoa)

Hiram Rogers 584-7310 hiramrogers@yahoo.com

FROZEN HEAD: THE TWO MACS December 13 – Saturday

This hike will begin at the large parking lot in front of picnic shelter C. We will ascend via the South Old Mac Trail (1900' climb) to the observation deck atop Frozen Head Mountain. With good weather, the views should be outstanding from the tower. Our descent will be via North Old Mac Trail back to the parking lot.

Meet at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list> ready to leave at 8:30. Round trip mileages: drive- 51 {8¢=\$4}, hike- 8. Rated moderate - some sections of N. Old Mac Trail are very narrow.

Leaders: Keith Mertz 982-7368 keithmertz@hotmail.com

Don Coffman 376-5842 don_e_coffman@yahoo.com

LEAD COVE- BOTE MTN- A.T.- SPENCE FIELD December 27 – Saturday

A winter wonderland waits for us as we enjoy a little exercise over the Christmas holiday. We can expect wonderful scenes of frozen grasses at Spence Field and views of mountains that may be snowcapped. The hike will be difficult, but the beauty will make the 5 mile uphill climb worthwhile. If time allows and folks are willing, we might press on through the freshly fallen snow blanket, an extra mile or so, to Rocky Top and toast to the upcoming New Year with a cheer. Hot chocolate, marshmallows, and a Christmas treat await all at the end of the hike.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8. Round Trip Mileages: drive- 60 {8¢=\$4.80}, hike- 10. Rated

moderate (difficult if there is deep snow)

Leaders: Tim Bigelow 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com

Debbie Goddard 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

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

Two December Wednesdays

Dec 3 Sugarlands On/Off Trail - 6 miles. 8:30 at Asheville Hwy Food Lion

Dec 17 Cades Cove Ramble - 6 miles. 8:30 at Alcoa Food City.

Steve Higdon 689-5006 shigdon103@yahoo.com

**HOUSE MOUNTAIN
December 28 - Sunday**

Had enough holiday festivities? Escape for an afternoon to House Mountain in east Knox County. We'll do a counterclockwise circuit from the parking area. (Gentler uphill, steeper downhill, with views along the long ridge walk).

Meet Dianne at **Alcoa Food City** at 12:00 or Jim at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** at 12:30, or meet us at the trail head at 1:00 PM (but please let us know you will be there). Round trip drive mileages: from Asheville Hwy- 30 {8¢=\$2.40} or from Alcoa- 70 {8¢=%.60}. Hike is 5 miles, rated moderate.

Leaders: Dianne Gruber 599-5165 grub9832@bellsouth.net

Jim Quick 660-3351 jqhiker37@aol.com

COMING EVENTS – January 2009

1 - Thur Norris Watershed [J. Roberts 494-7431]

4 - Sun Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge [D. Gruber 599-5165]

17 - Sat Tellico East Shore Trail

24 – Sat Devils Den- Greenbrier Pinnacle <off trail>

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

“NOAA in Oak Ridge”= on SW side of Illinois Ave. (TN-62), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, (doing weather research). Between *Ford* dealer and *Carden Rentals*, on left coming from Knox. Is between 1st & 2nd traffic lights.
