

(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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?? - Sat AT Work Trip in National Forest <Date yet to be determined>
 1 - Sat EZ #1: The Farm at Hanging Limb
 1 - Sat Couches Creek & Mt. Stand Watie
 7 - Fri Spring Photo Show (Oak Ridge)
 9 - Sun FHSP: Chimney Top Trail
 12 - Wed Cumberland Trail: Signal Point to Suck Creek Road
 15 - Sat Little River, Huskey Gap, Sugarland Mtn. & Rough Fork Trails
 15 - Sat EZ #2: Maryville College Woods
 19 - Wed Joyce Kilmer: Jenkins Meadow- Haeo, Hangover
 22 - Sat Scotts Gulf
 29 - Sat Fiery Gizzard
 29 - Sat Abandoned Roads: Mids Gap- Laurel Creek Rd- Elkmont Manway

THE FARM AT HANGING LIMB**EASY, Short Hike #1:****March 1 - Saturday**

~5 miles

220 acres: creeks, bluffs, pastures, hills, valleys, waterfall, lake... Meet 8:30 ORNL FCU in Kingston <see list>
 Drive 52 mi to Monterey +12 to Farm. Eat after at Cumberland Mtn SP restaurant if interested.
 Debbie 382-3047 & Gary 423-581-9248

COUCHES CREEK and MT. STAND WATIE**MARCH 1 – Saturday**

This off-trail hike starts where Couches Creek crosses the Newfound Gap Road 0.4 mile south of Tow String Road. We will follow an old grade up Couches Creek to 2900', then follow a tributary and slab onto the ridge taking us to Mt. Stand Watie (MSW) at a distance of 2 miles. After crossing MSW we will follow the ridge north for 1.3 miles to reach the Newton Bald Trail at about 4500'. From there it's 3.4 miles of trail down to the Newfound Gap Road. We should have excellent views from the ridge around MSW. Round trip mileages: drive-164, hike 7, rated strenuous.

Pre-registration is required.

Leaders: Clyde 252/527-0146 iceaxe@suddenlink.net & Michael 925-8257 mvaughn@knology.net

SPRING PHOTO SHOW**March 7 – Friday****AT the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH in OAK RIDGE**

Come out for this annual event the SMHC Photography Committee has arranged for you. On the program will be slides and digital images shared by members of the club who bring them, so bring some of your images, old or new, and share them with others. We will also share snacks of cookies, chips and dip, etc. which club members bring. All in all, whatever the weather, this promises to be a most enjoyable evening. A Donation of \$3.00/person is requested (but not required) to defray expenses. Show is to begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

Directions to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Ridge: If coming from Knoxville on Pellissippi Pkwy (TN-162) then TN-62 into Oak Ridge as South Illinois Ave. Go past the Wal-Mart and the Doubletree Hotel (on your right) and Turn RIGHT at the next traffic light - onto Raccoon Road. Continue through the next traffic light, crossing Oak Ridge Turnpike (at its signal light #11). The church is on your left. Enter parking lot at 2nd left, park and come down the steps and into the Social Hall to your right.

Roger for the SMHC Photography Committee

A.T. WORK TRIP**MARCH (date yet to be determined)**

See ATMNews for more info.

>>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<<

Two March Wednesdays

Mar 12 - Cumberland Trail: Signal Point to Suck Creek Road ~9 mi

Meet: New Wal-Mart on US-411 at 7:00 AM moderate Carol 376-4895 ander743@bellsouth.net

Mar 19 - Joyce Kilmer: Jenkins Meadow- Haeo, Hangover 9 mi

Meet: Alcoa Food City at 7:00 AM difficult Brian 387-1183 tobyandbrian@bellsouth.net

**>FONTANA DAM IS CLOSED TO ALL USERS THRU MARCH<
(There is an alternative route to north end)**

CHIMNEY TOP TRAIL IN FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK

March 9 – Sunday

This hike is a nice winter walk in the woods with a great vista at the mid-point. The Chimney Top Trail runs near the former western boundary of the Park, first ascending Rough Ridge, then descending to cross Rocky Fork Branch, and then up again onto Love Mountain. From there, the trail turns to the east and follows the ridge crest to Chimney Rock, the largest of several sandstone caprocks along the crest of Chimney Top Mountain. The last half-mile to Chimney Rock is a steep uphill climb. We will stop for lunch at Chimney Rock, and those who scramble to the top can hope to enjoy great views in all directions. After lunch, we will continue along the ridge-top past the Mart Fields campsite, and return via the Spicewood Trail. In the event of poor weather, we may opt to return via the original route to reduce ridge-top exposure. Both trails include several very small and easy stream crossings, and some sections of the Spicewood Trail can be a bit wet and muddy.

Meet at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list> at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive – 50, hike - about 8, rated moderately difficult.

Leaders: Don & Nancy 705-2154 dedz1@aol.com

MARYVILLE COLLEGE WOODS

EASY, Short Hike #2:

March 15 - Saturday

3 miles

Meet: Alcoa Food City at 9:00 Lunch afterwards at Lemon Grass Thai Restaurant optional. Kathy 977-9495

**LITTLE RIVER, HUSKEY GAP, SUGARLAND MOUNTAIN,
AND ROUGH FORK TRAILS LOOP**

March 15 – Saturday

Our early Spring hike begins and ends along the Little River Trail which follows an old logging railroad bed beside the river. At 2.7 miles, the Huskey Gap Trail branches off to the left. It passes through a wooded glade before climbing 600 feet to intersect the Sugarlands Mountain Trail. The trail gains another 1000 feet or so as it travels through the second-growth forest. At 4.1 miles the Rough Creek Trail bears to the right. It descends 1500 feet to meet the Little River Trail. The remaining 7 miles of the hike offer a gentle downhill grade.

Leave **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00 AM (or trailhead parking area by 9:00). Round trip mileages: drive– 70, hike– 16. Rated moderately difficult.

Leaders: Kathleen 696-0256 kkitzmler@hotmail.com & Terri 408-0822 tcox@nxs.net

SCOTTS GULF

March 22 – Saturday

Our hike today will take place in the Bridgestone/Firestone Natural Wilderness Recreation Area. We will hike several trails including the Polly Branch Falls Trail and the Yellow Bluff Trail. Along the way we will see beautiful overlooks and waterfalls. The leaders will re-scout the area shortly before the hike date to determine if water levels will permit crossings. If they do, additional trail mileages will be added. Water sandals may be required. To be certain, contact a leader for more up to date info.

Meet at **Roane County High School** in Kingston <see list> at 7:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 160, hike- 7 to 10. Rated moderate.

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

**FIERY GIZZARD
March 29 – Saturday**

A view of Foster Falls is possible from the rim if there is any water. The scouting hike was not lucky and the falls were dry. Before lunch it is pleasant rim and woods hiking with only one significant down and up. The overlooks are numerous. After lunch, at Raven Point, the 500 foot plunge to gorge floor happens all at once. The hiking from then on is treacherous, due to thousands of rocks that litter the trail in any shape but flat and secure. Stone steps, boulders the size of houses, huge hemlocks, old buckeye trees, and a babbling creek (if it rains) can be expected. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. A car shuttle is included. Hike 12.3 miles. Rated difficult. Round trip drive: 272 miles.

Leaders: Nan 692-1212 tallwaters@earthlink.net & Carol 376-4895 ander743@bellsouth.net

**ABANDONED ROADS:
MIDS GAP– LAUREL CREEK ROAD– ELKMONT MANWAY
March 29 – Saturday**

This mostly off-trail hike starts at the Elkmont Nature Trail and follows the manway up Mids Branch to Mids Gap, crosses the Sugarland Mountain Trail, and steeply descends via traces of an old manway along Parton Branch to the Laurel Creek Road. This descent will be steep and rocky and depending on past rain, it could be wet. We'll have lunch at an old farm site enroute. After crossing the main road, we follow a section of Laurel Creek Road which was abandoned in the 1940's, climbing to Fighting Creek Gap. Then we pick up an old roadbed to Elkmont, passing a cemetery and the old Wonderland Hotel complex. There should be some time to explore the grounds. We then follow abandoned roads to complete the loop at the Elkmont Nature Trail.

Leave from **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive 90, hike- 6.2, rated moderately difficult because of the steep off-trail section downhill from Mids Gap to Laurel Creek Road.

Leaders: Ralph 588-6785 ralph.herbert@comcast.net & Bob 693-6522 rehawthorne@comcast.net

MEETING PLACES: "Asheville Hwy Food Lion"= 6221 Riverview Crossing Dr., Knoxville. 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. [Map](#)

"Food City in Alcoa"= 121 North Hall Rd. Alcoa. On right between 3 rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35) [Map](#)

"NOAA in Oak Ridge"= 456 S Illinois Ave., 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. [Map](#)

"Roane County High School"= From I-40 exit 352, go south on US-58 to light #4, turn right and go 0.2 miles to parking lot on left, across from school. [Map](#)

"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. [Map](#)

COMING EVENTS - April

5 - Sat AT Work Trip
6 - Sun Walls of Jericho
12 - Sat FHSP: Wildflower Hike
19 - Sat Slickrock Creek – Ike Branch Loop
20 - Sun Porters Creek Flower Stroll
26 - Sat White Oak Sinks Wildflower Hike
