

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for August 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. The rule will remain as a qualification for eligibility to lead hikes or to be a member of the board of directors. This rule was never a part of the club’s Bylaws, but developed gradually over many years — from a *suggested* 2 or 3 hikes, to *should* do 2 or 3 (1956), to *at least* 2 (1964), and *at least* 3 (1965) — all of these as found under the heading “Membership” in annual Handbooks. (Application forms may have been more specific earlier.) Later, to promote A.T. maintenance, the counting of A.T. work trips as equal to 2 hikes was included in the rule.

The requirements for membership as stipulated by the Bylaws remain unchanged— at least 16 years old; pay the current dues; and agree to abide by the club’s code of ethics. (Oops! — the Bylaws actually specify the club’s “Objects” – which is the statement of the club’s reasons for existence – as given by Article II of the Bylaws; BUT ever since at least 1947, our membership application forms have specified the code of ethics – and we will continue to do so.)

With this big change, there is no longer any need for *subscriptions* (which were introduced, pre-internet, so that interested persons could keep up with our program, after their 2 free issues, while they were accumulating their 3 hikes). Now all current \$14 subscribers will automatically become members when they agree to the code of ethics. \$10 subscriptions will continue until they expire, but will not be renewable at that rate.

CONTENTS: Items listed here for August

- 2 - Sat AT Work Trip
- 3 - Sun Charlies Bunion
- 9 - Sat Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Ride: Whitetop Station to Damascus
- 16 - Sat Election Picnic
- 17 - Sun Sweat Heifer – Kephart Prong from Newfound Gap
- 23 - Sat Benton MacKaye Trail from Cherohala Skyway
- 20 - Wed Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap
- 24 - Sun EZ: Little River Trail
- 30 - Sat Chimney Tops Loop: Road Prong, A.T., etc

A.T. WORK TRIP

August 2 – Saturday

With Dianne Gruber. See ATMN for details.

CHARLIES BUNION

August 3 – Sunday

The Bunion is a cone of rock about 50 feet tall (your leaders' estimate) that sticks up in the ridgeline along the A.T. The views from its top, especially to the north, are spectacular. This all-A.T. hike, all above 5,000 feet, should make for a cooler day than something at lower levels. From Newfound Gap it gains 1050 feet mostly in the shade, in the first 2.4 miles. After the high point, we pass the Boulevard Trail junction and the Ice Water Spring A.T. shelter. We lose a total of 600 feet before reaching the Bunion. (Note: the Club’s old timers called this the “Tourist Bunion,” the ‘real’ one being another two peaks further out.) Once we get finished playing on the Bunion, it’s back the way we came.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> to leave at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 106 {8¢=\$8.50}, hike- 8, rated moderate.

Leaders: John & Debbie 927-2501 jxk@esper.com

**VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL BIKE RIDE
WHITETOP STATION TO DAMASCUS
August 9 – Saturday**

The Virginia Creeper Trail is one of the premier bike trails in the U.S. It is an easy, mostly downhill, 17.4 mile ride from Whitetop Station to Damascus, VA. Shuttle service has been arranged with Adventure Damascus. Cost of shuttle only is \$9.88. Shuttle plus bike rental is \$23.11.

Meet at 7:00 at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** or at 9:30 at Adventure Damascus bike shop. Round trip drive is 270 miles {8¢=\$21.60}. Preregistration (with Gary) is required as we have only a limited number of shuttle reservations.

Leaders: Gary 423-581-9248 gmckenna@charter.net Debbie 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

**ELECTION PICNIC
August 16 – Saturday**

10-11:30 Socialize (or tour Historic Bldgs nearby w/ David Smith)

11:30-12:30 Lunch **12:30-2:30 Election & Meeting**

Please bring a generous portion of your favorite covered dish, vegetable, salad or meat. The Social Committee will supply the dessert along with ice, water, tea and lemonade. Also all tableware will be supplied. A small donation will be accepted. Also, please bring your own chairs and sodas if that is your choice of beverage.

Same Location as last year:

Louisville Point Park, 3272 Cox Road, Louisville, TN

Driving directions: **From Knoxville or Oak Ridge:**

Exit from Pellissippi Parkway (I-140) at Topside Road (it's between the Bridge over Lake and Alcoa Hwy). Turn right on Topside Rd. Travel to the end at 2.8 miles. Turn right onto Louisville Road and drive past the marina and shortly after, turn right onto Cox Rd, at 1.4 miles. Drive to the end of Cox Rd into the park. Picnic is at the pavilion on the right.

Directions **From Maryville:** From the Wal-Mart on Hwy 129 turn onto Louisville Road. Travel 5.2 miles and turn right onto Cox Road. Drive to the end of Cox Road to the park. Picnic is at the pavilion on the right. Restrooms nearby and various recreation facilities are scattered in park. For more information call: Cathy Hickam: 691-9614

Hike leader sign-up sheets will be available for 2009 hikes.

There will be a **meeting of the New Board afterward** to assign "Monthly Coordinator" jobs and check out the 2009 schedule, and begin assigning hike leaders. **BE THERE!**

Candidates nominated for the 2009 Executive Board of SMHC

President	Tim Bigelow	Historian	Dianne Gruber
Vice Pres	Jim Lowe	Director	Ed Fleming *
Treasurer	George Ritter	Director... ..	Mary Anne Hoskins
Record'g Sec'y....	Claudia Dean	Director	Ray Payne
Memb'p Sec'y... ..	Connie Tatgenhorst	Director	Pam Reddock
Newsletter Ed..	Charlie Klabunde	Director.....	Will Skelton*

(* New to Board.)

**SWEAT HEIFER - KEPHART PRONG
FROM NEWFOUND GAP
August 17 – Sunday**

After shuttling cars down to the Kephart Prong trailhead, the hike heads east from Newfound Gap on the A.T. At the Sweat Heifer junction we will begin a 3.6-mile descent to the Kephart Shelter from which it is 2 more miles to our cars.

With a high elevation start and a mostly downhill grade this 7.3-mile venture is relatively easy, but there is some rocky terrain.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00. Round trip drive is 118 miles {8¢=\$9.50}.

Leaders: Mark 405-9879 mpaulley451@hotmail.com David 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net

>>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<<

One August Wednesday

Aug 20 - Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap 7.9 miles

Meet: Alcoa Food City at 7:30 or Sugarland Visitor Center at 8:15

Pam 773-7777 paminstark@hotmail.com

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL FROM CHEROHALA SKYWAY

August 23 – Saturday

Starting at Beech Gap on the TN-NC state line, we'll parallel the Skyway through Stratton Gap, and Stratton Meadows, and Johns Knob to Mud Gap, for 5 miles. (Cars shuttled to Mud Gap.) Some of this way is along the old, original road along the crest of the Unicoi Mountains, and is filled with historic significance. We'll go on from Mud Gap to Whigg Meadow for a side trip of about 1.4 miles and spectacular views in a big meadow and see the "ruins" of the Whigg cabin and associated pond. Several colorful folks lived, herded and hunted there. Beautiful views, fall colors (?) and good birding are all along. Back to the cars for a short round trip to Whigg Meadows.

Meet at ex-**Bi-Lo in Maryville** <see list> to leave at 7:30 AM. Round trip drive- 170 miles {8¢=\$13.60}; hike- 7.8 miles total with very little total elevation change, rated easy.

Leaders: Jim 828-479-9271 jhlowejr@hotmail.com Steve 828-651-8165 samiller71@rocketmail.com

CHIMNEY TOPS LOOP

August 30 – Saturday

Starting at the Chimneys parking area we will climb 3.3 miles to the A.T. via the Chimney Tops and Road Prong Trails. At one time this was part of the Oconaluftee Turnpike which connected Sevierville and Cherokee. There are waterfalls and a few stream crossings along the way. After 2.5 miles along the A.T. we start down the Sugarland Mtn Trail and soon pass the Mt. Collins Shelter on our way 3.2 miles down to the Chimneys Manway. It descends steeply 0.4 mile and is overgrown in places. We come out onto the Chimneys Trail a short distance from the Chimney Tops from which we should have spectacular views. We will return to our cars by the Chimney Tops Trail.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 7:30 or Sugarlands Visitors Center at 8:30. Round trip mileages: drive- 88 {8¢=\$7}, hike- 11.5, rated difficult.

Leaders: David 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net Ed 436-4719 edwrdfilm@aol.com

LITTLE RIVER TRAIL

EASY, Short Hike:

August 24- Sunday 3 miles

Meet at trailhead at 2 PM for afternoon stroll. (Left turn before the Campground.) Bring water for a hot day. We'll pass some old cottages and the home of the synchronous firefly.

Carolyn 681-8875

COMING EVENTS - September

- 6 - Sat A.T. Work Trip
 - 7 - Sun Rocky Top via Anthony Creek, Bote Mtn, & A.T.
 - 13,14 - S&S Scout-Your-Hike for 2009
 - 20 - Sat Mt LeConte via Rainbow Falls & Bull Head Trails
 - 28 - Sun Rowans Creek
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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. Far east side of Knoxville

"**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.

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