



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

Box 1454 Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

<- NEW: P O Box 51592, Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

September 2009

A.T. WORK TRIPS

September

See ATMN for Projects this month.

FULL MOON HIKE – CHARLIES BUNION September 5 – Saturday (Note: Date Change)

Join us on this Labor Day Weekend hike to Charlies Bunion. Our plans are to hike in during daylight hours, stopping by to check out Ice Water Spring Shelter on our way to the Bunion. We should have time before dark to munch down on any food we have brought in and have some good tales before dark arrives. Once the 99% visible moon rises shortly after dark, we'll start our trek back out by the light of the moon. Everyone needs to have a very good flashlight for use in the dark areas unlit by the full moon as well as a jacket when the evening temperature starts dropping. (Sunset = 0755 Moonrise = 0812)

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 3:00 PM. or meet Connie at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 4:15 PM. Round trip mileages: drive- 120 {8¢=\$9.60}, hike- 9. Rated Strenuous due to hiking during hours of darkness.

Leaders: Jim Quick 660-3351 jqhiker37@aol.com
Connie Houk 453-6646 coonie56@hotmail.com
Andy Zimmerman 579-0497 andyz2@juno.com

NORTH AND SOUTH OLD MAC TRAILS IN FROZEN HEAD S. P. September 6 - Sunday

We will go up either North or South Old Mac and at the ridge top visit the Panther Gap Rock House, cruise by Tub Springs, and go up to the lookout tower. Then we'll come down the other Old Mac. Round trip hike 8 miles, including side trip to lookout tower. Moderate speed and difficulty.

Meet 8:30 at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list> or 9:15 at Frozen Head Visitor Center. Round trip drive: 50 miles {\$4}.

Leaders: Claudia Dean 673-5822 claudiadean@bellsouth.net
Carolyn Reeves 717-3528

MT. STERLING VIA BIG CREEK and BAXTER CREEK September 12 – Saturday

From the Big Creek Picnic Area we'll hike up Big Creek Trail for 5 miles to join the Swallow Fork Trail. After a 4-mile climb to 5,000' and Pretty Hollow Gap, we'll take Mt. Sterling Ridge Trail to Mount Sterling and see if the tower is still safe to climb. We can hope for cool air, lots of pink turtlehead, yellow coneflower, and some early fall color at the top. And then it's downhill all the way to the cars via Baxter Creek Trail. (This hike covers part of the route of a club backpack on 9/1-2-3/1934 — exactly 75 years ago.)

Meet at the **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 7:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 120 {8¢=\$9.60}, hike- 17, rated difficult.

Leaders: Dan Feller 673-5822
Cindy Spangler 776-1301

SCOUT YOUR HIKE FOR 2010 September 13, 20, 27 — are open Sundays

The program committee decided not to set aside a weekend for leaders of next year's hikes to scout their hikes. But we are hereby reminding you that it needs to be done in time to submit your Handbook writeup by the **deadline: September 30**. The editor, Charlie Klabunde, very much prefers text **pasted into the body of an e-mail**; please, not as an attachment. (KlabundeCE@aol.com) Don't worry about format; that is always part of the editing. But do worry about keeping the length similar to what you see in the Handbook. (What you see there is 9-point Times New Roman font in a 3"-wide column.) A printed text sent by 'Snail mail' is fine too; even a neat handwritten one works if that is all that you can manage.

PHOTO CONTEST REMINDER Submit entries between Sept 15 and Oct 3.

See page 47 of the 2009 Handbook for all of the *what*, *where*, and *how* details.

HISTORY HIKE: FORT LOUDOUN September 19 – Saturday

Join us for an interesting excursion to Ft. Loudoun State Park. This outing will include a short easy hike of about 3 miles, a visit to the reconstructed 18th century British fort and informative exhibits at the associated museum. We'll do the hike first to take advantage of the morning's relative cool and then see the museum film and exhibits and the fort. If you wish to join the group for an informal bring-it-yourself picnic following all this, plan your carpool accordingly. The park is on the Great Island surrounded by lake, so it makes for a pleasant outing.

Meet at 9:00 at **Alcoa Food City** <see list>. Round trip drive: 44 miles {8¢=\$3.50}.

Leader: Cata Folks 982-3890 cfolks@pstcc.edu

CROSSING HORSESHOE MOUNTAIN September 26 – Saturday CANCELLED

When leaders Mike Harrington & Steve Miller scouted this on 8/16/09, and needed 12 hours, they realized that it would not be safe to do it on the scheduled date when the sunrise to sunset time is exactly 12 hours. They're willing to correct this scheduling boo-boo by doing it next June.

>>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<<

Two September Wednesdays

Sep 2 Stratton Bald- Hangover via Beech Gap ~10mi
Meet: 7:30 at ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville RT drive: 120, mod difficult

Sep 30 Anthony Creek, Russell Field, AT, Spence Field, Bote Mtn, Anthony Creek- Trails Loop 13.5 miles difficult
Meet: 7:30 at Alcoa Food City

Tab Peryam 238-0124 johnperyam@comcast.net

LITTLE RIVER

EASY, Short Hike: September 26 - Saturday 4.6 miles
 Easy hike with waterfall, Little River cascades, a riot of colors, cultural history and even fly-fishing if you are so inclined, and licensed. Bring lunch for picnic after the hike. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00.
 Rae Jones 558-9254 knxrae@aol.com

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. (*The exit ramp is again accessible from I-640 and I-40.)
"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.
"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.

COMING EVENTS - October

- 3 - Sat A.T. Work Trip
- 10 - Sat Siler Bald (on the A.T. in Nantahala N.F.)
- 16 - Fri Fall Photo Show (and Contest results)
- 18 - Sun Savage Gulf: North Rim <NEEDS LEADERS>
- 24 - Sat Mt. Cammerer via Low Gap – { 75th }
- 24 - Sat Mt. Cammerer via Toms Creek- Rich Butt <off trail>
- 31 - Sat Boogerman – Caldwell Fork Loop

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Marlene Denton	hikinggirl77@yahoo.com	423-625-1235
	1254 Sunset Gap Rd.	Cosby 37722
Elena Landa	ybaemh@hotmail.com	924-7847
	10904 Dundee Rd.	Knoxville 37934
Meredith Leahy	Meredith.leahy@gmail.com	804-18571
	3410 Orlando St.	Knoxville 37917
Scot Moser	smoser@utk.edu	933-9706
	333 Woodridge Rd.	Knoxville 37924
Leta Pease	leta@pbmtn.com	539-6544
	9729 Cortez Dr.	Knoxville 37923
Lora Smith	l.smith@tencate.com	423-554-3386
	50 Smith Rd.	Graysville 37338

FOR THE RECORD

Bike Ride: Virginia Creeper Trail June 28, 2009

Twelve cyclists, 3 were visitors including 1 from NJ did this ride.. The mid-70's temperature was ideal for our 17-mile ride from White Top Mtn back to Damascus. Everyone rode at their own pace, some stopping for photos and some for just the scenic hillsides and creeks. We all took a break at the Creeper Café for lunch. Then the last leg of the trail took us back to our starting point at the shuttle service Adventure Damascus.

— Bobby Trotter & Gary McKenna

"Save Our Smokies Wilderness" Hike July 18, 2009

Record setting low temperatures in the mountains made it a cool start for 19 hikers (16 members and 3 visitors) in the clouds on Clingmans Dome. A brisk wind soon blew out enough clouds to provide us with good views off both sides of the mountains. We saw two young deer, numerous Turk's-cap lilies, some good trail work done by national trails day workers this year, and the recently rebuilt Double Springs Gap shelter. During lunch, write-ups of the 1966 hike and a picture of part of that group were passed around. Jean Bangham, who was on the original hike and identified in the picture, also did our SOS hike 43 years later giving much inspiration to the rest of the group. We all enjoyed a beautiful day to hike through this section of Smoky Mountains wilderness with virtually no automobile sound all day.
 — Ed Fleming & Tim Bigelow

Mt. LeConte via Alum Cave Trail July 25, 2009

Eighteen members and 10 visitors enjoyed near perfect weather to help celebrate the Great Smoky Mountains National Park's 75th anniversary. We climbed under mostly blue skies, moderate temperatures, and comfortable humidity. After a break for lunch, some chose to add a short loop out to Myrtle Point and Cliff Tops before heading down the mountain. Most just hiked down to transportation and home. (The first-time co-leaders escaped experiencing any casualties. Whew!)
 — Chuck & Pat Janack

Trout Branch to Mt. LeConte July 25, 2009

Three members enjoyed perfect weather and one of the Smoky Mtns' prettiest streams on this challenging off-trail outing. Our small group ended up arriving below the Alum Cave Trail under Cliff Top. At that point, some hikers on the trail noticed us and seemed confused (and possibly scared). Some asked how we got down there? (which kind of missed the point); what were we doing?; and, where did we come from? After eating lunch there just below the Trail in an area with an absolutely incredible view, we walked on up to the Lodge where we met some of the hikers from the Club's on-trail outing on this day. On our return down Alum Cave Trail we paused at the usual spots to enjoy the scenery and the beautiful day.
 — Mark Shipley & Ed Fleming

Polls Gap to Purchase Knob August 8, 2009

Nine members and 3 guests drove to meet at the gated entrance for Purchase Gap. We set our shuttle and drove to Polls Gap to begin hiking to Hemphill Bald. We saw lots of bright orange turks cap lilies, some 8 or 9 feet tall, several wild turkeys, butterflies, and a red tailed hawk. The clear day afforded fine views as we enjoyed lunch and the grandstand view from the Bald. Then as we continued, mostly down, along the ridge, we noted the newly added gardens at The Swag. At the intersection with Cataloochee Divide Trail we turned right onto a side trail to the Ferguson Cabin in the Purchase Knob property. We strolled around and checked out the cabin, the meadow, the spring and innumerable wildflowers. The drivers walked the road to the cars and went back for vehicles then came back and picked up all our passengers. Special thanks to the Bunchs for helping with the long shuttle.
 — Dana Koogler & Kathy Scruggs

< SMHC Newsletter Editor: Charlie Klabunde 483-8055 >
 < Send writeups in e-mail to: KlabundeCE@aol.com >

< Please: Not by Attachment. In the e-mail is preferred. >

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SMHCLUB.ORG
 See our **Message Board** there.

Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

Remote for detachment; Narrow for chosen company; Winding for leisure; Lonely for contemplation;
It beckons not merely north and south, but upward to the body, mind and soul of man...Harold Allen



Published by the Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

Gay Bryant, Webmail Coordinator; Dianne Gruber, newsletter editor, 865 977-0807; Don Dunning, Mulch operations; Phyllis Henry, Treasurer, Special Projects, 865 577-2604; George Ritter, Recruiting, (865) 483-9758; Ed Peck, Committee Member; Penny Lankford, Committee Member; Terry Elmore, Committee Member; Dick Ketelle, Committee Member, 865 483-9345; John Lankford, NP accessible sections Division Leader, 865 774-1866; Jim Lowe, Nantahala National Forest Division Leader 828 479- 9271; Mac McNutt, Tools Manager, 865 983-3237; Randy Puckett, Consultant; Philip Royer, Shelter and Campsite coordinator 865 694- 0160; Jim Lowe and Philip Royer, Regional Representatives.

September/ 2009

Work Projects

Mt Collins shelter rehab is scheduled for September 15 through 22.

Rocky Top crews will be in the park from September 2 through October 31. They will be working from Cosby Knob to Camel Gap and beyond if possible, and repairing the hole near Sunup Knob.

Sassafras Gap (NF) Privy is scheduled for construction October 19-22. Warren Wilson College Students will be doing this as a fall break project.

A.T. Work

7/1 - Ed Peck, Jerry Troxler, Phyllis Henry, Mac McNutt, Steve Reagan - Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir – Weeded, cleaned water bars, installed water bars, cut blowdowns, hauled dirt and rock.

7/2 - Dick Ketelle - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob - Cleared brush and trimmed back branches.

7/2 - Rob Carter - Sunup Knob to Cosby Knob Top - Did sling blade weeding and clean up of Cosby shelter

and adjacent trail areas. “The blade and I are starting to click.”

7/2 - Wayne Williams, Ed Peck - Goshen Prong Tr to Welch Ridge Tr - “Ed and I hiked in to Double Springs, cleaned the shelter, cleaned and restocked the mulch in the privy, and brushed from the shelter to Welch Ridge junction.”

7/3 - Ron Beatty - High Pt E of Walker Gap to Yellow Creek Gap - Cut vegetation.

7/4 - Franklin LaFond - Gap W of Masa Knob to Top W of Sweat Heifer - Removed large trip rocks from treadway. Chiseled steps into near- vertical slate/shale areas north of Icewater shelter, built or improved 3 sets of rock steps. Widened treadway in a couple of areas where it was previously narrow between large rocks. Lowered two log water bars where latest rainstorms had washed out under them. Placed small to medium size rocks in a few waterbars on steep downhill sloping areas that were showing signs of erosion. Placed rock and bush debris to try to close one of the short connector trails at Icewater Shelter. Karen and I had brushed this last month, but a hiker had apparently removed them.

7/10 - Phyllis Henry, Paul Campbell, John Campbell, Tom Howard, Stewart Taylor, Jerry Troxler, Ed Peck, Mac McNutt - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr - Brushed completely.

7/11 - Edward Fleming, Pamela Brown - Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Sunup Knob - Trimmed vegetation along trail, removed one large fallen limb overhanging trail, placed some stepping stones in a boggy area, and cleared water bars.

7/18 - Dick Ketelle and Ann Farrar - Miry Ridge to Starkey Gap - Hiked up Greenbrier Ridge Trail to AT. Removed blowdown 0.2 mile north of Greenbrier Ridge Tr Jct with crosscut saw.

7/18 - Philip Royer, Betty Royer - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cleared three feet on each side of trail through several blackberry briar infested areas.

7/21 - Rob Carter - Sunup Knob to Cosby Knob Top - Overnight at shelter: cleaned grounds, cut vegetation around privy steps, refilled mulch buckets, and knocked down cone, cut vegetation from Cosby saddle to Sunup saddle.

7/23 - Franklin LaFond - Mollies Ridge to Russell Field shelters - Cleared vegetation on trail to water source at Mollies Shelter and added three log steps and two water bars along trail to Mollies Ridge water source to try to control some of the eroding that is occurring there. Mollies water source is labeled as Dry by park service. There is still a small trickle at spring, but not enough to flow to the pipe. Built a small

reservoir to hold about a gallon of water where the spring comes out of the hillside. Hopefully, this will help supply water a little longer. Moved one of the padlocks from Russell Field tool box to Mollies Ridge tool box. The broken lock from Mollies was brought down and will be turned in. Because of shelter restrictions, I was required to stay one night at Spence Field shelter on this trip. While there, I cut vegetation to the water source (Eagle Creek Trail) and to the privy. Also cut back some blackberry briars along trail before getting to shelter. Cut vegetation from Bote Mtn trail junction to summit of Mt Squires.

7/24 - Don Dunning - *Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer* - Cleared vegetation from trail between Sweat Heifer and Icewater Spring shelter. Cleared vegetation around shelter and paths to privy and bear cables, etc.

7/25 - Donna Higdon, Steve Higdon - *Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr* - Cut weeds, briars, and trimmed brush. Lots of 'em.

7/25 - Susan Faidley, Bill Kinnamon, Gilbert Treadwell, Donald Box - *Gap S of Greer Knob to Sassafras Gap* - Collectively, we cleaned and deepened 25 water bar trenches (including adding a new one). Additionally, Gilbert cleaned and deepened eight on the spur trail down to the Birch Spring campsite. We did light swing blade work along trail (which wasn't badly overgrown) from the unnamed gap south to the spur trail to the campsite, and heavy swing blade work from the spur trail down to the Lost Cove.

7/28 - George Ritter, Jimmy Smith - *Sassafras Gap Privy* - Staked out post locations for a new privy at Sassafras Gap. We also checked out the Cable Gap privy.

7/30 - Ed Peck, Stewart Taylor, Mac McNutt, Steve Reagan - *Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap* - Ed recorded GPS locations needed for shelter rehab and delivery of locust logs for future trail maintenance. We completed brushing and weeding between Sugarland Mt. trail and Collins Gap. Cleared two drop zones for locust logs on this section. Brushed and weeded several spots at and around Mt. Collins shelter for dropping materials and crew use during rehab. Shelter area is clean and privy is stocked with mulch. Cleaned a few water bars and cleared drainage ditches. Delivered shelter registers to case for RR Susan.

7/31 - Franklin LaFond, Steve Higdon, Bob Bales - *Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr* - Removed boulders from the trail from earlier rock slide. Rehabbed the trail where boulders were removed. Improved trail drainage in several locations. ...all in heavy rain.

8/1 - Franklin LaFond - *Boulevard Tr to Clingmans Dome* - Cleaned out several waterbars that had silted up. Filled a couple areas with rock, gravel, sand, and dirt where log checksteps had been installed on NTD and were backfilling with water. Removed several problem rocks from treadway. Dug drainage trench outward from My Collins fire pit. Added two log steps near spring.

8/1 - Charlie Klabunde - *N of Fontana Dam to ~1.5 miles N* - Sawed, cut, cleared out 5 of 6 downed logs/trees. 6th is easy step-over, but pro-chainsaw crew job.

8/2 - Ed Peck - *Double Springs Gap Shelter* - Carried privy mulch to mulch bin. Picked up shelter trash & carried out.

8/4 - Jimmy Smith - *Locust Cove Gap to Cheoah Bald* - During an overnight at Cheoah Bald, cleared brush, waterbars and small blowdowns in this section.

8/5 - Doris Gove, Foreign Students Group, UT Orientation and Development Group - *Collins Gap to Clingmans Dome* - did weed whacking, blackberry clipping, removal of one leaning treetop.

8/7 - Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor - *Mount Collins Shelter* - Marked tree for park to cut before shelter rehab.

8/9 - Ed Peck - *Goshen Prong Tr to Knob W of Jenkins Knob* - Carried privy mulch to Double Springs mulch bin. Filled mulch buckets. Picked up shelter trash & carried out. Retrieved shelter register from beside fire-ring & returned to zip-bag. Moved 5 sawed logs from log-drop pile to point on trail for use.

8/9 - James Burton - *Mt Sequoah to Pecks Corner* - Cut back weeds along the trail with sling blade.

8/10 - Jimmy Smith - *Cable Gap Privy* - Replaced the privy floor panel screws with lag bolts to enable changing panel positions with a socket wrench instead of a cordless drill. Attached a handle to the open panel to facilitate lifting it during changes. Constructed a six inch containment berm around the outside of the privy bin as requested by the District Ranger.

8/10 - Karen Reagan, Steve Reagan - *Rd Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir* - Worked on water bar. Cleared water bar drainage, did brushing, weeding, pruning. Collected tools and batteries from storage building for battery charging and testing for shelter project. Packaged water filter for shipment to Katadin for service.

8/12 - Stewart Taylor, Steve Reagan, Ed Peck - *Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir* - Constructed 10.5 feet of puncheon walkway in boggy area with fallen timber from area. Cleaned a few drainage ditches and moved some good red dirt into a step.