

**Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for November 2009**

(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. ( Subscriptions are no longer offered. Everyone may now become a member by sending in appropriate dues and the signed Application form found at *Join the SMHC* in this website.)

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**Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.**

**CONTENTS: Items listed here for November**

All Month A.T. Work Project  
4 - Wed White Oak Sinks via Chestnut Top Trail, with loop in Sinks  
7 - Sat *EZ#1*: Middle Prong Trail to Panther Creek  
7-8 – S&S Backpack to Gregory Bald  
11 - Wed Rich Mountain Loop via Crooked Arm, etc.  
14 - Sat CT: Possum Creek segment  
21 - Sat Lumber Ridge- Spruce Flats Manway & Falls  
21 - Sat *EZ#2*: North Boundary Trail – Oak Ridge  
27 - Fri Ramsey Cascade {75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary}  
29 - Sun North Bird Mtn Loop in Frozen Head S.P.

**A.T. WORK PROJECT  
November – (All Month)**

Clean out waterbars everywhere, after the leaves are down.

A New Day has begun for the **AT Maintainers Newsletter**.

>It will now be distributed only as an e-mail attachment sent to the ATMC's lists of maintainers\*.  
>It will still be on the website at [www.smhclub.org](http://www.smhclub.org)  
>It will not be printed.

\* All Maintainers are e-connected. Because this is true, and has been so for a long while, the ATMC Committee feels that there is really no reason to continue trying to reach *the uninterested* through the printed page. So making this move cuts SMHC's Newsletter printing cost in half.

**MIDDLE PRONG TRAIL TO PANTHER CREEK**

**EASY, Short Hike #1:** November 7- Saturday 4.6 miles  
Meet: Alcoa Food City at 9:00 AM Les Alley 690-3814

**BACKPACK TO CAMPSITE 12 and DAY HIKE to GREGORY BALD  
November 7-8 – Saturday-Sunday**

We had planned a backpack to Sheep Pen Gap and Gregory Bald for this weekend, but the Park Service recently closed the campsite because of bear problems. We're still going to Gregory Bald, but with a different campsite; the result is a very easy backpack and a day hike up to Gregory Bald. We'll hike about 2 miles on Saturday to Campsite 12 (Forge Creek), set up camp, and then day hike 3.7 miles up to Gregory Bald and back. Sunday will be an easy hike back out. Limit is 8 people and preregistration with trip leader is required.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** at 8:30 AM <see list>. Roundtrip mileages: drive- ~100 miles {8¢=\$8}, backpack- 4.0 total and day hike 7.4 total. Rated moderate.

Leader: Will Skelton 523-2272 whshome@bellsouth.net

**CT: POSSUM CREEK SEGMENT  
November 14 – Saturday**

The Possum Creek segment of the Cumberland Trail was constructed by volunteers in 2003-2005 and is just south of the wonderful Soddy Creek section that was hiked by the club in 2005. The trail follows Little and Big Possum Creeks and features rock houses, scenic views of the gorge and a waterfall. With the recent completion of two bridges, only one creek crossing is required which is an easy wade even in high water.

Meet at 8:00 AM at the ORNL Credit Union just north of I-40 exit 352 (Kingston) <see list>. Drive 110 miles round trip, with a key swap. Hike 10 miles with elevation gain and loss of 1000'. There is significant rock hopping and much up and down, so it's rated moderately difficult- especially in wet weather.

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

Dan Feller 673-5822

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**LUMBER RIDGE- SPRUCE FLATS MANWAY AND FALLS  
November 21 – Saturday**

We start from the Tremont Institute area and follow the Lumber Ridge Trail for four miles, climbing most of 1240 feet in the first third of the way to Buckhorn Gap's trail junction. We then go off-trail, down the short steep start of the Spruce Flats manway, which will lead us eventually to Spruce Flats Falls. The manway itself is rather flat and pretty easy, with an obvious footpath throughout. But, there will be plenty of rhodo, plus crawling under fallen tree trunks. We'll do eight creek crossings, mostly easy, but a couple are rather tricky. Along the way, there are a few early-day artifacts to see. One can see some of the upper cascades just before we leave the old RR grade that forms most of the manway. Then we descend a steep multi-switchback section down to the pool below Spruce Flats Falls. Lunch will be at the base of the Falls. We then have to cross the stream by rock-hop and get onto the rocky, but well-worn trail back to Tremont.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 8 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 50 {8¢=\$4}, hike- 7, rated moderate in good weather.

Leaders: Guy Griffin 482-1295

John Roberts 494-7431

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**NORTH BOUNDARY TRAIL, OAK RIDGE**

**EASY, Short Hike #2:**

**November 21 – Saturday**

~6 miles

Meet: NOAA, Oak Ridge, 9:00 AM

Les Alley 690-3814

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A Park 75<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Hike

**RAMSEY CASCADE  
November 27 – Friday**



Join us for the annual *Jim/Bob Hike* and one of the club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hikes. Ramsay Cascade is the tallest waterfall in the park that is located on an official trail and one of the most spectacular. The water drops 100 feet over rock outcroppings and collects in a small pool. On our hike in we will climb over 2,000' during the 4 mile hike in. The trail follows rushing waters for much of its length and the last 2 miles pass through an old-growth cove hardwood forest with some very large tulip trees. This will be a golden opportunity to help get rid of some of those calories eaten the day before, chomping down fantastic vittles of Turkey Day.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 80 {8¢=\$6.40}, hike- 8, rated strenuous.

Leaders: Jim Quick 660-3351 jqhiker37@aol.com

Bobby Trotter 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com

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

**Two November Wednesdays**

**Nov 4** White Oak Sinks via Chestnut Top Trail, with loop in Sinks

Meet: Food City, Alcoa at 8:00 AM ~11 miles

**Nov 11** Rich Mountain Loop via Crooked Arm, etc.

Meet: Food City, Alcoa at 8:00 AM ~8 miles

Elfie Beall 988-3377 elfiebeall@comcast.net

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**BIRD MOUNTAIN LOOP IN FROZEN HEAD S.P.**  
**November 29 – Sunday**

From the parking lot below the campground, we will walk five minutes up the paved road to its end, then follow an old road that will take us gently up to the crest of Bird Mountain. There we will turn west onto the Cumberland Trail, called Bird Mountain Trail in the park. The hike will follow the ridge past a back country campsite and Castle Rock, and soon thereafter to the junction where we turn south to return steeply back down to the trailhead at the campground.

Meet at 8:30 AM at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list>. Round trip mileages: drive- 51 {8¢=\$4}, hike- 8, rated moderate with 1500 feet elevation gain.

Leaders: Bill Gooch 522-0515 goochbill@bellsouth.net Claudia Dean 673-5822 claudiadean@bellsouth.net

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**COMING EVENTS – December**

4 – Sat Blanket Mtn and Avent Cabin a *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike*  
12 – Sat Installation Dinner  
13 – Sun Black Oak Greenway – Oak Ridge  
20 – Sun House Mountain  
27 – Sun Lead Cove- Bote Mtn- Spence Field a *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike*

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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.

“**Food City in Alcoa**”= on right between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> traffic lights.

“**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 along right edge of side lot, toward rear.

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