

## Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for December 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.)

Newsletter Editor: Charlie Klabunde (865) 483-8055 KlabundeCE@aol.com  
Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

### CONTENTS: Items listed here for December

- 2 – Wed Cumberland Trail: Rock Creek Gorge  
4 – Sat Blanket Mtn and Avent Cabin a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike  
12 – Sat EZ: Black Oak Ridge – Dyllis Orchard  
12 – Sat Installation Dinner < Reservation Deadline: December 4 >  
13 – Sun Black Oak Greenway – Oak Ridge  
16 – Wed FHSP: Up to Ross Gap, east on CT to Bird Mtn. Trail & down  
20 – Sun House Mountain  
27 – Sun Lead Cove- Bote Mtn- Spence Field a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike

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

#### Two December Wednesdays

- Dec 2** – Cumberland Trail: Rock Creek Gorge (N. Hamilton Co.) 9 miles  
Meet at 8 behind Lenoir City Cracker Barrel. Exit 81 from I-75S, then left, over Interstate at 0.5 mile.  
**Dec 16** – FHSP: Up to Ross Gap, east on CT to Bird Mtn. Trail & down. ~7 miles  
Meet at 8 at the *Rush*, O.R.

Keith Mertz 982-7368 keithmertz@hotmail.com

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

### BLANKET MOUNTAIN AND AVENT CABIN December 5 - Saturday



This hike, is a joint venture between the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club. It will take us to Blanket Mountain, and along the way we'll visit and learn about the history of the Avent Cabin. The cabin is located just off the Jakes Creek Trail, and was owned by an artist at the time the Park was established. This cabin has been designated and maintained as an historical structure. It provides a glimpse of life in the Smokies before the Park, though probably of a life-style that was not typical of that experienced by the vast majority of mountain folk. The hike will continue past the cabin to Jakes Gap and then on the old (no longer maintained) trail to the top of Blanket Mountain. Four concrete piers are all that remains here of the old fire tower.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 70 {8¢=\$5.60}, hike- about 8. Rated moderate due to elevation gain and potentially inclement weather.

Leaders: Ron Shrieves 922-3518 ronaldshrieves@comcast.net  
Ray Payne 693-6944 rpayne10@bellsouth.net

### BLACK OAK RIDGE – DYLLIS ORCHARD

**EASY, Short Hike:** December 12 - Saturday ~5-6 miles  
Meet at NOAA, Oak Ridge, 9:00 AM Lynda Bryan 435-7924

### INSTALLATION DINNER December 12 – Saturday

At 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. Only the sign is visible from road.

5:00-6:00 p.m. **Registration** and social (light refreshments; winning photos from the photo contest will be projected and on display).

6:00-6:45 p.m. **Dinner** and Entertainment by the Oak Ridge High School Madrigal Singers.

6:45-7:00 Welcome and Special Feature: Jeremy Lloyd, a teacher and naturalist for GSMIT for ten years, will tell of his book, "A Home in Walker Valley: The Story of Tremont"; books will be available for purchase.

7:00-7:30 p.m. **Speaker: George Minnigh**, recently retired Backcountry Ranger for the Smoky Mountains National Park sharing some special highlights from his years as a backcountry ranger for the park.

7:30-8:00 p.m. Business Meeting: Awards, Installation of Officers, Handbook Distribution, Adjournment.

Cost - \$15.00 per person. (50 years+ members free).

Entrée choices: Baked Chicken and Vegetables

OR: Vegetarian Chili over Rice

**Must** make reservations **no later than December 4**, with name(s) and entrée choice(s)

Please RSVP **no later than December 4**, 2009, to:

Debbie Goddard 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

Priscilla Watts 966-4142 sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

Keith Mertz 982-7368 keithmertz@hotmail.com

Jeanette Gilbert 483-8774 corsica@nxs.net

Debbie Maxey dmaxey@utk.edu

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**BLACK OAK GREENWAY OAK RIDGE  
December 13 – Sunday**

Come join us in exploring an Oak Ridge Greenway that will be new to the club. Dedicated in 2007, the greenway follows a series of old Department of Energy Patrol Roads. We'll start by winding up and around the crest of Black Oak Ridge. Mid way through the hike we'll stop for lunch by Watts Bar Lake and then enjoy the views of the old DOE K25 plant, before climbing back to the ridge crest and closing this loop hike.

Leave from **Oak Ridge NOAA** <see list> at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 24 {8¢=\$1.90}, hike ~ 9.3, rated moderate.

Leaders: Hiram Rogers 584-7310 hiramrogers@yahoo.com  
Jack Millsbaugh 576-5480 jem2907@gmail.com

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**HOUSE MOUNTAIN  
December 20 – Sunday**

This will be a 4 to 5 mile afternoon hike, rated easy to moderate (there are a couple of steep spots). We'll hope for clear, crisp weather so we'll be able to see the Smokies and Cumberlands from right here in Knox County. From the parking lot we'll climb by the sandstone bluffs to the west overlook, go along the top of House Mountain to the east overlook, and then return on a narrow trail that can be slippery when wet. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate and maybe some Christmas cookies to share. And bring the kids.

Meet at the Dollar Store, on Rutledge Pike 0.5 mile north of Exit 392 (US-11W) off I-40 at 1:30. Or meet at House Mtn. Parking Lot at 1:45. Round trip mileages: drive- 20 {8¢=\$1.60}.

Leaders: Doris Gove 522-9896 dorisgove@aol.com Cindy Spangler 776-1301 spangler@utk.edu

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

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



A possible winter wonderland hike awaits us as we leave Laurel Creek road to visit Spence Field via Lead Cove Trail, Bote Mountain Trail and the A.T. We will pass an old home site and cross one creek which should be a rock hop. Spence Field is a high grassy meadow which hopefully will offer splendid views if the weather is clear. We will return by the same route.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 8. Roundtrip mileages: drive- 57 miles, hike 9.4 miles. Rated moderate to difficult due to elevation gain of around 3200 ft.

Leaders: Barbara Allen 558-9214 allen745139@bellsouth.net Carol Coffey 691-2066

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hikes Program ENDS 12/31/09**

Our program of recognition of hikers who complete all nine of the *75 Miles Series* of hikes in this calendar year is about to a close. As of this writing, 29 hikers have qualified and ordered their special patches.

**MEETING PLACES:**

**"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

**"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.

**"the Rush fitness center in Oak Ridge"**= 2-1/2 traffic lights past NOAA; opposite Walmart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. [for mid-wk]

### COMING EVENTS – January 2010

- 1 – Fri     Finley Cane-Bote Mtn-Lead Cove
  - 3 – Sun     Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge
  - 9 – Sat     Abrams Creek- Rabbit Creek Trails Loop
  - 16 – Sat    New Members Hike: Chestnut Top out & back
  - 17 – Sun    North Ridge Trail (Oak Ridge)
  - 24 – Sun    Norris S.P. (or watershed)
  - 30 – Sat    FHSP: Bald Knob, CT, Old Gobey RR Grade
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