

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for February 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, plus the Appalachian Trail Maintainers Newsletter. (New Subscriptions are not available now. Everyone may now become a member by sending in appropriate dues and the signed Application form found in the Brochure in this website.)

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

MEMBERS: HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET ?

CONTENTS: Items listed here for February

- 1 - Sat Frozen Head: The Emory Tract
- 7 - Sat EZ: Oak Ridge Arboretum
- 8 - Sun Rich Mountain Loop
- (12 - Thu Backpacking Skills Workshop RESCHEDULED to Mar 3 - Tue)
- 14 - Sat Old Sugarlands- Twin Creeks- Gatlinburg Trail Loop
- 18 - Wed Bob Stratton Bald from Cherohala Skyway
- 22 - Sun Kalanu Prong (EZ off trail)
- 25 - Wed Shop Creek/Naked Lady Tree (all off trail)
- 28 - Sat Townsend Wye ⇔ Rich Mountain (keyswap)

FROZEN HEAD - THE EMORY TRACT February 1 – Sunday

In late 2007, the State of Tennessee purchased the Emory Tract which lies between the northern edge of Frozen Head State Park and the Emory River. The state is still working on a management plan for the area, but the area is now open for hiking and our group will be one of the first to explore it. Our route will start from the Gobey Road and follow an old road that climbs up Sang Branch and then Thompson Mountain to reach Ross Gap. Then we'll follow an old trail along contour past several ponds to the crest of England Mountain. We'll return to the Gobey Road via a combination of cross country hiking and old roads. The area will be open to small game hunting and though we don't expect to see hunters, please bring blaze orange clothing. We will also ford the Emory River (normally less than knee deep) at the start and finish of the hike.

Meet at **NOAA in Oak Ridge** <see list> ready to leave at 8:00. Round trip mileages: drive- 64 {8¢=\$5.12}, hike- 9.5. Rated moderate to difficult.

Leaders: Hiram Rogers 584-7310 hiramrogers@yahoo.com
Jean Gauger 584-7310 jeangauger@yahoo.com

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

Two February Wednesdays

Feb 18 Bob Stratton Bald from Cherohala Skyway 6.8 mi (also see p.25 of 2009 Handbook)

Meet: Alcoa Food City at 9:00. Brian Schloff 387-1183 brianschloff@yahoo.com

Feb 25 Shop Creek/Naked Lady Tree (all off trail) 6 miles Rated moderate. Meet right side of Maryville Wal-Mart lot (in front of gas station) on Hwy 411 at 9:00 Carol Anderson ander743@bellsouth.net

OAK RIDGE ARBORETUM

EASY, Short Hike: February 7 - Saturday ~ 4 miles

Meet: Oak Ridge NOAA 9:00 Lunch afterward at nearby Panera Bread
Jeannette Gilbert 483-8774 corsica@nxs.net

RICH MOUNTAIN LOOP
February 8 - Sunday

This classic loop trail provides lessons in the human and geologic history of the cove, as well as several great views. From the parking lot just before the Cades Cove Loop road, we'll begin with an easy walk to the John Oliver Cabin. Then we'll make the steady climb up the Rich Mountain Loop trail, join the Indian Grave Gap trail, and stop for lunch near the old fire tower site. We'll descend the Crooked Arm Ridge trail and perhaps view the elusive Crooked Arm Falls near the end of the trail.

Meet to leave at 8:00 AM at **Alcoa Food City** <see list>. Round trip mileages: drive- 56 {8¢=\$4.50}, hike- 8.7, rated moderate, but includes a long and steep ascent and descent.

Leaders: Claudia Dean 673-5822 claudiadean@bellsouth.net
Jean Gauger 584-7310 jeangauger@yahoo.com

BACKPACKING SKILLS WORKSHOP
Rescheduled from February 12 (Thu) to March 3 (Tue)

**OLD SUGARLANDS - TWIN CREEKS -
GATLINBURG TRAIL LOOP (Singles Hike)**
February 14 – Saturday

A singles hike on Valentines Day— what a way to meet someone new or reunite with some old friends. We will begin our hike just across the street from the visitors center on the Old Sugarlands Trail which follows the route of one of the first paved roads over the mountains in the park. After 3 miles of gradual climbing we reach the Cherokee Orchard Road and the Twin Creeks Trail. After exploring the Noah "Bud" Ogle place we will pick up the Twin Creeks Trail and descend 1.9 miles to reach the Cherokee Orchard Road and follow this into Gatlinburg to stop at the "Best Italian Restaurant" for a lunch break to meet and greet other hikers. An easy two mile stroll on the Gatlinburg Trail will return us to the visitors center.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 9:30 or 10:30 at Sugarlands Visitor Center. Round trip mileages: drive- 60 {8¢=\$4.80}, hike- 10, rated moderate. Please RSVP to the leader by Wed Feb 11th for approximate number of hikers for reservations at the restaurant.

Leaders: Bobby Trotter 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com (co-leader not yet determined)

KALANU PRONG
February 22 – Sunday

This relatively short hike will offer great variety. From the intersection of the Greenbrier Road and the road that takes you to the Ramsey Cascades Trail we will follow a gravel road that will take us to an interesting cemetery where we will spend some time before continuing on an unmarked trail. There will be nice streamside views along the way. We will then ascend on the unmarked trail to one of the largest trees in the park – a specimen tulip poplar that must be seen to believe. We will enjoy lunch near this large tree and then follow the same route back.

Meet at the **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> to leave at 9:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 90 {8¢=\$7.20}, hike- 5, rated easy.

Leaders: Mark Shipley 693-9795 mshipley@townoffarragut.org Heather Shipley 693-9795

TOWNSEND WYE ⇄ RICH MOUNTAIN (Keyswap)
February 28 – Saturday

One group starts at the Townsend Wye and follows the park boundary westward on the Chestnut Top, Schoolhouse Gap, Scott Mountain, Indian Grave Gap, and Rich Mountain Trails to the Rich Mountain Road. The other group goes the other direction. This hike should afford good winter views both down into Tuckaleechee Cove and up toward Thunderhead.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** at 8:00. Drive 40 miles round trip {8¢=\$3.20}. Hike 12.2 miles, rated moderate to difficult with 1500 to 2500' total climb depending on direction.

Leaders: Dan Feller 673-5822 Mary Anne Hoskins 523-1051

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. **Caution: *must* be coming from I-640 to make this exit now.

"**Food City in Alcoa**"= on right between 3rd & 4th 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 1st & 2nd traffic lights.

COMING EVENTS - March

6 - Fri Photo Show – in Oak Ridge

7 - Sat A.T. Work Trip – Clear Waterbars

8 - Sun Pinnacle at Cumberland Gap: a loop hike

15 - Sun Yahoo Falls Loop (BSF in KY) **NEEDS LEADERS**

21 - Sat Little River, Huskey Gap, Sugarland Mtn & Rough Crk Trails

22 - Sun Laurel Branch Leviathan <off trail>

28 - Sat “Leader’s Choice” (What has Nan found?)

SHALL WE JUST SKIP THE SOCIAL EVENTS ?

NO! We need the Election Picnic and Installation Dinner.

But without more helpers, it could happen.

Only 4 HOURS per YEAR is all that these volunteers will be committed do.

We need four such good people.

If you are willing, please contact the President or Social Committee Chair.