

## Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for May 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.**

### CONTENTS: Items listed here for May

- 2 - Sat A.T. Work Trip
- 3 - Sun Allen Gap to Hot Springs (A.T.)
- 6 - Wed Little River, Huskey Gap to Sugarland Mtn Trail
- 9 - Sat *EZ*: Ace Gap Trail
- 9 - Sat Thunderhead via Thunderhead Prong
- 17 - Sun Roundtop Trail
- 20 - Wed Clingmans- A.T.- Miry Ridge- Jakes Creek
- 23 - Sat Standing Indian Mountain (A.T.)
- 25 - Mon Hemphill Bald +Rough Fork Loop
- 30 - Sat Sweat Heifer Creek from Newfound Gap

#### A.T. WORK TRIP

**May 2 – Saturday**

Work from Davenport Gap. Waterbars, etc. See ATMN for details.

#### ALLEN GAP TO HOT SPRINGS

**May 3 – Sunday**

This hike will climb along the Appalachian Trail from the state line at Hwy TN-70/NC-208 south to the small town of Hot Springs, NC, which is known for its naturally warmed hot tubs, whitewater rafting, and friendliness towards A.T. through-hikers. The hike begins at 2250' and climbs up Buzzard Roost Ridge, Spring Mtn (the high point at 3650'), and Rich Mtn before descending to the scenic Mill Ridge Pond, the infamous Lovers Leap, and the French Broad River at 1300'. Total elevation gain is about 3700' and loss is about 4700'. Since this hike is point to point, we will shuttle from Hot Springs to Allen Gap.

Meet at the **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** <see list> at 7 AM or Hot Springs Spa campground/store gravel parking area at 8:15. Trip mileages: drive- 140 {8¢=\$11.20}, hike- 14.7, rated difficult.

Leaders: Steven Miller 828-651-8165 Samiller71@rocketmail.com Dan Feller 865-673-5822

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

##### Two May Wednesdays

**May 6** Little River, Huskey Gap to Sugarland Mtn Trail Meet: Alcoa Food City at 8:00 7.6 Mi- Moderate

**May 20** Clingmans- AT- Miry Ridge- Jakes Creek 16 Mi -Strenuous PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR SHUTTLING  
Meet: Alcoa Food City 7:30 Joy Kelly 690-5958 joymkelly@gmail.com

#### ACE GAP TRAIL

##### **EASY, Short Hike:**

**May 9 - Saturday** 4.5 miles

A pleasant wildflower hike to old campsite #4 for lunch skirting the park boundary in places. Hope to see some pink lady's slippers. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 9 AM Priscilla Watts 966-4142 sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

#### THUNDERHEAD VIA THUNDERHEAD PRONG

**May 9 – Saturday**

This off-trail hike starts at the end of the Tremont Road where we take the manway path up lowermost Sams Creek and then up Thunderhead Prong about 2.75 miles. When the manway leaves the valley we head up Thunderhead Prong to the top of the Defeat Ridge manway which we reach after about 1.8 miles of rhododendron ducking and rock-hopping. A short way more on the manway will bring us to the A.T. on the western side of Thunderhead. If weather permits we may see views to the south from the ridge crest. We will then hike trail-north on the A.T. as far as Starkey Gap (about 2.5 miles) where we will descend steeply off-trail into the head of Starkey Creek and then down the manway along Sams Creek. Round trip

mileages: drive- 48 {8¢=\$3.80}, hike- about 11.5. This will be a difficult off-trail trip. Pre-registration is required.

Leaders: Dick Ketelle 483-3792 rhketelle@comcast.net

Alan Householder 908-9867

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### ROUNDTOP TRAIL

May 17 – Sunday

The initial ascent of Joint Ridge, gaining 800 feet, will take us around the eastern slope of Roundtop Mtn and continue westerly, at times nearing the Park boundary. Numerous wildflowers should be on display — a lady slipper count might be possible. There is a rumor that a "prize" has been placed somewhere along the trail. Finder = keeper. We return on the same path.

Meet Carolyn at 8 AM at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list>, or Ronnie at 8:30 at Wear Cove Gap. Hike in and out about 9 miles total; rated moderate. Drive 70 miles round trip {8¢=\$5.60}.

Leaders: Ronnie McGaha 423-625-0739 or 865-322-2752

Carolyn Reeves 865-717-3528

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### STANDING INDIAN MOUNTAIN (A.T.)

May 23 – Saturday

Starting at the Standing Indian Campground, we will do a very strenuous climb of about 2,800' in 4.2 miles on Lower Trail Ridge Trail up to the A.T. at Standing Indian Mountain (5,498') and take the 0.1 mile side trail to the summit to view the mountain ranges the A.T. follows to the south and west. After eating lunch here we, will descend on the A.T. about 2 miles to Deep Gap and complete the loop on the 3.7 mile Kimsey Creek Trail, which has many creek crossings and rocky sections. Hike is 10 miles, rated difficult.

Meet at the **ex Bi-Lo in Maryville** <see list> at 7 AM. Round trip drive is 220 miles {8¢=\$17.60} in 6 hours because of the curvy roads, including US-129 (the 'Dragon'). If you are prone to car sickness, this is not the drive for you. This will be approximately a 12 hour day.

Leaders: Pam Reddoch 588-1658

Keith Mertz 982-7368

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### HEMPHILL BALD + ROUGH FORK LOOP

May 25 – Monday

We'll join the Carolina Mountain Club for the annual Memorial Day hike which this year will be to Hemphill Bald. The trailhead is at Polls Gap on Balsam Mountain Road accessible from the Blue Ridge Parkway near Cherokee. The hike follows the Hemphill Bald Trail to the Bald. After lunch there, views and relaxation, one group will return to the cars the way they came, and a more ambitious group will hike down to the Caldwell Fork Trail and return to Polls Gap up the Rough Fork Trail. Hike either 11 or 13.7 miles with either 1700' or 2900' total of all climbs. Rated moderate or moderately difficult.

Meet at the **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 7:30. Round trip drive is 167 miles via Metcalf Bottoms {8¢=\$13.35}.

Leaders: (Jim Lowe 828-479-9271 jhlowejr@hotmail.com)

David Smith 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net

Becky Smucker (CMC)

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### SWEAT HEIFER CREEK FROM NEWFOUND GAP

May 30 – Saturday

Repeating a July 1994 venture: after 3.7 miles on trails, we reach the creek and begin a fairly difficult, steep 0.9-mile rock-hop and creek-side scramble to climb 1410' up to the A.T. near the Boulevard junction. If views are likely, we may visit the Jumpoff before returning on the A.T. An April 17 scouting party encountered way more water and difficulty than expected, and, pressed by time, turned back barely half way up. So at press time, the route is still only partially scouted. A bonus for more ambitious rock-hoppers is a chance to go down Walker Camp Prong to the highway— provided they have left a car there, they lead themselves, and the water is low enough to enjoy it.

Preregistration will be required. Only experienced off-trailer/ rock-hopper hikers need apply, and numbers will be limited. Rain, during or just prior to trip, will cancel it.

Leaders: Pam Reddoch 588-1658 preddoch@comcast.net

Connie Tatgenhorst 694-0831

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### COMING EVENTS - June

6 – Sat A.T. Work Trips = National Trails Day  
13-14 - S&S Walnut Bottoms Car Camp & Firefly Hike  
14 – Sun Dry Sluice Manway  
21 – Sun Gregory Bald (via Gregory Ridge Trail) {75th}  
27 – Sat Virginia Creeper Trail: Whitetop Station - Damascus

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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. **\*\*Caution: you *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  
**"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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