

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for June 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.

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3 – Wed	Big Ridge State Park
6 – Sat	A.T. Work Trips = National Trails Day
6 – Sat	EZ: Walker Sisters Cabin
10 – Wed	Ace Gap Trail
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 to Damascus

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY = A.T. WORK TRIPS

June 6 – Saturday

See ATMN for details. Register soon

>>> MID-WEEK HIKES <<<

Two June Wednesdays

- June 3** Big Ridge State Park 11 miles Shorter option possible. Mostly easy but partly difficult.
Meet: Oak Ridge *Rush* at 8:00 or Shell Station on TN-61 just east of I-75 exit 122 at 8:30.
- June 10** Ace Gap Trail in and out 11.2 miles Meet: Alcoa Food City at 8:00
Ron Brandenburg 482-5078 rbrandenburg@bellsouth.net

WALKER SISTERS CABIN

- EASY, Short Hike: June 6 - Saturday** 3.2 miles Meet: Alcoa Food City at 8:00.
Easy walking with stops at the Little Greenbrier School and cemetery. Bring lunch for afterward at Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area. Rae Jones 558-9154 knxrae@aol.com

WALNUT BOTTOMS FIREFLY HIKE and CAR CAMP June 13-14 – Saturday & Sunday

This early summer outing includes the opportunity to hike, camp, and observe a unique feature of the park, the synchronous fireflies. We will set up camp at the group camp site at Big Creek and enjoy a potluck dinner before our hike up the Big Creek Trail. The trail to Campsite 37 is wide with good footing and an elevation gain of about 1250 feet. At our destination, we will enjoy the firefly display before we return to the campground via the same route. We will hike out in the dark, so participants will need to bring flashlights to ensure a safe return. The cost of the group campsite will be shared among the campers. Space is limited. Those who do not wish to camp are welcome to join the group for the hike. **Pre-trip registration is required for both campers and non-campers.** For specific trip details and registration, contact one of the leaders.

Hike 10.2 miles, rated moderate. Drive 130 miles RT.

Leaders: Mary Anne Hoskins 523-1051 mhoskins@utk.edu Les Alley 690-3814

DRY SLUICE MANWAY June 14 - Sunday

It's a pleasant walk to campsite 31 at the end of the Porters Creek Trail. From there it is only 1.6 miles to the A.T. at Dry Sluice Gap, but with a climb of almost 2000'. The route becomes progressively steeper, until we scramble the last few hundred feet. We have decided to exit by way of Newfound Gap. If a few on-trail hikers could be persuaded to meet the off-trail hikers at Charlies Bunion, then we could all walk back to Newfound Gap together.

Perhaps a couple, or friends who have different hiking styles, might like to do this. Because of the logistics involved, pre- registration for both possible hikes will be needed. Main hike-10 miles, rated difficult with 3700' total climb; (8.4 miles for the Bunion-only hike). Drive about 100 miles RT {8¢=\$8}. Shuttle from Newfound Gap about 25 miles {8¢=\$2}.

Leaders: Terri Cox 408-0822 tc Cox@nxs.net

Ed Fleming 436-4719 edwrdfm@aol.com

A Park 75th
Anniversary
Hike

GREGORY BALD VIA GREGORY RIDGE June 21 – Sunday



This annual favorite of the SMHC is rightfully on the list of Smokies 75th anniversary hikes. We will enjoy azaleas in many colors and great views of the surrounding areas as hikers to Gregory Bald in mid-June have been for more than 75 years. We will climb to the bald via the Gregory Ridge Trail which gently ascends Forge Creek past Campsite #12 and then makes the rather steep climb to Rich Gap. The bald itself is half a mile beyond Rich Gap. After enjoying the views, the azaleas, and lunch, we will return to the parking area via the same route.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 90, hike- 10.8, rated moderately difficult due to the change in elevation.

Leaders: Tim Bigelow 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com Ed Fleming 436-4719 edwrdfm@aol.com

BIKE RIDE: VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL WHITETOP STATION TO DMASCUS June 28 – Sunday <note day change>

This is one of the premier bike trails in the U.S. The mostly downhill, 17.4 mile trail will take us from Whitetop Station to Damascus, VA. Adventure Damascus will provide shuttle service. Rental bikes are available. Round trip drive is 270 miles {8¢=\$21.60}.

Meet at 7:00 AM at **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** or 9:30 at Adventure Damascus bike shop in Damascus. Pre-registration is required as we only have a limited number of shuttle reservations. To pre-register, call or e-mail Bobby.

Leaders: Bobby Trotter 621-1646 whiteblazing@yahoo.com Gary McKenna 423-581-9248 mckenna36@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS - July

- 11 - Sat A.T. Work Trip (also on 18 - Sat)
- 11 - Sat Asbury – Long Bunk Loop
- 18 - Sat Clingmans to Elkmont via A.T.- Miry Ridge
- 25 - Sat Trout Branch to Mt. LeConte <off-trail>
- 25 - Sat Mt. LeConte via Alum Cave Trail

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: *still 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.

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

Always wanted to tell people where to go?

Then help your **program committee** with the 2010 club schedule. We need one new member for the committee, plus any and all trip ideas **from club members**. Contact hiramrogers@yahoo.com