



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

PO Box 51592, Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

December 2010

KALANU PRONG

December 4 – Saturday

This relatively short hike will offer great variety. From between the bridges at the start of Ramsey Cascades road, we will follow a gravel road that will take us to a large, very interesting cemetery to spend some time before continuing on an unmarked trail. There will be nice streamside views and remnants of old homesteads along the way. We will cross Woolly Tops Branch and then mostly ascend on an increasingly vague but easy to follow unmarked trail to one of the largest trees in the park – a specimen tulip poplar that must be seen to believe. We will lunch near this large tree, then follow the same route back.

Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** <see list> to leave at 9:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 90 {8¢=\$7.20}, hike- 5, rated easy-to-moderate (some blowdowns and some short but steep climbs).

Leaders: Mark & Heather Shipley 693-9795

INSTALLATION DINNER

December 11 – Saturday

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Social and Stroll around Grounds

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Dinner and Program*

Speaker: Dr. Mike Pelton, Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Science at University of Tennessee and Expert on Black Bears will present "A Bear for All Seasons."

In Addition: Opportunity to learn about and purchase Doris Gove's most recent book; view winning photos from the Photo Contest; enjoy the sounds of the Oak Ridge Madrigal Singers; and stroll the grounds and herb gardens overlooking the Tennessee River. *Program will include recognition of the hardest-working A.T. maintainers.

Place: University of Tennessee Visitor's Center (formerly the UT Faculty Club), - at corner of Kingston Pike and Neyland Drive

Cost: \$15.00 per person (no charge for 50+ years members)

Entrée choices: Chicken Piccata w/ Roasted Red Potatoes and Steamed Fresh Vegetables

or Portobello Mushroom w/ Spinach & Accordion Potatoes

Reservation deadline: Saturday, December 4th (no cancellations after Wednesday, December 8th)

Register on the SMHC Web site or call/email with meal choice:

Jeanette Gilbert: 483-8774 corsica@nxs.net

Carol Kerr: 922-3920 carolandbill4033@aol.com

Priscilla Watts: 966-4142 sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

The Social Committee looks forward to seeing you at the new venue!

—Debbie Goddard, Social Chair

CROOKED ARM RIDGE- SCOTT MOUNTAIN LOOP

December 12 – Sunday

From the parking area at the entrance to the Cades Cove loop road, we start as if to do the Rich Mountain Loop. But, after climbing the Crooked Arm Ridge Trail to the top, we descend Scott Mountain Trail to Schoolhouse Gap, close to the half-way point. We continue down the

Schoolhouse Gap Trail to the Turkeypen Ridge Trail which we travel to the Crib Gap Trail. We ascend that and descend to Anthony Creek Trail to the Cades Cove picnic area and back to our start point.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 7:00 AM or at the trailhead at 7:45. Pre-registration with leader is encouraged as changes may be needed due to weather conditions.

Round trip mileages: drive- 56 {8¢=\$4.50}, hike- 13.2, rated difficult, due to length and short day.

Leaders: Lenny Croce 719-0449 lenny.croce@gmail.com

Cindy Spangler 776-1301 spangler@utk.edu

CT: OBED: NEMO to ALLEY FORD

December 18 – Saturday

Come join the leaders for a hike along the Obed River. Since this weekend is a scheduled hunt, we will only go from Nemo Bridge to Alley Ford and return the same way. This short segment will not be too difficult and we will have plenty of time to enjoy the scenery along the river as well as to eat a leisurely lunch. We will be hiking in in a hunting safety zone, but will border hunting areas. Though not required, if you have blaze orange apparel, consider wearing it. This segment offers good views of the river, rock cliffs and bluffs. The trail is rocky, however, with some rock steps, so care with footing is needed. After an early lunch we will return to the cars. As always, come prepared for potentially bad and changeable late fall weather.

Meet at 8:30 AM at the **Rush in Oak Ridge** <see list>. Round trip mileages: drive- 60 {8¢=\$4.80}, hike- 5.2, rated easy to moderate.

Leaders: John Roberts 494-7431 jjwrobe@bellsouth.net

Guy Griffin 482-1295 griffingd@ornl.gov

MT. LECONTE VIA RAINBOW FALLS & BULLHEAD

December 26 – Sunday

Join us as we end 2010 on a high note with magnificent views from Mt. LeConte. We will put the hustle and bustle aside to enjoy this hike to Mt. LeConte via Rainbow Falls and return via Bullhead Trail. This difficult hike will burn away some of those extra holiday calories. The sight of Rainbow Falls could only be matched by the overlook views that will follow as we ascend almost 4,000' to LeConte. Uncertain winter conditions could force revision of our plans.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** at 7:00 <see list>, or at the Rainbow Falls Trailhead at 8:00. Round trip mileages: drive- 85, hike- 13.5, rated difficult. Be prepared for ice and snow, cold and early darkness.

Leader: Doug Weaver 235-2076 pitdoug1998@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS – January 2011

- 1 - Sat Ramsey Cascade (still needs co-leader)
- 8 - Sat Knoxville History Hike
- 15 - Sat New Members Hike: Norris State Park and Watershed
- 16 - Sun FHSP: Chimney Tops-Spicewood
- 23 - Sat Emory Tract at Frozen Head
- 30 - Sun Ash Hopper Branch <Easy off trail>

MEETING PLACES: "Comcast on Asheville Hwy" = From exit 394 ramp off I-40 go left (east) on Asheville Hwy, US-11E/25W/70, to signal light at top of hill; turn right, down into Comcast lot. Park to left of entry, about 2 lanes over toward the exit end of lot.

"Food City in Alcoa"= on right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots

"the Rush in Oak Ridge"= (same lot as Books-a-Million) 3-1/2 traffic lights in, coming from Knoxville; on left, opposite WalMart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. in front of the Rush.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Gerald (Jerry) Amacker	vtjerry@att.net	414-1976
	2848 Mossy Oaks Ln.	Knoxville 37921
Susan Watson Arbital	susanwatson3907@gmail.com	765-9379
	10641 Rivermist Ln.	Knoxville 37922
Art Cate	cate_37918@yahoo.com	688-0598
	3701 Garden Dr.	Knoxville 37918
Cindy Gary McCrary	gdmccrary@yahoo.com	765-8383
	2125 Jakes Walk Ln.	Knoxville 37932
John Cox	jdncqn2@comcast.net	
	3665 Springetts Dr.	York, PA 17406

FOR THE RECORD

Snake Den Ridge/Maddron Bald/Gabes Mtn September 12, 2010
 We started this hike from the Snake Den Ridge trailhead at Cosby Campground After a hard rain the night before, we began the misty morning in dense fog. Combine that with the fact that we climbed approx. 3,000' in the first 4.6 miles and you get some sweaty and hungry bodies. After our first of two short meal breaks, 5 of the 10 hikers traversed a steep, rock-strewn incline to a junction with the Maddron Bald Trail. Trena was kind of enough to escort the other 4 hikers back down the Snake Den Ridge trail for a hearty 9.2 mile out and back. Rebekah, Terri, Cindy, Lori and I slipped and splashed through 15 total creek crossings as we connected with the Gabes Mountain Trail to complete the loop. Several more crossings had a log footbridge or were insignificant. We hoped for a glimpse of sunlight and eventually it dappled the trail with brilliance, making for a bright, sunshiny finish to the day. This scrappy group trekked 18 miles from car to car in 8.5 hours! And, of course, we stopped in at the Carver Family Apple Orchards for some homemade apple pies and goodies...Yum. — Craig Hutto

Cumberland Falls S.P.: River Trail Loop October 10, 2010
 Ten members and 3 visitors enjoyed a warm October Hiking Day without a cloud in the sky all day. This 7-mile hike had a wide range of sights to see but, the highlights of the day were the awesome falls and the newly reconstructed Pinnacle Knob Fire Tower. The mist from the falls was rising twice as high as the falls itself and in one picture created three halos. The leaders were able to pull off their promised surprise. At exactly high noon, a park naturalist appeared and briefed the group on the fire tower, the reconstruction, and how they were used in the olden days. Once he had the upper deck unlocked and the alarm off, he showed us the furnishings that had been added to the upper deck and also demonstrated how the equipment was used many years earlier to figure out exactly where a fire was located. The catwalk around the upper structure allowed for some very nice views and photos. The tower was originally constructed in 1937 and restored in 2008 and is a sight to see. If you elected to stay home on the couch instead of joining us on this hike, you missed a DANDY!!!! — Lynda Bryan & Jim Quick

Mt. Cammerer via Chestnut Branch October 16, 2010
 Sixteen club members and three visitors found a packed parking lot at Big Creek as we began this popular hike up to Mt Cammerer. A great destination any time of the year, Mt Cammerer is especially breath-taking during the fall season. We were not disappointed at the top where we were rewarded with wonderful fall colors and sunshine on the rocks at the fire tower. The Club off-trail group joined us just as we were about ready to make our descent back down the mountain. Just another day in paradise! — Debra Barton & Chris Hamilton

Elkmont to Tremont key swap October 23, 2010
 Twelve club members and three visitors enjoyed an incredible October sky and beautiful colors on this Elkmont to Tremont hike. While arranging a key swap at our meeting place in Alcoa, a third group of Sevier County Club member hikers shuttled cars for the hike from Elkmont to Tremont. The newly paved road at Elkmont offers abundant parking at Little River and a few hikers inadvertently enjoyed a few extra miles on that trail before meeting the uphill hikers from Tremont on Jake's Creek. Special thanks to the Sevier County hikers for the extra car shuttle and to Mary Brewer and Jack Millsbaugh for co-leading the downhill group. We could not have ordered a more picture-perfect day and great friends to work together to capture another great opportunity to enjoy the mountains. — Debra Barton & Chris Hamilton / Mary Brewer & Jack Millsbaugh

Indian Camp Branch October 31, 2010
 Seven members and one visitor enjoyed a beautiful day with plenty of Fall leaf color on the easy off-trail hike up Indian Camp Branch. Due to the shortness of this part of the trip it was extended to hike a part of the Little Greenbrier, Little Brier Gap, and Metcalf Bottoms Trails. Old home sites, artifacts, and a hog trap no longer used found on Indian Camp Br were of considerable interest. Most of the group also visited the Walker Sisters homesite on the Little Brier Gap Trail. — Ray Payne & Ed Fleming

Big Branch – Mt. Sterling November 7, 2010
 A chilly, snowy morning awaited 3 members at the start. Not knowing how much snow would be on the manway, we took the Baxter Creek Trail instead. After hiking for one mile, we reached the snow line. The snow allowed us to see the tracks of several. One place had many orange leaves that had fallen upon pristine, white snow. Was it a possible celebration by Mother Nature of the UT football victory the previous night? Not much further, we also saw a solitary snowflake hanging by one strand of a spider's web, as if it were a crystal ornament hanging from a tree. Unfortunately, one member had to turn around before reaching the summit so she and a co-leader returned while the other leader climbed onward to the top to take many photos. The cool air on top was very clear, affording views unlike most seen during the summer. Everyone enjoyed unique sights in the Smokies, offered to us only on snowy days. — Steven Miller & Chris Sass

< SMHC Newsletter Editor: Charlie Klabunde 483-8055 >
 < Send writeups in e-mail to: KlabundeCE@aol.com >

< Please: Not by Attachment. In the e-mail is preferred. >

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SMHCLUB.ORG
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