

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for February 2010

(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.)

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Area Code, unless otherwise noted, is 865.

Have YOU Paid Your Dues ? If not, we'll send a renewal form.

This applies to PDF users the same as any other (non-Life) member.

CONTENTS: Items listed here for February

6 - Sat	Big Ridge State Park
19 - Wed	Curry Mtn. to Meigs Mtn. +1/4 mi to cemetery
13 - Sat	Rich Mountain Loop
14 - Sun	BSFRRA: Angel Falls Overlook
17 - Wed	Lumber Ridge - Spruce Flats Manway
20 - Sat	Stone House
20-21 - S&S	Backpack: CT: Prentice Cooper State Forest
27 - Sat	EZ: Little Greenbrier Trail to Walker Sister's Home
28 - Sun	Ijams Nature Center

BIG RIDGE STATE PARK February 6 - Saturday

Big Ridge State Park comprises historic cemeteries, a haunted house, the site of an eighteenth century fort, a CCC dam, and many other faint traces of 19th and early 20th century inhabitants. The park forests have suffered pine bark beetle damage which may affect condition of trails. We hope to make a loop of 9-10 miles including the Lake, Ghost House, Big Valley, and Indian Rock Loop Trails. Most of these trails are moderate, however, parts of the Indian Rock Loop are extremely steep and so lightly maintained as to be more of a manway than a trail. Weather and the inclination of the group will determine how much of that Loop we include.

Meet at **Merchants Drive** <see list> at 8:30 or Big Ridge Visitor Center at 9:00. Round trip mileages: drive- 60 {8¢=\$4.80}, hike- 9-10. Rated moderate, except for those possible steep sections.

Leaders: Claudia Dean 673-5822 claudiadean@bellsouth.net John Kirkpatrick 927-2501 jxk@esper.com

RICH MOUNTAIN LOOP February 13 - Saturday

Our hike begins just beyond the start of the Cades Cove Loop road. We will take the Rich Mountain Loop Trail along a meadow and turn right onto Crooked Arm Ridge Trail. On the right we hope to see a small wet-weather waterfall. As we climb, weather permitting, there should be excellent views of Cades Cove, the Great Smokies main range, Dry Valley and Tuckaleechee Cove. We will have lunch on Cerulean Knob at the top of Rich Mountain and will then continue along Indian Grave Gap Trail and re-join a somewhat rocky Rich Mountain Loop Trail down to the log cabin of John Oliver, one of the early settlers in Cades Cove. We will then continue for about one more mile back to our starting point where hot cider will await!

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 56 {8¢=\$4.50}, hike- 8.5, rated moderate.

Leaders: Cindy Spangler 776-1301 spangler@utk.edu Jenny Macfie 386-8450 macfie@utk.edu

BSFRRA: ANGEL FALLS OVERLOOK February 14 - Sunday

From the Leatherwood Ford Parking area we will cross the river on the low water bridge and hike along beside the river. At 1.9 miles the trail crosses Fall Branch on a footbridge and begins the climb up to the overlook. There are a few climbs over rocks and up one wooden ladder to reach the bluff-top. Elevation gain is about 500 feet from the river. There is a beautiful view of the Cumberland Plateau, the

Big South Fork winding through the gorge, and the Angel Falls rapids. We will return by the same route. If the hikers are interested, we may stop for dinner on the way back.

Meet at **Merchants Dr.** <see list> at 8:30. Round trip mileages: drive- 130 {8¢=\$10.40}, hike- 5.6, rated moderate.

Leaders: Andy Zimmerman 579-0497 andyz2@juno.com
Margarita Velandia 806-252-6085

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

Two February Wednesdays

Feb 10 Curry Mtn. to Meigs Mtn. +1/4 mi to cemetery, and return.

Meet: Alcoa Food City at 8:00 Drive 53, hike 7.1 mi.

James Stanley 734-735-2251 j_stanley46@yahoo.com & Terri Mclean 599-6755 tmctoil@aol.com

Feb 17 Lumber Ridge - Spruce Flats Manway 8 mi loop Includes Spruce Flats Falls.

Meet 8:30 at Alcoa Food City Brian Schloff 387-1183 brianschloff@yahoo.com

STONE HOUSE

February 20 – Saturday

This hike follows the Old Sugarlands Trail from the Visitor Center for about 2 miles, and then 1.3 miles off-trail via traces of old roads to the "recently rediscovered" Stone House on Big Branch in the upper Sugarlands Valley. The Park Archaeologist believes the stone building was built by the CCC as a lodge, perhaps for visiting VIP's. Items found in the building date back to 1933-1942. The structure is unusual in that the walls are built almost entirely of stone and stand 18 feet tall. A small attached area with a shed roof and concrete floor was used for cooking over a kerosene stove. The loft and gabled roof have been removed and a fallen tree has damaged the walls. On the return trip, we will visit the Sugarlands Cemetery and the Sugarlands CCC site.

Meet at the **Asheville Hwy Food Lion** at 8:30 or the Old Sugarlands Trail head at 9:30 Round trip mileages: drive- 80 {8¢=\$6.40}, hike about 6, elevation gain 700', rated easy, although a rock-hop across Big Branch is necessary to visit the house.

Leaders: Bob Hawthorne 693-6522 rehawthorne@comcast.net
Ralph Herbert 588-6785 ralph.herbert@comcast.net

CT: PRENTICE COOPER STATE FOREST BACKPACK

February 20-21 (Saturday & Sunday)

<We have swapped the scheduled 11/13-14 & 2/21-22 hikes.>

We will visit the southern end of the Cumberland Trail in Prentice Cooper State Forest and hike the Pot Point loop. This loop includes fabulous views of the Tennessee River Gorge at several locations, a 30' high natural bridge and other features. We will camp at McNabb Gulf campsite and finish the loop with a short hike on Sunday. A quick side trip to the Indian Rock House and Stone Door will be included.

Pre-registration with the leader is required. Round trip mileages: drive- 250 {8¢=\$20}, hike- 12. Rated moderate.

Leader: Tim Bigelow 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com

LITTLE GREENBRIER TRAIL TO WALKER SISTER'S HOME

EASY, Short Hike: February 27- Saturday 5 miles

Meet at Alcoa Food City at 9. Priscilla Watts 966-4142 sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

IJAMS NATURE CENTER

February 28 – Sunday

We will explore this 165 acre sanctuary jewel of our community. Bring your hiking stick for the brief climb up the bluff around Meads Quarry. We will then continue on the Will Skelton Trail and explore the river walk. Length of the hike will be at the discretion of the participants. If you haven't been to Ijams, it is a great place to explore. Rated easy to moderate due to the brief climb.

Meet at the main parking lot at Ijams at 9 a.m. Call if you need directions.

Leaders: Barbara Allen 558-9214 allen745139@bellsouth.net & Jewel Tabor

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.

"Food City in Alcoa"= on right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots
"Merchants Dr" = off I-75 at exit 108, Merchants Dr, west towards Clinton Hwy. Park in front part of large lot at Outback Steakhouse, near McDonalds

COMING EVENTS - March

- 5 – Fri Spring Photo Show (Oak Ridge)
 - 6 - Sat A.T. Work Trip
 - 7 – Sun Cumberland Trail: Cove Lake S.P. ↔ New River
 - 11 – Thu Backpacking Skills Workshop
 - 21 - Sun Spruce Flats Falls Plus
 - 28 - Sun Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness
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