



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

PO Box 51592, Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

July 2010

A.T. WORK TRIP None scheduled this month

>>> MID-WEEK HIKE <<<

One July Wednesday

July 7 Newfound Gap- Dry Sluice Gap- Grassy Branch Trail- Kephardt Prong- US-441 10.3 mi Meet: Alcoa Food City at 8 Ron Shrieves 922-3518 ronaldshrieves@comcast.net

CITICO CREEK WILDERNESS BACKPACK

July 10-11 – Saturday-Sunday

Citico Creek is one of Tennessee's largest (16,226 acres) and most scenic wilderness areas, with one of its prime assets being the beautiful Citico Creek. On Saturday we'll hike the South Fork Trail from the Warden Station area (1,720') to the upper reaches of Citico Creek and camp. On Sunday we'll continue hiking on up the South Fork Trail to the high mountain ridges at Cold Springs Gap (4,400'). We will then follow the Benton MacKaye/Fodderstack Trail over to the Bush Mountain Trail and descend it back to the Warden Station. Preregistration will be required.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 8 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 140 {8¢=\$11.20}, hike- 14.4, rated moderate.

Leader: Will Skelton 523-2272 whshome@bellsouth.net

BIG CREEK: MIDNIGHT HOLE

July 17 – Saturday

Pack a lunch and swim suit and join us on an easy hike. Big Creek Trail follows an old roadway built by the CCC in the 1930s. The trail gently ascends along Big Creek, one of the most picturesque creeks in the park. Our destination is 1.4 miles to Midnight Hole. "Here the waters of Big Creek flow between two large boulders and pour six feet into a large, deep, green pool nestled at the base of a high rhododendron covered bluff." It's the ideal swimming hole on a hot Saturday in July. There will be plenty of time to swim and explore the creek. We will start back to cars at 2.

Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** <see list> at 9 AM (don't want to wake the kiddies too early). Round trip mileages: drive- 120 {8¢=\$9.60}, hike- 3, rated easy.

Leaders: Lenny Croce 719-0449 lenny.croce@gmail.com
Debbie Goddard 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

CHARLIES BUNION

July 18 – Sunday <note date change>

This classic hike has awed and inspired generations of hikers. From busy Newfound Gap, the hike proceeds "northward" along the A.T. The first quarter mile likely gets the heaviest use of any trail segment in the park. However, as the path narrows and steepens, the hiking pleasure increases. Summer wildflowers should be in full swing. Icewater Springs provides a chance to pause before or after proceeding to the rocky ledge known as Charlies Bunion, with its views of Mt. LeConte, the Porters Creek valley, Greenbrier Pinnacle and the Sawteeth. The very popular Bunion was created by a catastrophic 1925 fire and two subsequent cloudbursts,

which denuded the steep slopes. SMHC member Harvey Broome provided vivid descriptions of several hikes to Charlies Bunion, including a 1927 hike with Wiley Oakley, in Out Under the Sky of the Great Smokies. We will proceed to the less traveled "real" bunion just a bit north and 100 yards off the trail. If possible, we will visit the Jumpoff prior to returning via the A.T.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 7:30 AM or at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 100, hike- 8.5 (the Jumpoff adds 1), rated moderate.

Leaders: Philip Royer & Betty Royer 694-0160
broyer@knology.net

MT. LECONTE VIA BOULEVARD TRAIL

July 24 – Saturday

From Newfound Gap along the AT it's 2.7 miles to the Boulevard. We will then hike a rambling 5.4 miles northward on and near the crest of the Boulevard to the summit of Mt. LeConte. After about three minutes on the Boulevard, some may choose to visit the Jumpoff (a one-mile RT side trip). We should have some panoramic views with a gradual climb to the summit. With the elevation always above 5,500', we shouldn't get overly warm. It is a land of spruce and fir and high-altitude wildflowers. We will see remnants of big trees felled by Hurricane Opal in October 1995. We may check out this year's t-shirt choice and test the rockers at the Lodge. Weather permitting, we'll plan to visit Myrtle Point for lunch and the views. After enjoying some time on the rocks, we'll return via the same.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 8:00 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 110 {8¢=\$8.80}, hike- 16.2, rated moderate to difficult due to length.

Leaders: Debra Barton 494-0276 dgbarton@comcast.net
Jim Quick 660-3351 jqhiker37@aol.com

MT. LECONTE VIA STYX BRANCH

July 24 – Saturday

This year's off trail hike to Mount LeConte will begin on the Alum Cave Trail. We will follow this trail to a little above Arch Rock where we begin our off trail route up Styx Branch. We will rock hop and scramble up this drainage and the mountain side to Myrtle Point. After a visit to the lodge, we will return via Alum Cave Trail.

To minimize impact to the mountain, the group will be limited to 8 including the leaders - pre-registration required. Hike about 9 miles, rated difficult. Drive 110 miles RT.

Leaders: Ed Fleming 436-4719 edwrdfm@aol.com
Mark Shipley 693-9795 mark.shipley@townoffarragut.org

"FAVORITE HIKES IN THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST"

July 29 - Thursday Evening

Will Skelton will highlight some of his favorite trails from HBG's *Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide*. Cosponsored by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club, and SMHC, this program will begin at 7 PM in the Social Room at the Oak Ridge Civic Center (1403 Oak Ridge Tpk, opposite the High School).

More info: Sandra Goss 522-3809 sandra@sandrakgoss.com

HASTIE NATURAL AREA

EASY, Short Hike: July 31 - Saturday ~ 4 miles

Meet at Ijams at 9:30 AM. Come explore this newly opened natural area near Ijams and enjoy homemade blueberry crisp afterwards. Bring lunch.

Debbie Goddard 382-3047 debbiegoddard@bellsouth.net

Gary McKenna 423-581-9248 g.mckenna36@gmail.com

PALMER CREEK – CATALOOCHEE VALLEY

July 31 – Saturday

Enjoy a summer outing hiking along beautiful cascading streams in the Cataloochee Valley. This hike begins at the Pretty Hollow Gap trailhead, near the stables. We will follow Pretty Hollow Gap Trail up to the junction of Palmer Creek Trail. From here we will continue to follow Palmer Creek as we gradually climb up to Pin Oak Gap. Return on same route. After the hike, explore some of the historic buildings in the valley and catch a glimpse of the elk that now call the valley their home.

Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** <see list> at 8:00; or Cataloochee Stable / trailhead at 10:30. Round trip mileages: drive- 183, hike- 9.2, rated moderate.

Leaders: Franklin LaFond 357-9908 ox97game@aol.com

David Smith 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net

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

COMING EVENTS – August

- 7 – Sat A.T. Work Trip
- 8 – Sun Clingmans Dome to Silers Bald
- 14 – Sat Election Picnic
- 21 – Sat “Leaders Choice”
- 22 – Sun Stratton Bald, Haeo, and Hangover
- 28 – Sat Bike Ride: Cades Cove Loop

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Peter E. Berntsen rennur99@bellsouth.net 483-6458
 104 Hutton Lane Oak Ridge 37830

Cindi W. DeBusk cgdebusk@comcast.net 679-7654
 & Madison Wilder 2536 Cunningham Rd. Knoxville 37918

Lori Hill LLH4@rocketmail.com 423/526-8060
 740 Panther Creek Rd. Morristown 37814

Got Hike Ideas? *Your Program Committee* is still accepting suggestions for hikes for the 2011 events calendar. Please send your hike ideas to any committee member (hiramrogers@yahoo.com), or better yet, post your ideas on the club’s message board at www.smhclub.org

FOR THE RECORD

Cow Flats- Wooly Tops Prong

May 22, 2010

Five hikers including one visitor did this easy off-trail hike to Cow Flats and down Wooly Tops Prong. From a bit short of the Ramsay Cascades parking, they found an old roadway to follow into this site. The location of 3 stillborn baby graves near a Whaley family former house site, initially located by Glenn Cardwell using the “high tech” method known as dowsing, was demonstrated by one of the leaders. All tried out this “technology”, and mostly remained skeptical. The locations of four baby graves were similarly identified at the Andy Huff house site on Wooly Tops Prong. Skepticism continued. It was an enjoyable trip with wildflowers, Mountain Laurel, and very good weather. All appreciated that none of the forecast showers fell on the Greenbrier on this day. Thanks to Barbara Allen for co-leading. — Ray Payne

Brushy Mtn from Greenbrier

May 29, 2010

All nine members doing this hike waited a couple miles up the trail for a good sized rattlesnake lying across the trail to finally crawl away. We counted at least eight kinds of wildflower blooms along the way. At the top we had a fine view of LeConte for a few minutes, unobstructed by the persistent clouds. — Carolyn Reeves & Andy Zimmerman

Plott Balsams

May 31, 2010

This year’s joint Memorial Day hike with the Carolina Mountain Club started off with 26 hikers (10 from SMHC) at the Waterrock Knob Overlook parking area off the Blue Ridge Parkway. The rain started along with the hike, but luckily it was mostly drizzle, no thunder or lightning, and combined with the high elevation, helped keep the hikers from getting too hot while traversing rough, steep terrain, with lots of briars. One hiker decided to return to the parking area after ascending Waterrock Knob. A couple of hikers headed back after crossing Browning Knob, leaving 23 to hike all the way to Lyn Lowry, where we enjoyed lunch. The decision to turn back at that point was unanimous, and SMHC hikers led the way back. After the hike, we enjoyed a refreshing, flavorful watermelon at the parking area. Some members expressed an interest in returning to bag Plott Balsam and Yellowface. For those who want to try that, more info is at <http://carolinamtclub.org/hikedetails.asp?which=Plott+Balsams>

— Rebekah Bell & Ed Fleming

< 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

See our **Message Board** there.

>> NEWCOMER TO HIKING WITH SMHC ? <<

Some hints: Our ‘difficulty ratings’ are gauged to SMHC members with some experience with our hikes, *not* to the general public, nor to sometime or flatland hikers who are all likely to find our ‘easy, moderate, or difficult’ seem to *under*-rate the difficulty. Always be prepared for worse weather (wetter, colder) than expected. Wear adequate boots. Bring rainwear, water, spare food. **Expect to reimburse driver about 8 cents per mile.** Doubts? Call a leader.