

## Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Schedule for September 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.

### CONTENTS: Items listed here for September

5 - Sun	Cucumber Gap Loop
8 - Wed	West Prong Trail- Bote Mtn- Schoolhouse Gap- Chestnut Top- the "Y"
12 - Sun	Maddron Bald via Snake Den Mtn <date shift>
17-19 – Fri-Sun	Multi-Club Meet (Car Camp & Hikes): Rocky Fork
22 - Wed	North Boundary Trail loop in Oak Ridge
26 - Sun	Chimney Tops

### CUCUMBER GAP LOOP September 5 – Sunday

Join us to celebrate Labor Day weekend with a pleasant and leisurely walk in the Elkmont area. We will stroll up the Little River Trail, enjoying the sound of rushing water and the sights of late summer. Heading to the right onto Cucumber Gap Trail, a bit of a climb takes us over the gap, named for the cucumber magnolia trees of this area (the "cucumbers" can often be seen on this trail). After meandering alongside the mountain and crossing a few (hopefully) small streams, we meet up with Jakes Creek Trail for a rather steep descent to Jakes Creek Road, a short portion of which we will walk to complete our loop.

The Jakes Creek Road and its trailheads have been closed this summer, but are supposed to re-open in time for our hike. If they don't, we will do a comparable hike somewhere on the Little River side of GSMNP. If you plan to meet us at the trailhead, you should check with a leader or the Park to confirm the road re-opening.

Meet at **Food City in Alcoa** <see list> at 8:30 AM. Round trip mileages: drive- 94 {8¢=\$7.50}, hike- 5.5, rated easy.

Leaders: Cata Folks 982-3890

Tom Ranz 428-5076 teranz\_nhd@yahoo.com

### MADDRON BALD VIA SNAKE DEN RIDGE September 12 – Sunday <date change>

This may be one of the best hikes the Smokies has to offer. There are streams and waterfalls galore. From Cosby Campground we climb 3000' in 4.6 miles up the Snake Den Ridge Trail to our high point where we turn onto the Maddron Bald Trail. It's 1 mile over to the top of the Bald where we'll pause for lunch. Depending on the weather, creek water levels, and leaders choices, we may either return the way we came (11.2 miles RT), or go ahead down the MBT and the Indian Camp Creek Trail to meet the Gabes Mountain Trail, which will take us back to the Campground for a total hike of 17.5 miles. Due to the distance, and the climb, it is rated **strenuous**.

Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** <see list> at 8 AM. Drive 122 miles RT {8¢=\$9.75}.

Leaders: Craig Hutto 591-7632

Trena Paulus 696-2669

### MULTI-CLUB MEET ROCK CREEK CAMPGROUND (near Erwin) September 17-19 – Friday - Sunday

A "multi-club lite" hiking weekend is planned which includes possible hikes inside the recently preserved Rocky Fork area, and nearby sections of the A.T. This is a joint effort with Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing club, the ATC and other A.T. clubs in the area. See the box below about the base camp at Rock Creek Recreation area. Check out the meeting announcement at the club web site for further details on hikes. The originally hoped-for Saturday hike is a 10 mile loop through the Rocky Fork interior including a section of the AT. On Sunday several shorter hikes are suggested.

Meet at **Comcast** Friday at 5:30 PM. Drive 240 miles RT. (Or come on your own; see route below.)  
Hike 15? Rated moderate and difficult.

Leaders: Tim Bigelow 607-6781 bigelowt2@mindspring.com Joe DeLoach TEHCC joedelo@eastman.com

**Rock Creek Recreation Area** Forest Service camp- ground near Erwin, TN (Rock Creek Rd., TN-395) <No pre-registration nor reservations>

*Participants provide own food & beverages*

**List of Potential Hikes**

**Saturday**

**AT: Spivey Gap to Sams Gap;** 14 miles

**AT: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mtn. Gap;** 11 miles

**AT: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River;** 11 miles

**AT: Devil Fork Gap to Big Rocks;** 14 miles

**Rocky Fork interior hike;** ~10 miles?

**Sunday** (shorter hikes to allow for travel time home)

**AT: Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River;** 8 miles

**AT: Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap;** 9 miles

**Rock Creek Falls;** 6 miles

**AT: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot;** 5 miles

**AT: Sams Gap to Street Gap;** 4 miles

Rock Creek Campground fees:

Tent site, no electric hook-up- \$10/day, with hook-up- \$15/day; double site with hook-up- \$30/day; day use area fee- \$2/day/car.

For more info and directions:

Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club ([www.tehcc.org](http://www.tehcc.org))

Unaka Mountain Recreation Zone ([www.fs.fed.us/r8/charokee/recreation/roz\\_nunaka.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/charokee/recreation/roz_nunaka.shtml))

Cherokee National Forest camping information ([www.fs.fed.us/r8/charokee/recreation/camping.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/charokee/recreation/camping.shtml))

**Driving** from Knoxville: I-40, I-81 to exit 23, US-11 thru Greeneville, TN-107 into Erwin, TN-395 3.1 miles to Rattlesnake Ridge Trail into camp.

**CHIMNEY TOPS  
September 26 – Sunday**

The Chimney Top is a remarkable vantage point— one looks up at the nearby surrounding peaks: LeConte- from Balsam Point to Myrtle Point, Mt. Mingus, and Sugarland Mountain to name some. On our way up the 1450' climb to get there, we'll see how the trail has held up to the many, many feet that tread on it each year. And we'll be doing our bit at a gentle pace. Forget the reputation of one of the leaders for speed; that was in the past; things are different now. But don't forget that what goes up must come down. And this is steep enough to affect sensitive knees.

Meet at 7:30 at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** <see list>.

Round trip mileage: drive- 99, hike- 4.0, rated moderate.

Leaders: Charlie Klabunde 483-8055 [klabundece@aol.com](mailto:klabundece@aol.com)

Patti Grady 483-7360 [gradykidsmom@aol.com](mailto:gradykidsmom@aol.com)

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

**Two September Wednesdays**

**Sept 8** West Prong Trail- Bote Mtn- Schoolhouse Gap- Chestnut Top- the "Y" 10.3 mi.

Meet: Alcoa Food City 8:00 Michael Zielinski 363-6527 [kf4yws@comcast.net](mailto:kf4yws@comcast.net)

**Sept 22** North Boundary Trail loop in Oak Ridge 12.5 mi. Meet: *the Rush* 8:00

Angie Warren 947-1534 [angiewarren\\_66@comcast.net](mailto:angiewarren_66@comcast.net) & Ron Brandenburg 482-5078

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots

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

**PHOTO CONTEST**

Submissions: Sept 15 — Oct 3. Mail or hand deliver to Dianne Gruber, 601 Black Forest Dr., Maryville, TN 37801, or Chuck Janack, 9004 Camero Ln., Knoxville, TN 37923.

Questions: 865-599-5165 [gruber.d.r@gmail.com](mailto:gruber.d.r@gmail.com) Rules in the 2010Handbook, p.48

## COMING EVENTS - October

- A.T. Work Trips
  - 3 - Sun Sugarlands to Fighting Creek Gap
  - 10 - Sun Cumberland Falls SP: River Trail Loop
  - 15 - Fri Photo Show (Knoxville, with Contest Results)
  - 16 - Sat Mt. Cammerer via Chestnut Branch Trail
  - 16 - Sat Mt. Cammerer via Rowdy Ridge <off trail>
  - 23 - Sat Elkmont to Tremont
  - 30 - Sat Buffalo Arch (BSFNRRRA)
  - 31 - Sun Indian Camp Branch – Easy Off Trail
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