



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

February 2012

RICH MOUNTAIN LOOP February 4 – Saturday

Starting at Cades Cove, we will go a short distance on the Rich Mtn Loop Trail. Then we start climbing Crooked Arm Ridge. Continuing along the Indian Grave Gap Trail we will have views of Cades Cove and the mountains beyond. Lunch will be at our highest point, Cerulean Knob. From here we soon start our decent via the Rich Mtn Loop Trail to the John Oliver Cabin in the Cove. The Loop Trail takes us back to our cars.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** <see list> at 9:00. Hike 8.5 miles, rated moderate. Drive 56 miles round trip {8¢=\$4.50}.

Leaders: David Smith 984-4621 dcshiker@bellsouth.net
John Smiley 258-0989 johnsmiley55@bellsouth.net

MADDRON BALD AND GABES MOUNTAIN TRAILS **HIKE FOR SINGLES**

February 11 – Saturday
Note Date switch from Feb. 12

After leaving a car or cars at the Gabes Mountain Trailhead in the Cosby Campground, we'll drive to the Maddron Bald Trail where we will begin our hike. The 1.2 mile section of Maddron Bald that takes us to our junction with Gabes Mountain passes the Willis Baxter cabin and includes about a 500' climb. At the junction, we'll begin our gentle climb on the Gabes Mountain Trail to campsite 34 where we'll pause for a snack before continuing mostly downhill to Hen Wallow Falls where we'll enjoy lunch before returning to the cars at the campground.

Meet at **Asheville Hwy Comcast** <see list> at 8:30. Hike 7.8 miles, rated moderate. Drive 142 miles RT {8¢=\$11.40}.

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

CT: BLACK MOUNTAIN TO WINDLASS CAVE February 12 – Sunday

Note Date switch from Feb. 11

We begin this hike at a large paved parking lot atop Black Mtn. and walk the lower half of the Loop Trail out to a rocky overlook of Grassy Cove before beginning the descent via the CT to Windlass Cave where we can have lunch. Our ascent back up Black Mtn. may take us on an alternate route around the large rocks. We will then hike the upper portion of the Loop Trail back to the cars. Hike 6 – 7 miles. Rated moderate.

Meet at Lowe's in Midtown at 9:00. (I-40W to Midtown exit #350, left turn, go to traffic light on US-70, turn right and drive to Lowe's parking lot. Park along outer edge of lot.)
From Midtown it's 54 miles RT {8¢=>\$4.30}.

Leaders: Keith Mertz 982-7368 keithmertz@hotmail.com
Gary Grametbauer 376-2708 gramet@att.net

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

One February Wednesday

Feb 15 Crib Gap Trail, Turkeypen Ridge, up to Schoolhouse Gap, and back down to Laurel Creek Rd. 8.1 miles
Meet: Alcoa Food City: 8:00 Joy Kelly 690-5958 joymkelly@gmail.com

PANTHER CREEK SP: HUNT KNOB TRAIL February 18 – Saturday

The 3.8-mile Hunt Knob Trail is the longest one in the park. This scenic trail follows the perimeter of Cherokee Lake before ascending Hunt Knob Ridge. The trail offers variety from easy, straight, gently sloping sections along the lake shore to strenuous, hilly sections around Hunt Knob. It is accessible only along a 1.6 mile connector trail from the horse trail parking area, where our hike will begin and end. Our hike is about 7 miles, rated moderate to difficult. This trail can be extremely muddy.

Meet at the **Comcast on Asheville Hwy** <see list> at 9:00 or the horse/bike parking area at 10:00. Round trip drive is 68 miles {8¢=>\$5.40}.

Leaders: Lori Hill 423/526-8060 llh4@rocketmail.com
Barbara Allen 558-9214 allen745139@bellsouth.net

SPRUCE FLATS BRANCH- MEIGS MOUNTAIN ROAD February 25 - Saturday

After leaving shuttle cars at the end of the Tremont Rd., we'll return to the Tremont Institute and begin the outing on the well-used Falls Trail. At Spruce Flats Falls, the path ascends on switchbacks to join a railroad grade up the valley of Spruce Flats Branch. After reaching Buckhorn Gap, we will continue on Meigs Mountain Trail to Upper Buckhorn Gap, where the old Meigs Mountain Road departs to the western end of Meigs Mountain. The old road, quite rough in places but easily followed, descends to the Marks Creek railroad grade, which we will follow to a crossing of Lynn Camp Prong and our exit via Middle Prong Trail. Water shoes are recommended. There will be an alternate exit that avoids the stream crossing if water levels are high.

Meet at **Alcoa Food City** at 8, or the Middle Prong trailhead at the end of the Tremont Road at 8:45. Mileages: drive- 56 RT {8¢=\$4.50}, hike- 8.5. Rated moderate off-trail due to downed trees on the Meigs Mtn. Road grade, and the stream crossing.

Leaders: Michael Vaughn 230-8230 mvaughn@knology.net
Jenny Bennett 828-658-0473 jenny@summerafternoonediting.net

CT: BRADY MOUNTAIN

EASY, Short Hike: February 26 - Sunday 5 miles
To Brady Bluff Overlook and Arch.

Meet at Kingston ORNL CU <see list> at 12 noon.
Tim Bigelow 675-3822 bigelowt2@mindspring.com

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

"ORNL Credit Union in Kingston" at exit 352 off I-40: Turn left at end of ramp and go ½ block to entry on right. Park along right edge of side lot, toward rear.

COMING EVENTS – March 2012

2 – Fri	Oak Ridge Photo Social
3 - Sat	AT Work Trip
4 – Sun	Lilly Bluff trails in Obed W&SR
10 - Sat	Old Settlers Trail: Maddron Bald Trailhead -Noisy Crk
17 - Sat	Anakeesta Ridge <off-trail>
24-25 – S&S	Backpack: Twin Arches, Slave Falls (?Leader?)
25 - Sun	Leaders Choice

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Justin E. Cormier	jecormier10@gmail.com	556-1399
	7633 Luscombe Dr.	Knoxville 37919
Mark Dove	jazzhead@bellsouth.net	770/538-4931
	4735 Crawford Oaks Dr.	Oakwood, GA 30566
Daniel & Richelle Fowler	daniel.l.fowler@boeing.com	281/635-6558
	1010 Brien Cir.	Gatlinburg 37738
Bob Hanson	hansontsa@comcast.net	567-8304
	726 Ranch Rd.	Blaine 37709
Caleb Hart	caleb.hart@yahoo.com	615/473-5962
	607 Arbor Lake Blvd.	Hermitage 37076
Brian Mason	bdm@usno.navy.mil	703/435-4754
	1602 Lefrak Ct.	Herndon, VA 20170
Bobby Smith	cowansmith@aol.com	851-7280
	2912 Beaverwood Dr.	Knoxville 37918

FOR THE RECORD**Will Thomas Turnpike August 27, 2011**

Fourteen members and 4 visitors were undeterred by the slightly cloudy weather, and were rewarded with sunshine and comfortable temperatures for this off-trail along the Will Thomas Turnpike. After a car shuttle, we left New Found Gap along the former road bed of Old 441, but quickly and steeply descended to the remnants of the Turnpike. There were small creek crossings, a few blow downs and some rhodo, but the company was cheery for this unique experience in the Park. Wildflowers spotted included blue lobelia, cut-leaf coneflowers, red and purple bee balm, and asters. Upon exiting the Turnpike, we hiked up Newfound Gap Road to our cars parked at the beginning of a quiet walkway, and enjoyed cold water and cokes before departing.

— Al Watson & Rebekah Bell

Three Gaps: Mids, Huskey, Cucumber Sept. 25, 2011

Eight hikers(all members) enjoyed a pleasant ,moderate loop in perfect weather. The initial off-trail portion up the Mids Br. drainage included a few briers and blowdowns, but was rather easy as off-trails go. Lunch at Huskey Gap was highlighted by Jack's sharing of his chocolate covered espresso beans. The "blooming list" totaled fourteen. Most conspicuous being: snakeroot, goldenrod, hearts-a-bustin', wood aster, and gentian. The 8.4 mile loop was completed safely; with all back to the cars by 2:15.

—Ronnie McGaha & Keith Mertz

Tsali Rock November 26, 2011

In commemoration of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee holiday, Tsali Day on November 25, 11 members and 2 visitors hiked through some very rough terrain to the rock where the Cherokee martyr, Tsali, was reportedly captured 173 years and 2 days earlier in 1838. After lunch and a discussion of Tsali at the rock, the group opted for a longer off trail return to the maintained trail. This involved climbing a rugged dividing ridge, where they saw one of the largest mountain laurel plants that any

of the group had seen, then descending to a crossing of Keg Drive Branch, and climbing back up to Fork Ridge Trail.

— Ed Fleming & Mark Shipley

House Mountain December 11, 2011

We thought there were 13 of us until we got to the top of the west overlook where we had a momentary panic until we re-calculated and realized we only had 12, all while admiring the views of the Cumberlands to the North, the Smokies to the our south, and Sharp's Ridge and downtown Knoxville to our west on what was an unusually clear morning atop House Mountain. As we followed the ridge towards the east overlook, pausing occasionally to admire the views, we came across two more hikers who had missed us by a couple of minutes and headed up on their own. We then descended the badly eroded east trail back to the parking area where we finished off a fine late fall morning in style, with hot cider and cookies!

— Brad Reese

Cades Cove Off-Trail from Dan Lawson Place 12/17/2011

Sixteen members (leaders included) and one visitor (former member) hiked the route as planned. The two small creeks, Cades Br and Whistling Br, had more water than when scouted due to the rain on Friday, but the many crossings were never a problem. As forecasted the weather was rather cool and very cloudy when we started but cleared and warmed as the day passed. Those not familiar with the old way of life in the mountains found the old home sites and their location to be quite interesting. We visited five of them. One of them located at the loop road was occupied when one of the leaders came to live in Tennessee. Two dying chestnut trees with a few brown leaves still hanging on were located at this site.

— Ray Payne & Ron Shrieves

Knoxville History Hike January 8, 2012

Eleven members and six visitors marched east on Kingston Pike and Neyland Drive and discussed the sites and still visible traces of the November 1863 civil war battles along our route. The chilly damp day was incentive to move along briskly. We split up to enjoy various levels of restaurant lunch on Market Square and reconvened to walk west on Summit Hill Drive and past an exhibit of historic fire-fighting equipment in front of the fire station. The highlight of our hike was a presentation (arranged by C. S.) by Dr. Charles and Terry Faulkner on the historic Fort Sanders and how it underlies the jumble of buildings there today. We got back to our cars just as rain began in earnest.

— Claudia Dean & Cindy Spangler

< 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.

Have YOU Paid Your Dues ?