



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

February 2018

LEADER'S CHOICE: BALD RIVER FALLS February 3 - Saturday

Bald River Falls is a beautiful and special place any time of year. For this hike, we will do the 5-mile in-and-out hike (10 miles RT) beginning with the Falls themselves, off the Cherokee Skyway. The trail generally follows the Bald River upstream, through groves of rhododendron and evergreens, without any difficult climbing. Along the way, we pass other smaller cascades and pools. Hike: 10 miles RT, rated moderate. Meet at the **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 120 miles RT {@4¢ = \$5}.

Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149.

EASY HIKE: BLACK OAK RIDGE CONSERVATION EASEMENT (BORCE) IN OAK RIDGE February 3 - Saturday

This will be a walk in the former Wheat community. Wheat existed before Oak Ridge was built. It was a prosperous farming community but all that remains now is a 100 year old church and attached cemetery. We will visit both of these and a historic monument also. This is a loop hike on wooded trails. Hike: 5.5 miles RT, rated easy. Meet at **Books-a-Million/Gold's Gym in Oak Ridge <see list>** at 12 PM (noon) to carpool. Drive: less than 10 miles RT {@4¢ = \$.4}.

Leader: Chris Hamilton, hikeintenn@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY HIKE: SCHOOLHOUSE GAP/TURKEYPEN RIDGE/FINLEY CANE/BOTE MOUNTAIN February 7 - Wednesday

For this winter loop hike, we will park at the Schoolhouse Gap trailhead, head uphill until turning onto Turkeypen Ridge, then down to cross Laurel Creek Road and pick up Finley Cane on the other side. We will then pick up Bote Mountain, where we will turn left and head back down to the road and our cars via Bote Mtn. Hike 9 miles: rated moderate. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:00 am or at the Schoolhouse Gap trailhead at 8:45 am. Drive: 50 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2}.

Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149.

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. Each carpool rider should reimburse driver about 4¢ per mile. Doubts? Call a leader.

And please note: No dogs or firearms are permitted on any Club hikes, whether inside or outside of GSMNP

Visit our website: www.smhclub.org

SMHC MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2018

Please don't forget that your 2018 dues are currently due and payable (\$20 for regular membership; \$30+ for supporting membership). See page 4 for more information.

ELKMONT TO TREMONT VIA MEIGS MOUNTAIN & LUMBER RIDGE TRAILS February 10 - Saturday

Although a key swap option will be considered, this hike is being planned as a car shuttle, beginning at Little River Trail Parking Area at Elkmont and ending at Tremont. A short but steady climb up Jakes Creek Trail takes us to its junction with Meigs Mountain Trail. After a cross-country trek of over five miles, passing old home sites and lumbered forest areas, this up-and-down, moderately sloping trail then descends to Buckhorn Gap to connect with Lumber Ridge Trail. From the gap, this trail is nearly level, but then begins climbing over a high point of the ridge before making a 2.5 mile descent to the Tremont Institute parking area. Total hike distance is almost 11 miles, rated moderately difficult due to distance and some uphill climbs on Jakes Creek and Lumber Ridge Trails. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 7:30 a.m. Drive: 90 miles RT {@4¢ = \$3.60}.

Leaders: Lois Esmark, misse711@aol.com, 865-414-9097; and David Starnes, d.starnes.2288@frontiernet.net, 931 537-2288.

PANTHER CREEK STATE PARK February 17 - Saturday

Winter is an appropriate time to explore the park located on Cherokee Lake. Our hike will have some nice views of the lake and Cumberland Mountains. By combining several trails to make the loop, we will make a good exploration of the area. Hike: 6 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy <see list>** at 9:00 am to carpool or at the Spoons Recreation Area parking area at Panther Creek at 10:00 am. Drive: 60 miles RT {@4¢ = \$2.40}.

Leader: Lori Hill, LLH4@rocketmail.com, 423-526-8060.

TIMOTHY CREEK OFF-TRAIL February 24 - Saturday

Our hike will begin at the Steiner Bell Lodge parking area, from which we will take a trail to the Frazier Cemetery. After visiting this cemetery, named for Civil War veteran Thomas Frazier, we will hike on to an intersection with the Old Settlers Trail. We will follow OST to the crossing of Timothy Creek where we will begin our off-trail portion going up this creek past some impressive stone walls and exploring numerous former home sites. Hike: around 7 miles, rated moderately difficult due to the off-trail terrain and several stream crossings. **Preregistration for this off-trail hike is required - please contact the leaders to get meeting time and place.**

Leaders: Ed Fleming, edwrdfm@aol.com, 865-548-2489; and Hiram Rogers, hiramrogers@yahoo.com, 865-584-7310.

LITTLE RIVER – CUCUMBER GAP LOOP

February 25 - Sunday

The trail follows Little River Trail for 2.3 miles on a mostly level old roadbed with the Little River to our left. We will pass by a small waterfall on the right. The trail intersects with our next trail, Cucumber Gap, 2.3 miles, and gently ascends toward the gap. At the Gap the trail affords a good view of Burnt Mountain at 3,373 ft. The trail passes over a couple of small streams which may be rock hopped (**hiking poles would be very helpful especially if icy weather**). The trail takes a gentle descent to Jakes Creek Trail where we turn right for .8 miles and head back to our vehicles passing by the chimneys left from the demolished homes of Elkmont and see a couple of renovated houses also. Though this trail is famous for spring wildflowers it is a lovely winter hike as well and has some nice views and is only 5.4 miles total. Rated: Easy. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 09:00 am. Drive: 70 miles RT { $@4\phi = \$3$ }. In case of icy roads and/or GSMNP closure, hike will be canceled!! Leaders: Lynda Bryan, ellymay2015@aol.com, 865-661-3117; and Jim Quick, jghiker37@aol.com, 865-660-3351.

WEDNESDAY HIKE: POSSUM CREEK GORGE SECTION OF CUMBERLAND TRAIL

February 28 - Wednesday

For this beautiful 9.5-mile segment of the Cumberland Trail, we will hike from South (Heiss Mountain Road Trailhead) to North (Retro-Hughes Trailhead) after setting up a car shuttle at the start. We will enjoy overlooks, deep gorges, waterfalls, and rock formations. There is even a part of this trail that has a connection to a former SMHC president! Hike: 9.5 miles: rated moderate. Meet at **Lowes at Harriman/Midtown <see list>** at 8:00 am. Drive: 130 miles RT { $@4\phi = \$5$ }. Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com, 931-224-5149.

COMING EVENTS – March 2018

3 Saturday	AT Work Trip
4 Sunday	Rich Mountain Loop
10 Saturday	Gibson Gap
17 Saturday	Old Settlers Trail
24 Saturday	Anakeesta Ridge & Canyon Off-Trail
25 Sunday	Porters Creek
31 Saturday-Sunday	Lakeshore Backpack

MEETING PLACES: **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots. [Map Link](#). **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, 5720 Asheville Hwy; park to left of entry, about 2 lanes over toward the exit end of lot. [Map Link](#). **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel** = Off I-75 at Exit 81, 0.6 mile or 3 stoplights, 325 Fort Loudon Medical Center Drive. [Map Link](#). **Lowes at Harriman/Midtown** = Take Exit 350 from I 40, go south 0.5 mile on TN-29 Pine Ridge Road to US-70, right 0.3 mile to 1800 Roane State Highway. [Map Link](#). **Oak Ridge Books-a-Million/Gold's Gym** = 310 South Illinois Avenue 3-1/2 traffic lights in, on left coming from Knoxville, opposite Walmart. Meet next to Illinois Ave. in front of Books-a-Million. [Map Link](#).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tony & Lori Anderson, lorifly@bellsouth.net, 865/414-9726, 1344 Windamere Road, Knoxville, TN 37923
 Tom Barrett, highloonatrotw@gmail.com, 740/616-4927, PO Box 4324, Newark, OH, 43058-4324
 James Divoky, jd_12345@yahoo.com, 865/397-1954, 2140 Lakelawn Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725-5858
 Jim & Karen Eaton, boeaton77@gmail.com, 865/776-9144, 11481 Couch Mill Road, Knoxville, TN 37931
 Melissa Ekmark, melissaekmark@gmail.com, 587 Flat Fork Road, Wartburg, TN 37887
 Lou & Cody Leiding, lou333lou@comcast.net, 865/947-1294, 236 Nicely Trail, Powell, TN 37849
 Russell & Dana Miller, Rmillerwv@gmail.com, 304/437-3579, 6008 Chalmers Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920
 Adele Perry, 5perrys278@gmail.com, 300 Cardinal Street, Maryville, TN 37803
 Cindy Prince, ibeaver42@gmail.com, 1413 Chicago Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916
 Allan & Debbie Russo, dnadna2@att.net, 865/657-9529, 313 Chuniloti Circle, Loudon, TN 37774
 Duane Spangler, Daspangler16@gmail.com, 865/288-7067, 13875 Shannon Parkway, Rosemont, MN 55068
 Ruann Wood, isignasilily@gmail.com, 865/686-8833, 1436 Buxton Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922

In Memoriam: Dee Tillett, 1932-2017

Dee Tillett, age 85, passed away on September 9, 2017 in Zephyrhills, Florida. Dee graduated from Central High School, class of 1949 and attended the University of Tennessee. On September 11, 1950, she met her future husband Sam Tillett at the fire tower on Mount Sterling. She married Sam on August 8, 1953. Dee hiked many miles with Sam on mountain trails around the world. Dee's vocation was advertising, marketing and television travel-script writing in Knoxville.

In Memoriam: Karen Kooyman, 1934-2017

Karen Christine Peterson Kooyman, age 83, passed away on December 23, at her home in Knoxville. Karen was a SMHC member from 1986-1993. She was an elementary school teacher and reading specialist for Knox County Schools for many years. In addition to SMHC, she was active in volunteer work for the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, American Red Cross, and Children's International Summer Villages.

In Memoriam: Howard Bauman, 1925-2017

Howard Frank Bauman, age 92, passed away on December 31, 2017, in Oak Ridge. Howard joined SMHC 1961 and was a Life member. He was an avid hiker, hike leader, trail maintainer, and trail crew leader. Prior to his move to Oak Ridge, he also maintained a section of the AT over Roan Mountain with the Kingsport Hiking Club. Howard was an Army veteran, a graduate of Purdue University and the University of Chicago, and worked for many years as a nuclear engineer at Eastman Chemical, Union Carbide, and Martin Marietta. He also enjoyed skiing, sailing, swimming, reading, gardening, playing bridge, and supporting the arts.

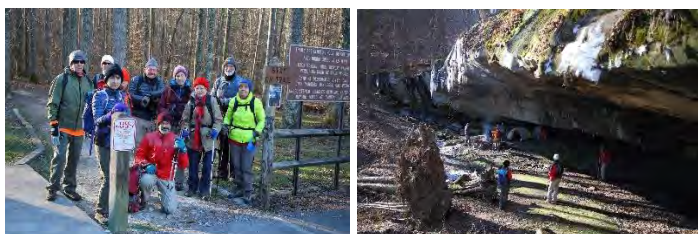
We extend our sincere condolences to these families.

FOR THE RECORD

Old Mac at Frozenhead State Park 12/13/2017

Frozenhead was just that, FROZEN! The hike up North Old Mac was nearly all in the shade with a bit of a breeze blowing. There was some drainage that had ran across the trail in a few places and froze of course. So there was a few tricky spots. We hiked up to Panther Gap into bright sunshine, but with a breeze blowing, it didn't seem to help much. Some of us went down to the Rock House at Panther Gap. It was nice to get out of the wind. And there were some campers there with a nice fire going. About 6 or 7 of us decided to go on up to the fire tower. On the way up, the wind was blowing just enough to make us have second thoughts. But we kept going anyway. It wasn't too bad at the fire tower, so we sat down and had lunch. On the way down South Old Mac, we were in sunshine all the way, we met up with the other hikers and nearly all arrived at the same time back at the trail head.

Michael Zielinski

**Roaring Fork Ramble Off-Trail 12/16/2017**

On a cold December morning, 17 members and 5 visitors met at the historic Ely's Mill in Gatlinburg for a rambling hike in the Roaring Fork area. After taking a group photo at the mill, the hikers proceeded up the closed Motor Nature Trail to Indian Camp Branch, then up an old road to the Kear Cemetery. From there it was off-trail on up the branch and a somewhat steep and overgrown hillside to the Grapeyard Ridge Trail. After that, the group enjoyed trail hiking back to the Roaring Fork and a sunny lunch spot in the grassy yard of the Jim Bales place. The next stop was the Jasper Mellinger home site and cemetery where the tragic tale of Jasper's murder was told. From there it was back down the road to the Bales Cemetery. After stopping here, as it was getting late in the day, the consensus of the group was to hike out on the road and visit the school and church site, where they enjoyed viewing some old photos of the school when it was in use. However, one stalwart hiker chose to take the planned off-trail route down Cliff Branch, and rejoined the group at the Place of a Thousand Drips. A big thanks to Ely's Mill owner, Ruth, for allowing us to use her parking area and restrooms, for taking our group photo, and for having hot coffee and a warm fire for us at the end of the hike.

Ed Fleming and Hiram Rogers

**Rich Mountain Loop 12/23/2017**

It was two days before Christmas and the forecast was dim, 100% chance of rain and 50 mph gusts of wind. It was raining pretty hard when the hike leader set out, for the Alcoa Food City where he started to pout. For he found just one hiker, who decided not to go. So the hike leader set out for the trailhead at Cades Cove. At the trailhead there was no one, not even a mouse, and so the hike leader set out...this time for the house.

Billy Heaton

Rich Mountain Trail and Road 12/27/2017

The morning started cold but not as cold as what is predicted for next week. Bring all your layers next week. Rich Mountain trail is fairly steep at 665 ft of gain per mile. That got us warmed up. At least the body was warm, there were still many cold fingers and toes. Indian Grave Gap is mostly downhill and the road has some up but mostly down and is gradual for both. The hike went quickly. We were at the junction with the road by 11:00. It helps that the trailhead is close so we were hiking by 8:45. The 4 mile of road got kind of boring by the time we got finished but a nice lunch spot and a bear sighting added interest to the road walk. The bear was down a fairly steep bank but was pretty close. It watched us but showed no interest in chasing us or running from us. We stood on the edge of the road and watched it and took pictures and then went on. It was probably glad to see us move on so it could get back to foraging. We were done before 1:00 and headed home to spouses that said "What are you doing home so early." I know mine did.

Ron Brandenburg

**NC28 ROAD CLOSURE**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation reports that highway NC-28 will be closed for several weeks because of a series of rock slides that began December 14. The slide occurred a little more than 6 miles east of the main entrance to Fontana Village Resort and about a mile east of Cable Cove Road. About 50,000 cubic yards of rock and debris was dumped onto NC-28. The slide area is about the size of a football field an estimated 390 feet tall. NCDOT has signed a \$1.3 million contract with Graham County Land Company to reopen the road, which NCDOT says should happen by the end of February. The slide area is considered very dangerous and is closed to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Through traffic is detoured to use NC-143 and US-129 through Robbinsville and Tapoco. See <http://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2017/12/22/large-slide-nc-28-near-fontana-dam-take-weeks-clear-dot-says/976844001/>.

SMHC Newsletter Editor: Don Dunning 865-705-2154

Send hike write-ups & photos to: dedz1@aol.com.

Please include preferred contact method (email, phone).

PLEASE SUPPORT SMHC THROUGH KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

There is an **easy** way to show your support for the Conservation Program of Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. All it takes is a **few minutes of your time** to enroll. **It costs you nothing**, but a fraction of your Kroger purchases will be returned to SMHC. In the most recent quarter, **proceeds from only 19 SMHC member households amounted to \$90**. Kroger distributes up to **\$375,000 quarterly** to all registered programs. Imagine if even half of our 600 hiking club members enrolled!

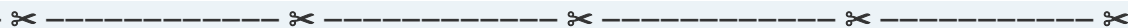
Here's a simple How To Guide:

If you shop at Kroger even occasionally, you likely have a Kroger Plus Card. If so, you must go online to www.Kroger.com and choose "Community" from the pull-down menu:

1. If you have not created an account for your Plus Card, do so first.
2. Go to the "Community" section of your Account Information and enter the SMHC NPO number **92545**.

That's all. It takes 7 - 10 days for your enrollment to become active. The good news is that Kroger has ended the requirement to re-enroll annually, so your choice of SMHC will last as long as you choose. Of course, your child or grandchild might persuade you that his or her marching band is more deserving, but you can change back to SMHC after she or he graduates. It's your choice, but rest assured that the club will utilize every dollar to support conservation of the areas where we love to hike.

NOTE: The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and its Executive Board maintain a strictly non-commercial status for the club and its activities. By providing information on the Community Rewards Program, SMHC in no way endorses or advertises the Kroger Company.



**Please return this form with your 2018 dues payment to note any changes in contact information.
(It is not necessary to return the form with your check if there are no changes to your current information.)
Mail check to: SMHC, P.O. Box 51592, Knoxville TN 37950-1592**

Check box beside membership category:

Regular Membership (\$20.00). Additional family members living in the same household and at least 16 years of age may become Family Members of the Club by dues payment of \$2.00 each. Family members will be listed in the handbook, but will not receive a separate copy of the handbook. Number of family members: _____ (x \$2 each).

IF adding or removing family members, please indicate below:

Supporting Membership (\$30.00 or higher as you choose). Family Members, as defined above, are included without additional dues. Dues in excess of \$20.00 (regular membership) are tax deductible, and help to support various Conservation efforts of the Club, including Appalachian Trail maintenance.

Please indicate changes in address, phone number, or email below, if any. Leave blank if there are no changes.

If you receive the newsletter by USPS mail, would you like to switch to the electronic PDF version? If so, please specify email address:

You can also pay your dues online at the SMHC website (<http://www.smhclub.org/membership.htm>) if you prefer.

Thank you for your support of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club!