



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

October 2018

A.T. MAINTENANCE WORK TRIP October 6 - Saturday

The October A.T. maintenance work trip will take place about 1.2 miles northeast of Newfound Gap. We will work to return the trail tread to its proper location and improve water drainage in the area. The work will require moving rocks and possibly adding steps. Participants will need to dress for the weather and bring work gloves, lunch, and water. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 7:30 am or at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 8:30 am. Drive: 90 miles RT {@5¢ = \$4.50}.

Leader: Pete Berntsen, peteberntsen@gmail.com, 865-256-7896.

BIG SOUTH FORK - BLUE HERON LOOP October 7 - Sunday

We'll hike the scenic and historical Blue Heron Loop and cross the Big South Fork on the coal tipple bridge and make a short climb up to a different view of the river and Blue Heron area. The loop includes the Blue Heron outdoor mining museum, a walk along the river and a walk back along the canyon rim. Hike: 9.5 miles with 1500 ft of climbing, rated moderate. Meet at **Outback Steakhouse on Merchants Drive <see list>** by 8:00 am. Drive 160 mi RT {@5¢ = \$8.00}.

Leader: Tim Bigelow, bigelowt2@mindspring.com, 865-607-6781.

WEDNESDAY HIKE: SINKING CREEK BRANCH OF THE EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL October 10 - Wednesday

We will hike the Sinking Creek branch of the East Lakeshore Trail. Hike: 9 miles, rated moderately easy. Bring a trail lunch and water. Meet at the **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel <see list>** by 9:00 am. Drive: 20 miles RT {@5¢ = \$1}.

Leader: Terry Nyenhuis, terrynyenhuis@gmail.com, 865-206-9476.

CHIMNEY TOP & SPICEWOOD LOOP AT FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK October 13 - Saturday

This hike will begin at the Frozen Head State Park Visitor Center. We will take the Chimney Top Trail, a mainly southern exposed route, up Chimney Top Mountain. Depending on our pace we will target either the Chimney Top Campsite (a giant sandstone caprock) or Mart Fields Campsite (the most remote campsite in the Park) for our lunch break destination. Now atop Chimney Top Mountain we will continue on to the Spicewood Trail intersection. Here we will be on the northern side of the mountain as we begin our descent back down to the trailhead. Hiking distance is a little less than 10 miles and the hike is rated moderate. Meet at **Gold's Gym & Books-a-Million in Oak Ridge <see list>** ready to leave by 8:00 am. Drive: 50 miles RT {@5¢ = \$2.5}.

Leader: Billy Heaton, bheaton8@yahoo.com, 865-924-0095; and Pete Berntsen, peteberntsen@gmail.com, 865-256-7896.

MT CAMMERER VIA WHITEROCK FALLS OFF-TRAIL October 20 - Saturday

The Backyard beckons! Mount Cammerer is often thought of as a backyard playground with almost immediate access to fantastic forests, streams, waterfalls, boulder fields, huge cliffs, and significant elevation gain for a short outing. Then of course there are the fantastic views from the rock-built Fire-Watch station and the excellent exit route of Groundhog Ridge that makes Mount Cammerer the go-to place summer, winter, spring, and fall. There are innumerable routes that always excite and exhilarate. This trip will begin and end at the familiar Groundhog Ridge Parking Lot; however, it will be mostly a loop hike with the climb ascending the open and gentle slopes of Groundhog Creek to a nice rock-wall waterfall, known by some as Whiterock Falls. Once above the waterfall, participants will traverse the little valley and climb onto The Whiterock of Cammerer. This relatively large feature is clearly visible from I-40 especially when the evening sun illuminates the rock like a beacon. The Whiterock yields to the Tower Cliffs that stand to protect the mountaintop. After a short ascent through the Tower Cliffs the mountain top is attained. The return will pass through the Fire-Watch and down Groundhog Ridge. Contact the trip leader by email for meeting place and time. Total trip: off-trail 3.7 miles, on-trail 0.1 miles, 6 hours, rated difficult. Drive: 100 miles RT {@5¢ = \$5}. **Pre-registration for this off-trail hike is required; please the contact trip leader for meeting place and time.**

Leader: Greg Harrell, gsharrell@milligan.edu, 865-719-0173.

MOUNT CAMMERER ON-TRAIL October 20 - Saturday

After dropping one vehicle at the Big Creek Ranger Station, we'll travel to Davenport Gap where we will begin our hike on the Appalachian Trail. After an ascent of 5.2 miles and an elevation gain of ~3000 feet, we will reach the short and relatively flat Mount Cammerer Trail. This 0.6-mile spur will take us to the summit of Mt. Cammerer and the renovated fire tower where we will eat lunch and enjoy the views before returning to our cars by way of the Appalachian Trail and the Chestnut Branch Trail. Hopefully we'll still see a lot of fall color on this October hike, at least at the lower elevations. Hike: 11.9 miles, rated difficult due to elevation gain and length. Drive: 115 miles RT {@5¢ = \$5.75}. Meet at **Comcast on Asheville Hwy <see list>** ready to leave by 8:00 am or at the Big Creek Ranger Station at 9:00 am. Leader: Mary Anne Hoskins, mhoskins@utk.edu, 865-523-1051.

WELCOME TO NEW SMHC NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Sarah Wimmer, ches1995@yahoo.com

As your outgoing newsletter editor, it has been my privilege to serve our club in this capacity for the past 3 years, and I appreciate all of your support and help. Please join me in welcoming Sarah as she takes the editorial reins, and we all can look forward to the future improvements that she will bring.
Don Dunning

Visit our website: www.smhclub.org

**WEDNESDAY HIKE: BAKER HOLLOW & CANAL
BRANCHES OF THE EAST LAKESHORE TRAIL
October 24 - Wednesday**

We will hike the Baker Hollow and Canal branches of the East Lakeshore Trail. Hike: 9 miles, rated moderately easy. Bring a trail lunch and water. Meet at the **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel <see list>** by 9:00 am. Drive: 20 miles RT {@5¢ = \$1}.

Leader: Terry Nyenhuis, terrynyenhuis@gmail.com, 865-206-9476.

COMING EVENTS – November 2018

3 Saturday	AT Work Trip
4 Sunday	Cumberland Trail Graysville Mtn Section
10 Saturday	Cat Stairs Off-Trail
11 Sunday	Indian Flats Falls
17 Saturday	Leader's Choice
17-18 Saturday-Sunday	Laurel Gap Shelter Backpack
18 Sunday	Cataloochee Divide
24 Saturday	Urban Wilderness Hike

**FORNEY RIDGE TRAIL TO OLD FIRE-TUBE BOILER
AND ANDREWS BALD
October 27 – Saturday**

To get to some cooler air at higher elevation, we will start at the Clingmans Dome parking area, hiking 1.1 miles on Forney Ridge, then picking up Forney Creek to descend about 150 yards, where we will go onto a spur trail to the old Norwood Lumber Co. fire-tube boiler engine. Turning around, we will re-ascend to the junction and head out to Andrews Bald. Total hike: about 5 miles, rated moderate. Meet at **Alcoa Food City <see list>** at 8:00 am or Clingmans Dome parking lot at 9:30 am. Drive: 120 miles RT {@5¢ = \$6.00}.

Leader: Nancy Dunning, ngdpt@aol.com, 865-705-9416.

**EASY HIKE: WILLIAM HASTIE NATURAL AREA
October 28 - Sunday**

The William Hastie Natural Area is one of the jewels on the necklace that forms the Knoxville Urban Wilderness in south Knoxville. We will complete a loop using several different trails through pleasant second growth forest oak forest. This Natural Area contains a large variety of wildflowers, bird species, and a pond with amphibians. Fall colors will add to this hike in what will seem like a remote forest preserve that is only a few minutes from downtown Knoxville. Bring some water and snack for an afternoon in this beautiful park in South Knoxville. Hike: about 4 miles, rated easy. Meet at **Anderson Elementary School, 4808 Prospect Road, Knoxville <see list>** at 1:00 PM.

Leader: Mac Post, mpost3116@aol.com, 865-806-0980.

MEETING PLACES: **Alcoa Food City** = On right between 3rd & 4th stoplight (on Hall Rd., TN 35), a block before Big Lots. [Map Link](#). **Anderson Elementary School** = From I-40, take Exit 388A to James White Parkway, TN-158W, approximately 3 miles to Sevierville Pike for 2 miles, then left onto Centeroak Drive, to 4808 Prospect Road. [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](#). **Gold's Gym & Books-a-Million in Oak Ridge** = 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](#). **Lenoir City Cracker Barrel** = Off I-75 at Exit 81, 0.6 mile or 3 stoplights, 325 Fort Loudon Medical Center Drive. [Map Link](#). **Outback Steakhouse on Merchants Drive** = From Exit 108 off I-75, Merchants Drive, go west towards Clinton Hwy. Park in front part of large lot at Outback Steakhouse (314 Merchants Drive), near McDonalds. [Map Link](#).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Beth Cowans, CowansFamily@yahoo.com, 614-620-3811
11581 Center Village Road, Galena, OH 43021

Denise Gilliland, 865-567-9779,
1958 Scenic Meadow Way, Powell, TN 37849

Rick Ramsey, ruastooge@hotmail.com,
1501 N Franklin Street, Plant City, FL 33563

William Reeves, breeves@WiseandReeves.com, 865-567-9061
3525 Taliluna Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37919

Danielle Sykes, dsykes12@gmail.com, 865-385-0594,
1900 Sanderson Road, Knoxville, TN 37921

In Memoriam: Phyllis Inman, 1924-2018

Phyllis Inman, age 94, passed away on August 28 in Hixson, Tennessee. She was the sister of Martin Inman and was very active in the SMHC during the 1960s to 1990s. She was a club member for 72 years! She was a graduate of Knoxville High School and the University of Tennessee. She worked at the UT Agricultural Extension Service from 1952-1983. Following her retirement, she entered the Peace Corps and served in Belize from 1985-1987, and later re-entered to serve in Nepal from 1991-1994. We extend our sincere condolences to the family.

PLEASE CONSIDER GOING GREEN!!!

If you receive this newsletter by US Mail, please consider changing to the PDF version distributed by email for bonus content. Contact Newsletter Editor to change.

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. Always bring rain gear, water, and food. Each carpool rider should reimburse the driver 5¢ per mile. If you have any doubts or questions, please contact the hike leader.

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

FOR THE RECORD**Gabes Mountain Trail****8/1/2018**

11 hearty hikers showed up to hike under a rain forecast of 80% and sure enough it rained 80% of the time we were on the trail. The big adventure happened to our front hikers Michael and Pat. Michael and I were bopping along the trail that sloped off into a slight ravine. "Michael had just passed a large hollow tree trunk, broken off to about 4 feet tall, right next to the trail. He was a couple of feet, at most, beyond it, and I was approaching it, maybe 5 feet away. Suddenly, we both heard a loud grrrrrowwwllllll! In a split second, a bear scrambled out of the tree trunk and made a mad dash down the hill side! All I remember thinking was, #\$\$%@, I've never seen anything that big move that fast! Thank goodness he went down the hill side instead of down the trail towards one of us! It took a while for our hearts to slow down, and I don't think either one of us needed to look for a bathroom after that!"

Steve Vittatoe & Ron Brandenburg

**A.T. Maintenance Work Trip****8/4/2018**

This incredible group of maintainers and volunteers backpacked 17 20-lb bags of mulch to Double Springs shelter, filling both bins to 80%, filling the privy mulch buckets, then sweeping out the privy. After lunch (one visiting Trail Angel, Arnold, brought watermelon!) some water drains were cleared out to allow drainage of a large amount of standing water on the pathway to the privy. Trash was picked up around the shelter, including a large garbage bag of trash or food supply that had clearly been hauled down the trail a bit by a bear before being torn apart. On the 2.8 mile hike back to Clingmans Dome, heavy summer vegetation was safely cleared from both sides of the trail, with this group of volunteers doing heavy work with scythes, swingblades, shears and saws. One new volunteer earned the nickname of Haley "Sickle-chick" after watching her deftly clear overgrowth with Phillip's scythe! Near Clingmans Dome, two medium sized blowdowns were sawed through and removed using handsaws and strong arms. This group accomplished much this day; it was such a pleasure to work with them!

Diane Petrilla

**Middle Prong to Indian Flats Falls****8/8/2018**

It was a gray and gloomy day as 22 hikers gathered to hike Middle Prong trail to Indian Flats Falls. As usual, Lynn Camp Prong with all its cascades was spectacular. The trail is a former railroad bed so it is wide enough and the slope gentle enough that hikers can hike side by side which enhances the chance for conversation. But watch for the rocks. In places this trail is very rocky with poor footing. After a short time the sun started shining but this trail is so heavily wooded that you could only see the sun through random holes in the foliage. When we reached the little side trail that leads to the falls, two hikers decided to go on up the trail. You can probably guess which two. Three hikers turned around and headed back instead of going on to the falls. I felt the trail in to the falls was better than it had been in the past but still not good in places. With 17 people and an additional family of four, in the small space at the falls, the seating was limited but we stayed for lunch anyway. The falls had a moderated amount of water flowing over it. The trip back to the cars went quickly but at the bottom Dave and I found a "Quiet Walkway" which we took for a short distance until we came to a small bridge where we turned around so we did not keep other hikers waiting for us.

Steve Vittatoe & Ron Brandenburg

**SMHC Election Picnic****8/11/2018**

This year's annual picnic at Metcalf Bottoms was a huge success in very nice weather! We saw some new faces along with enjoying the familiar ones. Oh, and the food! The food variety was such a culinary delight as always! There was only a very brief shower, but we were happily eating under the pavilion by then. Prior to the feast, 5 members enjoyed a pleasant morning hike from Metcalf Bottoms to the Walker Sisters cabin led by Ed Fleming. Along the way we saw a great blue heron in the creek and on the roof of the Little Greenbrier School, a barred owl in two different trees, and a yellow fringed orchid. All of this mixed in with a lot of good conversation and visits to historic structures. After the meal, we even managed to conduct a brief business meeting where we elected the SMHC Board of Directors for 2019. Thanks to all who helped make our annual picnic a huge success!

Priscilla Clayton, Ed Fleming and Social Committee





Norris Dam State Park

8/15/2018

Twelve hikers including three visitors from a film crew came out on a nice August evening for a loop hike through the Norris Watershed and over into Norris Dam State Park. There was a slightly overgrown short connector and some stilt grass on the trail but the rest of the trails were in good shape and we enjoyed interesting trees and a few views of the lake. After the hike part of the group stopped for a snack and the Clinch River Brewery. One hiker reported getting the worst case of chiggers ever.

Tim Bigelow



Clingmans Dome to Newfound Gap

8/12/2018

Four members and 3 visitors experienced a rare event on Clingman's - perfect visibility from the Tower! We then headed north on the AT via the 8-mile section maintained by SMHC volunteers. At Mt Collins we encountered new board director Taylor Weatherbee working hard on his newly adopted section. At our lunch spot at the Sugarlands Trail intersection we met a great group of students from Greenville (IL) University who had been hiking for a week on the AT. SMHC hike co-leader

Nancy Dunning garnered their lasting gratitude by sharing homemade brownies and grapes. We saw abundant turtle heads, witch hobble, bee balm, cone flowers and gorgeous ferns. The hearty group finished the hike in plenty of time to enjoy cold watermelon at Newfound Gap.

Cindy Spangler and Nancy Dunning



McCloud Mountain

8/25/2018

This was one of those leisurely outings that, while sharing a glorious view of Powell Valley far below, you can get caught up with old friends and make lots of new ones. We had the best weather, mild to start with just the right amount of breeze when we needed cooling down later. There were 26 of us - 10 SMHC members and 16 visitors. We first frolicked on the awesome Chimney Walk boardwalk -- taking tons of photos -- then walked a couple of miles up, then back on the Cumberland Trail. Topping that off, we lounged on the McCloud Mountain Restaurant's deck feasting on their great views and, of course, lunch!

Bruni Dopatka and Betty Glenn



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 23 SMHC member households amounted to \$110**. 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, go online to www.Kroger.com/communityrewards and click "I'm a Customer" to log-in to your account or create a new account.

1. If you have not created an account for your Plus Card, do so first.
2. Under "Find an Organization" search "Smoky Mountains Hiking Club" and click Enroll. You can also search for the SMHC Non-Profit Organization (NPO) number **MV194**. Alternatively, you can visit the customer service counter at your store to enroll.

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.