



Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

P O Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592

Exploring the Smokies Since 1924

August 2019

A.T. MAINTENANCE WORK TRIP

August 3 - Saturday

This is our traditional work trip to take mulch to one of the shelters that needs it the most. For this trip, we will carry 20 lb. bags of mulch to Icewater Spring shelter (north from Newfound Gap, about 6 miles round trip). Please notify me if you are coming and let me know whether you have a large back-packing style backpack. Please bring plenty of water, lunch, snacks, and wear good hiking footwear. A group effort to restock mulch at the shelters is MUCH appreciated! Meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 8 AM or at Newfound Gap parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader: Diane Petrilla, petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149.

LOWES CREEK OFF-TRAIL

August 3 - Saturday

Lowes Creek, one of four major streams draining the Greenbrier side of Mount Le Conte, is teeming with large boulders, fast-running sluice-ways, and fantastic pools. The creek is about three miles long, descending from The Boulevard near Myrtle Point to its confluence with Porters Creek. The off-trail excursion will begin along the Porters Creek Trail near Fern Branch Falls with a brief fun-with-rhododendron exercise followed by the long rock-hop up Lowes Creek. The return will be along The Boulevard to LeConte Lodge, then down to Trillium Gap and out by the Brushy Mountain Trail. Total distance is around 13 miles. The hike is rated difficult. Pre-registration for this hike is required. Please contact the leaders for meeting place and time.

Leaders: Greg Harrell, gsharrell@milligan.edu or 865-719-0173 and Ken Wise, kwise@utk.edu or 865-310-7764

Easy Hike: INDIAN BOUNDARY LAKE LOOP

August 4th-Sunday

During the hot days of summer this trail offers an easy, 3.1 mile shaded, nearly level, well-groomed path around one of the most scenic mountain lakes that is suited for most all family members. Although the official hike will end upon the completion of the trail, everyone is invited to stay to enjoy the many wonderful opportunities offered. For example, as we hike around Indian Boundary Lake, you will see families enjoying the wonderful beach area, biking and boating and you will start to look forward to joining in the added fun with your family and friends. Hike: 3.1 miles, rated easy. Meet at Walmart Super Center, 2410 US-411 Maryville at 8:30 or at the boat launching parking area at Indian Boundary Lake at 9:30-9:45. Note later meeting time to accommodate families. We will attempt to align carpooling with like-minded hikers for after hike activities. Note there is a day use fee of \$3-5 if park at beach area after the hike. Drive 100 miles round trip @ .05 = \$5.00

Leader: Lloyd Chapman, 865-719-3769, lchapman6667@yahoo.com

GABES MOUNTAIN TRAIL TO 90-FOOT HEN WALLOW FALS AND CAMPSITE 34

August 7 - Wednesday

This will be an out & back hike for a roundtrip total of 9.6 miles. Moderate. Meet at Comcast on Asheville Highway at 8:00 am or at Cosby Campground (hiker's parking area) at 9:00. Drive 120 miles RT @5cents= \$6.00.

Leader: Steve Vittatoe, 865-724-9666, svittatoe@charter.net

ANNUAL ELECTION PICNIC- Greenbrier Pavilion

August 10 - Saturday

Bring a covered dish to share; the Social Committee will provide utensils and drinks. (Consider bringing your own reusable utensils to reduce our solid waste). Tim

Bigelow will lead a short hike in the Greenbrier area prior to lunch. Meet at 9:00 am at the Greenbrier picnic shelter parking area and we will visit some historic structures and possibly large tulip poplars. The picnic will begin at noon.

The 2020 Hike Schedule will be posted, so come with your calendar and select a hike to lead or co-lead! SMHC shirts, caps and patches will be available for sale. Following lunch, we will have a short business meeting at which the 2020 Board of Directors and Officers will be elected.



WEDNESDAY HIKE: MIDDLE PRONG TRAIL TO INDIAN FLATS FALLS

August 14 - Wednesday

Out & back. We'll see three multi-tiered falls including Lower Lynn Camp, Lynn Camp and Indian Flats. Historic artifacts to be seen along the trail includes the rusting Cadillac, a homestead chimney and remnants from logging operations of the past. RT is 7.8 miles. Moderate with elevation gain of 1175 ft. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 am. Drive 50 miles RT @5cents= \$2.50.

Leader: Steve Vittatoe 865-724-9666, svittatoe@charter.net

THE GORGES, OFF-TRAIL

August 17 - Saturday

If, and only if, the flow of the Oconaluftee River is less than 300 cubic feet per second, will we attempt to hike The Gorges of Raven Fork, the most rugged and treacherous stretch of stream anywhere in the Smokies. This hike will entail wading of deep fast-running sluices, negotiating water-slickened rock surfaces, and scrambling over large boulders. After a car shuttle from Straight Fork Road at the Hyatt Ridge Trail, the hike will begin in the Cherokee Reservation just outside the Park boundary and follow Raven Fork to the bridge at Campsite 47 where we will then follow the Hyatt Ridge Trail out to Straight Fork Road. This hike is rated very difficult. Pre-registration for this hike is required. Contact trip leaders for meeting place and time.

Leaders: James Locke jlocke@tds.net, 865-966-5036 and Ken Wise kwise@utk.edu, 865-310-7764

CHARLIES BUNION FROM NEWFOUND GAP**August 17 – Sunday**

Originally known as “Fodderstack”, it was Horace Kephart who got this extremely popular rock outcropping put on a government map as Charlies Bunion. From the Newfound Gap parking area, we will begin our hike travelling north on the AT. Approximately four miles in we will arrive at our destination. Here we will enjoy lunch and amazing panoramic views of Mount Le Conte, Greenbrier Pinnacle, Mount Kephart, the Jump Off, the Sawteeth and the beautiful Porters Creek Valley below. We'll return the way we came with the option of taking a short side trip to the Jump Off. The hike is 8 miles, 9 miles if we visit the Jump Off and is rated moderate. Meet at Alcoa Food City ready to leave by 7:30 am or at Newfound Gap at 9:00 am. Drive: 100 miles RT @5¢ = \$5.00. Leader: Jeff Cooper, jeffcooper100@yahoo.com, 865-804-5065

HEMPHILL BALD LOOP**August 24 - Saturday**

We will start at Hemphill Bald Trailhead off Heintooga Road taking the Hemphill Bald Trail to the junction with Caldwell Fork Trail. We will stop and visit the big poplar before making the climb up to Rough Fork. We will take Rough Fork to the parking lot. Car camping is an option at Balsam Mountain Campground or Mile High Campground both nearby with great sunset views. This hike is almost 14 miles long and is rated difficult due to the distance and the ascent out. Drive time is 2 hours via I-40, distance 105 miles. Hike starting time at the HEMPHILL BALD TRAILHEAD is 8:30 am. Leader Dale Potter, dalepotter55@gmail.com, 865-773-8114

CLINGMAN'S DOME TO SILERS BALD**August 31 - Saturday**

Come enjoy the views (and cooler temperatures) on this section of the Appalachian Trail between Clingmans Dome and Silers Bald. We will start by going to the observation tower on Clingmans Dome then hike the AT to Silers Bald and return to the parking area at Clingmans Dome. The elevation on this hike ranges between 5327 to 6604 feet. This hike is rated difficult due to the elevation change and some rocky trail sections. Hike distance is 9 miles RT, Meet at Comcast on Asheville Hwy at 08:00. RT 120 miles @.05= \$6.00. Leader Neil Snapp nsnapp@comcast.net

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](#). **Maryville Walmart** = On Hwy 411 S between Market Pl and Legends Way, 2410 Hwy 411. Meet near fuel center [Map Link](#).

COMING EVENTS – September 2019

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 7 Saturday | AT Work Trip |
| 14 Saturday | Spence Field and Rocky Top |
| 21 Saturday | Defeat Ridge- Women-Way Off-trail |
| 21 Saturday | Mount Sterling |
| 28 Saturday | Family Hike Little River Trail, Cucumber and Jakes Creek Trails |

For the Record**Woolly Tops, Off-Trail****6-15-2019**

From as far away as Florida and Alabama, fifteen seasoned off-trail hikers convened at the Ramsey Cascades trailhead for an assault on the north face of the mighty Woolly Tops. After the usual preliminaries, the group, following Tim Hernandez, plunged immediately into the wilderness along Big Laurel Branch. Four massive cliffs spaced at irregular intervals along the stream were the most spectacular landmarks along the climb. The upper-most of these is perhaps the highest near-vertical wall in the Smokies. After scaling the last cliff and approaching the wide flat summit of Woolly Tops, hikers came upon the wrecked remains of a Staggerwing airplane that had disappeared in the Smokies on August 12, 1944. The fate of the Staggerwing remained a mystery until January 1947 when hikers, responding to an announcement in the SMHC newsletter to “Come along and let’s take a little jaunt into one of the prettiest and roughest sections of the Park,” stumbled upon the debris. According to Hiking Club lore, the plane was discovered when Ernie Dickerman separated himself from the main hiking group, ostensibly for a necessary trail break. Looking up from his squat, Dickerman noticed strands of olive drab cloth tangled in the tree limbs. He summoned his hiking companions and the body of the plane was soon found nearby.



After examining the scattered wreckage and enjoying a well-earned respite on the summit of Woolly Tops, Tim directed our group down the Dwight McCarter Boulevard, a faint manway leading off the west end of the mountain. Hikers were greeted along the trail both by a hornets’ nest and by a rattlesnake. Tim got stung. No one was bitten.

Tim Hernandez & Ken Wise

Gregory’s Bald**6-16-2019****We had a total of 17 that made the Father’s Day hike to**

Gregory’s Bald on Sunday. The weather was great. The views were wonderful from the bald. The azaleas were probably right at peak bloom. Some of the deepest reds that I have seen on the bald. Lots of variation on the pink, red, and orange blooms but very few yellow and white ones. We stopped to visit the site where Mary Post planted a holly tree in 1864 before we headed up to the bald.

Dale Potter



Chadwell Gap to Hensley Settlement 6-26-2019

17 members came out on this beautiful, sunny and clear Wednesday to travel up to the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Specifically, we tackled the Chadwell Gap trail, with the goal of hiking to the Hensley settlement. Chadwell Gap is only 2.9 miles long, and the first mile or so has some small ups and downs. The last 2 miles however ascends 2000 ft. It was steep. It was hard. The trail was rocky and



rutted in places. But we did see plenty of black cohosh, spirea, some sandstone bluffs, and we were especially thrilled to see the top of the ridge! At the junction of Chadwell Gap with the Ridge Trail, there was a short spur trail to a fabulous view of the Virginia valley below. It was another 1.1 miles to the Hensley settlement, where the Hensley and Gibbons families lived from 1903-1951, eschewing modern amenities including electricity and indoor plumbing. Instead they chose to live, farm and educate their families in the ways Appalachian mountain families had done for decades before them. What an idyllic site they chose, despite the challenges of living on a mountain! They also kept busy by having 19 children (Sherman and Nicey Hensley) or 12 children (Willie and Nancy Gibbons). Our hikers had to answer quiz questions about the settlement and nature before getting a treat for doing that climb! The descent was just as steep going down, and slippery in places. Near the trailhead, a large fat rattlesnake awaited our return; the hikers who came up on it initially got to hear it rattle before it moved off the trail. We all pretty much agreed that this hike leader should have graded this hike as "Difficult" instead of "Moderate", but every single one of these hikers took this challenge on in their usual wonderful good spirit. Hike distance 8 miles to and from Hensley, 10-11 miles after exploring the settlement. Diane Petrilla and Ron Brandenburg



KILL THE DAM INVASIVES 7-6-2019

This second annual event organized by Matt Drury of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy was great in ALL ways! The SMHC had an extremely impressive turnout of 16 volunteers for this important event. Three different groups worked in both hot sun and rain to eradicate a variety of invasive plants on the AT near Fontana Dam. We were rewarded with a "Kill the Dam Invasives" t-shirt plus a yummy lunch. HUGE THANKS to all our wonderful volunteers! If you weren't part of the fun, consider joining us in 2020!

Cindy Spangler



Roundtop trail and Wear Cove Gap road 7-10-2019

It was a good day. Dave, our leader, and Neil were both back after recovering from injuries. But the most pleasant surprise was the appearance of Pat. She was not able to hike with us but just stopped by to say hello to everyone. We also had three hikers who had never hiked with us before. Oh yeah, there also was a hike. The hike



started by walking one mile up the road from Metcalf Bottoms to the trailhead where the group picture was taken. The day was hot and the trail elevation started at 1,680 ft., ended at 1,130 ft. and had a maximum of 2,700 ft. so there was no cooling from being at high altitude. But on this trail, there is always Little River to look forward to. Dipping one's feet (or whole body) in the water is a pleasant way to end the hike after the initial shock of the cold water. There were many tourists and a few hikers playing in the water at the Wye. The trail was very dry (no mud to avoid) but overgrown for the last couple of



miles. Someone had trimmed along the trail for the first mile or so but everything that was cut was laying in the trail making it a trip hazard. The first group of the 20 hikers stopped along the trail and ate some lunch while waiting for the later hikers. When they arrived, they decided to eat lunch at the river and the first group was ready to move on, so the group was more together, at least for a while. The trail itself is 7.5 miles with an elevation gain of 1255 ft. Ron Brandenburg

Leave No Trace Principle #4 – Dispose of Waste Properly

Did you know that the SMHC is responsible for maintaining the Appalachian Trail through the Smokies? Included with caring for the trail is maintaining the many shelters on the trail to include a number of privies (in East Tennessee we know them as outhouses). Members of the SMHC constructed these structures and we now maintain them (most of the construction materials has to be flown by helicopter to the site). The reason for the shelters and privies is not for the comfort of the backpackers but rather to protect the parks natural resources. Thousands of people hike on the A.T. in the park each year and if we did not restrict camping and try to dispose of human waste properly soon the trail would be unusable and unhealthy. The privies are called "moldering privies". The concept is to add mulch (which SMHC members pack into the privies) to the privy pits which over time basically turns the waste and mulch into organic matter (i.e. dirt). So, when on the trail use the privy if you have access, if not step off the trail and bury your business so that it decomposes. Finally, please don't be one of "those people" who leave toilet paper "flowers" on or near the trail in site of others. Have a good hike! Steve Dunkin

Visit our website: www.smhclub.org

The 10 Essentials to Have on Every Hike

(This fact sheet was originally created by the American Hiking Society, www.AmericanHiking.org)

1. Appropriate footwear. For a short day hike that doesn't involve a heavy pack or technical terrain, trail shoes are great. For longer hikes, carrying heavier loads, or more technical terrain, hiking boots offer more support.
2. Map and compass/GPS. A map and compass not only tell you where you are and how far you have to go, it can help you find campsites, water, and an emergency exit route in case of an accident. While GPS units are very useful, always carry a map and compass as a backup.
3. Extra water and a way to purify it. Without enough water, your body's muscles and organs simply can't perform as well. Consuming too little water will not only make you thirsty, but susceptible to hypothermia and altitude sickness.
4. Extra food. Any number of things could keep you out longer than expected: getting lost, enjoying time by a stream, an injury, or difficult terrain. Extra food will help keep up energy and morale.
5. Rain gear and extra clothing. Because the weatherman is not always right. Dressing in layers allows you to adjust to changing weather and activity levels. Two rules: avoid cotton (it keeps moisture close to your skin) and always carry a hat.
6. Safety items: fire, light, and a whistle. The warmth of a fire and a hot drink can help prevent hypothermia. Fires are also a great way to signal for help if you get lost. If lost, you'll also want the whistle as it is more effective than using your voice to call for help (use 3 short bursts). And just in case you're out later than planned, a flashlight/headlamp is a must-have item to see your map and where you're walking.
7. First aid kit. Prepackaged first aid kits for hikers are available at any outfitter. Double your effectiveness with knowledge: take a first aid class with the American Red Cross or a Wilderness First Aid class.
8. Knife or multi-purpose tool. These enable you to cut strips of cloth into bandages, remove splinters, fix broken eyeglasses, and perform a whole host of repairs on malfunctioning gear.
9. Sunscreen and sunglasses. Especially above tree-line, when there is a skin-scorching combination of sun and snow, you'll need sunglasses to prevent snow blindness and sunscreen to prevent sunburn.
10. Daypack/backpack. You'll want something you can carry comfortably and has the features designed to keep you hiking smartly. Don't forget the rain cover; some packs come with one built-in. Keep the other Essentials in the pack and you'll always be ready to hit the trail safely.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SMHC ADDITION to the 10 Essentials:

11. Trash bag for picking up litter.
~Cindy Spangler

Here's a simple way to contribute to the Club:

The Kroger Community Rewards number for Smoky Mountain Hiking Club was changed for 2019, so please update your account so that the Club can continue to receive these easy-to-donate funds. If you haven't ready signed up or updated, the new # for Smoky Mountains Hiking Club is MV194.



| Candidates Nominated for the 2019 Executive Board | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| President.....Diane Petrilla | Historian...Brian Worley |
| Vice President....Ken Wise | Director....Amanada Beal |
| Treasurer..... Tim Bigelow | Director....Taylor Weatherbee |
| Secretary..... Steve Dunkin | Director....Jean Gauger |
| Mmbrship Sec... George Ritter | Director....Dale Potter |
| Comm Director..Cindy Spangler | Director....Will Skelton |

Please plan to attend the Election Picnic on August 10 at the Greenbrier picnic pavilion.

2020 SMHC HIKE LEADERS – HANDBOOK INPUT

All hike leaders for SMHC hikes during 2020 should submit a brief description of their hike to the SMHC Handbook Editors as soon as possible. Brevity would be appreciated; florid prose can be saved for the newsletter hike description. Please submit your hike descriptions no later than September 30, 2019 to George Ritter (rittergeo@gmail.com) and Ken Wise, (kwise@utk.edu).