

FOR THE RECORD

Chimney Top Mountain  
Sunday July 11, 1976

Eight people started up the mountain on a nice hot humid day. One lady decided it was too hot and steep and came back to the car after about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, with her husband. Other six people made the complete trip, hot tired, and very dry, but it was well worth the effort. It was beautiful on top except a little hazy in the distance. Big turkey buzzards are taking over the old light tower and fire tower. We saw about 15 of them from close up, with a wing span of 5 or 6 feet. Those making the trip were Doris Bolef (East Tennessee State), Dick and Craig Burow, Darrol Nickels, Jim Rosser, Frank and Betty Williams, and Ed Allen. Part of the group did  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of bushwacking that they will remember.

Ed Allen

Street Gap to Spivey Gap  
Saturday, July 17, 1976

This was a beautiful day for hiking, with rain on Friday night to cool the trail off. Ed Allen, Chuck Hamby, Garland and Gil Ruth hiked from Street Gap to Spivey Gap, across Big and Little Bald Mountains. Mr. and Mrs. John McGettrick hiked from Sam's Gap to Street Gap and returned. Except for small mix up on starting point, keys locked in the van, a station wagon getting hot on the road up to Street Gap (where we had to get out and push and pour canteen water into the radiator), and one flat tire on top of the mountain, we had good luck.

We met twenty-one people on the trail. Six adults, six youngsters backpacking from Charleston, South Carolina, a couple from California taking pictures, three adults, three youngsters from Florida who were just out for a walk, and one lone backpacker heading south. We spent a little time at High Rock, one mile from Spivey Gap, where there is a very nice view. High Rock would make a nice short family hike at a later date. We ended our hike with a good dinner at the Elms in Erwin.

Ed Allen

Green Knob Fire Tower  
Saturday, August 21, 1976

This is a unique trip as the summit is elusive and never seems to come. Each level of last part of the steep trail appears to be the top, but when reached, another top looms ahead. Eventually there is a genuine summit and it has a tower with remarkable views of Mt. Mitchell, the Blue Ridge and the Catawba River headwaters valley.

The hike starts on South Toe River at Black Mountain Campground and this hike is 6 miles round trip with a climb of 2000 feet. Ascent takes about 2 hours, and can be strenuous. For those who do not want to make the hike but desire to see the view, there is a short path at Blue Ridge Parkway mile 350.6 that leads to the tower.

Those interested will meet at B-215 parking lot at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 o'clock departure. Please bring rain gear, water and lunch. For additional information contact Dick Ardell at 247-3718 after 7:00p.m.

### For The Record

Eighteen stouthearted hikers headed out from the Greenbrier Cabin early in the morning on August 28, 1976. After a short distance they left the trail, and then a little later stepped in Lowe's Branch. Hours later they stepped out of its headwaters onto the Boulevard Trail, and soon Mt. LeConte Lodge beckoned. Changing from totally wet, dirty clothes, they sat down for hot nourishment only an hour late and were joined by one more of the original party whose car failed to get him to Greenbrier in time.

Lowe's Branch will not soon fade from memory. Especially the long, slick sluice where one by one each person ever so carefully inched upward, some under an enormous cross-log, grasping corners of rock and rhododendron, some over the log, wriggling upward like a snake.

Sunday the nineteenth, all safe and glowing from yesterday's feat, we walked back to the Greenbrier Cabin for lunch and to say a last goodbye to the cabin setting quietly among the great poplars, which had been our home many times. We were the last party to use it. It was sad.

Stan Murray

Second Annual Berry Picking at Grayson Highland State Park  
Saturday, August 28, 1976

Blueberries and blackberries abound in the beautiful open valley between Wilburn Ridge and Pine Mountain at Grayson Highland State Park, Virginia (southwest of Mt. Rogers). Our club had a successful trip there last year.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Building 215 parking lot and drive to Campground Road in the park. We will walk as suits our fancy from three to five miles for berries and views. This will be a very easy hike. The round trip driving distance is 175 miles. We should return to Kingsport about 5:00 p.m. Bring buckets, lunch, water, and raingear. For information, call Collins Chew at 239-6237.

Big Yellow Bald From Shell Creek  
September 11-12, 1976

Four of us walked up the old wagon road along the headwaters of Shell Creek to Bradley Gap. From there we followed the Appalachian Trail to Yellow Mountain then turned

south to Big Yellow Bald. We camped on the north end of the Big Yellow Ridge, with a view of Grassy Ridge in one direction and Little Hump Mountain in the other. The mountains were quite dry and the drought and probably also the season had turned the grass on the summit of Big Yellow to a soft buff.

On Sunday the skies were clear and sunny and the air was pleasantly cool as we hiked back across the Hump and down to Doll Flats before turning down Doll Creek to its junction with Shell Creek where we had left our car. We saw 14 other backpackers and three hikers. After a stop for ice cream in Roan Mountain Village we returned to Kingsport in mid-afternoon. Participants were Dick Ardell, Frank Williams, and Georgia and Darrol Nickels.

Darrol Nickels

FOR THE RECORD

Fall Appalachian Trail Hike  
October 1-9, 1976

Six of us, Dick Ardell, John Kiefer, Don Nelan, Gordon Newland, Darrol Nickels and John Thompson started at Eckville, Pa. near famous Hawk Mountain for a hike on the A.T. Our expected autumn colors were still summer green dampened by summer showers. The first day we met several hunters and an occasional one the rest of the week, dressed in camouflage gear as the deer season was open to bow hunters. We were interrogated by several C.A.P. volunteers who were having weekend Escape and Seek games. There were over 50 volunteers, equally divided into an infiltration group and a search and capture group. The searchers were using the A.T. as a defense line to capture the infiltrators.

Much of our hike was through state game lands which has restrictions on camping and building fires. We spent two nights in shelters, two nights in tents and two nights in motels. We met very few hikers on the trail. The weather was generally rainy with one full day of sunshine (Monday), and three mornings of rain (Sunday, Friday, and Saturday). The Friday hike was lengthened to include  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Saturday schedule because of the threatening bad weather. Most of this section was on roads so we dropped our packs, hiked 7 miles to the car, drove back to pick up the packs, cleaned up at a motel and went to the Deer Lodge Inn in Mt. Holly Springs for a seafood platter dinner. Saturday morning we walked 6 miles from Rt. 11 to Allen, Pa. - 101.8 miles from Eckville in a downpour. Fields were flooded, water was running across the road shoe deep in several places and the town square in Allen was nearly knee deep. By 9:30 a.m. we were back at the motel to dry out and prepare for a return trip to Kingsport (D. Ardell, G. Newland, and J. Thompson) or a vacation in western New York (D. Nelan). D. Nickels had returned to Kingsport by bus, leaving us early Monday a.m. because of an inflamed foot. J. Kiefer had hiked through Thursday to Clark's Ferry on the Susquehanna River where he was met by his wife for a continued vacation in Pa. and N.Y. Plan to join us next autumn for a hike which will probably be in Maine.

Don Nelan

Autumn Hike on the Appalachian Trail  
Saturday October 2- Sunday, October 11, 1976

The annual fall hike on the A.T. will cover 101.8 miles from Allen, Pa. to Eckville, Pa. We can expect clear, crisp autumn days with foliage colors at the peak with gold, red, orange, etc. Anyone wanting to participate in this activity please make a reservation by sending \$10.00 to Don Neland, Building 150B by September 8th. If you desire more information, call Don Nelan at 239-9534.

House and Barn Hike  
October 17, 1976

The wet weather on October 17 prompted us to postpone this hike. We were not afraid of the bad weather but some rock climbing is required on this trip and conditions should be at their best for this type of outing.

Hugh Thompson

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Hike Leaders Workshop  
Sunday, October 24, 1976

To help hikers plan and conduct successful trips there will be a workshop for hike leaders before the Oyster dinner on Sunday afternoon. This meeting will be fairly short and general with handouts and references for more details. If you take your family or friends on hikes, it should be just as helpful as if you lead "official" club hikes. We hope to cover safety, planning and leading, equipment, finding the way, environment, canoeing, and the extras that make a trip memorable. A number of experienced trip leaders will participate. Day hikes, backpacking, and longer tours will be briefly covered. For more information call Collins Chew at 239-6237.

Hike Leaders Seminar  
October 24, 1976

Twenty people attended our first training session for hike leaders. Eight experienced hikers and canoeers prepared and presented short papers and discussions of efficient and safe ways to prepare and manage outdoor trips. These persons were Gordon Newland, Gerry Morie, Don Nelan, Darroll Nickels, Rick Phelps, Dick Burrow, Stan Murray, and Ray Hunt. Their discussion notes have been prepared in a booklet with equipment lists and references for further information. Collins Chew in Bldg. 71 has a limited supply of these booklets for anyone interested.

Collins Chew

FOR THE RECORD

Grassy Ridge Easy Backpack  
June 5-6, 1976

It was warm and an unusually clear and sunny afternoon as nine of us set out from Carvers Gap on an "easy backpack for beginners". As we strolled on the Trail we enjoyed the blooms of blueberries, strawberries, and bluets. Juncos and swallows winged back and forth across our path. Our ages ranged from five to "retired" and the youngsters led us as we climbed to the six thousand foot summit. From the top of Grassy Ridge we could identify Mount Mitchell, Hawksbill, Tablerock, and Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina, Mount Rogers and Whitetop in Virginia, Holston and Bays Mountain in Tennessee and many others.

After making camp and preparing dinner in the gap just south of Grassy Ridge Summit, we walked farther out the ridge to where we could rest on the rocks of Big Roan Ridge and look down on Grassy Gap. Here we talked of future trips.

When we awoke on Sunday morning, frost on our packs re-emphasized the rule that you can't trust the weather and must be prepared for extremes.

After a hearty breakfast and a pleasant return walk we arrived back at Carvers Gap before mid day, and each of us thought we had qualified for another South-Beyond -Six Thousand Peak. However, examination of the rule book showed that not only was this not the case but that this hike was used as an example of what would not qualify. Participants were Gary Godsey, Andrea White, Bill and Janice Grigsby, Chris and Don Kreh, Zinnie Zinober, and Georgia and Darrol Nickels.

Darrol Nickels

Doe River Gorge  
September 25, 1976

On September 25, 1976 Charles and Trixie Stringer, Chris and Ulte Schuster with their three children, Ian and Jan Smith, Dick Ardell, John and Betty Fuzek, George Stevenson, and Van Wilhelm enjoyed an easy hike up the Doe River Gorge.

Mira Wilhelm

Looking Glass Rock - Blue Ridge Parkway  
October 2, 1976

Seven hikers left Kingsport on a somewhat dreary day here to see the sun break through about Asheville for an excellent hiking day. Leaves had just begun to turn in the Pisgah National Forest and the temperature was warm enough to wade in the creek. Those who were eager to wade were Bob Scott, Jennie, Beth, and John. Others not so brave parted ways and later returned to Kingsport. John and Betty Fuzek met James and Janice Ownby who along with the Scotts followed their fearless leader up the slopes. An enjoyable afternoon is a must for family hikers when again offered.

Lester Church

MEMO TO ALL TERC HIKING CLUB MEMBERS

House and Barn Mountain  
Sunday, October 16

This hike is not, as it is listed in the schedule, of a difficult nature. Chimney Top is harder and it is rated moderate. House and Barn Mountain is located east of Lebanon, Virginia off U.S. 19. The name springs from the fact that the sandstone tops is broken into blocks on the east end and resembles a house, barn and outhouse when viewed in profile. Plan to leave Wright's Super Market (across from K-Mart) in north Johnson City at 8:30a.m. on Sunday, October 17th. For further information, call Hugh Thompson at 928-0472 after 6:00p.m.

Grandfather Mountain  
Saturday, October 23

This will be an all day trip, hiking up from the intersection of N.C. 105 and the road from Banner Elk and returning the same way. We will meet at Bldg. 215 parking lot at 8:00 a.m.; driving time is about 2 hours one way. We will spend  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hours on the mountain and return to Kingsport about 6:30 p.m. (unless we decide to eat out Saturday night). Be prepared for cool weather and rain. Bring a lunch and canteen. If the weather is bad, we will hike the proposed Backpacking Trail in Bays Mountain Park. For further information call Gordon Newland 246-8845.

ATTENTION!

Please note on your calendars that the hiking club Oyster dinner is October 24th. The speaker will be Boyd Evison, Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mt. National Park. Please plan to attend, There will be more information on dinner prices later.

Mira Wilhelm

Seminar on Leading Hikes  
October 24

A seminar on leading hikes will be presented on Sunday, October 24, 1976 at the TERC cabin, from 4:00-600 p.m. before the Oyster Dinner. Experienced hike leaders will present short sessions with discussion about many phases of hiking, camping, canoeing, and touring to help you prepare and lead successful trips with family, friends, scouts, as well as regular TERC Hiking Club groups. A handout booklet will give equipment lists and helpful information for each of the topics covered. The topics and leaders will be:

1. Planning the hike - Gordon Newland
2. Leading the hike - Gerald Morie
3. Safety and First Aid - Don Nelan
4. Equipment and Clothing - Darrol Nickels
5. The Canoeing Trip - Rick Phelps
6. Environment and Education - Stan Murray
7. The Long Distance Trip - Ray Hunt

Annual Oyster Dinner, October 24, 1976

Annual Hiking Club oyster dinner will be Sunday, October 24, 1976 at 6:30 at the Eastman Cabin. Speaker will be Mr. Boyd Evison, Superintendent of the Great Smokey Mt. National Park. Menus are as follows: (Your Choice)

Hospitality Tray with Chips and Dip  
Steamed Oysters  
French Fried Potatoes  
Tossed Salad with French or Roquefort Dressing  
Homemade French Bread and Butter  
Apple Pie  
Oyster Dinner - \$4.90 each

Hospitality Tray with Chips and Dip  
Sirloin Strip Steak  
French Fried Potatoes  
Tossed Salad with French or Roquefort Dressing  
Homemade French Bread and Butter  
Apple Pie  
Steak Dinner - \$4.90 each

Hospitality Tray  
Hamburger Patties on Buns  
Trimmings: Sliced Onion, Pickle, Tomatoes, Shredded Lettuce,  
Mustard, Catsup, Mayonnaise  
Apple Pie  
Hamburger Dinner - \$2.75 each

Drinks: Coffee, Tea, Milk (included in dinner price)

Please fill out this reservation form and send it with your check to Mira Wilhelm, Building 230. Make checks payable to TEC Cafeteria. Reservations must be received by 5:00 p.m., October 21, 1976.

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Old Appalachian Trail on Holston Mountain

Sunday, November 21

This hike will be on the old A.T. on Holston Mountain from the Holston High Knob firetower to the A.T. at Cross Mountain and then on the A.T. to Tenn. 91. Total distance is 10.6 miles. We will meet at Bldg. 215 parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Driving time is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours one way. Be prepared for cold weather. The hike is along the top of Holston and Cross Mountains so elevation changes are moderate. The date was changed from Nov. 20 to Nov. 21 to avoid interaction with hunters. For additional information call Dick Ardell at 247-3718.

FOR THE RECORD

Old Appalachian Trail on Holston Mountain

November 21, 1976

Eight people participated in this hike. Four of us, Don Nelan, Dick Burrows, Tom Meredith and myself hiked in a northerly direction starting at the fire tower on Holston Mountain and going about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the Appalachian Trail crossing at Tn. 91 at Crossover Mountain. The other four, Harriet and Mel Locke and Mary and Bruce Cunningham made the hike in the reverse direction. This hike started out in clear and sunny weather but snow was encountered before the day ended although it was not bad enough to cause any troubles but the southbound crew did not hike to Flint Rock because it was snowing at the time causing low visibility. However the northbound group were able to get great views at both the fire tower and Flint Rock. The temperature was in the 30s with strong winds at times and blowing snow at other times. It took about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours for both groups to complete the hike.

Dick Ardell

MEMO TO ALL TERC HIKING CLUB MEMBERS

Bays Mountain Park  
Sunday, Dec. 5, 1976

Early in the spring of 1976 the Hiking Club was invited by the management of Bays Mountain Park to assist in designing new trails in the western end of the Park to provide a spectrum of hiking opportunities including access to areas suitable for overnight camping. One of the objectives in laying out the new trails was to achieve a system of interconnecting and loop trails which would permit one to arrange several different hikes of various degrees of moderation. During the summer the Youth Conservation Corps, a group of twenty young, area students assisted Park personnel in clearing and marking part of the proposed trail system. Three hikes (easy, moderate and difficult) are being offered to give club members the opportunity to examine the new trails.

Please note that the meeting place and starting point for all three hikes is the parking lot in front of the Nature Interpretive Center at Bays Mountain Park. The Park gates will be open, but remember there is a modest parking fee.

Easy Hike

Bob Miller will lead a group along the Lakeside Trail and the Cherry Knobs Trail then a short distance west along the old fire road and the New Cherry Knobs Trail. The return trip will bring the group back to the old fire road which leads back to the Nature Interpretive Center. Distance is four miles. Meet at the main parking lot in front of the Nature Interpretive Center at 1:30 p.m. Wear clothing suitable for the weather and comfortable walking shoes. The return to the parking lot should be at 4:30-5:00 p.m.

Moderate Hike

Darrol Nickels will lead a group along the Bays Ridge Road to the road which crosses the ridge above Jones Grocery. The group will follow this road to Front Hollow and turn down Front Hollow. From Front Hollow the group will follow a pioneer trail to a gap in the Cherry Knobs then turn east on a new trail along the crest of the Cherry Knobs. The New Cherry Knobs Trail will be followed generally east to the old fire road. From the fire road return will be via the Cherry Knobs Trail and the Lakeside Trail. Total distance is 5.1 miles. Meet at the parking lot at the Nature Interpretive Center at 10:00 a.m. Wear hiking boots and clothing suitable for the weather. Carry lunch, raingear and canteen of water. Expect to return to the Nature Interpretive Center at 3-4:00 p.m.

Difficult Hike

Dick Ardell will be your leader for a rugged hike which may involve a small amount of trail blazing. He will take his group along Bays Ridge to near Little Horse Gap then drop steeply into Front Hollow. From Front Hollow to Back Hollow he will go through the last gap in the western end of the Cherry Knobs. After an easy climb to the crest of Pretty Ridge and a short level walk along the crest the group will drop easily into Kiner Hollow. Kiner Hollow will be followed to its head, a shallow sag in Pretty Ridge, then the south side of the ridge will be skirted, descending to the big spring near the old Feagins homestead. After a climb to the crest of the Cherry Knobs and New Cherry Knobs Trail, the old fire road will be followed to the Cherry Knobs Trail. Then the Lakeside Trail will bring the group to the Nature Interpretive Center. Meet at the main parking lot at the Nature Interpretive Center at 8:00 a.m. Wear sturdy hiking boots and clothing suitable for the weather. Carry lunch and a canteen of water. Carry leather gloves and additional clothing for any weather that may blow up. There may be a short section of trail blazing so be prepared for brush and briars.

\*\* All hikes will go regardless of the weather. For additional information call Darrol Nickels at 247-7043.

MEMO TO ALL TERC HIKING CLUB MEMBERS

Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam  
December 11 & 12

An overnight backpack along the Appalachian Trail from Highway 91 south to Watauga Dam is planned for December 11 & 12. We are hoping for reasonably cold and moderately snowy weather, but we will not go in the rain. We will leave from the Recreation Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 11 and drive to Watauga Dam Power House, where we will leave a car. From the dam we will double up in cars and drive to the A.T. crossing at Highway 91. We will hike south and plan to stay in the second trail shelter. Those interested, contact Alan Lewis, 288-~~4500~~ *4500* *Bring your food*



Bays Mountain Hike - Difficult

December 5, 1976

Seven people participated in the difficult hike leaving the Nature Center on Bays Mountain at 8:00 A.M., Sunday, December 5, 1976. They were: Dick Ardell (the leader), Tricia Cains, Mike Castro, Robert Noe, Frank Oglesby, Tom Meredith, and Bill Howle. The day was ideal for hiking and the group made good time completing the hike, around 11 to 12 miles, by 2:15 P.M. Some bushwhacking was done and some of the trail in the Kiner Hollow section was overgrown and trail markings were hard to find. Despite a couple of backtracks to find the right part of the trail everybody got through safely and little time was lost. Some parts of the trail were very steep and switchbacks would be needed for persons carrying overnight camping gear I would expect.

Dick Ardell

Bays Mountain Hike - Intermediate

December 5, 1976

Two of us left the Nature Center in Bays Mountain at 10:00 A.M. We walked along the Bays Ridge Trail to a point south of Ledbetter Gap then descended to Front Hollow. After going west in Front Hollow for about one-fourth mile, we crossed the Cherry Knobs to Back Hollow. We ate lunch at a gap in the Cherry Knobs at the western end of the New Cherry Knobs Trail. While we were there, seven off-road vehicles used the junction as a turn-around. After lunch, we came upon the Difficult Hike participants eating lunch in Back Hollow. We followed Back Hollow east beyond the Feagins homestead then turned south up a spur ridge and traveled to the New Cherry Knobs Trail where we joined the Difficult Hike. As the combined group returned to the start, we met the Easy Hike near the lake. Participants were Jack Young and Darrol Nickels.

Darrol Nickels

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Reservations for T E R C Hiking Club Annual Dinner

To: Collins Chew (Building 71)  
609 Green Meadow Dr., Kingsport, Tennessee 37663

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Steak dinners and \_\_\_\_\_ Hamburger dinners for the Hiking Club Dinner, January 23, 1977.

Enclosed is my check.

_____	Steak dinners at \$3.50	_____
_____	Hamburgers at \$2.50	_____
	Total	_____

Signed \_\_\_\_\_