

TERC HIKING CLUB

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

1983



Addressee, please note change of building number here _____ and return to Eastman Employee Center, B-310. Hiking Club. My Name is _____

Dept. No. _____ Payroll No. _____

ATTENTION MEMBERS: TRAILS BLAZED AT BAYS MOUNTAIN PARK

Bays Mountain Park in Kingsport, Tennessee, now has a long-distance, blue-blazed hiking trail, available to all hikers. The Trail, a loop formed from several existing trails in the western part of the 3000 acre park, offers good views, steep ascents and descents, and plenty of beautiful woods walking. This 11 mile trail is blue-blazed in both directions and is a combination of the Cherry Knobs, Cross Ridges, Pretty Ridge, Lower Cherry Knobs and Bays Ridge Trails. Also blazed in both directions, is the Indian Pipes Trail from the firetower to the intersection with the Pretty Ridge Trail.

These trails were blazed by Stuart Bumgarner for his Boy Scout Eagle Project. Stuart is a member of Troop 250 in Kingsport, TN.

(E) ROAN MOUNTAIN - EAGLE ROCKS

Saturday, December 10, 1983

We will walk a nearly level Forest Service logging road from Carvers Gap around the North Carolina side of Roan High Knob and Roan High Bluff to the gap between them and Eagle Rocks Cliff. After exploring a bit and eating lunch, we will have a choice of returning by the road or coming back over the summits. With leaves off the trees, we should have some nice views from this area which was logged about 12 years ago. Meet at B-215, TEC at 8:00 AM, return time will be around 4:00 PM, Distance: hike - 5 miles, drive - 120 miles round trip. Equipment: Lunch, canteen, clothing for severe cold, windy or wet weather. This hike will be cancelled if roads are icy. For further information call Collins Chew at 239-6237.

BLOWDOWN PARTY - December 10, 1983

There are a few fallen trees and other small problems which have been reported by Appalachian Trail users since our normal spring maintenance trips. For the past several years, we've tried to get at those rascals one last time in late fall. If you would like to help out, or just come along and enjoy a pleasant outing before winter sets in, please contact Jeff Sirola, B-150, telephone 288-4147.

(D) Mount LeCONTE CREEK TRIP - July 14 & 15, 1983

By popular vote of the 1983 Creek Trip participants, the 1984 expedition will utilize Boulevard Branch. This has been a popular route to the summit of Mount LeConte (by creek trippers) and was last visited by our club in 1979.

This will be a two-hiking-day trip, starting Saturday morning at the Porter Creek Trailhead. After a long, hard day climbing rocks and waterfalls, wading through deep, clear pools, scrambling through rhododendron, and climbing through multiple blowdowns, we should arrive on the Boulevard Trail in time to reach LeConte Lodge by supper time. We have reserved the three-bedroom lodge for Saturday night; so the trip will be limited to 13 persons. Following breakfast at the lodge on Sunday, we will return by trail, expecting to arrive at the cars by early afternoon. This is a difficult hike, an unusual amount of exertion is required, These trips are memorable occasions!

FOR THE RECORD - 1983 A.T. MAINTENANCE TRIPS

1983 was another busy year for the club and its continuing stewardship of the Appalachian Trail. All sections of the trail for which we are responsible received attention and are in pretty good shape. Collected here are the reports submitted by most of the team leaders. We wish to thank all club members who helped out this year with regular maintenance and special projects and encourage all others to join us to make 1984 every bit as successful.

Spivey Gap - Nolichucky River - Bill Murdock

On May 21, Ron Nations and I braved an 80% chance of rain that never happened and enjoyed a pleasant walk along this section. Except for some mud from the previous day's rain, the trail was in good shape. The trip leader did the few blazes that we missed the next weekend.

Nolichucky River - Indian Grave Gap - Collins Chew

On May 14, one group painted blazes up from the river while the other group went the opposite way cutting and clearing. Many blowdowns and drooping rhododendron bushes were removed. The encroaching rhododendron were removed from the northern half of the trail but not the southern because of time, rain, and a stalled weedeater. The many throughhikers we met spoke well of the trail and thanked us for our efforts. That made us feel very good. Workers blazing were Warren McLain and Ben Pelot; cutting were David Green, Chester Bruner, and Collins Chew.

Indian Grave Gap - USFS Road 230 - Dick Clark

Five people contributed to this successful work trip on a cool, cloudy, early June day. Rain threatened all day, but the group outdistanced the rain. Much clearing, cutting, and weeding was required, but this section is always a pleasure. Views were spectacular across the Beauty Spot. A surprise was a full display of spring wildflowers, including pink lady slippers, all along the trail. Participants were Waylon Jenkins, Jim Rosser, Doug Clark, and Mary and Dick Clark. Mary did all the blazing as usual, and this was the second time she had done this section.

USFS Road 230 - Iron Mountain Gap - Paul Worsham

Five participants enjoyed an action-packed day of trail maintenance on a warm July day. A brief afternoon thundershower provided a welcome respite from the heat. However, at the end of the day as usual the maintenance team won, and the trail was better off for it. The contestants on this day were Louis Moreno, Molly Miller, Darrol Nickels, and Lesa and Paul Worsham.

Iron Mountain Gap - Hughes Gap - Van Wilhelm

Ed Oliver, Kirk Finch, Kevin Edgar, and Van Wilhelm made up the trail maintenance team for the section from Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap. We disembarked at Hughes Gap about 9:00 a.m. on July 7. The weather was just perfect and the trail was generally in good shape. The only thing wrong was the trail guide said we would come to a weedy gag. It was generally agreed that this should be changed to read a WEEDY gag!

Hughes Gap - Carvers Gap - John Thompson

On a cold, windy, and cloudy April morning, six of us left Carvers Gap to do maintenance work on the A.T. south 4.6 miles to Hughes Gap. We painted blazes, put up signs, checked Roan High Knob Shelter (highest on the A.T. at 6285'), picked up litter, removed blowdowns, and trimmed vegetation. The clouds blew away by noon leaving a beautiful day with great visibility. Those making the trip were Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Kenneth Hatfield, Dave Hrivnak, Doug Lowman, and John Thompson.

Carvers Gap - Bradley Gap - Dave Olsen

Paulette, Lynn, and Christie Byrd, Joe Givens, and Dave Olsen hiked this section of the A.T. on a blustery day in September. This section of the trail affords several magnificent views from the balds that were clouded over at times while we worked. After being rained on once and tired after working particularly overgrown stretches, several suggestions to do away with the leader were brought forth. Quickly he lied and said he knew the way out and peace was maintained. Arrival home was welcomed by all (particularly the leader).

Bradley Gap - Bear Branch Road - Doug Lowman

On April 30, we did the routine trail maintenance from Bear Branch to Bradley Gap. One group walked to Doll Flats from Shell Creek while the other group walked in from U.S. 19E. White and blue blazes were repainted, brush was cut, and several blowdowns were removed. Joining the leader for this trip were Rick Zimmerman, Frank Williams, and Steve Falling.

Bitter End - Dennis Cove - Gordon Newland

On June 11, Bob and Jenny Scott, Brent and Mary Tennant, Jim Mays, Lewis Carson, and Alison joined Gordon Newland on the section from Bitter End to Dennis Cove. Blowdowns were cut, blazes painted, and weeds and briars removed, leaving this section in pretty good shape except for some stream crossings south of the Moreland Gap Shelter.

FOR THE RECORD - On Saturday, January 14, 1984, Darrol Nickels, Jeff Sirola and Doug Lowman scouted out a new route up Pond Mountain. The route starts in Shook Branch Hollow and follows the ridgeline up to Pond Flats. The route has been tentatively flagged, but will require additional work to flag switchbacks in a couple of steep places. This relocation will eliminate some dangerous, steep trail in Rat Branch Hollow and shorten the section over Pond Mountain to Watauga Lake. Also, Pond Flats will make an excellent camp site.

U.S. 321 - Watauga Dam Road - Tom Pridgen

On a warm, sunny Sunday in June, Jeff Walker and I repainted blazes and cleared several small blowdowns on this relatively short section. We perspired heavily on the trail and lunched heartily at the shelter. We saw no other hikers but heard a strange cry for help about halfway through the hike. We found the source to be a very small, somewhat terrified puppy whose appetite was so keen he tried to lap up our white paint. He adopted us even though we mistakenly stepped on him and once dropped a blowdown on him. Fortunately we all three survived to U.S. 321 where he was easily coaxed into adopting a sunbather.

Watauga Dam Road - Turkey Pen Gap - Jeff Vanderbilt

Pete Reynolds, Kent Wilson, Russ Brogden, Robert Caldwell, Dennis Marshall, and Jeff (Tex) Vanderbilt worked long and hard on May 14 maintaining the A.T. Blowdowns were cleared, blazes were painted, briars were cut, and at least 50 pounds of trash mostly left by "sportsmen" were removed. (At least three additional trash removal trips to Turkey Pen Gap were also made by Steve Banks.)

Turkey Pen Gap - Cross Mountain - Jeff Sirola

Cinda Foglesong, Paul Scherer, and Jeff Sirola tried but did not quite outrun a downpour on this mid-May maintenance trip. However, we did cut, trim, remove trash, and blaze until the rains came and inspected the Grindstaff Monument in preparation for its restoration next year.

Cross Mountain - Low Gap - Frank Williams

This section of the trail is in good condition. Particular attention was paid to blazes at trail intersections and a few blowdowns were removed. Workers on this trip were Jack Young, Ward Cochran, Ken Hyche, Garry Luttrell, Gary Bridges, and Frank Williams.

Low Gap - Abingdon Gap - Lester Church

Randy Churchwell and Lester Church on yet another in the continuing saga of exciting trail clearing jaunts experienced no difficulty in achieving a level of success in the endeavor. Holston Mountain is always impressive, particularly the roads up the mountain as a test of steering mechanisms. But with pleasant weather on all three trips, these events were enjoyed. The only remarkable happening was the two female hikers who failed to notice our macho type image as they grunted and passed on as if they truly enjoyed hiking. Looking forward to a new section next year.

Abingdon Gap - Damascus - Stan Murray

Another section of the A.T. is now that much better. Led by team leader Stan Murray, the crew of seven in late June cleared and painted blazes from Damascus to Abingdon Gap and then walked on to Hughes Gap where cars had been left. Participating were Linda Jewell, Kathy McDavid, Dewey Fuller, Eric Middlemas, Ben Becker, and Reuel Smith. As we arrived somewhat exhausted at Abingdon Gap Shelter (after 11 miles), we found a note from a Georgia-to-Maine hiker who had left there that morning and with whom we had talked---in Damascus at 10:00 a.m.!

FUTURE HIKEs

DATE		TRIP		RATING	LEADER
Apr. 7	Sat.	1/2 Day	Devil's Backbone, Warriors Path Park	E	B. McNally
Apr. 8	Sun.	1/2 Day	Daniel Boone Trail, Powell Mtn.	E	J. Brown
Apr. 14	Sat.	1 Day	AT, Indian Grave Gap - Nolichucky River	M	S. Banks
Apr. 19	Thur.	1 Day	AT, Unaka Mtn. - Iron Mtn. Gap	M	J. Thompson
Apr. 28	Sat.	1 Day	AT, Tanyard Gap - Allen Gap	M	K. Edgar
Apr. 29	Sun.	1/2 Day	Natural Tunnel Wildflower Hike	E	J. Brown

CANOEING SCHEDULE

Apr. 8	Sun.	Elk and/or Doe River	II-III	D. Ingram
Apr. 14-15	Sat.-Sun.	Bluestone River (WV)	I-II	T. Dougherty
Apr. 28	Sat.	North Toe River	I-II	D. Ingram