

TERC HIKING CLUB

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



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A Reminder - Winter Dinner Meeting

The winter dinner meeting will be February 5, 1984, at the Eastman Cabin. The program will be on the Club's Yosemite Hike, so keep the date open and plan on being there. More details in the February newsletter.

Trail Maintenance Equipment Inventory

The annual TERC inventory of all equipment is scheduled for Wednesday, December 28. TERC has requested that all maintenance equipment be returned to the Hiking Club storage room prior to 1 p.m. on December 28. If you plan to do trail maintenance on December 28, please contact Kathy Denney at Extension 3876. The equipment being inventoried will again be available for checkout after 5 p.m. December 28. When returning equipment to the storage room, please try to keep the room orderly. Thanks for your help this past year in keeping the area very presentable.

Trail Maintenance Equipment Missing

A recent spot check of equipment showed some items are missing from the storage room that have not been signed out. Please double check your own tools at home to see if you may have forgotten to return the following: 48" bow saw, 42" bow saw, folding saws, small brush axe, and short handled shovel. All items must be signed out on the checkout sheet when taken from the room and marked off when they are returned. Please return equipment promptly so that it will be readily available for all trail maintenance work.

Now Available - "A Geological History of Bays Mountain Park"

This 83 page booklet, written for people with no geological training, is now available from the TERC Hiking Club Library. It describes and illustrates the gradual formation of Bays Mountain along with the Mid-Atlantic region. To borrow the book, contact Jim Crowell, club librarian at Building 284.

TRIP NOTICE - Bays Mountain Geology Hike - March 3, 1984 Leader - Collins Chew

This novelty hike will provide, for some, a new look at our nation's largest city park. A brief narration will accompany our look at the rocks to tell where they came from, and when and how they formed. Ancient scenes will be reconstructed in our minds as we look at ripple marks, wormholes, and seashells of long ago, beaches and tidal flats, a bed of volcanic ash, and view the evidence of powerful mountain building forces as shown by folded and broken rocks. A simplified reference is "A Geological History of Bays Mountain Park" available from the club librarian, Jim Crowell. The entire hike will be about 6 1/2 miles but a few shortcuts can make it shorter if desired. It is a moderate to easy hike. Bring raingear, warm clothing, lunch, canteen, and if you have one, a Bays Mountain Park Association pass for parking. For more information, call Collins Chew, 239-6237. Date - Saturday, March 3, 1984 at 8:30 a.m. at the Building 215 parking lot. Expected return is before 4:00 p.m.

TRIP NOTICE - Western Montana Backpack - August 4-12, 1984 Leader - Doug Lowman

Spend a week backpacking in the wilderness of western Montana. Tentative plans are to drive to Atlanta Friday evening, then on Saturday fly to Great Falls, Montana, and drive 90 miles to the Benchmark Trailhead at the Bob Marshall Wilderness. It is possible that we could hike a few miles on Saturday, thus spending six nights in tents. We will hike out on Friday and spend Saturday touring Glacier National Park. Total hiking distance is 60 to 70 miles. The plan is to hike north on the east side of the Chinese Wall, then return south along the west side of the Continental Divide, all in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. On the way out, a short trip through the Scapegoat Wilderness is planned. The scenery should be beautiful. The hike is rated difficult. Approximate cost will be \$700 for air and ground transportation, trail food, and food and lodging while off the trail. I would like to discuss the trip plans with those interested in late January or early February. If interested, please send your name, address and phone number to Doug Lowman, 812 Kendrick Creek Road, Kingsport, Tennessee 37663, or Building 150, TEC. A small, nonrefundable deposit will be required by April 1, 1984, and full air fare by July 1, 1984. The trip is limited to twelve hikers, but if more than twelve respond, I will start a waiting list.

TRIP NOTICE - A.T. Long Trail, Vermont - September 8-16, 1984 Leader - Collins

Chew

The delightful Green Mountains of Vermont contain some of the finest miles of the Appalachian Trail. This week-long hike will cover about 40 miles of the A.T.-Long Trail in the Green Mountains and almost 40 miles of the A.T. between the Green Mountains and Hanover, New Hampshire. Nights along the Trail will be spent at shelters, except for Tuesday night, which will be spent at Mountain Meadows Lodge. Two hiking groups will be formed: northbound and southbound. The cost should be about \$200 per person. Although the trail should not be particularly rugged, the trip will be quite strenuous and hikers should be in good condition. If you do not have experience, you will be asked to do some backpacking before this trip. We need to make reservations early so let me know soon of your interest. Call Collins Chew, 239-6237 for information. Please send the following information if you wish to join this hike. Send to Collins Chew, TEC Building 66. Information needed: Name(s), Building Address, Home Phone No., Date Information Sent.

FOR THE RECORD

*Election Results - The following people were elected to the Steering Committee in the recent election: Gordon Porter, Ed Oliver, and Paul Worsham. Continuing members of the Steering Committee include Gordon Newland (Chair), Tom Pridgen, and Bill Murdoch. Also continuing as advisor as past chair is Frank Williams. Retiring after two years of service are Steve Falling, and Lester Church.

*Beyond 6000' Hike - Newfound Gap, Clingman's Dome - Nov. 12, 1983

For the second time a Beyond 6000' hike was thwarted. This hike had to be cancelled when it was learned by calling the park ranger the day before that the Newfound Gap - Forney's Ridge road (to be used for car shuttle) was closed indefinitely because of ice. Without the shuttle, this would have been a difficult, 14 mile hike in marginal weather. For safety reasons, the hike was cancelled. We will try to reschedule in the spring.

*A.T.-Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap - November 19, 1983 Led by Steve Banks
We had a clear and fairly warm day for this eight mile hike. The views from Little Rock Knob of Unaka Mountain, Roan Mountain, Ripshin Ridge, etc. were great. The trail is in good shape. Participants were Terry Good, Beth Shanks, Ann Aitken, Rod Gray, Owen Holbrook, and Steve Banks.

*ATC Board of Managers Meeting, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. - Nov. 19, 1983 - F. L. Williams
The meeting started at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m. There were committee meetings during lunch and regional meetings in the evening. The meeting

reconvened Sunday morning at 8:30 and adjourned at noon. I was unable to stay for the Sunday meeting, but I was impressed by the amount of work accomplished by the Board. As an outsider not involved in the day to day problems, some of the proceedings were of more interest to me than others. I was interested in the discussion of possible wilderness designation for some Forest Service land and how it would affect the A.T. The budget discussion was of interest, particularly the grants requested by some clubs from the ATC. There was also a discussion of fund raising and whether the ATC should undertake an organized fund raising drive with direction from a professional fund raising organization. I was also planning to learn how some of the land trust money is being spent to acquire land to protect the A.T. At the regional evening meeting I learned why I was having so much trouble understanding the Permanent Trail Location Review procedures. There were actually two programs, the Permanent Trail Location Review and the Trail Protection Review. The objective of the Trail Protection Review is to identify lands the Forest Service should buy to protect the Trail. The objective of the Permanent Location Review is to accurately locate the trail on maps, make sure the trail is in the best location and to identify maintenance and safety problems along the trail. In my mind the two programs had become one and the procedure appeared highly complicated. All-in-all this was a worthwhile trip, and I recommend that anyone who has the opportunity to attend one of these meetings do so. It will give you a better understanding of the goals of the ATC and the work required to meet these goals.

*Eagle Rocks - December 10, 1983 Led by Collins Chew

The trip was listed as "easy" and it almost was. We drove to Carvers Gap and entered fog right at the Gap. We walked the half mile on the road and two miles on the logging road as planned except for the fog. We scouted around and visited or saw Eagle Rocks but were still in the fog. Then we ate lunch. Everything was according to plan up to that point. The sky then cleared beautifully. By popular demand, we chose to seek variety on the way back. This involved going up along an abandoned logging skid road that had grown over almost completely. We then bushwhacked through fir and blackberry bushes over blowdowns, and up a few crags to the cliffs south of Roan High Bluff. We then followed trails through the Rhododendron Gardens and located the A.T. for the trip back to Carvers Gap. This too was quite different because springs had deposited sheets of hard ice in the Trail. Everyone enjoyed the excitement of this somewhat different hike. Hikers were Rodney Gray, Owen Holbrook, Reuel Smith, Beth Shanks, Terry Good, and Charlotte and Collins Chew.
