

TERC HIKING CLUB

JULY 1984 NEWSLETTER



*****TRIP NOTICE*****

(D) HIKE NOTICE - Le Conte Creek Trip Leader - Stan Murray
(Scheduled July 14-15, 1984) Although this trip is filled at the moment (limited by the number of reservations at Le Conte Lodge), we have a waiting list and openings frequently occur at the last moment. Call the leader as soon as possible if you wish to be on the waiting list. We will disappear into the Smokies wilderness Saturday morning and climb up the middle of Boulevard Branch, wading pools and climbing waterfalls as opportunities present themselves. Descent Sunday is by trail. The trip is notoriously difficult, so get on the list if you are anxious for a new experience! Call Stan Murray at 323-3677.

CANOE TRIP - French Broad River (Barnard to Hot Springs, NC) Leader - Warren McLain
(Scheduled Saturday, July 14, 1984) Class II-IV. This is an 8-mile section on one of the larger white water streams in the area. "Normal" water flows are 2,000-4,000 cfs. There are 7 or 8 rapids, mostly Class III, and at least one is a Class IV (it can be portaged). Your skill should be intermediate level or higher with experience in Class III rapids to paddle this stream. Normal equipment is required, including flotation in your canoe. Desirable optional equipment is a helmet and throw rope. Meet at 8 a.m. at McDonald's in Colonial Heights. Driving time to put in is approximately 2 1/2 hours. Don't expect to be home before 8 p.m. Please preregister by calling Warren McLain, 288-5762, or Gerald Tustin, Building 150B, 246-8918.

(E) CAVE HIKE - Carter County Saltpeter Cave Leader - Greg Kramer
(Scheduled Saturday, July 14, 1984) Meet in the Building 215 parking lot for a 9 a.m. departure. Bring water, flashlight, lunch, and change of clothing. Trip leader can provide helmet and headlamps if you do not have your own. The hike will not be a difficult one, so anyone interested is urged to come. Contact trip leader before the trip if helmet or headlamps are needed. We will be returning by 6 p.m. Call Greg Kramer at 239-7667.

(M) HIKE NOTICE - Bumpus Cove Leader - Reuel Smith
(Scheduled Saturday, July 14, 1984) Meet at the Building 215 parking lot for an 8 a.m. departure. Bring water, lunch, rain gear and sturdy hiking shoes. This will be a 10- to 12-mile hike on a jeep road with about 2,000 feet gain in elevation. This is a joint TEHC/State of Franklin group, Sierra Club hike. Contact Reuel Smith at 239-9974 to arrange alternate departure points.

(D) HIKE NOTICE - Hump Mountain Relocation Leader - Frank Williams
(Scheduled Saturday, July 14, and Sunday, July 15, 1984) Club members are urgently needed to help the Konnarock Volunteers complete this relocation this year. You can plan on helping Saturday or Sunday or both days. I plan on spending the weekend with them, but transportation can be arranged for either day. Contact Frank Williams, 245-8414, if you are able to help on this important club project or meet at 7:45 a.m. in the Building 215 parking lot on Saturday, July 14, and we will arrange transportation.

(D) HIKE NOTICE - Hump Mountain Relocation Leader - Gordon Newland
(Scheduled Saturday, July 28, and Sunday, July 29, 1984) If you could not make it last time, this is another opportunity to help on this very important project. Call Gordon Newland at 246-8845 if you plan to help.

CANOE TRIP - South Fork of the Holston River Leader - Bruce Chamberlin
(Scheduled Saturday, July 27, 1984) This trip will depend on the water flow, so preregistration is required. Call Bruce Chamberlin at 247-6753 for more information.

CANOE TRIP - Nolichucky River Leader - Gerald Tustin
(Scheduled Saturday, July 28, 1984) Class II. We will canoe the section of the Nolichucky River below Unaka Springs. This is a very popular section of the river and is excellent for novice paddlers who have the desire to advance from Class I to Class II whitewater. Bring proper safety equipment, lunch, and beverage. Plan to meet at the Building 215 parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Due to variable water levels, preregistration is required. Contact Gerald Tustin, Building 150B, or phone 246-8918.

*****FUTURE HIKES*****

August 4 and 5	TERC/Konnarock Hump Mountain Work Trip	G. Newland/F. Williams
August 4-12	Western Montana Backpack	D. Lowman
August 25	AT, White Top Mountain	D. Lowman

*****FOR THE RECORD*****

AT, UNAKA MOUNTAIN TO IRON MOUNTAIN GAP - April 19, 1984 Reporting - John Thompson
We changed the location of this Thursday hike to avoid getting caught by rain/snow on top of a long, high mountain (the tops of Unaka, Roan, and the Hump were snow-covered from the previous day). Instead, we drove to the Elk Park area and inspected the Don Nelan Shelter. Rain at noon prevented a two-mile walk south on the AT to a recently cleared vista. Hikers were Doris Carson, Lewis Carson, and John Thompson.

GRINDSTAFF MONUMENT WORK TRIP

Work on the Grindstaff Monument was completed on April 20, 1984. About 50 pounds of materials and the last two pieces of the gravestone, which weighed 24 and 67 pounds, were carried to the monument site by Jeff Siirola and Ed Oliver. We installed the gravestone in the stone structure and completed the repair of the stone structure. While we were working on the monument, we met a through hiker. She had started in Georgia in early March. She said that there should be 17 through hikers ahead of her.

BEYOND 6000 - NEWFOUND GAP TO CLINGMAN'S DOME - April 21, 1984 Reporting - Bob Miller
Ten hikers departed Kingsport at 8 a.m. and were at the jump-off site, Newfound Gap, by 10:45 a.m. Then we discovered to our dismay that the road to Clingman's Dome, which we expected to use for a car shuttle, was closed because of 6" of snow two days prior! Although the snow had melted on the road, it was still closed. Nevertheless, we started out and most finished the 7.5 miles along the Appalachian Trail and the equal distance back on the road. Despite a weather forecast of rain, it was partly sunny and mild. However, the trail was very wet with many puddles and much slushy snow. It was 7 p.m. and almost dark by the time the hike was completed. Making the trip were John, Jr., Anne Marie, Anne, and John Scott; Bruce, Teresa, and Brad Dayvolt; Rick Culbertson, Karen Watkins, and Bob Miller.

AT, TANYARD GAP TO ALLEN GAP - April 28, 1984

Reporting - Kevin Edgar

We began the day under threatening skies at Tanyard Gap on the road to Hot Springs, North Carolina. We enjoyed the tranquil woods and numerous early wildflowers on a warm, gray spring day and managed to avoid the rain for all but a 15-minute period near the end. The trail is well graded and quite enjoyable in this area. Also enjoying the scenery, exercise, and fellowship were Mike Idacavage, Dave and Tish Kashdan, and Herrick Brown.

NATURAL TUNNEL WILDFLOWER HIKE - April 29, 1984

Reporting - Jean L. Brown

We identified 40-50 wildflowers. Participants were Jean Brown - Leader, Edith Olinger - Wildflower Expert, Jack Young, Bob Duram, Barbara Duram, David Duram, Rob Duram, Jamie Hiram, Maynard Hawkins, Matalleen Hawkins, Zella Hawkins, Judy Davidson, Judy McClanahan, and Kathy Dyer.

LAUREL CREEK/SOUTH FORK HOLSTON RIVER

Reporting - D. Paul Folk

Nine participants in seven canoes enjoyed a beautiful day on the river. Ben Becker successfully ran the second dam and later demonstrated the art of pinning and freeing his canoe. Gordon Porter only located one snake but was able to find three Millers and a milk crate. Those present were Ben and Lana Becker, Art and Pat Mullins, Charlie Leblanc, Gerald Tustin, Gordon Porter, Earl Brown, and Paul Folk.

BACKBONE ROCK TO AT - May 5, 1984

Reporting - G. K. Finch

The leader managed to get the one sunny day in a week for the hike. The leaves were hardly out, but we did see a few small flowers. The black flies were out in tremendous quantities. The trail up to the AT is well marked and a long, steady climb. We also found an interesting short trail along the creek where we watched several people rappelling down the side of Backbone Rock. After the hike, we drove to the top of White Top Mountain where we could see for miles and then on to Troutdale for an excellent gourmet dinner. Hikers were Judy Davidson, Susan Dockery, Katie Dyer, Barbara and Kirk Finch, Rodney Gray, Judy McClanahan, Mark Rule, and Reuel Smith.

FLOOD IN LAUREL FORK GORGE

Reporting - Doug Lowman

On Monday, May 7, 1984, the middle bridge of three bridges over Laurel Fork was washed away by a flood. A through hiker notified ATC headquarters in Harper's Ferry. TEHC was notified Monday afternoon. On Wednesday, John Thompson and Jack Young checked out the flood damage and relocated the AT to a temporary blue-blazed trail, making use of the railroad grade below the bridge. On Saturday, May 12, a work crew built a permanent high water blue-blazed trail from the left rear of the shelter north to the base of Pond Mountain using the railroad grade. The AT, while still usable, will require a ford until the bridge can be replaced later this year. Persons hiking through the gorge or to the falls from U.S. Route 321 can use the AT with the ford or can use the new high water route. Access to the new high water route from the parking lot on U.S. 321 is gained by following the blue-blazed trail to the AT in the gorge, then following the AT north up Pond Mountain onto the railroad grade. Where the AT leaves the railroad grade going north, the high water blue-blazed trail heads south to the shelter. Hikers be aware, use the blue-blazed trail at your own risk. Those in the work crew for the trip on Saturday were Gordon Newland, Darrol Nickels, Doug Lowman, Richard Hanks, Ted and Bill Malone, Morgan Sommerville (ATC Southern Region Representative), and Jim Davidson (USFS Unaka Ranger District).

One final note: During this project, we met twelve through hikers in the gorge. The majority of these hikers chose to by-pass Pond Mountain by using U.S. Route 321.

AT - SPIVEY GAP TO NOLICHUCKEY RIVER - May 12, 1984

Reporting - S. C. Banks

A light rain in the morning did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the hikers. Many spring wildflowers, including gaywings and painted trillium, were seen. We hiked over Flattop Mountain, around the east and north slopes of No Business Knob, ate lunch at the No Business Shelter, and then hiked over Temple Ridge and down to the Nolichucky. There are spectacular overlooks of the Nolichucky from Cliff Rocks. This section does need maintenance as there are a significant number of blowdowns. Hikers were Gether and Beth Irick, Charlie and Beverly Smith, Katy Dyer, Susan Dockery, Judy Davidson, Taylor Pickard, Debbie Keith, Judy McClanahan, Owen Holbrook, Rod Gray, Jamie Herman, and Steve Banks.

CLINCH MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA - May 19, 1984

Reporting - G. C. Newland

Beautiful day, clear sky, open balds, and acres and acres of fringed phacealia.

BIG LAUREL - FRENCH BROAD - May 12, 1984

Reporting - Kurt Kauffman

Warren Clark, Charles Leblanc, and Kurt Kauffman checked the river gauge at the Old Mill Cafe and decided the level to be near perfect for a trip down the Big Laurel. With an absolute minimum number of boats for safety, we started downriver and soon encountered light rain. Although the rain didn't last long, the sky was overcast the whole trip. After scouting and paddling the Stairsteps, Suddy Hole, the Narrcus, and numerous other Class III rapids, we reached the French Broad. The French Broad was running about 8,000 cfs, and we decided to paddle the left side of the islands at Kayak Ledge and Frank Bells. This we could do without scouting and it made a faster trip to the takeout at Hot Springs, North Carolina.