

**TERC HIKING CLUB**

JUNE, 1985  
NEWSLETTER

\*\*\*\*\* TRIP NOTICES \*\*\*\*\*

**HIKE NOTICE - TUMBLING CREEK** LEADER:GORDON NEWLAND  
(Scheduled: Sat. MAY 25, 1985) Tumbling Creek in the Clinch Mountain Recreation Area is a delightful place in early spring. We will hike the upper reaches of Roy's Meadow and White Rock Mountain. There should be acres of wildflowers. While there is some climbing, the terrain is mostly rolling. Meet at B-215 parking lot for 8:00 a.m. departure. The hiking distance is about 6 miles. For additional information call Gordon Newland at 246-8845.

**HIKE NOTICE - FRIENDSHIP HIKE WITH MT. ROGERS ATC** LEADER:DOUG LOWMAN  
(Scheduled: Sun. June 2, 1985) This easy-to-moderate hike will cover 5.6 miles from Highway 58 near Summit Cut to Bear Gap Trail. We will be hiking with members of the Mt. Rogers Hiking Club for this Sunday afternoon hike. We will meet the Mt. Rogers group between 2 and 2:30 p.m. at Bear Tree Campground. Meet at B-215 at T.E.C. at 12:45 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. departure. Bring a snack and drink to enjoy after the hike at Bear Tree Lake in fellowship with MRATC. For additional information contact Doug Lowman at 239-9701. See you on Sunday afternoon.

**HIKE NOTICE - HUMP MOUNTAIN** LEADER:GORDON NEWLAND  
(Scheduled: Sat. June 8, 1985) Join the Vermont Inn-to-Inn hikers on a training hike from US 19E to Yellow Mountain Gap. This hike will cover the new trail relocation across Hump Mountain. Hiking distance is about 6 miles. Meet at B-215 parking lot for an 8:00 a.m. departure. Call Gordon Newland at 246-8845 for additional information.

**CANOE TRIP NOTICE - NANTAHALA RIVER** LEADER:EARL BROWN  
(Scheduled: Sat.&Sun. June 8&9, 1985) The Nantahala is a very popular and scenic Class II-III river with exceptional water quality. The take-out is at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, Wesser, N.C., which is approximately 10 miles south of Bryson City on US 19. The two Class III sections, one near the put-in and one at the take-out, can be easily portaged. Bring normal safety gear and clothing suitable for the weather. Plan for a 3 1/2 hour drive and meeting at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) at 10:30 a.m., Sat., June 8. Please pre-register with Earl Brown, 54-D, or 239-6696 so that you can be advised of any changes that may occur. There are camp grounds and lodge facilities available. Contact Earl Brown at 239-6696 for additional information.

**BACKPACK NOTICE - AT, FORK RIDGE TRAIL - DEVIL FORK GAP** LEADER:STEVE BANKS  
(Scheduled: Sat.&Sun. June 15&16, 1985) This hike has been changed from a day hike to a two-day backpack, and lengthened to cover the 20 miles from Devil Fork Gap to Allen Gap. This hike will take in the crest of Coldspring Mountain, along the NC-TN state line and is rated moderate. You may stay in the Jerry Cabin Shelter, or pitch your tent next to it. We will share gear (tents, stoves, cooking gear) as much as possible. Pre-registration is required, and the total number of hikers will be limited, so please register by June 7. Meet at the T.E.C. Personnel Building (B-215) on Lincoln Street at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure. To register or get more details, call Steve Banks at 288-3570.

HIKE NOTICE - OBEY CREEK CAVE HIKE

LEADER:GREG KRAMER

(Scheduled: Sun. June 16, 1985) Meet Sunday, June 16 at B-215 parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Obey Creek Cave is not as wet as the name implies. Actually, we will have to cross Obey's creek twice to get to the cave. Once inside the cave, water should not be a problem. All hikers should bring lunch, water, spare light, and a change of clothes. A helmet and helmet mounted light are also needed but can be supplied by the trip leader. Contact Greg Kramer at 239-7667 for more information.

HIKE NOTICE - BRUMLEY MOUNTAIN

LEADER:GORDON NEWLAND

(Scheduled: Sat. June 22, 1985) This is a relatively easy hike with some unique scenery. The overall distance is 8 miles (uphill in the morning and downhill in the afternoon). We will be hiking along an old logging road. Meet at B-215 parking lot for an 8:00 a.m. departure. Bring lunch and water. We should be back in Kingsport by 5:00 p.m. Leader is Gordon Newland (246-8845)

CANOE TRIP NOTICE - NOLICHUCKY GORGE

LEADER:PAUL FOLK

(Scheduled: Sat. June 22, 1985) Rating = Class (III-IV) The gorge section of the Nolichucky from Poplar, North Carolina to Unaka Springs, Tenn. is the most difficult section of the river and one of the most beautiful. The 8-mile trip is through a narrow 2,000-foot gorge with a river gradient that averages about 40-feet per mile. This run is usually considered a "big water" trip with powerful currents and large holes, although at lower water levels the trip becomes more technical. This section of the river presents hazards to both equipment and people, and those electing to make this trip should be intermediate to advanced paddlers, knowledgeable in both self-rescue and rescue of others, and have people safety equipment (including a Coast Guard approved life vest, spare paddle, and throw rope). Helmets and extra floatation for the canoe is recommended. Meet at McDonalds, Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. The driving time is about 1 hour each way. Pre-register with Paul Folk, B-251T, T.E.C. Send your name, telephone number, and canoeing experience. List similar rivers which you have paddled if this is your first gorge trip.

HIKE NOTICE - BRUSHY MTN. TO DICKEY GAP

LEADER:KEVIN EDGAR

(Scheduled: Sat. June 29, 1985) We should have lots of daylight on this late June hike, and it will come in handy! This 14.5 mile expedition through the mountains of Southwest Virginia crosses the crest of Brushy Mtn., traverses the south fork of the Holston River in Rye Valley, and climbs to the crest of Iron Mtn. before finishing at the Mt. Rogers Visitors Center. Climbing will be moderate but the length makes this a difficult hike. Bring 2 quarts of water, lunch, a snack, and rain gear. We will meet at B-215 at 7:45 a.m. for a prompt 8:00 a.m. departure, then drive about 90 minutes to the trailhead. Call Kevin Edgar at 239-5742 for further details.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE FROM HIKE SCHEDULE.

\*\*\*\*\* FUTURE TRIPS \*\*\*\*\*

A.T. BACKPACK TRIP TO MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE - Aug. 29 thru Sept. 8, 1985

An eight day backpack trip is being planned for early September. We will walk from Black Brook Notch, Maine to Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, covering about 70 miles. This trip is rated difficult since it covers some of the most rugged terrain on the entire A.T. including the mile long boulder strewn Mahoosic Notch. Total climbing will be about 21,300 feet. The group will leave Kingsport on Thursday, Aug. 29, after work (spend night in a motel). We will complete the drive to Pinkham Notch on Friday. The group will be driven to Black Brook Notch to begin our hike on Sat., Aug. 31. The distance hiked each day will vary from 3.5 miles to 12.5 miles. The amount of climbing each day will vary from 1200 to 5400 feet. The group will drive back to Kingsport Sat. and Sun., Sept. 7 and 8.

The trip requires one week of vacation only since Labor Day is included. The estimated cost per person is \$300. A shake-down hike will be required of those who have not hiked in Maine or New Hampshire with the club. Those who are interested in being included in trip notices and planning meetings should contact Doug Lowman (B-150, TEC or 812 Kendrick Creek Road; Kingsport, TN; 37663) by mid June, if possible, by sending him your name, address, and home phone number.

\*\*\*\*\* HUMP MOUNTAIN RELOCATION \*\*\*\*\*

by Darrol Nickels

Two years after the route was first flagged, a new Appalachian Trail relocation was opened on Hump Mountain in the Roan Highlands. The old trail missed the summit of the Hump and descended the north face via a 1.1 mile, steep, eroded path with no views. This has now been replaced by two and one-half miles of gentle grade including a three-quarter mile walk along the bald eastern ridge of the Hump. Here one may enjoy some of the best views of the entire Appalachians. On a clear day Mount Rogers and Whitetop in Virginia, and Grandfather Mountain and Tablerock in North Carolina are among the many distant peaks which can be seen.

This project was an excellent example of volunteerism and cooperation. The route was decided upon and flagged by representatives of the TERC Hiking Club, National Forests in North Carolina, and the Appalachian Trail Conference. Much of the construction through difficult rockfalls was completed by the Konnarock Crew, a group of summer volunteers funded by U.S. National Forests and the A.T. Conference, which worked two weeks in 1983 and three weeks in 1984. Several hundred hours of work, constructing sidehill trail, were donated by TERC Hiking Club members and guests.

Last November the last construction before cold weather was done by Richard Hanks, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Jeff Sirola, John Thompson, Frank Williams and Jack Young. During the winter it was realized that the relocation could be opened before the arrival of this year's through hikers with just one more good day of work, and Saturday, April 6 was picked. As insurance against bad weather, Gordon Newland led a group composed of Darrol Nickels, Doug Lowman, Ed Oliver, Tommy Scalf, Jim Mays, Jeff Sirola, and Frank Williams on Friday the fifth to complete the final digging and brushing out and cut a trail to an overlook. Finally on Saturday the sixth, a cool and windy, but exceptionally beautiful day, a group of 14 workers stabilized several marshy spots with stepping stones, filled in eroded areas along the bald with brush and rocks, built cairns, set plastic markers (donated by both Tennessee and North Carolina National Forests), obliterated blazes on the old trail and painted in the new. Volunteer workers included Jack Boyles, Richard Jones, Doug Lowman, Garry Luttrell, Judy McClanahan, Frank Oglesby, Frank Oglesby, Jr., Jeff Sirola, Morgan Sommerville, Frank Williams, and Jack Young. Gordon Newland, Darrol Nickels and John Thompson served as co-leaders.

The eastern United States is crowned by the Appalachian Mountains; as we finished our day's work and cut a symbolic ribbon, we threaded the Appalachian Trail through one of the finest jewels in that crown.

(Editor's note: Gordon Newland provided the description of the work done on April 5. Everyone involved in this effort along with all who enjoy the beauty of the Hump Mountain area can be proud of this accomplishment. If you haven't been on this new section of trail, plan to hike it as soon as possible and see the improvement for yourself. SEE HUMP MTN. HIKE IN THIS NEWSLETTER)

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

WORK TRIP - April 5, 1985 - Doug Lowman

On April 5, 1985, Gordon Newland, Jim Mays, Jeff Sirola, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, and Doug Lowman relocated a section of the AT off of Bear Branch Road and onto a part of the Tall Oaks property. The relocation required about 50 yards of sidehill construction, moved the trail out of a messy garbage dump, eliminated a steep descent to the creek, and removed about 200 yards of paved road walking. This relocation is near the intersection of US 19E and Bear Branch Road.

PROPOSED POND MTN. WILDERNESS AREA HIKE - April 13, 1985 - Steve Banks

Due to a scheduling error on my part, this hike was publicized for both April 13 and April 20. This was a very nice hike to Laurel Falls in the proposed Pond Mountain Wilderness Area. Enjoying the beautiful scenery were Mark, Lois, Helen, and Becky Rule, Judith Downing, Reuel Smith, Martha and Robert Lamb, Warren Nutton, and Steve and Steven Banks.

ELK RIVER CANOE TRIP - April 13, 1985 - Dave Ingram

The Elk River was not runnable due to low water, The group elected to do the Nolichucky instead. The trip provided an opportunity to experience moving water again after being dry docked all winter and part of the spring. Five people participated in this very enjoyable trip.

HANKOCKS CAVE HIKE - April 13, 1985 - Greg Kramer

Hancocks Cave has developed differently than most caves in Southwest Virginia. It has many passages that seem to go everywhere at once. The group first went to the highest point inside the cave to a formation room. Then, we dropped to a level that contained some maze passages and continued traveling down to the lower levels of the cave. Then, up a crawlway to the main room (octopus room) and over to another maze area (sinus passages). On the way out we looked at an alternate way back but did not go that way because a rope is needed. We returned to the octopus room and exited the cave. Participants were Greg and Betty Kramer and Ann Spearow.

UPPER LAUREL FORK AND BIG PINE MTN. VISTAS WORK TRIP - April 13, 1985

Three of us cleaned an opening by the Trail which provides a view of the Roan Mountain massif from the headwaters of Laurel Fork. Then we went to the top of Big Pine Mtn. and did the preliminary work (removing dead and downed trees, cutting some small trees, grubbing out the brush, and hiding all the debris) of providing a view of Grandfather Mtn. and The Pinnacles of The Beech. By the end of the day we had cleared out all of the small stuff and could see what really needs to be done. It looks as if four persons working four hours with a big saw will be required to finish the job. We enjoyed a beautiful day. Participants were Rodney Gray, Darrol Nickels and Jack Young.

TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE WORK TRIP - April 14, 1985 - Darrol Nickels

Dana Eglington and Darrol Nickels worked on the Trail of The Lonesome Pine for about three miles west of Tenn. SR 70. We enjoyed beautiful sunny weather with cool breezes.

PROPOSED POND MTN. WILDERNESS AREA HIKE - April 20, 1985 - Steve Banks

Seven hikers signed on for this hike on a warm and clear spring day to hike through Laurel Fork Gorge in the proposed Pond Mountain Wilderness Area. On the hike were David Cotey, Rodney Gray, Jack Young, David Brueggemann, Ann Hughes, and Steve and Mary Banks.