

TERC HIKING CLUB

JULY, 1985
NEWSLETTER



***** TRIP NOTICES *****

HIKE NOTICE - AT, TANYARD GAP TO ALLEN GAP LEADER: STEVE BANKS
(Scheduled: Sat. July 20, 1985) This 8.6 mile hike will go from Tanyard Gap, N.C. on US 25-70, over Rich Mountain, down to Hurricane Gap, over Spring Mountain, and down to Allen Gap on the NC-TN state line at TN 70. The hike is rated moderate. Bring water, lunch, and rain gear. Meet at the Tennessee Eastman Personnel Building (B-215) at 7:45 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure. Additional meeting points can be arranged by calling the trip leader, Steve Banks at 288-3570.

HIKE NOTICE - CEDAR CREEK CAVE HIKE LEADER: GREG KRAMER
(Scheduled: Sat. July 27, 1985) Meet Saturday, July 27 at 9:00 a.m. at B-215 parking lot. Cedar Creek is wet and a long cave. A trip to the back will take 8 hours but is well worth it. Bring lunch, water and a spare light in a small pack and a complete change of clothes. Helmets and helmet mounted lights are also required but can be supplied by the trip leader. Contact Greg Kramer (239-7667) for additional information.

NOTE: There will be a 10 day trip on the Long Trail from July 12 to July 21 and an overnite hike to Mt Le Conte on July 13 and 14. These hikes required advanced registration.

***** FUTURE ACTIVITIES *****

DATE	TRIP	LEADER
July 20 - Aug 2	ATC Meeting, Poultney, Vt.	C. Chew
Aug 8 - Aug 12	Konnarock Crew Work-Laurel Fork	J. McClanahan
Aug 10 - Aug 11	2- Day Nantahala River Canoe Trip	D. Ingram
Aug 10	Carter County Saltpeter Cave Hike	G. Kramer
Aug 17 - Aug 18	2-Day Rafting/Hiking the Nolichucky	J. McClanahan
Aug 15 - Aug 19	Konnarock Crew Work-Round Balk	K. Edgar
Aug 17	AT - Tanyard Gap to Hot Springs	S. Banks
Aug 25	Nolichucky River below Unaka Springs	G. Tustin
Aug 29 - Sept 8	AT - Black Brook Notch, Me. to Pinkham Notch, N.H.	D. Lowman

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

ELK GARDEN TO US 58 NEAR SUMMIT CUT HIKE - April 20, 1985 - Kevin Edgar
After a wrong turn or two on the way to the trailhead, and amazing patience by the Greenwoods whom we joined in Damascus an hour late, we arrived at Elk Garden under warm, sunny morning (barely) skies. The climb up Whitetop Mountain was very pleasant, with thousands of spring wildflowers decorating our path. Lunch near Buzzard Rock was augmented by great views, cool breezes (which grounded the gnats), sunshine, and five namesakes of the rock soaring overhead. And, to continue my perfect record for hikes in the Mt. Rogers area, a thunderstorm soaked us for the last mile of the hike and while waiting for the car shuttle - but, naturally, turned back to sunshine as soon as we reached Damascus on the road home. Also enjoying this fine section of trail were Robert Smith, Judy Roach, Karen Watkins, Richard Jones, Tom and Susan Greenwood, Glenn and Peggy Smith, Bob Meadows, Jimmy Allen, John Stout and Marilyn Edgar.

BLUESTONE RIVER CANOE TRIP - April 20-21, 1985 - J. T. Dougherty

On April 20-21 a group of nine paddlers canoed the Bluestone River in West Virginia. We met at Pipestem State Park at 10 a.m. and headed for the put-in under the WV. Turnpike bridge. The weather was perfect; the river was perfect; the boater's skills were perfect (well, almost). Some paddlers opted for whitewater swimming, but the 85° air temperature even made that more enjoyable. We canoed 11 miles of the Bluestone on Saturday and spent the night at Pipestem's Mountain Creek Lodge. Our accommodations were very nice and convenient. The rooms have private balconies overlooking the river. For dinner we all had a delightful meal at the Oak Supper Club. Our table seemed to provide entertainment for surrounding tables with our wild river stories. As the evening progressed it seemed the waves were bigger, the souse-holes were deeper and the gradient got steeper.

At 7 a.m. Sunday we met to ride the cablecar out of the gorge to have breakfast at the Pipestem main lodge's buffet. Kurt Kauffman (and others) made sure the buffet lost money on that particular morning. We canoed the remaining 8 miles out of the gorge in very mild rapids and flat water to the take-out at Bluestone State Park at about 2 p.m. We encountered a variety of wildlife including several deer, hawks, a srew swimming in circles and some WV. mountain men. This trip was enjoyed by Ben Becker, Cathy Cummins, Judy Davidson, Terry Dougherty, Dane Faulkner, Dave Ingram, Kurt Kauffman, Judy McClanahan, and Warren McLain.

NATURAL TUNNEL HIKE - April 21, 1985 - Jean Brown

Because the Natural Tunnel trails were closed, we hiked to Possum Mountain and down Watkins Creek to Possum Creek. The path was blue with phlox and phacelia. We saw lots of trillium. A special note of thanks goes to Herman Davis for sharing his property and leading the hike. Edith Olinger helped us identify the wildflowerers. Karen Watkins, Herman Davis, Edith Olinger, Don Evans, Janice Owenby, Martha Neeland, Judy Roach, Jane Adams, Thelma Parhan, Irma Phannmaeller, Claude Kelly, Judy Kelly, Griff Johnson, Melody Johnson, Terry Haynes, Michael Haynes, Steve Haynes, and Jean Brown participated in this Sunday afternoon hike.

LAUREL CREEK CANOE TRIP - April 27, 1985 - Warren McLain

This trip was cancelled due to low water levels.

BIG LAUREL BRANCH HIKE - May 4, 1985 - Darrol Nickels

Eleven people and two dogs explored Big Laurel Branch, an area proposed for wilderness designation, on Saturday, May 4, 1985. We clawed our way through a tangle of greenbrier and rhododendron for a mile before we got to the watercourse of Big Laurel Branch. Along the way we found the remnants of a destroyed moonshine still. After an easy walk up the creek we ate lunch near a rippling cascade which fell into a deep clear pool.

After lunch another test of our mettle began as we climbed the crest of a steep spur between two prongs of Big Laurel. After beating through the brush for a mile we reached the Appalachian Trail on the spine of Iron Mountain where we enjoyed views across Watauga Lake to Pond Mountain to the south. Along the way we had been rewarded with a profusion of fire pink, white dogwood at the peak of its bloom and beds of pink lady's slipper. From there it was downhill all the way and we returned to Kingsport before six o'clock. Participants were: Henry Batten, Karen Bennett (and friends Ursa, golden retriever, and Iona, Irish setter), Dana Eglinton, Rodney Gray, Richard Jones, Jon Mather, Bob Meadows, Darrol Nickels, Ron Stout, Karen Watkins, and Jan Young.

NOLICHUCKY RIVER CANOE TRIP - May 11, 1985 - G. C. Tustin

With the water running at only 710 cfs in the Nolichucky river, conditions seemed ideal for a trip down the Nolichucky Gorge. Therefore, one group canoed the Gorge section and another group canoed the section from Nolichucky Expeditions to Big Rock. Although the weather was perfect for canoeing, the low water level made the canoeing more technical than usual. Canoeing the Gorge section were Gordon Porter, Earl Brown, Charles LeBlanc, Paul Folk, Dewey Fuller, and Kurt Kauffman. Canoeing the other section were Tom Dossier, Royal Spees, Bruce Chamberlin, Rodney Gray, Gether Irick, and Jerry Tustin.

AT - HUGHES GAP TO CARVERS GAP HIKE - May 5, 1985 - Steve Banks

Eleven hikers signed on for this hike on a cool and fairly clear day. We made the 2100 foot climb from Hughes Gap to the Cloudland Hotel site, noticing the gradual change from hardwood forest to the evergreens on the summit of Roan Mountain. We ate lunch at the Roan High Knob shelter and continued on the AT to Carvers Gap. The trail is in good shape. Enjoying the hike were Richard Jones, Bob Meadows, Rod Gray, Don Sexton, Don Gedeon, David Cotey, Taylor Pickard, Ann Aitken, Ron Stout, Owen Holbrook, and Steve Banks.

TOE RIVER CANOE TRIP - May 18, 1985 - Earl Brown

Mother nature provided all the desirable elements that could be asked for (except for gusty winds), making the Toe River a very pleasant outing. There was all day sunshine and more than adequate water. The water level was 4-5 inches above zero at the Highway 197 bridge at Red Hill, N.C. Participating in this trip were Judy McClanahan, Cathy Cummins, Dewey Fuller, Dave Ingram, Charlie LeBlanc and Charlie III, Ben Becker, Gordon Porter, Stuart and Dana Reid, Gene Dobbs, Steve Price, and Earl Brown.

CLINCH MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA HIKE - May 25, 1985 - Gordon Newland

Ten hikers enjoyed a beautiful day in the Clinch Mountain Recreation area (Tumbling Creek). The weather was fine but it was too late for most of the wildflowers. The hikers agreed with the "rolling" description in the notice but decided it was closer to 8 miles than 6. So, I'll give them 15 points for the jaunt. Hikers were Bob Miller, Richard Jones, Jack Young, Bob Meadows, Rodney Gray, Joe Keith, Sarah Keith, Ann Aiken, Teresa Van Audenhove, and Gordon Newland.

NANTAHALAS BACKPACK-ROCK GAP TO WESSER - May 25-27, 1985 - Kevin Edgar

This clearly was a blessed trip. We spent three days and two nights in the Nantahalas and enjoyed clear skies virtually the whole time with not a drop of rain and temperatures mostly in the 55-70° range. MAGNIFICANT!! The trail was in generally good shape and we enjoyed the bluets, laurel, and occasional trillium, flame azalea and rhododendron flowers along the way. The only views were from the towers at Wayah and Wesser Balds, and on the last, long downhill into Wesser - but those were spectacular. The symphonic snoring practiced by several members of the group was truly remarkable. Capping a very enjoyable trip with dinner at perhaps the world's only disco, bed, and breakfast inn in Franklin, N.C. were Richard Lane, Butch McNally, Judy McClanahan, Gether Irick, Steve Banks, Owen Holbrook, and Ann Spearow.

FRIENDSHIP HIKE WITH MRATC - June 2, 1985 - Doug Lowman

Sunday, June 2, 1985, dawned rainy and stormy. By lunchtime, the sky cleared for our hike. Six hikers from TEHC (Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Lois Miles, Jean Brown, Doug Lowman, and Mike Graham) joined twelve hikers from Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club and one hiker from PATC for a friendship hike