

TERC HIKING CLUB

DECEMBER, 1985
NEWSLETTER

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

TRIP NOTICE - AT, TN 91 TO US 421

LEADER: RODNEY GRAY

(Scheduled: Sat. Dec. 14, 1985) This 6.9 mile hike, rated moderate, will ascend from Tenn. 91 (3450 ft.) for 3.4 miles to the top of Rich Knob (4247 ft.) where we will reach Double Springs Shelter for lunch. After lunch we will descend for 3.5 miles with fine views of Shady Valley to U.S. 421 (3383 ft.). Bring water and lunch and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing appropriate for the weather. Meet at B-215 (Eastman Personnel Building) at 8:45 a.m. for a prompt 9:00 a.m. departure. Additional meeting places and additional information can be obtained by calling Rodney Gray at 323-4466. Pre-registration is required so you can be notified if the trip is cancelled due to severe weather.

TRIP NOTICE - GRINDSTAFF CAVE HIKE

LEADER: GREG KRAMER

(Scheduled: Sat. Dec. 21, 1985) This cave is the second best known cave in the East Tennessee area. It has a little bit of everything, crawling passage, walking and some climbing. The trip is rated moderate and we will be in the cave for 3 hours. Bring lunch, water and a change of clothes. A helmet and helmet mounted lamp are also required but can be supplied by the trip leader. Since the cave will be 55°, this will be a good way to get outside without doing it in the December chill. Contact Greg Kramer at 239-7667 for additional information.

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

NOLICHUCKY RIVER BELOW UNAKA SPRINGS - Aug. 25, 1985 Gerald Tustin
Four canoes and one kayak floated the Nolichucky River from Nolichucky Expeditions to Big Rock. Heavy rains the previous weekend and the day before provided about 1000 cfs water flow which is very unusual for this time of year. The trip was run in about four and one half hours including time spent to free a pinned boat and to eat lunch. Those enjoying this summer float trip were Bill and Todd Bryan, Rodney Gray, Mike Latture, Judy McClanahan, and Jerry Tustin.

ROUND BALD WORK TRIP - Sept. 14, 1985

Paul Worsham

On a warm, exceptionally clear day on Round Bald four intrepid and diligent hiking club members assisted by one untiring Forest Service truck and driver moved a heck-of-a-lot of gravel from the parking area at Carvers Gap and spread it out along the AT on the side of the bald. The main purpose of the work is to provide a dry, stable treadway to encourage users to stay on the trail and prevent the trail widening which is prevalent at that location. The Konnarock Crew started the work on Round Bald in mid August but was unable to finish because of all too typical foul Roan Mountain weather. During the two trips an estimated twenty tons of gravel was placed in the trail. In spite of the hard work, a feeling of satisfaction was provided by the comments of hikers and the appearance of the trail after the job was done. Workers on this trip were Tom Rosser, Jack Young, Frank Oglesby, Paul Worsham and Dillard Scalf (USFS).

AT - CAMP CREEK BALD TO DEVIL FORK GAP Sept. 14, 1985 Steve Banks

We had an exceptionally clear day and fall-like temperatures for this hike on the AT. After a very cramped car shuttle from Devil Fork Gap to Camp Creek Bald, the group enjoyed fantastic views from the Camp Creek Bald firetower. We make the 14 mile trek along the crest of Coldspring Mountain and down to Devil Fork Gap in good time, enjoying the views and the woods along the way. The late hour, and the news that a NC state trooper had been killed in the area shortly before the end of our hike made us quickly head towards home. Enjoying the hike were Bob Meadows, Judy McClanahan, P.R. Jones, Paul Jones, Don Sexton, and Steve Banks.

VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL Sept. 14, 1985 Steve Cook

We took this hike on one of the most perfect days of the season. The air was crisp and the sky was deep blue and totally cloudless. The trail was in good shape, and we had it all to ourselves. After the initial 3.7 miles, we decided to hike in an additional 1.6 miles to check out the trestle that had been fired, presumably by opponents of the trail. Their third attempt was a resounding success, and about 25% of the span was totally destroyed. The hike back to the shuttle car made the distance 7.0 miles for the day. We opted to lunch in Abingdon at the Hardware Company. Hike participants were Donna and Louis Moreno and Steve Cook.

AT - MAX PATCH ROAD TO HOT SPRINGS - Sept. 21 & 22, 1985 Steve Banks
Ten hikers enjoyed part or all of this hike from Max Patch Road to Hot Springs, NC. After a long and dusty drive to Max Patch Road, we enjoyed the great views from the bald summit of Max Patch Mountain. The one day-hiker with us turned back after about 4 miles, and three backpackers turned back due to physical and equipment problems after we spent the night at Kale Gap. The remaining six backpackers continued the hike to Hot Springs. Enjoying the hike were David McPeak, Don Sexton, Tom and Susan Greenwood, Emmett Dougherty, Bob Bebris, Richard Hanks, Ted Malone, Richard Siggins, and Steve Banks.

AT - GREAT VALLEY TO BRUSHY MOUNTAIN - Sept. 28, 1985 Kevin Edgar
We had a wonderful Saturday for hiking, and despite some misfortune and confusion on the way to the trailhead, nearly everyone had a good day overall. The weather was sunny, cool and crystal clear as we headed for Virginia. On the way one driver experienced car trouble, unnoticed by the illustrious leader (who made the grave error of talking and driving at the same time). As a result, there was a great deal of searching as the leader tried to locate the rest of the flock. Eventually, two groups began hiking from either end, exchanging keys in the middle. There were few views, but the early fall hiking was a treat for the senses. The color, smells and woodsy sounds made for a highly therapeutic experience. Finally getting together at the end of the hike were Dave and Tish Kashdan, Richard and Penny Jones, Griff Johnson, Tom Dossier, Emmett Dougherty and Kevin Edgar. Judy McClanahan was somewhat less pleased with her Saturday at the Exxon station.

TRAIL OF LONESOME PINE - Sept. 29, 1985 Gordon Newland
Eight people enjoyed the afternoon stroll along Clinch Mountain from Flat Gap (Tn 31) to Big War Gap (Tn 66). The weather was perfect and the fall color just beginning. We found the trail in good shape except for some faint blazes. Hikers were Kirk and Barbara Finch, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Emmett Dougherty, Carolyn Reed, Glen Ford and Gordon Newland.

AT-CAMP CREEK BALD TO ALLEN GAP - Oct. 5, 1985 Steve Banks

Nine hikers made the trek from Camp Creek Bald down to Allen Gap on the AT. For the first mile or two, we hiked in a cloud that circled the summit of Camp Creek Bald. The sun came out by mid-day, and we enjoyed the beautiful early fall colors. Enjoying the trip were Vicky Wolfe, Rick Culbertson, Rod Grey, Gordon Newland, Emmett Dougherty, Owen Holbrook, P.R. Jones, and Steve and Steven Banks.

UNAKA MOUNTAIN HIKE - Oct. 6, 1985 Gordon Newland
Judy McClanahan, John Paul Hasko, Olin Babb, and Gordon Newland hiked across Unaka Mountain to inspect the recent trail reconstruction. We were impressed and changed the blazes to open the new switchbacks. It was a nice, easy afternoon hike and the fall colors were at their peak.

WILDCAT SALTPETER CAVE HIKE - Oct. 12, 1985 Greg Kramer
Wildcat Saltpeter Cave has two large rooms. The first room is part of the entrance and from this room are two ways to get into the next room. Wayne and Greg Marshall went through the upper passage to the Big Room. Betty and Greg Kramer went into the Big Room by a low crawl and some climbing. From here the Gregs went up a muddy stream passage for 1 1/2 hours while Wayne and Betty checked out the Big Room. We all exited by the upper passage as another group of cavers from Big Stone Gap were coming in. Participants were Betty and Greg Kramer, Wayne Manly, and Greg Marshall.

AT BACKPACK, DEEP GAP TO ROCK GAP - Oct. 12 & 13, 1985 Kevin Edgar
A veritable horde assembled at the trailhead at Deep Gap, in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina only 6 miles from the Georgia border, on Saturday morning. We were somewhat daunted by the incredibly long and bumpy gravel road into Deep Gap, as well as the slightly disreputable-looking crew of muzzle-loading deer hunters and other assorted characters we found there, but we left cars and kayak there anyway. The day was beautiful, the leaves near a particularly good peak this year, and the trail very pleasant though somewhat lacking in views. Hikers were out in abundance to enjoy the fall color. We enjoyed Emmett's blueberry cheesecake Saturday night, then a mostly serene and enjoyable forest walk on Sunday punctuated by a near rock climb up Albert Mountain, which would have been far less objectionable had the peak with its fire tower not been shrouded in clouds and mist when we arrived. We reached Rock Gap in the Nantahalas on Sunday afternoon, and enjoyed the dual treats of a washup and finding all vehicles intact. Our now-traditional concluding dinner at the disco bed-and-breakfast inn at Franklin was enjoyed by most of the group, which included Gether Irick, Owen Holbrook, Dave and Tish Kashdan, Emmett JDougherty, Griff Johnson, Frank Williams, Judy McClanahan, Richard Lane, Steve Banks and Tom.

AT, MAX PATCH ROAD TO DAVENPORT GAP - Oct. 19, 1985 Steve Banks
Due to the hiking distance (15.3 miles) and long car shuttle, a key swap was arranged for this hike. One group (Judy McClanahan, Gether Irick, and Owen Holbrook) hiked south to north, and the other group (Gary Luttrell, Emmett Dougherty, Rod Gray, and Steve Banks) hiked north to south. Beautiful weather and great views of the Smokies made for a good hike.

DENNIS COVE-LAUREL FALLS - Oct. 20, 1985 Rodney Gray & Judy McClanahan
Thirty-one people, ranging in age from 6 to 60, gathered for this Sunday afternoon hike. The weather was beautiful with sunny skies and temperatures in the seventies. Parking was a problem at both trailhead and trail end, but everyone managed to find a spot. An easy and wide trail and a casual pace