

TERC HIKING CLUB

JANUARY, 1986
NEWSLETTER



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

TRIP NOTICE - UNTHANKS CAVE HIKE

LEADER: GREG KRAMER

(Scheduled: Sat. Jan. 11, 1986) Meet at B-215 at 9:00 a.m. Unthanks is another of the larger Southwest Virginia Caves. Here is a good excuse to go out and do something on a cold January Saturday. The cave is 550 year round, so you can go outside but not into the cold. Bring along lunch, flashlight, water and a change of clothes. Helmet and helmet mounted light are also required, but can be supplied by the trip leader. Contact Greg Kramer at 239-7667.

TRIP NOTICE - FROZEN WATERFALL HIKE

LEADER: DARROL NICKELS

(Scheduled: Sun. Jan. 12, 1986) There are several fine waterfalls in East Tennessee. One that was brought to my attention only recently is Mill Shoal a 200 foot cascade on Painter Creek in Washington County, Tennessee. In most of the past several years January has been severely cold in this area. There is a good chance that the weather will again provide an opportunity for those of us who enjoy the unique beauty of a frozen waterfall. If the weather should chance to be mild we'll look at a flowing waterfall. Because of the unpredictability of the weather, preregistration will be required for this hike of 4 to 5 miles. I will need to know exactly who is going in case there is a postponement or cancellation. If this trip interests you, call Darrol Nickels at 247-7043 between 7 and 11 p.m.

TRIP NOTICE - DENNIS COVE UPPER FALLS

LEADER: RODNEY GRAY

(Scheduled: Sun. Jan. 19, 1986) This short hike of three to four miles roundtrip begins at Dennis Cove campground and follows Laurel Fork upstream to a waterfall comparable in size to Laurel Falls which is located downstream on the AT. We will follow an old railroad bed along Laurel Fork and cross two footlog bridges with overhead hand cables. The footlog bridge for the third crossing of Laurel Fork has been washed out and must be crossed by rockhopping a short distance and will require considerable skill or help from other hikers. Hopefully, ole man winter will provide us with an ice spectacular at the falls. We will return by the same route to Dennis Cove campground (no car shuttle). Bring water, a snack, appropriate shoes and clothing. Meet at Eastman Personnel Building (B-215) at 1:00 p.m. For further information or additional meeting points contact Rodney Gray at 323-4466. We should be back in Kingsport by 6 p.m.

EXTENDED CANOE TRIP - LOWER CANYON OF THE RIO GRANDE

LEADER: DEWEY FULLER

(Scheduled: Feb. 15 thru March 1, 1986) This 83 mile stretch of the Rio Grande is designated Wild and Scenic River. The run features canyon walls towering up to 800 ft. above river level, rough desert hills, and even a few early wildflowers. Most of the run is class I difficulty with several class II-III rapids which can be either portaged, lined, or run with lightened boats, the equipment being carried around. The river trip should take about 7 days leaving a couple of days for hiking the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park. Contact Dewey Fuller at 764-1658 (Bristol) for further details.

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

DATE	ACTIVITY	LEADER
Feb. 9, 1986	Winter Dinner Meeting	Kevin Edgar
Feb. 15, 1986	Blair Collins Cave Hike	Greg Kramer
Feb. 22, 1986	Clarks Creek (Buckeye Falls) Hike	Judy McClanahan

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

National Forest officials in Virginia announced a new coalition of Forest Service personnel and wilderness interest groups, formed to help develop detailed management direction for the 11 National Forest Wilderness Areas in the state. The newly created Wilderness Resource Council of Virginia has been given the charge of conducting public involvement and developing proposals for detailed management of each of Virginia's National Forest Wilderness Areas, totalling 64,687 acres.

In one of its first actions, the Wilderness Resource Council is sponsoring a weekend conference, scheduled for January 31 through February 2, 1986 at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia. The purpose of the workshop is to generate discussion of how Virginia's National Forest Wilderness Areas should be managed and to stimulate additional public involvement in the development of management plans for each area.

If you are interested in participating in the work of this council and want additional information, contact Terry Seyden (Public Affairs Officer) at (703) 982-6203. Additional information can also be obtained from Paul Worsham of our club or from Mike Dawson of the Appalachian Trail Conference. Mike's phone number is (703) 552-1784.

FOR THE RECORD

Maine-New Hampshire Backpack Trip

Doug Lowman

From August 31 to September 7, 1985, six members of TEHC backpacked in Maine and New Hampshire along the AT. Those on the trip included Carl Ray, Mike Ray, Linda Henderson, Frank Williams, Garry Luttrell and Doug Lowman. The trip started on South Arm Road (Black Brook Notch), Maine, with the group hiking south. We stayed at Hall Mountain Lean-to (Saturday), Frye Notch Lean-to (Sunday), and Speck Pond Shelter (Monday) as a group. The climb down to and through the Mahoosuc Notch was a lot more than we expected, which resulted in some of us slowing down for the rest of the trip. A high point of the trip through the notch for Frank, Garry, and Linda was finding a cold tallboy can of Coor's Beer unopened and lying down in a crevice. After considerable effort, the can was retrieved and enjoyed by the three of them. With Mahoosuc Notch behind us, Mike and Carl picked up their pace while the rest of us slowed a bit. Mike and Carl made it to Carlo Col Shelter while the rest of us bivouacked along the trail. Four of us left the trail at Gentian Pond Shelter after realizing that there was more trail there than we could handle and reach Pinkham Notch, N.H., in good shape. The Ray's were able to continue the trip as scheduled. The group got back together at Carter Notch Hut on wildcat Mountain for the final night on the trail. This was a good trip, but Maine and New Hampshire continue to amaze us as to how difficult the trail is compared to the AT in the South.

Nolichucky Gorge Canoe Trip **Gordon Porter**
It was a beautiful day for a Fall Colors Trip through the Nolichucky Gorge. The weather was perfect, temperatures in the 80's, the sky a clear blue. The leaves had reached their peak. Only one thing was missing - water. Unfortunately, the river flow was only 330 cubic feet per second and the trip had to be cancelled.

Painter Creek Hike Nov. 9, 1985

Darrol Nickels

The weather was ideal for a hike - cloudless blue sky and temperatures in the sixties. There were six of us who walked up Painter Creek, a tributary to the Nolichucky River, for a short distance then climbed (clawed and bushwhacked) up a steep spur to a cliff on the rim where we enjoyed a grandstand view of the entire watershed. Beyond, to the south, we could see Wilson Knob covered with snow. Back to the north-west was a good view of Chimney Top and Fodderstock Mountains. We followed an old logging road down into the headwaters of Painter Creek and found Mill Shoal, a two-hundred foot cascade which was especially grand because about five inches of rain had fallen in the previous two weeks. It was a short walk down stream to the car and we returned home early.

Participants were Rodney Gray, Gordon Newland, Darrol Nickels, Ed Schell, Jeff Smith, Vickie Wolfe and Darrol Nickels.

Senter Property Work Trip With ALDHA

Nov. 16, 1985

Doug Lowman

On Saturday, November 16, 1985, eight members of TEHC joined eight members of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) for a weekend work session on the Senter property in Dennis Cove. From TEHC were Greg Kramer, Collins Chew, Frank Williams, Gordon Newland, Darrol Nickels, Frank Oglesby, Doug Lowman and Kevin Edgar. From ALDHA were Eileen Benner, Sue Konopka, Warren Clarke, Tom Watson, Allen Poole, Ellie North, George Todd and Mary Kancevitch. Darrol and Gordon are members of both groups. Also, Morgan Sommerville of ATC was present to assist in the trail building learning experience. Morgan, along with Frank and Jack Young, laid out the relocation across the Senter property earlier in the week. This relocation involved construction of about 125 yards of sidehill trail, numerous log steps and clearing the trail route of brush. The TEHC group worked on Saturday with the ALDHA while the ALDHA group stayed over Saturday night to work on more sidehill trail on Sunday. This relocation will eliminate 0.6 miles of paved road walking and move the trail back to the general route of the old AT. The relocation rejoins the present AT route further up White Rocks Mountain. The present and relocation routes rejoin about 3/8 mile from Coon Den Falls. The old AT will be blue-blazed as a side-trail from the AT down past Coon Den Falls to the paved road when the relocation is opened in the Spring. A nice feature of this relocation is that it will enable a loop day hiking trip for campers staying at the USFS Dennis Cove campground. TEHC enjoyed the opportunity to work on this section of new trail with members of ALDHA and looks forward to the chance to renew these friendships in the Spring. A second joint work trip is being scheduled for the Spring with the goal of opening the relocation before the Thru-Hikers arrive.

Comet Watch - Weiner Roast Nov. 16, 1985

Collins Chew

We were originally scheduled to go to Beauty Spot, roast weiners, and view Halley's Comet. Since the weather was cloudy, the trip was moved from Beauty Spot to the Dennis Cove area. We enjoyed an evening of food and friendship in the USFS A-frame in Dennis Cove with members of ALDHA who had worked on trail relocation in the Dennis Cove area. Participants from TEHC were Darrol Nickels, Jean Brown, Frank and Betsy Oglesby, Collins and Charlotte Chew, Steve Falling, Ray and Martha Hunt and Doug Lowman.

Gilley Cave Hike

Nov. 23, 1985

Greg Kramer

We had a lot of new comers on this trip and everyone had a good time. Gilley's offers a variety of passages and we chose to take a walking passage that goes to the lower levels of the cave. We stopped at the Devils Pit and turned around to come out. Participants were Judy Davidson and some of her co-workers, Debbie, P.J. and her son Tyler, and Nancy and her son Adam. Also along were Emmett Dougherty, Betty and Greg Kramer.

Chimney Tops Nov. 23, 1985 Judy McClanahan

Dane Faulkner and his family greeted us on his doorstep at the foot of Chimney Tops. This being the first trip to Chimney Tops for many of us, we were not sure what we were facing. Dane had warned that if it were raining, the only reward for our efforts would be for those who enjoyed the physical demands of a one and one-half mile steep climb. In addition, the trip leader was concerned about this being the opening day of rifle season for deer hunters. Dane, however, assured us that he had never seen a hunter on his property. The rain that had persisted during the day before blew out on Friday night, leaving behind clear bright blue skies that were void of haze on Saturday! The view from the Faulkner's front porch grabbed our attention before we even started up the mountain.

Dane's wife Mary led us to where the trail got steep. There Dane, machete in hand, took over to lead us around the left side of the mountain. We bushwhacked to a trail that approached the top from the west side. Dane had painted markers along this path. "Blue", the Faulkners' overweight-by-twenty-five pounds Norwegian Elkhound, decided that this was a trip that she shouldn't miss. With Reuel's coaxing and our leisure pace, she remained with us to the top. At points, a good master proved an asset to her. Instead of having to turn back, she got portaged over some rock ledges and personally guided through some crevices. The views from the top exceeded our expectations as we picked out Roan, Hump, and Grandfather Mountains. We saw Clinch Mountain on our north. As we ate lunch, Rodney's partner in their ultralight tipped his wings at us.

We took the steep route down on the southeast side of the mountain. Some of us just sat down in order to get down, while the rest of us did some fancy "180's". We visited Rabbit Town (population 0) where the cattle observed us. The hike ended by the Faulkners' barn where a kid (goat-type) welcomed us back. Participants were Ann Aitken; Dane, Mary, and Neal Faulkner; Rodney Gray; Steve, Terry Lynne, and Michael Haynes; Judy McClanahan; Warren McLain; Ridley Ruth; Reuel Smith; and "Blue". COMMENT: THIS IS SO CLOSE TO KINGSPORT!

Cumberland Island Backpack Nov 7-11, 1985 Butch McNally & Judy McClanahan

Cumberland Island is the southernmost and largest barrier island off the coast of Georgia. Until 1972, when the federal government bought most of it, it had been privately owned. The Carnegies (banking moguls) had gorgeous mansions there which served as winter entertainment spots. Two of these mansions still stand, and the ruins of a third are accessible to island visitors. The federal government's plans for the island are to reclaim it as a natural wilderness area.

These factors combined to offer the 8 people of this expedition a variety of entertainment possibilities. During our four days on the island, activities ranged from beachcombing and collecting sea shells to twenty-mile plus wildlife hikes. Our surroundings included 300 year old live oaks with low, far-reaching arm-like branches draped with spanish moss and dotted with resurrection ferns. Palmettos lined main avenue, the only "road" on the island. The numerous trails wound through pine forests, muscadine vines, palm trees, marshes, and swamp as well as along the beach and across sand dunes. We saw baby alligators, white-tailed deer, grey squirrels, raccoons, armadillo, wild horses, wild turkeys, and numerous other birds.

The light-hearted crew included Judy Davidson, Emmett Dougherty, John Paul Hasko, Joy Kyle, Judy McClanahan, Butch McNally, Pete McNally, and Rhoda Roberts. All have vowed to return to the island. The trip was unforgettable. The island was enchanting and addictive.