

## TERC HIKING CLUB



FEBRUARY, 1986  
NEWSLETTER

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

**HIKE NOTICE - BUCKEYE FALLS HIKE**      **LEADER: JUDY McCLANAHAN**  
(Scheduled: Sun. Feb. 2, 1986) Rescheduled from Feb 22, this hike will follow Clarks Creek to what is rumored to be Tennessee's highest waterfall. The trip is rated moderate. If you are interested in participating, contact Judy McClanahan at 246-3787.

**CANOE TRIP NOTICE - ELK RIVER**      **LEADER: CHARLES LeBLANC**  
(Scheduled: Sat. Feb. 8, 1986) This trip, rescheduled from Feb. 15, will be on the Elk River provided water level is adequate. If you are interested in canoeing the Elk, contact Charles LeBlanc at 245-6623 for additional information and to arrange meeting places.

**HIKE NOTICE - AT, US 421 TO DAMASCUS, VA.**      **LEADER: RODNEY GRAY**  
(Scheduled: Sat. Feb. 8, 1986) This 14.0 mile hike, rated difficult because of distance, will begin at US421 (3383ft) and will have four gradual ascents and descents (300 -400 ft each) along McQueens Knob (3885ft) before gradually descending six miles to Damascus, Va.(2300ft). Bring water and lunch and wear comfortable shoes and layered clothing appropriate for the weather. Meet at B-215 at 7:15 a.m. for a prompt 7:30 departure. Additional meeting places and additional information can be obtained by calling Rodney Gray at 323-4466. Preregistration is required so you can be notified if the trip is canceled due to severe weather.

**WINTER DINNER MEETING**

(Scheduled: Sunday, February 9, 1986)

This year's winter dinner meeting will be held at the Eastman Cabin from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., we will have a social period with beverages for your purchase and a special treat. Bob Cheers and his crew from Mountain Sports Ltd. in Bristol will show us their cross-country ski wares and answer questions about their equipment and programs. Dinner will follow, from about 6:40 until 7:30, and will include sirloin strip steak, baked potato, salad, apple pie, coffee, and iced tea for \$6.50 per person.

Then, after some brief club business, Dave Kashdan will regale us with a slide show on his expedition this past summer to Glacier National Park and the Canadian Rockies. It should be a great evening, so don't miss it. Send the reservation form below with \$6.50 per person to Kevin Edgar, 1010 Olympus Circle, Kingsport, Tn., 37663 before February 5. Phone 239-5742 for additional information.

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.50 EACH  
TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_  
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO TERC  
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**HIKE NOTICE - BLAIR CAVE**

**LEADER: GREG KRAMER**

(Scheduled: Sat. Feb. 15, 1986) Meet at B-215 at 9:00 a.m. Blair Collins is a wet and challenging cave. This cave is very good for people who have had at least some experience caving. Anyone interested should bring a complete change in clothes, spare flashlight, water and lunch. A helmet and helmet mounted light are also required, but these can be supplied by the trip leader. Contact Greg Kramer at 239-7667.

**ADVANCED HIKE NOTICE - DAY HIKES, AT, STEKOAH GAP TO FONTANA DAM & SKETOAH GAP TO WESSER LEADER: KEVIN EDGAR**

(Scheduled: April 25 & 26, 1986) This early notice is for those who wish to preregister early and/or make reservations to stay in the Wesser vicinity Friday and Saturday nights. We will be day hiking these two strenuous sections, one on Saturday, the other on Sunday. We will drive to the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser on Friday evening, where we have 2 cabins rented (one 3 BR and one 2 BR, sleeping a total of 10). We will stay in the cabins Friday and Saturday nights, but of course anyone wishing to come down for the day Saturday or Sunday may do so. The Stekoah Gap to Fontana section is 15.7 miles long, with about 1500ft of climbing (but an overall 1600ft elevation loss). The section from Stekoah Gap to Wesser is 13.1 miles, with about 2200ft of climbing and an overall 1500ft elevation loss. Both hikes must be rated difficult. Preregistration is required, and space is limited. Call Kevin Edgar at 239-5742 to reserve a slot or get more information.

**ADVANCED HIKE NOTICE - INN TO INN IN VERMONT LEADER: JUDY McCLANAHAN**

(Scheduled: either 6/27 thru 7/6, 1986 or 9/19-28, 1986)

Gordon Newland's group that went on this trip last year gave such rave reviews of its experience that we've decided some of the rest of us should try the trip this year. (That's in addition to a return trip last year's group will make to the Long Trail in 1986).

In 6 days we will day hike over 65 miles of the Long Trail in the Green Mountains of Vermont. We will spend 7 nights in Country Inns located in the mountain foothills. We will enjoy hot baths and comfortable beds nightly. The inns will prepare hot dinners and breakfasts, as well as pack lunches, for us daily.

We plan to drive to and from Vermont in rental vehicle. Approximate cost for the trip is \$660 per person, varying according to transportation expenses, room occupancy preferences, and food consumption enroute to Vermont.

The inns require a \$210 deposit per person to confirm reservations. Because spaces in the inns are limited and in high demand, we must confirm our reservations as soon as possible. Reservations will be accepted on "first applied" basis, and a waiting list will be maintained in case of cancellations.

Send completed reservation form to Judy McClanahan, 204 Rivers Edge, Kingsport, TN 37660 or call 246-3787 for additional details.

**RESERVATION FORM  
INN TO INN TRIP**

NAME	DEPOSIT (\$210 EACH)
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<b>TOTAL</b>	-----

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO J.B. McCLANAHAN**

\*\*\*\*\* FUTURE ACTIVITIES \*\*\*\*\*

DATE	TRIP	LEADER
March 1	Doe River Canoe Trip	C. LeBlanc

March 8	US58 to Damascus Hike	S. Banks
March 15	Beyond 6000 Hike	H. Thompson
March 15	Big Moccasin Creek Canoe Trip	W. McLain
March 22	Hancock Cave Hike	G. Kramer
March 23	Nolichucky River Canoe Trip	G. Tustin

\*\*\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*\*\*

Your 1986 TERC pass with "Hiking/Canoe" Club membership validation gives a 10% discount on selected merchandise at High Country Adventures outdoor retail store in Johnson City. Simply show TERC pass when paying for merchandise.

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

GRINDSTAFF CAVE HIKE - Dec. 21, 1985                      Greg Kramer

It was a cold but clear day on Saturday the 21st. We changed into our caving clothes in a small sheep shelter near the entrance to Grindstaff Cave. The small shelter protected us from the wind and cold but allowed the sun to fall on us. Once we were geared up, we went into the small upper entrance to the cave. First we checked out the upper level to the cave. Then we descended the pit and entered the wet lower levels of the cave. We then went upstream to the beginning of the cave. After taking some side passages from the main stream, we went out the crawlway. Once we were out to the first room, we walked out the lower big entrance. Participants were Emmett Dougherty, Greg Kramer, James Murray, and Keith Spadafino.

AT, TN 91 TO US 421 HIKE - Jan. 4, 1986                      Rodney Gray

Seven hikers made this trip that was originally scheduled Dec. 14, 1986 but was cancelled due to severe weather. The sky was mostly cloudy and the temperature comfortably cool (45°) as we ascended 3.4 miles from TN 91 (3450 ft) to the top of Rich Knob (4247 ft) where we ate lunch at Double Springs Shelter. After lunch we descended 3.5 miles, with continuing views of South Holston Lake on our left and Shady Valley on our right, to US 421 (3383 ft). The trail took us over large stretches of snow, up to a foot deep in drifts, as we crested the top of the mountain. We were entertained by a herd of deer that kept bounding along in front of us for a couple of miles. Enjoying the hike were Ron Stout, Karen Watkins, Ann Aitken, Judy McClanahan, P.R. Jones, Paul Jones, and Rod Gray.

OPTIMAL LOCATION REVIEW FIELD SURVEY COMPLETED                      Doug Lowman

During 1985, members of TEHC and USFS have completed the field survey portion of the Optimal Location Review process. Our section of the AT has been walked with great care to check the location of the trail for proper placement on the ground and on topographic maps. The AT was walked from Highway 19E to Spivey Gap in eight short segments during the summer and fall. About 200 manhours of hiking were involved in this field check of the AT. From the USFS (Unaka Ranger District) Jim Davidson and Dillard Scalf helped with this project. TEHC representatives included Jack Young, Frank Oglesby, John Thompson, Darrol Nickels, and Doug Lowman. Morgan Sommerville (ATC) also assisted in the field checking of the AT. The only job remaining now is to write up the reports of each of these trips, then submit the reports to the USFS and ATC.

BAYS MOUNTAIN TRAIL CONSTRUCTION                      Ed Oliver

A steep section of the trail from the lower road to the fire tower on Bays Mountain has been relocated to eliminate a steep section where erosion was occurring. The steep section was by-passed by constructing several hundred yards of side hill trail and stone steps. The people at Bays Mountain are well pleased with our work. An additional relocation to avoid numerous switchbacks which are being by-passed by hikers is planned this Spring. Participants in

this undertaking were Frank Williams, Doris and Lewis Carson, Karen Watkins, Paul Scherrer, and Ed Oliver.

AT MAINTENANCE IN 1985

Jeff Sirola

In 1985, members and affiliates of the TERC Hiking Club contributed 2582 volunteer hours toward the upkeep of the Appalachian Trail within the Cherokee National Forest. This total includes 977 hours involved with regular maintenance as well as 1605 hours of special projects. The principal special projects included Optimal Location Field Reviews, completion of the Hump Mountain relocation, initiation of the Dennis Cove relocation, and three rehabilitation projects with the Konnarock Crew in Laurel Fork and on Unaka Mountain and Round Bald. For comparison, the regular maintenance was about the same as in 1984 but special projects was almost double. Total volunteer hours in 1984 was 1856.