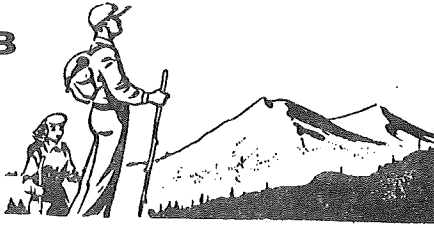


## TERC HIKING CLUB



JUNE, 1986  
NEWSLETTER

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

**HIKE NOTICE - AT, MASSIE GAP TO ELK GARDEN** LEADER: STEVE BANKS  
(Scheduled: Sat. June 7, 1986) This is one of a series of hikes on the AT in the beautiful Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. This 7.5 mile moderate day hike will begin on the Grayson Highlands State Park access road at Massie Gap. We will travel north on the blue-blazed Rhododendron Trail for a half-mile to the intersection with the AT. We will then travel trail south on the AT over Wilburn Ridge, through Rhododendron Gap, around Mt. Rogers, and through Deep Gap to Elk Garden on VA 600. A one mile (round trip) side trip to the summit of Mt. Rogers, at 5729 ft., the highest peak in Virginia, will be made if there is sufficient interest. The wildlife, open balds, evergreen forests, and general scenic beauty of this section are outstanding! Due to the long driving distances and shuttle times, a key swap will be arranged if possible. Bring water, lunch, and sturdy boots or shoes, and clothing appropriate for the weather. Meet at B-215 at 7:45 a.m. for a 8:00 a.m. departure. For more information, contact Steve Banks at 288-3570.

**CANOE TRIP NOTICE - NANTAHALA RIVER** LEADER: JUDY McCLANAHAN  
(Scheduled: Sat.&Sun. June 7-8, 1986) This scenic and popular dam controlled river near Bryson City, NC, is predominately Class II water with two easily portaged Class III rapids. Meeting time on Saturday will be 10:30 a.m. at Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser. Drive time from Kingsport to Wesser is approximately 3 1/2 hours. Camping and lodging are available nearby. Due to dry conditions this season, pre-registration is required for this trip so that interested parties can be notified of changes. Contact Judy McClanahan at (615) 246-3787 or B-284 for additional information.

**BACKPACK NOTICE - SPIVEY GAP TO DAMASCUS** LEADER: DARROL NICKELS  
(Scheduled: June 14-22, 1986) Most of us in the club who have hiked the section of the Appalachian Trail which is maintained the TEHC have walked it in bits and pieces, mostly on work trips, and in many combinations of directions. This backpacking trip affords us the opportunity to see this section, the best on the A.T., as the through hikers see it. We'll be cataloging the section's assets and any faults we find will be documented so that we can get them corrected, where practicable. A complete description of the hike can be found in the GUIDE. The hiking will be strenuous and with side trips will require an average of more than 13 miles per day. We will go through three low points of 2,000 feet or less, and will cross two summits greater than 6,000 feet, and a great many summits greater than 4,000 feet. Preregistration is required. Participation will be limited and will be allotted on a first come - first served basis, subject to acceptance by the leader, based on hiking experience. If this hike interests you, call Darrol Nickels on 247-7043.

**HIKE NOTICE - RHODODENDRON GAP NEAR MT. ROGERS** LEADER: KIRK FINCH  
(Scheduled: Sat. June 14, 1986) Once again we will try to hit the rhododendron at their peak! Meet at Building 215 parking lot for an 8:00 a.m. departure. It will be about a 100 mile drive and take about 2 1/2 hours time to get there and get cars located at both ends of the trail. For those of you who haven't been to this area, it is beautiful meadows, several thousand acres of rhododendron, and large rock outcrops that look like the setting for a western cowboy movie. We will hike from the Grayson Highlands State Park near Massie Gap to Rhododendron Gap, follow the old AT along Pine Mountain, and descend on the Old Orchard AT to our cars on road 603, a total of 7.6 miles. This should be an easy hike. Bring food, water and clothing suitable for sudden drops in temperature. Some of us will eat at the gourmet restaurant in Troutdale and return to Kingsport about 9:00 p.m. Those returning directly to Kingsport should be there about 6:30 p.m. Call Kirk Finch at 288-5739 for more information.

**WORK TRIP NOTICE - POND MOUNTAIN** LEADERS: JUDY McCLANAHAN & STEVE BANKS  
(Scheduled: June 19 thru June 23, 1986) The Konnarock Crew will be working with our club to improve and reroute part of the trail on Pond Mountain. They will be working Thursday thru Monday. If you can help on this section of trail on any of these days, please contact Steve Banks (288-3570) or Judy McClanahan (246-3787).

**HIKE NOTICE - RENFRO AND GAP CREEK CAVE HIKES** LEADER: GREG KRAMER  
(Scheduled: Sat. June 21, 1986) Meet at B-215 parking lot at 9:00 a.m. This trip is for anyone interested in caving. Last year we had a two year old on this

trip. So if caving has ever interested you or your children, this is the trip for you. Bring lunch, water and a change of clothes. Helmet and helmet mounted lights are also required, but can be supplied by the trip leader. Contact Greg Kramer at 239-7667.

**HIKE NOTICE - CARVERS GAP TO 19E** **LEADER: JUDY McCLANAHAN**  
(Scheduled: Sat. June 21, 1986) This moderate 12.9 mile hike crosses open mountain balds with grassy meadows and superb views. We may see rhododendron and flame azalea as well as some rare varieties in bloom on the balds. This section of trail is referred to by many as the "most beautiful" section of the Appalachian Trail. This hike is scheduled as the "shakedown" for VT Inn to Inn hikers, but we welcome anyone else. Plan to meet at B-215 (TEC Personnel building with flagpole on Lincoln Street) at 7:45 a.m. For other meeting places and additional information contact Judy McClanahan at (615) 246-3787.

**WORK TRIP NOTICE - CROSS MOUNTAIN** **LEADERS: RODNEY GRAY & ED OLIVER**  
(Scheduled: June 26 thru 30, 1986) The Konnarock Crew will be working with our club and the Forest Service to replace the bog bridges trail south of highway 91 on Cross Mountain on June 26 thru 30. They will be working Thursday thru Monday. If you are interested in helping on any of the days or need additional information, contact either Rodney Gray (323-4466) or Ed Oliver (349-6668).

**CANOE TRIP NOTICE - NOLICHUCKY GORGE** **LEADER: GORDON PORTER**  
(Scheduled: Sun. June 29, 1986) Rating = Class III-IV. The gorge section of the Nolichucky from Poplar, NC 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 gradient of approximately 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. The Nolichucky Gorge presents hazards to both equipment and people. 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 are highly recommended. Meet at McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. The driving time is about 1 hour each way. Pre-register with Gordon Porter, B-26, HDC. Send your name, telephone number, and list similar rivers which you have paddled if this is your first gorge trip.

**HIKE NOTICE - INN TO INN IN VERMONT** **LEADER: JUDY McCLANAHAN**  
(Scheduled: Sat. - Sat. June 28 - July 5, 1986) We will fly out of Tri-Cities on Saturday morning and arrive at our first inn on Saturday afternoon. We will spend the week hiking along the Long Trail in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Each evening we will lodge in country inns along the way. Our return flight will put us in Tri-Cities on the following Saturday evening. Pre-registration was required for this trip. The trip is filled, but names for the waiting list are welcome.

**WORK TRIP NOTICE - ROUND BALD** **LEADER: PAUL WORSHAM**  
(Scheduled: July 31 thru August 4, 1986) The Konnarock Crew will be working with our club to improve the trail on the north side of Round Bald (on Roan Mountain) on July 31 thru August 4. They will work Thursday thru Monday. If you are interested in helping improve the Appalachian Trail on this beautiful section, contact Paul Worsham.

**HIKE NOTICE-MT. LeCONTE CREEK TRIP** **LEADER: STAN MURRAY/DEWEY FULLER**  
(Scheduled: Sat. & Sun. August 2-3, 1986) This year's creek trip will be up Cannon Creek out of Greenbrier Cove on the east side of Mount LeConte. Cannon Creek is one of the prettiest and one of the steepest of LeConte's creeks. The lower half will involve rock hopping and wading through deep, clear pools (assuming we get some rain). At about lunch time, we should arrive at a high waterfall. Above this point, we will climb a series of cascades all the way to the top. Overnight accommodations will be somewhat different from years past. We were unable to get reservations at the lodge. Instead, we will plan to stay overnight in the Mount LeConte trail shelter. Reservations can be obtained only 30 days in advance. Since it would not be practicable to carry camping gear up the creek, we will arrange to have this equipment carried in by lamas. Upon arrival, we will cook our own supper. The only costs of the trip will be a fee for carrying the gear and a modest cost for the group supper. We should know the approximate costs by the time you call in your reservation. On Sunday, we will descend by Trillium Gap, carrying our overnight gear down with us. The trip is rated difficult and, like most of our creek trips, should provide an unforgettable experience. Please call in your reservations no later than June 16. Contact either Stan Murray at B-244, TEC or call 323-3677 or Dewey Fuller at B-231, TEC or call 764-1658.

**HIKE NOTICE - MT. LeCONTE LODGE** **LEADER: STEVE BANKS**  
(Scheduled: Sun. & Mon. Nov. 2-3, 1986) This is the 1986 edition of an annual TEHC tradition, an overnight hike to LeConte Lodge, atop Mt. LeConte (6593 ft.)

in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The lodge is booked every Friday and Saturday night for the rest of the season, so our reservations are for Sunday evening, November 2. We plan to make a leisurely stroll on the AT and Boulevard Trail to the Lodge on Sunday (7.8 miles total), spend Sunday night in the 3-bedroom lodge (enjoying the spectacular views, weather permitting), and hike back down on the Alum Cave Trail (5.5 miles) on Monday. The cost is \$44.18 for adults, \$37.17 for children 10 and under, and no charge for children two and under. This includes Sunday supper and Monday breakfast. All that is needed is a day pack with water, clothing, towel, etc. Please send your money to Steve Banks, 4536 Chickasaw Road, Kingsport, Tenn. 37664 by June 15, 1986. Make checks payable to TEHC. Reservations will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the trip leader (Steve Banks) at 288-3570 for further information.

\*\*\*\*\* FOR YOUR INFORMATION \*\*\*\*\*

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club has published a supplement to their Trail Guide which lists 16 relocations along with descriptions and maps. This is particularly important because the original Guide showed the Trail in some relocated positions which actually were not put in because of problems in land acquisition. They will send the supplement free to anyone who has purchased a Maine Guide and Guides purchased in the future will contain the supplement as an insert. If you now have a copy of the 10th Edition of the Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine, request a supplement and send a self addressed, stamped envelope to Maine Appalachian Trail Club, P.O. Box 283, Augusta, Maine 04330.

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

VISTA EVALUATION, ABINGDON GAP - February 3, 1986 Darrol Nickels reporting  
On February 6 four of us hiked towards Abingdon Gap from McQueens Gap on Holston Mountain. The purpose of the trip was to determine if a suitable place for a vista existed in this area. We found a suitable site to clear a vista and found that the Appalachian Trail could be easily relocated to the ridge crest near the vista just west of Maple Springs Gap about one mile north east of Mc Queens Gap on Holston Mountain.

RIO GRANDE CANOE TRIP - February, 1986

Dewey Fuller reporting

On Saturday morning, February 15, eight hikers-canoers-bird watchers left Kingsport with five inches of snow on the ground under a sky which threatened to bring more of the same. Around Knoxville the snow covered roads and jackknifed semies gave way to clear dry pavement as the group headed south on I-75. By afternoon of the third day, the cold, wet gloom of East Tennessee had been traded for sunshine, bright blue skies, and 70° temperatures at Big Bend National Park in Southwest Texas. After a good nights sleep in the park, Rick Culbertson, Charlie LeBlanc, Wayne Lemmon, Warren McLain, Judy McClanahan, and Dewey Fuller launched three loaded canoes into the Rio Grande at Lalinda, Mexico, just downstream of the park, starting a seven day wilderness canoe trip which would cover 83 miles of designated Wild and Scenic River. Within the first mile, the cliffs of Heath Canyon provided shade as we enjoyed our introduction to the magnificent Lower Canyons section of the Rio Grande. For the next week we would be paddling through an almost endless series of canyon bluffs, some of which tower as much as 1500 feet above river level. As we progressed down the river, nights were spent in Mexico or the U.S. depending on which side of the river looked more inviting. Although we were in the heart of the Chihuahua Desert, numerous thermal springs occurred along the way providing clear water for drinking and cooking. Some of the larger springs had been surrounded with rocks to form hot tubs which were a welcome way to relax after a hard day of paddling. At Hot Springs rapids we met a Mexican cowboy out tending cattle. He was the only person outside our group we saw on the whole river trip. Although the average gradient for this section of river is a gentle 5 feet per mile, the water moves along at a respectable clip with very few dead spots. Most of the rapids are class I-II with two notable exceptions at Hot Springs and Upper Madison Falls rapids. These class III-IV runs were made after removing equipment from the boats. At Upper Madison Falls the remains of two aluminum canoes which had been torn in two on the midstream rocks attested to the destructive power of this rapid. We could only speculate on the problems the unfortunate owners of these boats must have faced with 28 miles of river to cover, but no boat to float in.

Meanwhile, back in the park, things had been anything but dull. Tom Dosser and Royal Spees, who stayed in the park to bird watch and check out some of the many hiking trails, had taken a side trip into a Mexican town just across the river. Leaving their car on the U.S. side to avoid complications, they proceeded on foot to explore the town. A particularly belligerent dog voiced loud objections to these two gringo's encroachment on his territory. Tom, realizing that discretion is the better part of valor, gave ground moving to the opposite side of the street. Royal gave no ground and walked on past the outraged canine. To make a long story short, the dog kept his domain and Royal, assisted by Tom, made haste to the nearest north of the border hospital emergency room for rabies and tetanus shots. Fortunately, this was the only international incident of the trip.

After a total of more than two weeks we were back in the Tri-Cities with a few minor aches and pains, a few blisters and imbedded cactus spines, many roles of film to be developed, many memories, and the color of summer left in everyone's face by the warm Southwest Texas sun.

AT, ALLEN GAP TO HOT SPRINGS - January 25, 1986 Gether Irick reporting  
On Saturday, January 25, 1986, five intrepid souls started the 14.7 mile winter AT hike from Allen Gap to the Jesuit hostel in Hot Springs, N.C. Emmett Dougherty left us at the 9 mile point at Tanyard Gap to go hunting bunnies -- I guess it was still open season on the ski slopes. We hiked in 1 to 2 inches of snow over frozen ground for most of the trip. Visibility was poor because of the snow and freezing rain, but the mountains were still beautiful. There were good views of the French Broad river as we approached Hot Springs. Participating were Emmett Dougherty, Kevin Edgar, Owen Holbrook, Gether Irick and Judy McClanahan.

AT, US 58 TO DAMASCUS - March 8, 1986 Steve Banks reporting  
Eighteen hikers made this trip on a clear and cold day. A light snowfall from the previous day did nothing to dampen the spirits of the hikers. From the ridgecrest of Iron Mountain we could see Whitetop Mountain, Brumley Mountain, and the town of Damascus. Enjoying the hike were Ken and Pat Buchanan, Judy Davidson, Joy Kyle, Kevin and Marilyn Edgar, Doug Lowman, Gary Luttrell, Don Sexton, Emmett Dougherty, Taylor Pickard, Beth Pickard and friend, Rod Gary, Jack Young, Owen Holbrook, and Steve and Steven Banks.

TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE WORK TRIP-March 9, 1986 Darrol Nickels reporting  
It was a pleasant, breezy day with blue skies as four of us clipped brush, pulled briars, and cut out blowdowns on the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. We worked to the northeast to Tenn Rte. 66, covering about three miles and ending at a major gap. Participants were Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Dana Eglinton, and Darrol Nickels.

BIG MOCCASIN CREEK CANOE TRIP - March 15, 1986 Warren McLain reporting  
A good rain on the previous day provided generous quantities of water in Big Moccasin Creek. All of the Class II sections were good splashing fun. At the rapids, the normally little country creek decided it was a big powerful roaring pushy river. This provided more challenge. Some paddlers ran it, and some walked it. Still others swam it, and let their canoes run it alone. This provided plenty of action for the rescue ropes. One paddler suffered a dislocated shoulder when his canoe was caught in a "keeper" hydraulic. He was evacuated by part of the group, and is recovering well. We had 12 participants in 11 canoes and kayaks. Participants were Rodney Gray, Ed Montgomery, Tom Pridgen, Dale Mathis, Judy McClanahan, Judy Davidson, Steve Haynes, Rick Phelps, Art Mullins, Charles LeBlanc, Gordon Parter, and Warren McLain.

BLACKSTOCK KNOB HIKE - March 16, 1986 Hugh Thompson reporting  
The Blue Ridge Parkway was closed to Balsam Gap on the scouting trip so the hike was changed to a trip over Potato Knob and on to Clingmans Peak (a Beyond 6000 peak). The hike started at Black Mountain Gap on the top of Potato Knob, continued to Clingmans Peak and Steeps Gap and back to the cars. Five hikers enjoyed a near perfect day for this endeavor. Lunchtime found us on the top of Potato Knob with excellent views of The Craiges and Blackstock Knob. A flight of black vultures came in tree top high, found we were all well and kicking, then quickly rode a standing wave up and all but disappeared in less than 5 minutes. The lucky ones were Lana Ferguson, Rick Culbertson, Don Sexton, Hugh and Lynn Thompson.

AT, MAX PATCH ROAD TO HOT SPRINGS - March 28, 1986 Rodney Gray reporting  
This hike was originally reported as being 17.6 miles as taken from the old Trail Guide Book; however, due to the recent trail relocation over Max Patch Mtn., the actual distance is now 20.0 miles. Five hikers left Kingsport at 7:00 a.m. under crystal clear blue skies and comfortable temperatures that continued throughout the day. A long car shuttle was avoided by leaving one car at Hot Springs, N.C., and having a family member of one of the hikers drop us off at the trail head. We began hiking at 10:00 a.m. and the first mile brought us to the level grassy bald on the top of Max Patch Mtn. (4280 ft.). The 360° unobstructed crystal clear views, which included the Smokies and Black Mountains, were outstanding and we spent about a half hour there just admiring the scenery and identifying distant mountain peaks. We then hiked over Walnut Mtn. (also 4280 ft.) and Bluff Mtn. (4686 ft.) and then began the long descent, interrupted occasionally by some climbs, to Hot Springs arriving about 6:45 p.m. just as the sun was setting. Exhausted, hungry and thirsty we all went to the Smokey Mountain Diner in downtown Hot Springs for food and drink. We arrived back in Kingsport at 9:30 p.m. Survivors were Steve Banks, Owen Holbrook, P.R. Jones, Gary Luttrell and Rod Gray.

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