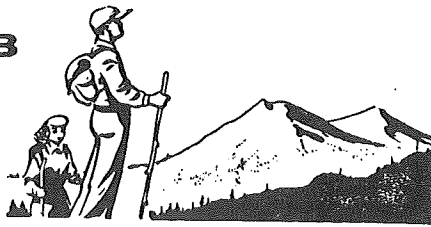


TERC HIKING CLUB



NOVEMBER, 1986
NEWSLETTER

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

FALL DINNER MEETING

LEADER: KEVIN EDGAR

(Scheduled: Sunday, November 2, 1986) The fall dinner meeting will be held at the Eastman Cabin starting at 5:30 p.m. (though of course some folks may want to come early and hike around Bays Mountain, weather permitting). We have a couple of treats in store for you. Beginning at 5:30, Gary Bridges will display a sampling of the gear which the Club has for rent, especially the new stuff such as our Lowe internal frame backpack, and our new one-person tent. It will be a great opportunity to see the quality gear you can rent at reasonable rates. Gary will also have some surplus camping gear for sale at miniscule prices. Then, at 6:30, we will enjoy a steak dinner, including oven brown potatoes, fresh salad, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and the fruit pie of the day, all still just \$6.50 per person. After we quickly dispose of the club business, at about 7:45 Dewey Fuller will present a slide show on the canoeing/hiking trip he led earlier this year to the beautiful Big Bend National Park area near (and on) the Texas - Mexico border. This should be a good one, folks, so send in your reservations right away! Send the form below along with \$6.50 per person (make checks payable to "TEC Food Services") to Kevin Edgar, 1010 Olympus Circle, Kingsport, TN, 37663 (or B150B, TEC) by Thursday, October 30. Call 239-5742 for additional information.

NUMBER ATTENDING: 4 @ \$6.50 EACH

TOTAL ENCLOSED: 26⁰⁰ Make checks payable to TEC Food Services

NAMES: Collins Chew
Charlotte Chew
Carolyn Barry
Jud Barry

HIKE NOTICE - CORDER HOLLOW

LEADER: DICK AUSTIN

(Scheduled: Sunday, November 2, 1986) Dick Austin of the Devil's Fork Trail Club has scheduled this hike to let people know about the hiking opportunities available in the Devil's Fork area. The following description was provided by Mr. Austin. "From near Big Cherry Reservoir at the top of Powell Mountain, we explore a proposed trail route down the mountain to Devil's Bathtub. We will meet at the mouth of Devil's Fork, then take some cars up to our starting point." To get to the meeting place, take VA Route 619 from Ft. Blackmore toward Norton. The Mouth of Devil's Fork is about half way between Ft. Blackmore and Norton, before you get to High Knob. For more information as well as detailed directions to the meeting place, contact Dick Austin at (703) 467-2437.

TRIP NOTICE - VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL, SECTION V

LEADER: RODNEY GRAY

(Scheduled: Saturday, November 8, 1986) Section V (approximately 8 miles, rated easy) of the Virginia Creeper Trail will begin at Route 728 (about 9 miles east of Damascus, Va.) and follow White Top Laurel Creek for about 0.5 mile, then up Green Cove Creek for about 5 miles before proceeding thru wooded hollows and between the mountains to the North Carolina border where the footpath of the Virginia Creeper Trail terminates. The trees should still be showing a lot of fall colors and contribute to having a good hike. We will meet at B-215 for a 9 a.m. departure. Bring lunch, water, and wear

appropriate clothing. For additional information or meeting places contact Rodney Gray at 323-4466.

HIKE NOTICE - AT, MASSIE GAP (GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK) TO VA 603
LEADER: STEVE BANKS

(Scheduled: Saturday, November 15, 1986) This 10.1 mile day hike passes through some of the most scenic parts of the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. We will start in Grayson Highlands State Park, using a blue-blazed trail for 0.5 miles to reach the AT at Massie Gap. From there, we will travel north on the AT, crossing the open summits of Stone Mountain (4800 ft.) and Pine Mountain (5000 ft.), and through rhododendron thickets to VA 603. There should be good views, weather permitting. This hike is rated moderate. Hikers should bring water, lunch, sturdy boots or shoes, and clothing appropriate for the weather. Due to the long car shuttle, a key swap will be used if someone is willing and able to lead part of the group in the opposite direction. And, as an added attraction, if there is enough interest, some of us can make a trip to the nearby Troutdale Restaurant for dinner (bring a change of clothes). For more information, contact Steve Banks at 288-3570.

HIKE NOTICE -BLAIR COLLINS CAVE HIKE
LEADER: GREG KRAMER

(Scheduled: Sunday, November 23, 1986) Meet at B-215 at 9:00 a.m. This cave is a typical southwest Virginia cave. If you have done some caving before, you will really enjoy this cave. It is not recommended for anyone under 12 years old. What climbing that is done is near the entrance and once in the lower passages, the cave is not difficult. Bring flashlight, lunch, and water in a day pack, and a complete change of clothes. Helmet and helmet mounted lights are also required but can be supplied by the trip leader, if given advance notice. Contact Greg Kramer at 239-7667.

HIKE NOTICE - AT, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN TO GREAT VALLEY LEADER: STEVE BANKS
(Scheduled: Saturday, December 13, 1986) This 10.8 mile day hike starts at the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area Visitor Center (3220 ft.), and passes over Brushy Mountain (3600 ft.), Locust Mountain (3900 ft.), and Glade Mountain (3900 ft.) to US 11 and Interstate 81. This hike is rated moderate. Hikers should bring water, lunch, sturdy boots or shoes, and clothing appropriate for the weather. If there is enough interest, a trip to the nearby Troutdale Restaurant, a genuine diner's delight in rural Southwest Virginia, will be arranged. Bring a change of clothes if you plan on dining at the restaurant. For more information, contact Steve Banks at 288-3570.

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

DATE	TRIP	LEADER
Dec. 6	Virginia Creeper Trail, Section 4	Rodney Gray
Dec. 13	AT, Brushy Mtn. to Great Valley	Steve Banks
Dec. 20	Cedar Creek Cave Hike	Greg Kramer

***** OPTIMAL LOCATION REVIEW *****

The U.S. Forest Service Regional Office has funded the Watagua Ranger District for the Optimal Location Review for 1987. The review can begin anytime after October 1, 1986. The purpose of the review is to determine if the present route of the Appalachian Trail is the optimal location or if an alternate route would be better for the future. The review in the Watagua Ranger District will cover our section of the Appalachian Trail from Pond Mountain to the Virginia State Line near Damascus, Virginia. If you have any opinions about the route of the trail in this area or if you are interested in helping with the review, please contact Ed Oliver at 349-6668. The review will include walking the sections of the AT in the Watagua District with Forest Service people.

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

WATER SAFETY EXPO DISPLAY - August 2-3, 1986 G.C. Tustin reporting

The TERC Hiking and Canoeing Club presented a display at the Water Safety Expo sponsored by the Kingsport Area Safety Council as part of Fun Fest. We displayed three white water boats: a solo canoe, a tandem canoe, and a kayak. The display also included safety equipment and posters describing white water safety and the TERC Hiking and Canoeing Club.

The event was held at the Duck Island recreation building at Warriors Path State Park from 10 to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Volunteers from the TERC Hiking and Canoeing Club were present to answer questions about canoeing. Special thanks are due to those who helped me by donating their time and equipment. These include Rick Phelps, Eugene Dobbs, Charlie LeBlanc, Tom Pridgen, Earl Brown, Judy McClanahan, and Warren McLain.

GILLEY'S CAVE HIKE - August 9, 1986

Greg Kramer reporting

The trip quickly broke up into two trips. One was a group of cavers who came to take pictures in the cave and the other a group of novices lead by the trip leader. We went down the main trunk passage of the cave, headed toward the Devil's Pit. Along the way we checked some small leads to the side. Also, after looking down the pit we started out, again looking for side passages that might lead to the bottom of the pit. After spending four hours in the cave we all met near the entrance and went out. Participants were Freddie Hughes, Bill Kelly, Greg Kramer, Wayne Manly, John Rucker, Rule Smith and Robert Whittmore.

KINGDOM COME STATE PARK - August 16, 1986

Rodney Gray reporting

We left Kingsport at 9:00 a.m. with beautiful summer weather that continued throughout the day. The 65 mile motor trip to Kingdom Come State Park in Cumberland, Ky. was interrupted by a two mile side motor trip to the top of Black Mountain (4145 ft., highest point in Kentucky). We then made a stop at Hardee's in Cumberland for coffee, etc, before arriving at the park. On arrival, we read the geological history of the area posted at the park entrance and then hiked the short distance to the unusual rock formations featured by the park. After scrambling up, around, and over the rugged terrain and viewing the points of interest, we ate lunch under the trees at one of the many picnic tables provided by the park. On the way home we stopped at two different mining museums located in Big Stone Gap that we found very interesting. Participants were Greg Kramer, Betty Kramer, Graham Kramer (4 1/2 months), Reuel Smith, Virginia Fleenor, Kirk Finch, Daniel Fonseca, Mario Castaneda and Rod Gray.

NOLICHUCKY RIVER CANOE TRIP - August 17, 1986

G.C. Tustin reporting

This trip was cancelled due to lack of water.

MULTICLUB MEETING - August 30 - September 1, 1986

Ed Oliver reporting

The TERC Hiking and Canoeing Club hosted the 1986 Multiclub Meeting at Nolichucky Expeditions this year. We had a total of 207 people who attended one or more days of the meeting. One hundred and seventy-five people camped at the campground at Nolichucky Expeditions. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Our club received much praise for the way the meeting was carried out. Several hikes were offered Saturday and Sunday. Tours of places such as Jonesboro, Rocky Mount, Bays Mountain, and Roan Mountain were available for those who chose not to hike. The basket weaving demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday proved to be very popular. Some of those attending chose to actually make baskets so the demonstration turned into a class. Dulcimer music demonstrations were available also. The square dance Saturday night appeared to be a hit. Sunday night was capped off with a jam session. Fifteen hiking clubs and other organizations were represented at the meeting. Organizations represented and number from each organization were GEORGIA A.T.C. (39 people), CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB (32 people), TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING CLUB (27 people), SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB (17 people), PIEDMONT A.T. HIKERS (16 people), APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONF. (14 people), TIDEWATER A.T.C. (13 people), MOUNT ROGERS A.T.C. (12 people), NANTAHALA HIKING CLUB (9 people), OLD DOMINION A.T.C. (7 people), ROANOKE A.T.C. (5 people), VIRGINIA TECH

OUTING CLUB (3 people), KONNAROCK MEMBERS (3 people), TENN. DEPT. OF CONSERVATION (1 person), U.S. FOREST SERVICE (1 person), OTHERS (8 people).

JONES BRANCH WORK TRIP - Sept. 6-7, 1986

Ed Oliver reporting

Seventeen members and leaders of Scout Troup 135 from Sulphur Springs worked Saturday to correct the problems along the Appalachian Trail at Jones Branch near Nolichucky Expeditions. Several years ago a flood washed two large logs along with rocks and mud across the old creek channel. The dam which this material formed caused the creek to change course and flow down a portion of the trail. This scout troupe wanted to help with a project on the Appalachian Trail. They thought that the project of removing the dam would be interesting and fun. The rocks and mud were removed first. Then the logs were cut and removed. The rocks and logs were placed in such a way to form a dam across the new creek channel and thus force the creek back into its original channel. Additional work was done along the trail to correct erosion problems. The boys and leaders had a great time. What could be more fun than standing in a creek and throwing rocks?

PATRICK HENRY "GORGE" CANOE TRIP - Sept. 28, 1986

G. C. Tustin reporting

The word "gorge" in canoeing usually implies exciting whitewater. However, in this case, the word "gorge" was used as a tool to entice whitewater buffs to go on a canoe trip that was more interesting than exciting. This impromptu trip was scheduled because the TVA had let down the level of Patrick Henry Lake to make repairs on the dam. Thus what is normally a lake returned to being the river it once was. We put in below Boone Dam at the Airport Road bridge and took out at Warriors Path State Park. The TVA indicated that they would provide a continuous partial release of water during the period that the lake was down thus insuring that there would be moving water. This was the case, and there were about six Class I rapids (with the possible exception of the "Phantom" rapid) between the put-in and Lochridge. After Lochridge the river became lake again. The landscape along the river was strange. It looked like the moon, but with dead trees. The wood in these trees was remarkably preserved considering how long they had been submerged. Shortly below the put-in we found a cave with quite a large spring flowing out of it. Normally the cave and spring are submerged by the lake. In keeping with typical East Tennessee tradition, there were plenty of old cars visible in and along the river. About a half mile below Smith Shoals is the mysterious "Phantom" rapid. This rapid will remain mysterious and invisible until the next time the TVA lets the water down (probably many years from now). One clue about the "Phantom": it had plenty of water flowing through it. At least one person went for an unscheduled swim because of the mysterious "Phantom". To find out more about the mysterious "Phantom", plan to canoe this river next time the TVA lets the lake down! Until then, let's keep it a mystery. Those enjoying this rare trip were Earl Brown, Judy McClanahan, Dewey Fuller, Eugene and David Dobbs, Gordon and L. G. Porter, Wayne Lemmon, and Jeff and Jerry Tustin.