

TERC HIKING CLUB



DECEMBER, 1986
NEWSLETTER

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

HIKE NOTICE - VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL, SECTION 2 LEADER: RODNEY GRAY
(Scheduled: Sat. Dec. 6, 1986) Section 2 (rated easy) of the Virginia Creeper Trail will begin at Route 677 (about 4 miles east of Abingdon, Va.) and proceed through rolling countryside for about a mile and then follow the middle fork of the Holston River for another mile to where it empties into South Holston Lake. We will cross the lake and then hike up the South Fork of the Holston River, which also empties into the lake at this point, for about 3 miles to Highway 58. We will meet at B-215 for a 9:00 a.m. departure. Bring lunch and water and wear appropriate clothing. For additional information or meeting places contact Rodney Gray at 323-4466.

HIKE NOTICE - AT, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN TO GREAT VALLEY LEADER: STEVE BANKS
(Scheduled: Sat. Dec. 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.

HIKE NOTICE - CEDAR CREEK CAVE HIKE LEADER: GREG KRAMER
(Scheduled: Sat. Dec. 20, 1986) Meet Saturday, December 20 at 9:00 a.m. at B-215 parking lot. Cedar Creek is wet and a long cave. A trip to the back will take 8 hours but is well worth it. Bring lunch, water and a spare light in a small pack and a complete change of clothes. Helmets and helmet mounted lights are also required but can be supplied by the trip leader. Contact Greg Kramer (239-7667) for additional information.

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

MT. LeCONTE LODGE TRIP
(Scheduled: Sat. & Sun. June 6-7, 1987) This is the 1987 edition of an annual (well, almost annual) TEHC tradition, an overnight hike to LeConte Lodge, atop Mt. LeConte (6593 ft.) in the Great Smoky Mountains. We plan to hike on the AT and Boulevard Trail to the Lodge on Saturday (7.8 miles total), spend Saturday 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 Sunday. The cost is \$46.34 per person. This includes Saturday supper and Sunday breakfast. All that is needed is a day pack with Saturday lunch, water, clothing, towel, etc. The hike is limited to 12 people - please call Steve Banks at 288-3570 to sign up. If there is room on the list, you can send your money to Steve Banks, 4536 Chickasaw Road, Kingsport, Tenn. 37664. Make checks payable to Steve Banks.

MOUNT LeCONTE LODGE CREEK TRIP - July 11-12, 1987
We have 12 reservations for the three-bedroom lodge at Mount LeConte for July 11, 1987, for those wishing to participate in the annual creek trip. While the choice of creek will be made later on, the trip will be guaranteed to be physically challenging and emotionally rewarding. Expect to spend at least 8 hours in the creek scrambling over rocks and blowdowns, under rhododendron, up ledges and waterfalls. The trip is rated difficult. Confirm your reservation by sending a check for \$46.50 make payable to Stan Murray. In addition, we will take names on a waiting list for those who would like to stay at the Lodge after ascending by trail. Do not send any money; the leader will contact you by phone sometime between now and July 11 if there are openings. For those going up the creek, however, it is first-come-first served; so get your check in at the earliest possible date. Contact Stan Murray at Building 244, TEC or phone 323-3677.

***** 1987 HIKE SCHEDULE *****

Will the person who recommended hikes on the Twin Pinalcles and Listening Rock Trails in the Grayson Highlands area and to Elrod Falls near Sneedville please contact Paul Worsham at Building 231, TEC. He needs additional information.

***** TRAIL WORKERS NEEDED *****

Volunteers are needed to work on a short but steep and eroded trail at Natural Tunnel State Park, Duffield, Virginia. We would like to get this trail in shape for winter before December 15. The trail is a favorite one for spring wildflower hikes but will really suffer without some help before bad weather. The park people do not have sufficient funds to maintain this trail the way it should be maintained. If you have a

Saturday free in November or December, please call Jean Brown at 703-421-2139 for more information.

***** BALLOT FOR STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION *****
Here's your chance to have a say in how our club is run. The election of new members of the Steering Committee of the TERC Hiking and Canoeing Club is upon us. The Steering Committee consists of six members, plus the immediate past chairperson. Each member serves for a term of two years. The Committee is the main body which governs our club. The following individuals have been nominated by the present Committee to replace outgoing members Paul Worsham, Judy McClanahan, and Gerry Tustin for the term 1987-1988. Please vote for 3 of the 6 and return your ballots to Kevin Edgar by December 15, 1986.

----- Ann Aitken	----- Kirk Finch
----- Dick Clark	----- Dewey Fuller
----- Emmett Dougherty	----- Greg Kramer

VOTE FOR THREE !

RETURN YOUR COMPLETED, UNSIGNED BALLOTS BY DECEMBER 15 TO:

Kevin Edgar
1010 Olympus Circle
Kingsport, Tenn. 37663

***** ROAN MOUNTAIN PROTECTION - SAHC *****
The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) is dedicated to the protection of Roan Mountain. Your help is appreciated. With headquarters in Kingsport, the Southern Appalachian Conservancy has as its mission to protect the Roan Massif - some 23,000 acres from Eagle Cliffs to the Hump - from adverse development and misuse. This area includes 17 miles of the Appalachian Trail. The work was begun through the Roan Mountain Preservation Committee of the Appalachian Trail Conference. The project was transferred to SAHC, which was incorporated as a tax-exempt organization for this purpose in 1974. All four of its incorporators were members of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club! The project is a gigantic undertaking, and SAHC could use your financial support and contributions of volunteer labor. To become a member (dues \$10 for Subscribing, \$25 for Contributing, \$100 for Sustaining, And \$1000 for Life Members), send your check, name and address to SAHC, P.O. Box 3356, Kingsport, Tenn. 37664.

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

AT, CARVER'S GAP TO 19E - Sept. 20-21, 1986 John Thompson reporting
This hike was cancelled due to lack of response.

NANTAHALA RIVER CANOE TRIP - Sept. 20-21, 1986 Dave Ingram reporting
Once again we found the Nantahala River to be a lot of fun and enjoyment. The weather for the entire weekend was beautiful. The food was excellent and plentiful at the Fryemont Inn in nearby Bryson City. River running is a wet, thankless, job, but somebody has to do it. Participants were Judy McClanahan, Terry and Teresa Dougherty, Rick and Alan Dooley, Kurt Kauffman, Rick Culbertson, Dewey Fuller, Charlie LeBlanc, Sam Gustafson, and Dave Ingram.

UNTHANKS CAVE HIKE - Sept. 27, 1986 Greg Kramer reporting
Unthanks is a large cave, approximately three miles have been mapped, and has three main sections. The group went toward the Mad Finley section of the cave. Usually there is a sump about 1000 feet in the passage. With the extremely dry weather this spring the sump was dry. In fact we saw no water until we went another 1000 feet or so. Most of this section usually has some water in it, but not now. The group went to the end of the stream passage and down two other extensive side leads. Participants were Gene Ernst, Mike Hobbs, and Greg Kramer.

AT, GROSECLOSE TO VA. 42 HIKE - Sept. 27, 1986 Kevin Edgar reporting
On a warm and muggy day in the lowlands, which was considerably cooler and breezier in the southwest Virginia mountains, Steve Banks and I led groups across this section in opposite directions. The hiking was pleasant and varied, including hardwood forests, Rhodo groves, open pastures, country roads, and not a few cow pies. The northbound group encountered the recent Konnarock relocation at the south end first thing in the morning. This may have accounted in part for our slight difficulty in following the trail through the open fields and our confusion at the incredible number of stiles in the early going (including one with a "cowbuster" symbol painted on it). We weren't sure how effective the stiles would be against cows, but they worked very well on hikers. Both groups also had all-too-close encounters with squirrel hunters. An interlude to slake our thirsts at the House of Hunan, followed by an excellent meal at

Troutdale, capped a very good day. Fellow travelers included John Stafford, Art Mullins, Doug Lowman, Richard Jones, Emmett Dougherty, Judy McClanahan, Steve Banks, Kevin Edgar, Owen Holbrook, Dave Olsen, John Rucker, Rodney Gray, and Ann Aitken.

VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL, SECTION V HIKE - Oct. 4, 1986 Rodney Gray reporting
This section of the Virginia Creeper Trail turned out to be over ten miles long instead of the eight miles originally estimated. However, it was an easy ten miles on a warm fall day, 100% downhill along the old railroad bed that followed the beautiful Whitetop Laurel Creek through the mountains the entire distance from Route 728 to Damascus, Va. Of particular interest was the unique and picturesque Taylors Valley Community. We lunched on a long outcropping of rock that protuded into the middle of the stream from which we watched trout swimming in the clear pool on the downstream side of the rock. Enjoying the hike were Vickie Wolfe, Vickie Hom, Margo Williams, Powell Foster, John Rucker, John Stafford, Jack Young, Art Meyers, and Rod Gray.

UPPER GAULEY RIVER RAFT TRIP - Oct. 3-4, 1986 Judy McClanahan reporting
Camper, van, pick-up trucks, and cars of tents and people left Kingsport Friday afternoon; on headed for Mountain Manor Campground. The campground is located two miles from Summersville Dam which is north of Beckley, WV. The earthen flood control dam has water releases during the month of September and for the first two weeks of October. During this Fall release, the Gauley River becomes NUMBER SEVEN throughout the world in whitewater rafting excitement. We had heard rumors that the thundering sound of the water surging through the chutes could be heard all the way to the campground. That was debatable--- until we got to the put in, there the ground shook beneath our feet! The ten of us divided into two 10-person rafts, each "outfitted" with a competent guide from Gauley River X-peditions, an outpost of Nolichucky X-peditions. With the unseasonably warm weather holding, we did not mind the intermittent rain that stayed with us most of the day. The smashing waves were dousing us anyhow. In many sections of the river (the Class V-VI portions), there was one passable route with no margin for error. Although our guides and our crews coordinated to have "perfect" runs through these, we found the water to be violent with huge diagonal waves, relentless hydraulics, and boulders the size of small houses. In addition, the banks were lined with undercut rocks, making an accidental swim life-threatening. One of the canoists in our group summed up the water and trip perfectly when he said that he was glad to have seen whitewater of this magnitude but he had no plans to ever use his canoe on it. Bruce Chamberlin, Judy Davidson, Terry Dougherty, Nancy Graham, Owen Holbrook, Dave Ingram, Joy Kyle, Charlie LeBlanc, Judy McClanahan, and Karen Watkins survived the "structured" paddling. Thresa and Whitney Dougherty camped with us and gave us moral support.

AT, VA 42 TO I-77 HIKE - Oct 11-13, 1986 Kevin Edgar & Steve Banks reporting
After meeting Owen Holbrook in Bristol and Richard Lane (who is from Chesapeake, Va.) in Wytheville, we left two cars between Bastian and Bland, Va., and drove back to the O'Lystery Community Picnic Shelter on VA 42 to begin our three day backpack. The first night's camp was on the crest of Chestnut Knob, where a small pond provided an opportunity for "skinny dipping" for a few brave souls. The next day's walk along the crest of Garden Mountain provided infrequent views of Burkes Garden to the north. After spending Sunday night in and around Jenkins Shelter in a steady rain, we climbed Brushy Mountain twice to finish at I-77 just as the rain was ending. There a dog of questionable intelligence attempted to rid itself of the taste of Judy's cheese by chewing on Kevin's dirty socks. On a much more edible note, we gathered at The Tavern in Abingdon for a delicious meal and legendary war story swapping. Those on the trip were Owen Holbrook, Richard Lane, Judy McClanahan, Gether Irick, Wayne and Molly Catron, Emmett Dougherty, Griff Johnson, Kevin Edgar, and Steve Banks.

SHOOK BRANCH TO HAMPTON HIKE - Oct. 18, 1986 Frank Williams reporting
Five hikers gathered to challenge the infamous Pond Mountain. The 8 mile hike was made in near record time; we arrived at the car about 2:30 p.m. and were back in Kingsport by about 3:30 p.m. The consensus was that it was not a bad hike, but with a 40 pound pack some parts of the trail would be too steep for comfort. Those on the survey team were Jack Young, Judy McClanahan, Charles Gibson, Robert Ruscetta, Mike Adams, and Frank Williams.

