

# Hiking Club News

February, 1992

## Hiking

### **BUFFALO MOUNTAIN (Scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 1992)**

*Leader: Hugh Thompson (Phone: 615-928-0472)*

Here is a repeat of the popular ramble of last year. This is a easy to moderate hike with a climb of about 1000 feet. Plan to meet at B-215 at 9:15 for a 9:30 sharp departure. Those wishing to meet us in Johnson City can do so by being at the Burger King in south Johnson City at 10 am. There are two overlooks on this trip with views of Kinsport and Elizabethton. Bring light lunch, water, and dress for the weather. Call Hugh Thompson at 928-0472 for further details or to make reservations.

### **BLACK MOUNTAINS, BEYOND 6000 (Scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 1992)**

*Leader: G. S. Luttrell (Phone: 615-239-9854)*

This will be a difficult hike involving a 3000 ft. elevation gain over a trail distance of 4 miles following the Colbert Creek Trail to Deep Gap. Then, we will hike on the Black Mountain Crest Trail and return down Maple Camp Ridge. The total hiking distance will be 12 miles, or less, depending upon the weather conditions. Some of the South, Beyond 6000 peaks that can be earned on this trip include Winter Star Mtn., Gibbs Mtn., Potato Hill, Balsam Cone, and if time permits side trips, Mt. Craig and Mt. Mitchell. Those going should be equipped with clothing suitable for extreme winter conditions. The target date for this trip is Sat., Feb. 8, but may be postponed due to weather conditions. Contact the trip leader, if you are interested in being put on a call list to receive trip information, such as meeting points, time, and date of trip.

### **FODDERSTACK MOUNTAIN (Scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 1992)**

*Leader: Jerry McKenzie (Phone: 615-323-5522)*

Plan to meet at the B-215 parking lot at 7:30 am for an 8:00 am departure to ensure getting back by midafternoon. We will car pool down Horton Highway (Baileyton Road) to Pyborn Road just west of Fodderstack Mountain. The group will drive to the end of Pyborn Road, park and hike 30-40 minutes up a long hollow between Fodderstack and Chimney Top to a gap between the two mountains. The hike from the gap to the ridgeline follows a line fence, is quite steep, and requires 30-45 minutes of difficult climbing. Once on top, the ridgeline slopes very upward very gradually. This is not a well defined hiking trail so inconveniences such as dodging pine branches will be routine. There is a grand view in all directions because of the

narrowness of the ridge. We will go as far out the ridge as the group desires (seems further to the end than actually is). The total trip will take 5-7 hours depending upon group and how much of the ridge is covered. I would rate it more difficult than a Chimney Top trip approached from the south side.

### **TETONS (WYOMING) PLANNING MEETING (Scheduled for Monday, Feb 17, 1992)**

*Leader: Ted Malone (Phone 615-477-2222)*

There will be a meeting in Room 114 of the Eastman Employee Center at 7:00 on Monday, Feb 17 to discuss a trip to the Grand Teton National Park. Ed Oliver has agreed to show slides of the area and share some of his thoughts. My initial idea is to spend two or three days in cabins, look the area over, do some day hikes and then maybe a three day backpack loop. Someone suggested a trip at the end to Yellowstone which is possible depending on how much time we take for the trip. If you're interested and can't be at the meeting, give me a call before the 17th.

## Canoeing

### **BIG LAUREL CREEK (Scheduled for March 7, 1992)**

*Leader: Ben Becker (Phone: 615-288-5886)*

This is a nice little steep creek (Class III-IV) that runs into the French Broad River near Hot Springs, NC. The gradient is a little over 50 ft/mile with some difficult rapids. An old railroad grade parallels the stream, so scouting is fairly easy. The last three miles of the trip are on the French Broad which also has several interesting rapids including Frank Bell's Rapid. When there is adequate water in Big Laurel, there is plentiful water in the French Broad. Helmets and throw ropes in addition to standard safety equipment are needed for this trip. In case of low water, an alternate trip of similar difficulty will be run. Call Ben Becker at 288-5886 to preregister. Meeting time and place will depend upon river conditions.

### **BLUESTONE RIVER - CHANGE OF DATE NOTICE**

The new date is May 9-10, 1992. There were no rooms available at pipestem for the originally scheduled date.

## Other Activities

### **WINTER DINNER MEETING (Scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 1992)**

*Leader: Kathy McDavid (Phone: 615-349-4901)*

The 1992 TEHC Winter Dinner Meeting will be held at the Eastman Cabin on Saturday, February 29, 1992, at 6:00 pm. The program for the meeting includes a video presentation by Dewey Fuller of his Grand Canyon float trip, a display of hiking and backpacking gear by Mike Brown of Trail Sports Ltd., an exhibition of camera vests and photographic equipment suited for hikers by Jim Wells of Wells Kingsport Camera Shop, and a used hiking equipment trade-off. If you wish to sell or trade any used hiking or camping equipment, tag the equipment with your name and the price, bring it to the meeting, and make your best deal! For \$8.00, you will have your choice of a 6-oz. filet or 8-oz. sirloin strip steak, baked potato with sour cream and margarine, salad with French or Country Club dressing, Parkerhouse rolls, choice of buttermilk chess pie or apple pie, and coffee or iced tea. There is also a children's meal of hamburgers and hot dogs, potato chips, and choice of buttermilk chess pie or apple pie available for \$3.25. Mail the following dinner reservation form to Kathy McDavid, 4154 Ridge Rd., Kingsport, TN 37660.

<b>TEHC WINTER DINNER MEETING RESERVATION</b>	
NAME (Please print): _____	
PHONE No. _____	
NUMBER of ADULT DINNERS @ \$8.00 ea. _____	
CHILD DINNERS @ \$3.25 ea. _____	
TOTAL \$ _____	
(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO <b>KATHY McDAVID</b> )	

## For the Record

### FOOTSLOGGERS GIVES TEHC MEMBERS DISCOUNT

(Ted Malone reporting) - I was in Boone doing some last minute Christmas shopping when I spotted the Footsloggers sign on the store and decided to go in. I bought my first "serious" sleeping bag from Footsloggers when they had a store in Johnson City some years ago. The store in Boone reminded me of the one in Johnson City, not big but having the top quality names in clothing, hiking boots and equipment. Denise Lyon waited on me and after explaining the history of our club, the hiking and canoeing activities and our responsibility for maintaining 125 miles of the AT, I asked if they would be interested in giving our club a discount. She agreed and offered to display some of our literature. The discount is fifteen percent (15%) on everything. It's down the street from Farmer's Hardware.

**HIGH WATER ON THE ELK RIVER** (Paul Fontaine reporting) - On Saturday, January 4, ten canoes and one kayak set sail down the Elk River in Carter County for what turned out to be a very exciting run. All 12 boaters were appropriately

dressed for the 40 Degree overcast weather in our wetsuits and drysuits, though not all would remain dry! The Elk can only be run during times of ample rainfall, which fortunately came on Friday.

While checking out the gauge at the US321 bridge near Elk Mills, the hastily assembled group of TEHC and APE members all agreed that none had ever made this run at the current level of 1' on the gauge! The next stop en route to the put-in was on the bridge which shelters one of the most formidable rapids on the river. We spent 15 minutes studying this one, and the two best routes were selected well in advance of our approach.

Once on the river, we all quickly noticed that the Elk's new personality would prove unusually challenging. Normally a class II-III run, today it was III-IV! The very first rapid took its toll on one canoeist, who was able to do a quick self rescue on the bank. This proved to be a preview of the day's events, as many of the open boaters gained some mid-winter swimming practice! This also became an excellent opportunity to practice saving loose equipment and overturned boats. The award for the most entertaining duo must go to Carmen Howell and his brother, who just happened to be visiting from Texas (you'd think he would know all about high water!) Carmen, who is normally found in the safe confines of a kayak, chose this day to show his brother a "good time" in his tandem canoe. Teamwork is probably not the best description of their effort, but our hats are off to them for keeping us all awake with frequent shouts and screams. To our amazement, they made it to the takeout with smiles on their faces. Could another hard core boater be born?

Everyone made it safely through the difficult rapid beneath the bridge, which proves once again the value of good scouting. This was definitely the best Elk River trip ever! Boaters who enjoyed this fine trip were Charlie LeBlanc, who led most of the trip while looking for strainers and deadfalls; Dave Ingram, who ran "sweep" all day, but missed all the action of sweeping up loose boats; Brad and Chad Dayvolt, who probably exchanged war stories at dinner; the Howell Brothers, an act you shouldn't miss; Jeff Jennings, surfer supreme; Mark Walls, whose new boat has finally gained some much needed character; Burchel and Cindy Pierce, one of which has a new war story to tell; Keith "Snake" Swift, who finally missed that hidden rock beneath the bridge; and yours truly, Paul Fontaine, who for once has avoided being someone's main character in another river story.

**SOUTH, BEYOND 6000** (G. S. Luttrell reporting) - Forty outstanding peaks above 6000 feet in the Southern Appalachians are included in the South, Beyond 6000 membership requirements. Authorized hikes are required in the following areas: Black Mountains, Richland Balsam, Roan Mountain, Plott Balsams, and the Smokies. After completing all 40 peaks, the ascent record is mailed to the South, Beyond 6000 committee for approval. When membership is achieved, the

To contribute an article or hike notice to the TEHC News, contact the editor, Eric Middlemas, B-231, TED, Home Phone - (703) 479-3287. All contributions should be received by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

new member receives recognition and is awarded the coveted South, Beyond 6000 patch. G. S. Luttrell is the new committee person replacing Hugh Thompson, who retired from TED in January, 1992. To get started on your quest for membership, you need to obtain the 22 page booklet that contains background information, membership requirements, ascent record, approval form, selected approved hikes, and maps. Make out a check for \$5 to "Beyond 6000" and send to G. S. Luttrell, B-56 TED, Box 511, Kingsport, Tenn. 37662, to receive your booklet.

**TERC HIKING & CANOEING CLUB**  
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