

# Hiking & Canoeing News

May, 1992

## Hiking

### **JAMES RIVER FACE BACKPACK TRIP (Postponed from April 4-5, 1992)**

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

Rating: Moderate

This trip was postponed due to the threat of snow in Central Virginia. We will try to go on a weekend in May. If you are interested in going, contact the leader. Again, we will drive up to Buchanan, Va. Friday night, and stay in a motel - probably the Wattstull Inn, exit 168. We will day hike, without backpacks, on Saturday. Saturday night we will backpack to a campsite, then Sunday either day hike or backpack to the James River.

### **CHIMNEY TOP (Scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 1992)**

Leader: Don Baker (Phone: 615-288-2896)

Rating: Moderate

This hike is cancelled and will be rescheduled for late fall.

### **HAMPTON TO LAUREL FALLS (Scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 1992)**

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

Rating: Easy

This hike is cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.

### **SAND CAVE (Scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 1992)**

Leader: Eric Middlemas (Phone: 703-479-3287)

Rating: Moderate

This hike is cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.

### **CREVICES (Scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 1992)**

Leader: Edith Olinger (Phone: 703-386-3298)

Rating: Moderate

This is a hike of moderate difficulty with a round trip hiking distance of about 8 miles. Meet at B-215 at 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing. Contact Edith Olinger for further information.

### **MT. LeCONTE (Scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, July 11-12, 1992)**

Leader: Steve Falling

Rating: Moderate

Refer to the April newsletter or contact Steve Falling at 239-5502 for reservations for more information.

**HIKE AND CANOE TRIP LEADERS NEEDED** - It's time once again to prepare the TEHC schedule of hikes and canoe trips for the second half of 1992. To continue our long tradition of offering a wide variety of outings, we need volunteer leaders. Send your list of hikes to Steve Banks, B-284, and your list of canoe trips to Dewey Fuller, B-150B. Include the name of the trip, date, rating (easy, moderate, or difficult), and your name and phone number. It's not difficult to lead an outing - contact Steve or any member of the Steering Committee if you have any questions.

#### **HIKE AND CANOE TRIP REGISTRATION FORM**

I am interested in leading the following hikes or canoe trips:

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Steve Banks, B-284, TEC (for hikes), or to Dewey Fuller, B-150B (for canoe trips).

## Canoeing

### **LOWER NOLICHUCKY RIVER - National River Clean Up Week! (Scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 1992)**

Leader: Ed Montgomery (Phone: 615-357-8721)

We will be cleaning up the Lower Nolichucky River on May 2, 1992. Our clean up will start at the Chestoa Recreation Area and go to Devil's Looking Glass. This is a 5 mile run and we will concentrate on general river clean up and Radio Tower Rapid. Radio Tower Rapid has a large eddy on river left that traps trash during high water. I will contact the local farmers for access to this area. We will drop trash at the Old US 23 Sandy Bottom Bridge, I-181 near rock quarry and Cherokee Adventures. We will be picking up trash bags at Chestoa Rec. Area. Erwin Scout Troop 63 (R. Fain Troop Leader) will join us to assist in the river clean up. We will plan to meet at Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am and meet the Scout Troop 63 and other

volunteers at 9:00 am at Chestoa. Please preregister by calling Ed Montgomery.

### **BLUESTONE RIVER (Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10, 1992)**

*Leader: Terry Dougherty (Phone: 615-323-2647)*

*Rating: Class II-III*

This is the annual Bluestone River overnight trip. In years past, we have had water levels between flood and virtually dry, weather between balmy to freezing, and sunshine to hail. I expect this year's conditions will be within these limits. This is a chance to enjoy Class I-II+ whitewater under very scenic conditions with first-class overnight accommodations on the river at Mt. Creek Lodge. We will plan to meet at 10:00 am Saturday, May 9 at Mt. Creek Lodge parking lot, canoe the Bluestone from I-77 bridge, spend the night at Mt. Creek Lodge, and take out on Bluestone Lake at about 2:00 pm Sunday. We will have our traditional Saturday night meal at the Oak Supper Club for those who want. I've reserved 6 rooms at Mt. Creek Lodge at \$42/room (single) plus \$6.00 per each additional person. Campgrounds are also available. The rooms will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pipestem doesn't rent rooms for one night on weekends except on cancellations. Those who want to make the Blueston trip this year have the option of camping, spending Friday and Saturday nights in the lodge, or making other arrangements. If you want to spend two nights at the lodge, let me know so that I can confirm reservations.

Based on comments from previous Bluestoners, this trip is a unique combination of exceptional scenery, reasonable whitewater, excellent riverside accommodations, and outstanding food and socializing.

If you want to go on this trip, please complete and return the following form.

#### **BLUESTONE RIVER TRIP**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER IN PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_

I WANT A ROOM FOR MY PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_

I WANT TO SHARE A ROOM: \_\_\_\_\_

I WANT TO EAT AT THE OAK SUPPER CLUB ON SATURDAY NIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO: **TERRY DOUGHERTY, B-54, TED**

### **CANOE SCHOOL 1992 (Scheduled for May 21-24, 1992)**

*Leader: Dewey Fuller (Phone: 615-764-7340)*

Refer to the April newsletter or contact Dewey Fuller for additional information.

### **HIWASSEE RIVER, TN. (Scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, May 30-31, 1992)**

*Leader: Ed Montgomery (Phone: 615-357-8721)*

*Rating: Class I-II*

This scenic river offers excellent class II whitewater and great family camping at Gee Creek Campground. We will meet at Gee Creek Campground on May 30 (Sat.) at 11:00 am, combine boats, and head for the put-in below the dam. We will either take-out at Reliance or Gee Creek campground and a lunch is scheduled. The H<sub>2</sub>O is cold and standard safety equipment is required (floatation, PFD, throw rope, and spare paddle). We may run the river on Sunday depending on the generating schedule and the group's interest. I will be camping (with family) on both Friday and Saturday at Gee Creek. Please preregister by calling Ed Montgomery at 357-8721.

**PADDLING SCHEDULE JULY - DECEMBER, 1992** - The TERC Hiking and Canoeing Club needs people to lead paddling trips for the last half of this year. If you have a trip in mind, please complete the form below and return it to Dewey Fuller or give Dewey a call about the trip at 615-764-7340.

#### **PADDLING TRIP SIGN-UP**

TRIP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RATING: \_\_\_\_\_ (class I-VI)

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO: **DEWEY FULLER, B-150B**

Home Address: 608 Vance Dr. Rd.

Bristol, TN 37620

### **Other Activities**

#### **TEHCC PICNIC (Scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 1992)**

*Leader: Dan Sand (615-753-2162)*

The picnic planned for May 2 will be a cookout/covered dish/hiking combo in our own back yard. The picnicking will be at the Eastman Picnic Area, Shelter 36 from noon to 2 pm followed by easy and/or moderate hikes in Bays Mountain Park.

*To contribute an article or hike notice to the TEHCC 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.*

Please bring your items to be grilled and a covered dish from one of the categories below depending on your last name. If your last name begins with A through H, please bring a salad; if it begins with I through O, please bring a dessert; and if it begins with P through Z, please bring a vegetable. Plates, cups, utensils, condiments, ice, and the charcoal fire will be provided. Drinks will be available for purchase. The hiking will be through the recently expanded animal habitat and around the lake. In case of rain, the hiking portion will be moved inside the nature center itself. For more information or to make reservations contact Dan Sand at 753-2162.

### **APPALACHIAN TRAIL DAYS, DAMASCUS, VIRGINIA (Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, 1992)**

*Leader: Joe DeLoach (Phone: 615-753-7903)*

Every year in mid-May the town of Damascus sponsors a week-long festival known as Appalachian Trail Days. This festival is scheduled to coincide with the arrival of many AT through hikers into Damascus from Tennessee. Damascus bills itself as the friendliest town on the AT, and those who have been to this festival can understand why. The highlight is a hikers' parade which takes place on Saturday afternoon. Everyone walks down Main Street except the current year's through hikers who get to ride on a hay wagon. One of last year's participants was dressed as a jar of peanut butter. Through hikers from previous years come next, followed by area hiking clubs, scouts, and bands. We had several TEHCC representatives last year and would like to have more this year. Other events include a chicken barbecue, a Saturday night dance, a trout fishing tournament for the kids, lots of music, and many items for sale including hiking gear. For more details call Joe DeLoach at 615-753-7903.

**RAFTING DISCOUNTS** - Cherokee Adventures Whitewater Rafting in Erwin, Tennessee, offers \$5 discount coupons to Eastman employees for trips on the Nolichucky River Gorge. A variety of rafting and mountain biking trips are offered. The coupons and trip brochures are available in the recreation store, B-310. Contact Cherokee Adventures at 615-743-7733 for further information.

## **For the Record**

### **BIG LAUREL CREEK CANOE TRIP - March 8, 1992**

*(Ben Becker reporting)* - Although the water level was low, 5 paddlers met at Hot Springs, NC for the trip. The weather was a beautiful sunny 70 degrees with spring in the air. We scouted several rapids and also took pictures at a few including the 8 foot drop at Suddy Hole. All ran the drop successfully. The Narrows section was enjoyable as always, and we decided to enjoy it a little longer by having lunch on some of the large boulders that flank the rapids there. All too soon we came to the confluence with the French Broad River which changed the paddling from steep technical creek to BIG river. Plenty of rainfall two days before had raised the flow to somewhere above 4000 cfs and turned the water an ugly brown. The upstream wind also arrived when we got to the French Broad, although today it was not too bad, being less than 40 mph. We all scouted and ran the drop at Kayak Ledge, then skirted Frank Bell's rapid

prior to arriving at the takeout at Hot Springs. Three of the participants had not previously paddled Big Laurel, so this was most enjoyable for them. Another good day on the river for Paul Fontaine, Bill Perkins, Jamie Gaither, Michael Bullard, and Ben Becker.

**NOLICHUCKY OVERLOOK - March 14, 1992** *(Hugh Thompson reporting)* - March the 14th found 10 avid hikers full of steam and ready to go. Little did we know that this would be the Club's only snow hike for the year. As we approached Indian Grave Gap, the road became more and more snow-covered. Andrea Wynegar found the going a little slick as she tested her driving ability on the hard pack. From the parking spot onward we were walking in about an inch of snow which made for a most delightful walk. A brief lunch was partaken on the overlook sans train or soaring birds or rafters. Those making the trip were: Cathryn and William McDaniel from JC, Andrea Wynegar from Bristol, Catherine and Jim Stuart, David Allen, Consuelo Alvarez, Gary Lutz, Emmett Dougherty, and Hugh Thompson

**POND MOUNTAIN WORK TRIP - March 21, 1992** *(Ed Oliver reporting)* - Nine volunteers worked on the switchback where the trail leaves the old railroad grade in its travel towards the top of Pond Mountain. Because of the excellent turn out, we were able to complete this switchback. The new trail is connected to the old trail and is blazed. This switchback eliminates a problem section where the old trail left the railroad grade. All agreed that the relocation was a definite improvement. Those who participated in this day of trail building included Jack Young, Tom Edwards, Frank Williams, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Bob Bierbaum, Barry Akin, Judy Dobles, and Ed Oliver. Because the late Winter and early Spring weather is unpredictable, it is very difficult to schedule work trips more than a few days in advance. If you are interested in helping on work trips and would like to be called when a work trip is planned, please contact Ed Oliver at 349-6668.

**TELLICO RIVER - March 28-29, 1992** *(Dewey Fuller reporting)* - Ben Herron, Jim McDarmont, and myself got an early start Saturday and arrived at the takeout parking lot just after 11:00 am. Rumors of a TSRA Tellico Trip with the same meeting place and time as our trip had conjured up frightful images of a huge horde of paddlers clogging the parking lots, roads, and river. Luckily, maybe because of the cooler weather, TSRA had only 8 boats turn out. Our TEHCC/APE trip had twice that many! Which raises the question: How many APEs does it take to make a horde? Oh well, never mind about that now... on with the river trip! By splitting into three groups, we were able to keep group sizes down to a manageable level. Saturday morning the gauge was reading 2.1 feet, a near perfect level especially for a first time run. For quite a few, this was their first Tellico run and also the first time running a river this challenging. Some rate the middle section a class III, but don't be misled; the sheer number of class III drops on this run make it much more demanding than your average class III river. And

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too, some of these drops are VERY tricky and produce as many or more swims than some class IVs. Through the first few rapids, which are some of the hardest, we had almost no swims. Probably the fear level was so high that no one had a problem concentrating. About half way through the run, however, we started to see the bottoms of more boats and to get more rescue practice. All in all, everyone did well and even frequent swimmers stayed with it and finished the trip. We had blue skies and sunshine all day with temperatures near 60. For some of the more seasoned Tellico river runners, one run was not enough - Ben Becker and Ron Wilson got a very early start and managed to squeeze in three runs in one day. Those who opted to spend the night camped out at Citico Creek, sat around the campfire roasting hot dogs and telling paddling stories that, like most "war stories," get wilder with each telling. The next day, the river runners had narrowed down to only six boats, three on the ledges and three on the middle section. It was overcast and colder on Sunday so quite a few decided to stay dry and hike some of the trails in the area or just stay on the bank and watch the river action. Others enjoying the Tellico weekend were Sam Petering, Ken Carpenter, Keith "Snake" Swift, Cindy and Burchel Pierce, Bill Wilcox, Charlie LeBlanc, John LeBlanc, Rick Culbertson, Kurt Kauffman, Neal ? who paddled the mottled red Dagger Freefall and another paddler, whose name I can't recall, in a burgundy Sunburst II.

**"WINTER" AT HIKE IN NY/CT/MASS - March 20-29, 1992** (*Gether Irick reporting*) - (Note - This hike was rescheduled to March 20-29 from May because of various conflicts). This 109-Mile, 8-day hike (+2 days travel time) covered most of the AT from Fahnstock NY State Park to near I-90 North of Great Barrington, Mass. Unlike the generally accepted picture of the CT/Mass AT following rolling hills through pastoral countrysides, the trail actually has many rocky, steep ascents and descents, which on this hike were made much more difficult by deep snow and ice. Lakes and most streams were frozen, with sheet ice on a number of the ascents; flooding from snow melt toward the end of the hike required numerous detours. We saw many deer, turkeys and hawks (no snakes - too cold). Hike log follows: Sat - 15-25F, 6-8" frozen snow and ice; Sun - continuation of Saturday's weather; Mon - 15-30F, 4" of fresh powder on top of the old snow; Tues-Thurs -temperatures warming into low 40's and hiking on snow/slush/partially thawed ground; Fri/Sat - 45F, mostly thawed, windy. Overall, a very enjoyable hike despite the fierce weather. The energy burn for the day-hikes in the cold and snow for 14 miles/day felt similar to that for the same distance in mild weather carrying a full backpack. The major difference was that you couldn't stop to rest or eat in the cold weather without becoming chilled. The snow hikers included Emmett Dougherty, Richard Lane, Tom Kunz, Gether Irick, Garry Luttrell and Owen Holbrook.

**SRMC MEETING - April 4, 1992** (*Dan Sand reporting*) - On April 4, 1992, I attended the Southern Region Management Committee Meeting for the AT. This meeting dealt with a broad range of general issues and I will mention several of these. ATC's operating budget for FY1992 is \$2 million and the total assets of ATC is \$3 million. In FY1991, the ATC general fund operated at a loss of \$45,000; but this was largely due to the

costs of new office construction. In the area of land management in the Southern Region of the AT, The National Park Service purchased 11 tracts of property along the AT in FY1991 for a total of 270 acres. The NPS acquisition plan calls for an additional 2500 acres to be purchased in the future. The National Forest Service is conducting Opportunity Area Analyses along the AT. OAA's plan the use of NFS land for the long term; two OAA's will begin next year for the White Top Mountain area and the Mt. Rogers area. Public notification for comment on these OAA's will be made at that time. Additionally, there are proposals for two areas in the George Washington NF and one in the Jefferson NF to be designated as wilderness; public comment will also be solicited for these proposals. Lastly, the NFS has established an 800 number with a recorded message that deals with natural resource management. That number is 800-536-2521 and the message changes weekly on Wednesdays. The SRMC meeting was well attended and highly informative.

### **1992 KONNAROCK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - April 5, 1992** (*Joe Deloach reporting*) -

On April 5 Ray Hunt and I attended the 1992 Konnarock Steering Committee Meeting in Hendersonville, NC. The purpose of this meeting was to determine how many weeks of Konnarock Crew work would be allocated to the clubs that are involved in AT maintenance in central and southwest Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. This year ten clubs asked for a total of 38 weeks of Konnarock Crew work out of 24 weeks available. We asked for a total of 6 weeks, 4 on the relocation between Pond Mountain and Watauga Lake and 2 for the section between Doll Flats and 19E. After all of the projects were discussed we were given 3 weeks for Pond Mountain. Three weeks was the maximum amount of time allocated to any one club. This discussion did not include the Roan Highlands balds clearing work which was allocated six weeks as in previous years. The crew schedule will be prepared by the ATC office; we asked for time in the early summer.

### **TRAIL MAINTENANCE: DENNIS COVE TO BITTER END** (*Cris Moorehouse reporting*) -

Eleven of us left B-215 parking lot for a "sunny" day of work. We divided into two groups so as to attack our section from both ends. Five of us drove to just below the firetower while the rest went to Bitter End. We began under a sunny sky which soon changed to threatening clouds. My group was lucky because we reached Moreland Gap shelter just before the rain. We had our lunch in the dry but went back on the trail under heavy rain. Our "20%" chance of rain lasted about 2 hours so we were eleven wet people. We finished with smiles on our faces, maybe thinking of the cold drinks waiting for us at the end. Our section had a lot of blowdowns but was in good shape otherwise. Brad Dayvolt, Chad Hoopingarner, Phil Heidt, Pualette and Joe Hall, Allen Crain, Emily Scott, Allen Clem, Bill Cook, and Theona and Cris Moorehouse were the crew. Thanks for a job well done!