

Hiking & Canoeing News

June, 1992

Hiking

EASTERN SMOKIES AT (Scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 1992)

Leader: Gether Irick (Phone: 615-239-5178)

Rating: Very Difficult

This 31-mile one-day hike will start at Newfound Gap and end at the Big Creek Ranger Station near the Pigeon River and I-40. Total elevation gain will be approximately 6000 ft. and hiking time will be 15 hours. Tentative plans are to drive to the Smokies on Friday evening, spot a car at the ranger station, and spend the night in Pigeon Forge; we'll try to be on the trail by 6 am to finish around 9 am (hopefully just before dark). We'll probably spend Saturday night in Pigeon Forge and return to Kingsport on Sunday morning. Call the hike leader if you're in strong hiking condition and want to experience the ultimate day-hike.

KONNAROCK CREW WORK - POND MOUNTAIN RELOCATION (Scheduled for June 4-8 and June 11-15, 1992)

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

Rating: Moderate-Difficult

For the summer of 1992 we have been allocated three weeks of Konnarock Crew work on Pond Mountain by ATC. The first two weeks will be June 4-8 and June 11-15. We will be working on a relocation of the AT between the Shook Branch picnic area on Watauga Lake and Pond Flats on the crest of Pond Mountain. This is a project that we have been working on with the Konnarock Crew for several years and there is still about 6000 feet of trail construction remaining near the top of the mountain. We had asked for four weeks of Konnarock Crew work in hopes of finishing this section but were only allocated three. One of the criteria for allocating Konnarock Crew time is club participation, and last year we were eighth out of the ten clubs responsible for AT maintenance in the region. Please try to come out and work on this relocation; people who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew receive a year's membership in ATC and a coveted T-shirt. On June 6 and 7 and June 13 and 14, those wishing to ride from Kingsport can meet in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 7:30 am. Those who wish to work on other days or drive directly to the starting point can park at the Shook Branch picnic area. Please call Joe DeLoach at 615-753-7903 for more information.

CADES COVE BACKPACK (Scheduled for Sat-Fri, June 6-12, 1992)

Leader: Darrol Nickels (Phone: 615-239-5442)

Rating: Moderate

Contact Darrol Nickels at 239-5442 for additional information.

LINVILLE GORGE BACKPACK (Scheduled for Sat-Sun, June 13-14, 1992)

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

Rating: Moderate

Contact Ted Malone at 477-2222 for additional information.

CUMBERLAND GAP / HENSLEY SETTLEMENT BY SHUTTLE BUS (Scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 1992)

Leader: Jean Brown (Phone: 703-431-2139)

Rating: Easy

Any time would be great for visiting Hensley Settlement; most take the 2½ hour, 3 mile hike up the Chadwell Gap Trail which offers views of adjacent valleys. The National Park Service is offering the Hensley Settlement Shuttle daily, Thursday through Monday. It provides a ride up the side of Brush Mountain on the Shillalah Creek Park management road through the woods and past Shillalah Creek Falls where the stream rushes over huge boulders. At the top, a guided walk lasting an hour highlights the bygone lifestyle of mountain people who built the houses, barns, outbuildings, and fences with their own hands starting just after the turn of the century and ending in 1951.

Reservations are necessary (bus capacity 10) **by June 5.**

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for senior citizens over 62 and children 8-15; children under 8 travel free. Call Jean Brown for reservations or additional information (mailing address: Jean Brown, Rt. 5, Box 85, Duffield, VA 24244).

Plan to visit the Pinnacle for a spectacular view, have lunch (bring your lunch and water) and then take the shuttle bus in the afternoon.

SOUTH BEYOND 6000 HIKE (Scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 1992)

Leader: Garry Luttrell (Phone: 615-239-9854)

Rating: Moderate

This will be a one day hike to either Craggy Dome or Blackstop Knob in the Black Mountains area. Call the hike leader for further information and meeting locations.

LAUREL FALLS (Scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 1992)

Leader: Frank Williams (Phone: 615-245-8414)

Rating: Easy

This hike has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 11, 1992. Contact Frank Williams 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

NANTAHALA RIVER TRIP (Scheduled for Sat-Sun, June 6-7, 1992)

Leader: Charles Le Blanc (Phone: 615-245-6623)

Rating: Class II-III

A two day paddling trip is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. The river is generally a class II river with one class III rapid (Lesser Wesser). Lesser Wesser is also the last rapid. For those who wish to paddle, safety equipment and appropriate clothing will be necessary. The meeting place will be at the put-in on the Nantahala River at 1:00 pm. Camping for Saturday night will be at one of the local camping areas for those who wish to spend the night and paddle on Sunday. If interested please call Charles

Le Blanc at 245-6623 and preregister so that you can be notified for any last minute schedule changes.

BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND (Scheduled for Sat-Sun, June 20-21, 1992)

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

Rating: Class III-IV

If the water levels cooperate, we will paddle the gorge section of the Big South Fork each day and car camp Saturday night. The 11 miles from Burnt Mill Bridge to Leatherwood Ford offer some challenging rapids and spectacular scenery. Helmets and throw ropes are required for this trip. Cameras are optional. Call Ben Becker, 288-5886 to preregister and to get additional trip information. In the event of low water, other trip options will be considered.

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

For the Record

HOT SPRINGS TO DAVENPORT GAP - March 28-29, 1992 (Kevin Edgar, reporting) - We covered the 35 mile distance from the town of Hot Springs to the northern border of the Smokies National Park in two weekend day hikes. Saturday dawned cold and sunny, and as we neared our starting point at Max Patch it became clear that the rain of the last couple of days had been snow at this high elevation. As we hiked over the bald crest of Max Patch, and from our luncheon spot at the open Catpen Gap, we saw the brilliant reflection from the snow-covered peak (only an inch or so of the white stuff, fortunately). The 20 mile stretch from Max Patch to Hot Springs

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 12th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

was challenging, but scenic and fun in the sunny weather. Sunday was gray and slightly warmer for the 15 mile stretch from Max Patch to Davenport Gap. Throughout the day we enjoyed views of Snowbird Mountain and the more distant Smokies, particularly the striking shape of Mt. Cammerer. The much-anticipated FAA tower on Snowbird was a disappointment; it's short, inaccessible, and the mountaintop is ringed by fairly tall trees which spoil the view. We met several throughhikers that day, who had really started early (March 1), as well as a fellow from Charlotte who lacked only the section we had hiked the day before to complete the whole trail. The recently fire-scarred area just north of the Pigeon river, and the bright green grass which was re-covering the area, were striking. The rain kindly held off until just after we piled our tired bods in the car, a perfect ending to the enjoyable weekend. Going all or part of the distance were Don Baker, Jim McGehee, and Jerry McKenzie.

MARGARETTE FALLS - April 11, 1992 (*Joe DeLoach reporting*) - On April 11 19 hikers set out on a rainy Saturday for a one mile hike to Margarette Falls in Greene County. The rain was not enough to spoil the beautiful scenery but did make the four creek crossings treacherous. With everyone helping out only a few wet feet resulted except for the trip leader hitting the trail once. The group enjoyed the many wildflowers including trout lilies, Dutchman's breeches, rue anemone, bloodroots, and a few trilliums. After the hike we retreated to a picnic shelter at the nearby Horse Creek Recreation Area for lunch. The number of participants in this hike shows how many people are interested in short, easy trips to our many area attractions. The wet but willing included Rachel Baker, Bob Casper and daughters Katya (age 7) and Michelle (age 9), Janice Derting, Gwyn Duncan, Emmett Dougherty, Lanny Farrar, Charlotte Floyd, Rolax Jones, Rachel Monderer (guest), Carol Nelson, Arlyn Petig, Mark and Lois Rule along with daughters Becky and Helen, and Johnna Stephens.

BEAUTY SPOT WORK TRIP - April 17, 1992 (*Ed Oliver reporting*) - We returned to Beauty Spot on the Appalachian Trail to install metal posts to mark the route of the trail across the open fields. We installed eight posts. Each post has about 80 pounds of concrete attached to the lower end to make it more difficult for vandals to remove them. We also installed a short relocation at the end of the field to eliminate a section of prolific blackberry briars. We picked up almost 150 gallons of trash. The majority of the trash was near the parking area at Beauty Spot. In addition to the posts, the relocation, and the trash pick-up, we had time to cut the grass on the trail at the Buchanan relocation and enjoy the beautiful views from Beauty Spot. We met about a half dozen thru hikers while we worked. One of the hikers was from France. Those enjoying the beautiful day on Beauty Spot were Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Jack Young, Frank Williams, Darrol Nickels, and Ed Oliver. There have been at least five special projects work trips this Spring (Buchanan tract relocation, Pond Mountain, Beauty Spot, and Watauga Lake). We will work at least one more day on Pond Mountain before the Konnarock Crew arrives, install a bridge across a creek, work on trail rehab near No Business Knob, and perhaps put a new roof on one or more shelters between now

and the end of the year. These trips aren't always announced in the newsletter. If you would like to help on special projects, please contact Ted Malone (phone 477-2222) or Ed Oliver (349-6668). If you have a type of project that you are interested in helping with, let us know and you will be contacted when such a project is planned.

BIG SOUTH FORK - April 17-18, 1992 (*Tom Pridgen reporting*) - We canoed from Leatherwood Ford to Blue Heron (24 miles) over two days. We covered about 14 or 15 the first day and 9 or 10 the next. The waterflow was approximately 800 cfs which was a little low but plenty adequate. The trip leader (lagger) had conveniently erased from memory all the flatwater sections but they weren't too bad. It tried to rain on us once without much success. Other than a couple of brief sprinkles, the weather was nearly perfect. The companionship, the scenery and the camping were absolutely wonderful. I say trip "lagger" because I had trouble keeping up with the rest of our group. A Kingfisher or Osprey would divert my attention and I would fall behind. De facto river leader Ben Becker kept us all moving in the right direction (without much current at times it would have been easy to paddle back upstream!).

The trip lagger passed right by his previously used camping site but Ben found us a new and improved version further downstream. The wildflowers were plentiful at this campsite with two varieties of trillium and plenty of bluets. We started unpacking our evening meals and the trip leader soon realized that he had been sorely outdone in the cooking arena. Dave Ingram brought bacon-wrapped filets (wrapped clockwise as viewed from above, of course) and Ben Becker brought venison steaks in such quantity that Wayne Lemmon decribed them as "several square yards" which was not much of an exaggeration. Ben was nice enough to share.

We all lamented that Paul "Hair Boater" Fountaine was not with us so he could have enjoyed all the flatwater. We also lamented the absence of Kurt "Coach" Kauffman as we were unable to benefit from his impromptu riverside clinics pushing the envelope of paddling techniques. We also missed Ed "The Brace" Montgomery since no one turned over (even in the flatwater) and Brad Dayvolt may have been able to give Ben Becker, Rick Culbertson and Dave Ingram a run for their money in the dinner eating contest (none of the rest of us could!).

As we settled around the campfire, the serious lying, er, I mean reminiscing, began about tales of hijinks, heat and whitewater of past trips on the Rio Grande, San Juan and Middle Fork of the Salmon. We talked about a few eastern rivers also. Since Dave Ingram was a teacher at D-B when some of us attended there, we were amazed to learn that he started his teaching career at 16 and is actually YOUNGER than we are. Wonders never cease.

Earlier that day, we had seen only two other boats that I remember. At Station Camp we saw horses (with riders) crossing the river and we saw more horses and riders near Williams Creek. After Williams Creek (approx mile 13), we saw no one except 3 fishermen on the bank Friday afternoon and two more on the bank the next morning. That was all until

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P. O. Box 511
Kingsport, Tennessee 37662

Devil's Jump/Portage near the takeout. Saturday morning an owl hooted us awake about 5 am but most returned to the world of sleep until about 6:30. We had breakfasted and were on the river by about 8:30. Morning mist made the scenery especially beautiful and there was little wind so it was very quiet (it doesn't get much better than we had it Saturday morning). There was more whitewater action the second day which kept our interest but nothing intimidating until we reached Devil's Jump which we carried around without question. We were off the river by 1 pm and back in Kingsport by 5:30 pm since we had paid someone to run our shuttle. The trip lagger had obviously planned well since we had perfect water level, perfect weather, unexcelled group dynamics and one beer left in the cooler at the end of the trip!

Participants were Tom "Trip Lagger" Pridgen, Ben "Mr. Venison" Becker, Dave "I hope no one snores" Ingram, Wayne "On the Rocks" Lemmon, Rick "Two Daughters in College" Culbertson and John "I don't remember this flatwater" Faust.

AT MAINTENANCE - CARVER'S GAP TO BRADLEY

GAP - April 25, 1992 (*G. S. Luttrell reporting*) - We started and ended the day's work with cold, brisk winds, and even had a few snow flurries on the Hump. In between, the working conditions were very nice, being on the cool side. We were pleasantly surprised to find the new relocation on Round Bald in good condition. Overall, the section was in very good shape, with very few blowdowns. We put most of our effort into cutting back the often criticized briars between Roan Highlands Shelter and Bradley Gap. We did take time to enjoy some beautiful purple Trillium, Dutchman Britches, and other nature delights. Many thanks to my very hard working team who put forth a lot of effort: Frank "more paint on him than blazes" Williams, Paul "briar killer" Dean, Lenny "clipper" Dean, Jay "sawblade" Rumph, Joe "Pulaski" Deloach, and Garry "garbage man" Luttrell.

AT MAINTENANCE - HUGHES GAP TO IRON MT. GAP -

April 25, 1992 (*Kevin Edgar reporting*) - Final score on this maintenance trip was Work Crew: 20, Blowdowns: 1. We cut out about 20 of the things all told, on a cold, mostly gray, and blustery spring day. One of the saplings cut under tension snapped back and gave one of our number a four-stitch cut on the lower lip (the tip only narrowly missing his eye). The incident goes to show, among other things, that we ought to bring along safety glasses on these trips and wear them while we're dealing with blowdowns. This piece of trail was in fairly good shape, other than the blowdowns (we had to leave about three which were beyond the capabilities of our bowsaws). The blazes, which we freshened North to South, were more than adequate, the Clyde Smith shelter was clean and in good shape, and most of the treadway was OK. There was lots of evidence (tracks, 4 large bags of trash) of ORV use in several areas of this section. The section was carpeted with wildflowers in many places (including spring beauty, trout lily, larkspur, squirrel corn, dutchman's breeches, red, white and yellow trillium (identification thanks to Bill Little)). We also were treated to a prolonged, closeup view of a nearly fluorescent male scarlet tanager. Many thanks for the hard work of Wayne Catron, Steve

Gedon, Bill Little, Jason Pierce, Bob and Shawn Tonnies, and Darrel Wilder.

LOWER NOLICHUCKY RIVER CLEAN UP - May 2, 1992

(*Ed Montgomery Reporting*) - TEHCC, APEs & BSA Troop 63 cleaned the Lower Nolichucky River on May 2, 1992. We started at the Chestoa Recreation Area and finished at Old US 23 Sandy Bottom Bridge. This is a 3 mile run and we concentrated on general river clean up and Radio Tower Rapid (RTR). RTR had three large school bus size trash piles that eddied out on river left during the last four years. We had a total of 7 boy scouts, 3 scout leaders, 1 local farmer, 2 kayaks, 3 canoes, 7 paddlers, 2 real trucks, 1 toy truck, 1 large cattle trailer and 200 trash bags from Outdoor America. We collected 168 BAGS FULL OF TRASH (20 bags of recyclable PET), 24 tires, 1 fender, 1 sleeping bag, 1 gutter, 3 boots, metal stove pieces and 20 assorted balls (those NC boys like their basketball!).

The paddlers put in at Chestoa and cleaned the river down to the US 23 bridge. They did an outstanding job and really made great progress. I ran shuttle and trash pickup for this crew while working with the SUPER Erwin Scout Troop 63 (R. Fain Troop Leader) on the RTR cleanup. We also had Mr. Jack McDavid (local farmer) assisting in the river clean up. He supplied two trucks and the large cattle trailer which we filled to the brim with trash. Ronnie (Boy Scout) won the \$5.00 trash pickup award for his hard work. All Boy Scouts of Troop 63 did an excellent job and should be rewarded for their performance. The free-flowing Nolichucky River is very special and the clean up was well worth our time and effort. The following paddlers, boy scouts, leaders and farmer that came together for this worth while activity are listed below:

Dale Mathis (Kayaker)
Jack McDavid (Local Farmer)
Paul Fountaine (Kayaker)
Rick Fain (BSA Troop 63 Leader)
Chad Hoppingarner (Canoer)
Chris Fain (BSA Troop 63 Asst. Leader)
Earl Brown (Canoer)
Dave Byrd (BSA Troop 63 Asst. Leader)
Randy Van Der Aa (Canoer)
BSA Troop 63 (The TRASHBUSTERS!)
Mike (The Motivator)
Ed Montgomery (Trip Leader)