

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

October, 1997

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<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>			
Oct. 4	Hike: Grassy Ridge	Moderate	S. Wilson
Oct. 4	A.T. Hike: Devil Fork Gap to Camp Creek Bald (Rescheduled)	Moderate	K. Edgar
Oct. 11	Hike: Cove Mountain via Laurel Falls, Smokies	Moderate	R. Colberg
Oct. 18	Nolichucky Gorge Fall Colors Paddle Trip	Class III-IV	G. Porter
Oct. 18	Third Saturday Special Projects	Worthwhile	E. Oliver
Oct. 25	Backpack Trip: Coker Creek, Panning for Gold (2 days)	Moderate	G. Luttrell
Oct. 25	Hike: Rattlesnake Ridge	Difficult	J. Deloach
Oct. 25	Pound/Upper Russell Fork Paddle Trip	Class II-III	M. Morrow
Nov. 1	Fall Dinner Meeting (Eastman Lodge)	Fun	J. Mayo
Nov. 8	Hike: Smokies Day Hike	Moderate	K. Edgar
Nov. 22	Hike: South Beyond 6000	Difficult	G. Luttrell



[Fall Dinner Meeting at Eastman Lodge, November 1](#)

Jan Mayo Reporting

The winter dinner meeting will begin at 5:00 pm, with a social hour at the new Eastman Lodge. At 6:00 pm, we'll have dinner prepared by Ed Oliver, followed by our program, which includes a short business meeting. The highlight will be a slide presentation by Bruce

and Mary Cunningham "Camping with the Animals on the Serengetti Plain - An African Adventure."

Please mark your choices for dinner on the form below and return to Jan Mayo. Rather than prepare dessert at the lodge, we'd like several members to bring their favorite dessert. Please let me know by the 28th if you plan to bring dessert. Dinner will include steak or chicken, salad, baked potato, bread, and drink. A vegetable plate will be offered with broccoli substituted for meat. Come enjoy a great evening in our beautiful, new (and warm!) Lodge.

Please Return the form to:

Jan Mayo B-280B, or to my home - 733 Blakley Drive, Kingsport, Tennessee, 37664, by October 28, 1997.

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Number of Meals: _____

STEAK \$ 6.75 _____

(indicate rare _____, medium _____, well done _____)

CHICKEN \$ 4.25 _____

VEGETABLE PLATE \$ 3.00 _____

[Hiking in Washington State, August 2 - 16, 1997](#)

G.S. Luttrell Reporting



View from Sahale Mt. above Cascade Pass

After flying into Seattle and getting our rental van, our first stop was to stock up on supplies at REI. We then drove to North Cascades National Park and began with a two night backpack to Cascade Pass camping at Stehekin and a sidetrip to Sahale Mtn. We then spent two nights carcamping at Marble Creek with a dayhike to Hidden Lake. Both these hikes were rated outstanding (4 boot rating) in the book "Don't Waste Your Time in the

North Cascades," which we researched prior to our trip, and they lived up to their rating: the panoramic views of the Cascades were outstanding.

We then had a travel day to Mt. Baker Wilderness for carcamping at Silver Fir. For the next two days we explored trails near Heather Meadows including Artist Point and a relaxing afternoon on top of Table Mtn. taking in the great views of Mt. Baker. One of the highlights of this area, was an overnight backpack trip and camping on top of Skyline Divide, at a point where you felt like you could reach out and touch the glaciers of Mt. Baker. We experienced a gorgeous sunset and sunrise, and by this time we all had used at least half the film we had brought.

On Sunday, we decided to head to Olympic National Park for a 2-night backpack trip along Hurricane Ridge and a beautiful campsite at Moose Lake. During our time here, we hiked up to Grand Pass and Grand Peak for a super view of Mt. Olympus and a glimpse of Mt. Rainier. We then carcamped at White River and dayhiked. This worked out well, since we were able to hike to Mt. Fremont firetower, Burroughs Mtn. (all three peaks), the Wonderland Trail up Fryingpan Creek to Summerland, and Panhandle Pass (where we saw a herd of about 40 mountain goats), and finally a sunset dinner at the picnic area at Sunrise Visitor Center. On the way out of Mt. Rainier, we drove to an access to view Mt. St. Helens, then on to Seattle to prepare for the return flight to Kingsport. In spite of the van problems, we had an outstanding trip, with clear skies and sunshine every day, except for a little rain one night at Marblemont. Enjoying this trip were Ted Cross, Dr. Arvell Luttrell, and Garry Luttrell.

SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES

Hike Notice: Grassy Ridge, Saturday, October 4

Leader: Steve Wilson

Rating: Moderate

This should be a nice hike from Carver's Gap over the Roan Mountain balds to Grassy Ridge and back. With good weather, the views could be impressive. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for the weather. Meet between McDonald's and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am. Call for more information.

A.T. Hike - Devil Fork Gap to Camp Creek Bald, Saturday, October 4 (Rescheduled from September 27)

Leader: Kevin Edgar

Rating: Moderate

One of a series of hikes this year which covers the Carolina Mt. Club section of the A.T., just to the south of our own. This particular section is both scenic and historic, encompassing open views and Civil War grave sites, among other attractions. We will use a side trail to make this hike a reasonable distance rather than hiking all the way to Allen Gap. At this time of year we have a good chance for some color at high altitude, as well as good hiking weather. Call the trip leader to preregister, set up meeting places, and/or get more information.

Hike: Cove Mountain via Laurel Falls (Great Smoky Mountains National Park), Saturday, October 11

Leader: Richard Colberg

Rating: Moderate

(8 mi round trip, 1700 ft elevation gain)

Hopefully, the leaves will be peaking in the Smokies close to this weekend. Come join us on a hike past one of the most popular waterfalls in the Smokies, through virgin forest, to the firetower at the top of Cove Mountain. We'll start at the Laurel Falls trail head, approximately 5 mi west of the Smokies visitor center, and hike in and out (no car shuttle). Bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 7:45 am for an 8:00 am departure. Approximately 120 mi drive (each way). Call the hike leader for more information.

Third Saturday Special Projects Trip, Saturday, October 20

WHERE: Ed Oliver's house and Oglesby Branch near Spivey Gap

WHEN: Prior to and on Oct 18.

WHY & HOW: Trail Adopter Bill Berry had some concern about two bridges on his section that cross Oglesby Branch. The Bridge Crew went out, made an inspection and determined the bridges should be replaced by the end of the year if not sooner. The design of these bridges will not be as elaborate as the one we installed on Laurel Fork earlier this year due to the shorter spans. We will borrow a design used on trails in the western states which are simple and very strong but we will add handrails because of the distance above the water. Plans are to do the layout, assembly, label and disassembly at Ed's house. On the 18th we will carry the material in and reassemble the bridges on site. We will probably do the layout sometime after Oct 1. Call Ed Oliver or Ted Malone if you can help with either phase.

Backpack Trip: Coker Creek, Panning for Gold, Saturday - Sunday, October 25-26

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, Rating: Moderate

Coker Creek Scenic Area, 375 acres, is in the Hiwassee Ranger District in Polk County, Tennessee. Coker Creek was one of the few Tenn. gold producing areas, and many panned for gold here prior to the 1847 Gold Rush. The Autumn Gold Festival will be held at the Coker Creek Ruritan Club the weekend of Oct. 11 - 12, and hopefully some gold producing sand will settle for us two weeks later. On Sat., we'll drive down to the Appalachia Powerhouse parking site and hike 6 miles on the John Muir trail following the Hiwassee River to the point where Coker Creek Trail intersects. It's about a 2.5 mi. hike from here to Coker Creek Falls, where we will camp. Bring your pans, and we'll see what we can find. Trout fishing is also supposed to be good in the Hiwassee River. Contact the hike leader for further details.

Hike: Rattlesnake Ridge, Saturday, October 25

Leader: Joe DeLoach, Rating: Difficult

Rattlesnake Ridge leads from near Erwin up to the summit area of Unaka Mountain. In late October there should be outstanding views of the mountains in their fall colors. The hike is, up and back, 6 to 8 miles. The ambiguity is due to whether or not the Rock Creek Recreation Area is open or not; the Rattlesnake Ridge Trail itself is only about 3 miles long but if the gate to the recreation area is closed we'll have about a mile extra through the recreation area to reach the trailhead. Once we hit the trail it is a good climb of 2500' to the overlook, so expect this hike to be steep - but pretty! We'll meet at 8:00 am at the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights. Bring water and lunch, and we should get you home around 4:00 pm. Call Joe for more info.

[Canoeing at Natural Tunnel State Park](#)

Dewey Fuller Reporting

Natural Tunnel State Park offers guided trips on the Clinch River for anyone interested in

pleasant outings on the river. Half day trips are \$10 per person, but this goes down to \$7.50 for parties of 8 or more. The half day trips are done every Saturday. Since this is the 1st year they have done trips, they are not sure how late in the year they will offer them; however, they most likely will be offered until after the fall colors. They also offer a full day trip if enough people are interested. These trips are set up on request. The number to call is 540-940-2674. Oh yes, transportation is included. This is an excellent deal!

MAILING REMINDER

Renewal of your 1998 newsletter subscription needs to be made before the end of November to assure continuation of your subscription. Retirees or Guests: \$5.00/yr

**Mail your renewal to: Becky Bellamy
B-89 Recreation
Eastman Chemical Company
Kingsport, Tennessee 37662**

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MultiClub Report: August 29- September 1, 1997

Collins Chew, Reporting

Another fine Multiclub meeting was held by PATH/VTOC for the clubs maintaining the A.T. in the South. It was held at Rural Retreat Lake in Virginia. There were 116 in attendance representing most if not all the Southern Clubs. Attending from TEHC were Ed Oliver, Bill and Derrick Stowell, Carolyn, Jud, Sam, Emily, and Alice Barry, Steve Hallenbech, and Charlotte and Collins Chew. Ed Oliver and the Stowells hiked 10 miles on the A.T. on each of Saturday and Sunday near the Burkes Garden area. Jud, Sam, Steve, and Collins hiked nine miles on the A.T. from the Mount Rogers Headquarters to the Settlers Museum near Groseclose. Other events included a tour of the very interesting Settlers Museum, a very old farm and school in its original location astride the A.T. with costumed volunteer interpreters-a really nice experience. Ed Oliver gave an excellent report of our club's activities for the year and we received the Konnarock Schedule for next year. Mike McCormack, the liaison between our club and the ATC Board of Managers, asked Ed about our use of geotextiles on Round Ball - perhaps for other places. Other activities included swimming in the very nice pool, rowing on the lake, one communal meal, and great fellowship. Next year the Labor Day Multiclub will be at Sherando Lake and campground, 20 miles or so South of Shenandoah National and a beautiful lake and USFS campground built by the CCCs.

As an adjunct, the Steering Committee for the Radford '99 ATC Conference met at Radford U. on Monday for a tour of the Radford Campus. Attending this from TEHC were Jill and Steve Wilson and Charlotte and Collins Chew. The campus really looks great with ideal facilities for a conference such as this. The University Staff really turned out to show their appreciation of our choosing them. They provided us an excellent sit-down lunch with five Vice-Presidents, several deans and other officials and even the Mayor of the town of Radford to give us a welcome. There were about 20 from the Steering Committee there, somewhat underdressed and disheveled from several days of camping. Start planning now to join us at Radford Univ. in 1999.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

- August 16: Weed Cutting from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap**
 Bob Boles and Waylon Jenkins cut weeds on the section from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap. As expected, the last half mile or so down to Hughes Gap had some tall weeds, although the two or three worst places were some short sections of trail between Carver's Gap and the old hotel site which were completely overgrown.
- July 26: Rehab Trail Near No Business Knob**
 John Kiefer, Ed Oliver, and Frank Williams worked on trail rehab near No Business Knob which has needed rehab for many years. They had been making some trips the last few years, and had some Konnarock time on it as well, but they haven't done any rehab there the last couple of years. Now that the rehab near Curley Maple Gap is done, the Tuesday Gang has this on their list. They rehabbed about 370 feet of Trail between Temple Hill Gap and No Business Knob Shelter. They estimated that a section about 5000 feet long needs some rehab, and they estimated a maximum of 20% of this section actually needs work.
- August 21: Inspect Proposed Relocations Trail North and South of Carvers Gap**
 Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Morgan Sommerville, and Frank Williams inspected some potential routes for the A.T. from Carvers Gap to Engine Gap, and from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road. They met with nine other people, including Forest Service personnel, to review these routes. There was some general opposition to any Trail relocations in this area, due to concerns about opening another scar on the bald, but inspection of the rehab we did on the north side of Round Bald alleviated some of these concerns. There was relatively little opposition to the proposed relo south of Carvers Gap, with one slight reroute suggested that should be of little consequence from a Trail construction standpoint. There was considerably more concern raised on Round Bald itself, but the group was able to come to a tentative agreement on a modified route staying closer to the existing Trail. This does not appear to pose major problems for the relocation. The biologists will examine the flagline from Grassy Ridge to Stan Murray Shelter. Our group felt that this was an encouraging trip, and the Forest Service supported the project and promised to commit to its success.
- August 23: Weed Cutting on Iron Mountain (Section 7)**
 Steve & Jill Wilson cut weeds with a sythe and manual weed wacker from the road to the spring (2.7 miles). The weeds were the worst in the open areas at the top of the ridge. There was one blowdown about 1/4 mile trail south of the spring which they had to leave.
- August 24: Weed Cutting at Canute Place (Section 11)**
 Steve and Tisha Perri worked on the section of trail north and south of the Canute Place to cut the weeds with a sythe. To their pleasant surprise, sometime during the course of the summer the entire field had been cut and most likely harvested. So the weeds were not very high. They cleared the trail north and south of the field where just a little sun was enough to promote weed growth. The rest of the trail is in good shape.
- August 23: Weed Cutting on Iron Mountain (Section 6)**
 Frank Williams and Steve Wilson used two scythes to cut weeds from the blue blaze trail near Turkey Pen Gap to the Wilderness boundary. The weeds were bad from the switch back to the Wilderness boundary. They talked with two ATV riders on the trail

who claimed ignorance of the Appalachian Trail and that they were riding on it. They explained where the trail was and what were permissible uses. Note - that the Hurley Hollow access road has changed, due to a new owner of the private land where the gate was. The new owner, Randy Johnson, has built a new gravel road up his new house on this 35 acres bordering the National Forest. Our access road will be off of his gravel road through the repositioned old gate, which will be moved, mile up the mountain to a spot just before the stream crossing. He is agreeable to people accessing the National Forest lands through his property, as long as they seek permission. (Webmaster's note: due to abuse by hikers, this access point has been closed. DO NOT use this access point under any circumstances.)

- **September 5: Weed Cutting Around Watauga Lake (Sections 8 & 12)**

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams and John Thompson cut weeds around Watauga Lake. Because of the perfect conditions for weeds (lots of water and sunshine) this area needs to be cut twice during the hiking season. The group then went to Issacs Cemetary and cut weeds there.

- **September 6: Weed Cutting on Iron Mountain (Section 7)**

Steve Perri and Steve Wilson used two scythes to cut weeds on Iron Mountain from the Watauga Dam road to the Wilderness boundary. They found evidence of ATV's coming up the spring's blue blaze trail to visit the shelter, where we gathered a bag of trash. Additional highlights of the trip were the two rattlesnakes seen along the trail. They encouraged the snakes to stay off the trail for their own safety. In general, the trail is in good shape.

- **September 11: Trail Relo Work (Section 20)**

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Bruce and Mary Cunningham worked on the north end of the Oglesby Branch relocation.

- **September 13: Rhododendron Cutting from Moreland Gap (Section 7)**

Bruce and Mary Cunningham and Steve Perri cut back the rhodo's since they were encroaching the trail. They drove to a short location from the shelter since Bruce had a key to drive around the back-side of White Rocks Mt. they used a chainsaw to cut most of the bigger growth and clipped the smaller limbs. The trail is quite wide now and will require less significant clearing for a while. They also picked up a little trash around the shelter.

[South Beyond 6000, 1997 Update](#)

G.S. Luttrell Reporting

The South Beyond 6000 committee, consisting of members from CMC, SMHC, and TEHCC, has been meeting and working since early '97 on an extensive update of the booklet. The new booklet has been printed and is now available. After reviewing the available data, the committee adopted a more consistent set of criteria for selecting the 40 peaks: 1) a peak qualifies if it drops to a saddle of more than 200 feet from another qualifying peak; or, 2) there is a drop of at least 100 ft. & a distance between the peaks of 0.75 miles. As a result, Mt. Gibbes replaces Clingman's Peak; Mt. Hallback and Tennent Mtn. were added as peaks; and, Cattail Peak and Mt. Hardison were removed from the SB 6K peak list. If a peak bagger has previously hiked via an approved route one of the ones removed from the list, then it can still be listed on the ascent record. Those who are not members (or on the guest mail list in TEHCC's case) of one of the sponsoring hiking clubs, will be required to pay an additional \$5 to receive their patch & certificate for climbing all

40. Several new routes have been added, including some more "Mountains-to-Sea" routes. For more information, see the TEHCC Website at <http://home.naxs.com/tehcc> or contact me.

**To Submit an article for
the newsletter, contact:**

Steve Perri

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TEHCC Website: <http://www.tehcc.org>