

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

January, 1998

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NEXT TWO MONTHS			
Jan. 10	Backpack: Mt. Rogers, 2 Days	Moderate	G. S. Luttrell
Jan. 16	Hike: Cumberland Gap Park, Leaders Choice	Moderate	V. C. Chew
Jan. 17	Third Saturday Maintenance	Worthwhile	E. Oliver
Jan. 17	Paddle Trip: Doe or Watauga Gorge	IV-V	D. Fuller
Jan. 18	Paddle Trip: Ramsey Cascades	IV	M. Morrow
Jan. 18	Paddle Trip: Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon	III	M. Morrow
Jan. 24	A.T. Hike: Va. 42 - Poor Valley (Va. 625)	Moderate	Collins Chew
Jan. 31	A.T. Hike: Summit Cut (US 58, Va.) to Straight Branch	Moderate	Bill Stowell
Feb. 7	Day Hike: Rock Creek Recreation Area	E-M	N. Dotson
Feb. 14	Day Hike: Doe River Gorge	E-M	S. Perri
Feb. 15	Paddle Trip: Doe or Watauga Gorge	IV-V	M. Morrow
Feb. 28	A.T. Hike: Poor Valley (Va. 625) - Burkes Garden	M	V. C. Chew

Volunteers Needed for Radford '99 ATC Biennial Conference Hosted by TEHCC

Silent Auction Leaders

Steve Wilson Reporting

We need volunteers to represent our club on the Silent Auction subcommittee of the Radford 1999 ATC Conference. Recall, the conference will be held at Radford University in Radford, Virginia during July 9-16th, 1999, with most events occurring during the first weekend. The Silent Auction subcommittee chair, Sandy Jackson, gives some details in a letter that I am circulating. If anyone would like to see a copy, please contact me (.). I visited the Silent Auction at the Maine conference and it was a neat place. Some novel items were offered for sale in support of the ATC. Some example were artwork (pictures sculptures, & misc.), camping equipment (backpacks, tents, stoves, etc.), consulting services (financial & legal), rental property, and etc. Quite a collection of items! I believe the responsibilities of the volunteer would be to identify sellable items from our area, and assist in running the auction. Please consider volunteering for this fun event.

Hike Leaders

Steve Perri Reporting

We will need approximately 80 leaders and assistant leaders for Radford '99 to lead hikes on the A.T. and other trails. We will be offering about 60 unique hikes and with repeats we will have around 200 hikes altogether during the conference. Hikes on the A.T. will be conducted from U.S. 58 in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area to Bearwallow Gap in the Glenwood Ranger District. Leaders will be preassigned their hikes and will be expected to know the trailhead location and how to get to it. It would be desirable for all leaders to hike their assigned hikes prior to the conference to become familiar with it. Maps and hike descriptions will be available for all scheduled hikes. Please sign up on the registration form below and return the form to Bill Foot, 1704 Lexington Dr., Lynchburg, VA 24503.

Call 804-384-0013 if you have any questions.

I volunteer to lead hikes at the 1999 ATC Biennial Conference as indicated below.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Club _____ email (if any) _____

I am available to lead hikes on (circle) these days: Sat. July 10 (pm only) Sun. July 11 Mon. July 12 (pm only) Tues. July 13 Wed. July 14

Thur. July 15 Fri. July 16

I prefer to lead hikes that are rated as (circle): Easy Moderate Strenuous

Do you have a geographic preference for the hikes you wish to lead? _____

I don't want to lead a hike but I can help staff the Hikes Desk during the Conference on:

Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Fri.

SCHEDULED HIKES / ACTIVITIES

Winter Backpack: Mt Rogers, Jan. 10-11

Leader: Garry Luttrell, Rating: Moderate

We'll hike to Thomas Knob Shelter from Massie Gap, following the A.T. and some horse paths. Equipment suitable for chill factors near zero is required, since Thomas Knob Shelter is on an exposed ridge. Chemical handwarmers are recommended for your sleeping bags as well as your hands. Bring your camera for some outstanding winter scenes. Contact the hike leader for details.

Hike: Cumberland Gap National Park, Jan. 16

Leader: Collins Chew, Rating: Moderate

This hike will take us over one of the trails in Cumberland Gap National Park on a Friday for retirees or others who are free during the week. Several of us have been taking

moderate recreational hikes during the week and this will open it up to the Hiking Club in general. It is about a two hour drive to the park where we will take one of several hikes: choices, Sand Cave, White Rocks, the Hensley Settlement, or the Pinnacle for a hike of about 8 miles. We can also go through the new tunnel if we wish. Bring adequate clothing for the weather, lunch and water. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot North of the Eastman Recreation Building, Building 310. The hike may be altered or canceled for inclement weather or icy roads. If you can't go this day, but would like recreational hikes scheduled during the week, let me know. For more information, call Collins Chew.

Third Saturday Maintenance

(Scheduled for January 17 and February 21, 1998)

Leader: Ed Oliver

We will continue our Third Saturday Appalachian Trail maintenance trips in 1998. We get together at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights. In the Winter sometimes the weather interferes, or at least changes our plans, so we'll play it by ear for January. Contact Ed as the time draws near for details on the project. In February we will target blowdown removal, probably on our lower elevation sections.

Paddle Trips for Jan. 17 and 18

Leader: Dewey Fuller, Rating, IV-V, Jan. 17

Leader: Mike Morrow, Rating, IV, Jan. 17 & 18

Contact trip leaders for details and meeting times.

A.T. Hike: Poor Valley (Va. 625) to Va. 610, Jan. 24

Leader: Collins Chew, Rating: Moderate

This will be the first of a 1998 series of hikes on the Appalachian Trail sections North of the TEHCC Section (Damascus to Burkes Garden, VA). It will be relatively low level area, high point slightly over 3,000 ft, but with some up and down, perhaps 2,300 feet of climbing. The trail crosses Lynn Camp Mountain and the North Fork, Holston River. Bring adequate clothing for the weather, lunch and water. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights. The hike may be altered or canceled for inclement weather or icy roads. For more information, call Collins Chew.

Hike: Rock Creek Recreation Area, Feb. 7

Leader: Neil Dotson, Easy-Moderate

This hike will be a 5-mile there-and-back creekside hike out of the Rock Creek Recreation Area just outside of Erwin. The hike leader still recalls, with bittersweet pangs of nostalgia, frozen Minnehaha falls in wintertime Minneapolis, and so hopes that these falls, located on the north side of Unaka Mt., will be frozen over. So, be properly dressed for this midwinter hike (and be warned, there are a few unbridged creek crossings), and bring food and water. Current plans are to meet in Colonial Heights between Burger King and McDonalds at 8:00 a.m., the standard departure time/place.

Rental Equipment Repair, B-310, Jan. 13 & 20

G. S. Luttrell

Each year during the cold winter months when not much rental equipment is being used, we try to inspect and repair items and get them ready for the new season. We'll start in January, and if you are interested in helping, let me know. Two Tuesdays in January are set: Jan. 13, and Jan. 20, both nights meet in B-310 lobby at 6:30 p.m. or come later. We'll set up in the lobby, or in one of the unused meeting rooms. Ask at the desk, if you can't find

us.

Equipment for Scouts Needed

G. S. Luttrell

Earlier this fall, and continuing into Dec., we collected several backpacks to give to some low income scouts. There's no doubt many other scouts out there who can use equipment. So, we thought that through the winter months, we will continue to collect backpacks, tents, and other gear. Maybe Santa Claus gave you a new backpack for the holidays, and your old one is now in the way: Consider giving the old one to a scout who can't afford a nice Dana or Kelty. Bring these by B-310 or call me and I'll make arrangements to collect. Some of the ones we collected earlier, were missing straps or belts. If you just want to donate money for repair items, that's fine too. We'll store the equipment in our maintenance room in B-310 and distribute the equipment to scouts in march in time for some backpack trips.



TEHCC Web Site Activity

Steve

Banks

Reporting

The TEHCC website is an increasingly important tool in communications with TEHCC members, the A.T. community, and hikers and paddlers in general. Since March 1996, we have increased our "hit" count from 7,914 per month to 12,626 per month (a "hit" is one access of a piece of text or an image), and the number of questions and comments received by e-mail is also increasing. We receive e-mail from other A.T.-maintaining clubs, ATC, neighbors of our section of the A.T., and prospective hikers, paddlers, and trail maintainers. Most (but not all) of the e-mail is favorable, but more importantly it provides an active form of communication with hikers and paddlers, in our region and around the world. We have had visitors to our website from 28 different countries. Some of the most popular pages on our website include Hiking In Tennessee, our Guestbook, and Beyond 6000.

Another benefit of our website is that the monthly TEHCC newsletter is (usually) posted before retirees and others on the outside mailing list receive their printed copy.

Some of the changes planned for our website include:

- A "search engine" which allows Internet users to perform a keyword search of our website.
- More photos of TEHCC activities; we especially need paddling photos; credit for photographs will be given.
- TEHCC history page, and selected newsletters from the past.
- Lists of the recipients of the Hiker and Paddler of the Year, the Stan Murray Award, and other TEHCC awards.

If you have any comments, please contact Steve Banks; thanks in advance.

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A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

- **Nov. 22: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell reporting)**
Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Bill Stowell, and Brian Weitzel continued rehab of trail between Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob. We completed 720 ft of trail. We were all covered with blaze orange as it was the first day of gun season. There are approximately 800 ft of trail left to be completed.
- **Dec. 2: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell reporting)**
Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Darrol Nickels went back up to Temple Hill Gap to continue the trail rehab that has been on-going for some time. They completed another 232 ft of trail. There are approximately 200 ft of trail left to repair. Saturday should complete the job.
- **Dec. 11: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell reporting)**
Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Bruce Cunningham, Frank Williams, and John Keifer met at Darrol's house to cut and drill the components for the bridge to be installed near Wataga Lake on the 3rd Saturday in December. The group completed this work and drove to Wataga Lake to complete the roof repair of the Wataga Lake Shelter. A drip edge was installed. Also brush clipping was done. The group reported they lost the trail in this area because the trail has not been blazed.
- **Dec. 13: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell reporting)**
Ed Oliver, Mary Cunningham, Bill Stowell and Derrick Stowell continued the trail rehab from Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob. Due to the large turnout we completed the rehab of the section originally slated for reworking. On this trip we completed 480 ft of trail extending past the end ribbon. This completes the nearly 6000 ft of trail when the project started in September. One more trip is planned to clean up some trail near Temple Hill Gap, that was not in the original section of work. Now I can finally wash my Bronco!
- **Dec. 16: A.T. Maintenance (Bill Stowell reporting)**
Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, and Frank Williams completed rehabbing the trail from Temple Hill Gap to the beginning of the original rehab project. They repaired 680 ft of trail. Bruce clipped back brush from Temple Hill Gap to about 400 ft of No Business Knob Shelter.

Congratulations to Kevin Edgar!

A.T. Hiking Completed in 1997

FOR THE RECORD: A.T. Day Hike, Petites Gap to James River, September 20, 1997.

Kevin Edgar Reporting

The warm and sultry day did not betray the coming end of summer as we drove along the banks of the James River. We followed road and river through the green mountains of central Virginia, then turned onto the Blue Ridge Parkway for the climb towards Petites Gap. The black bear who loped across the Parkway in front of us just a short distance from the trailhead seemed to confirm the special nature of the day. Perhaps he was fleeing the bow hunters and their dogs parked at the trailhead, or perhaps he was just looking for acorns, so elusive this year. Impatiently we donned our gear at the trailhead, pictures were taken to capture the occasion, and we set off up the ridge. After the long drive the

moderate climb on well-graded trail was a pleasure, affording occasional views through the heavy woods of the surrounding mountains and the James River Valley. Later we were treated to a scenic crossing of Matts Creek near the shelter of the same name. All of us soaked in the rich smells of the woods, the pleasure of lunch and rest on some rocks, and the sharing of tales about past treks in these mountains and others. The air was heavy with warmth and moisture as we descended towards the scenic gap forged by the James. We emerged from the woods, crossed the river on the US 501 highway bridge (soon to be replaced by a pedestrian bridge built just for the Trail), and walked almost reluctantly the last few yards to the waiting cars. Balloons, a finish line, hugs, pictures, banners, and a cool drink signaled that this was a special ending; the leader completed the Appalachian Trail upon reaching his waiting family and friends. Many thanks to Rob Edgar, Gether Irick, Owen Holbrook, and Steve and Mary Banks for joining me for this last section and for helping to generate so many tall tales and happy Trail memories through the years and the miles. Thanks most of all to Marilyn and Emma, without whose tolerance and help this long mission to walk the ridgetops from Georgia to Maine could not have succeeded, nor have been half as much fun.



[Kevin Edgar](#) completes hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, September 20, 1997 (194KB). *Photo courtesy of Mary Banks.*



[Kevin Edgar](#) completes hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, September 20, 1997 (174KB). *Photo courtesy of Mary Banks.*

FOR THE RECORD: A.T. Day Hike, Camp Creek Bald to Allen Gap, September 27, 1997.

Kevin Edgar Reporting

Fall was late this year, and most of the leaves were still green as we bounced up the gravel road even to the crest of Camp Creek Bald. Hazy, mild sunshine prevailed as we took in the views towards the Blacks from the Camp Creek Bald firetower, then set off towards Allen Gap. We gave from Charlottesville a ride to the firetower after placing her car at Devil Fork Gap on the way to the trailhead, allowing her to hike the other way. The next day she planned to hike up to the firetower and back from Allen Gap, completing this section. For us it was a moderate and enjoyable stroll, past Little Laurel Shelter, through mixed piney and deciduous forest, and then down towards Allen Gap. Joining us for this short but pleasant dayhike were Patricia Lopez, Bill Stowell, and Derrick Stowell.

To Submit an article for the newsletter, contact:
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 Kingsport, Tennessee 37664
 TEHCC Website: <http://www.tehcc.org>

