

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

November 1999

www.tehcc.org

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Nov 6	Smokies Dayhike	M	K. Edgar	423-239-5742
Nov 6	Maintenance Trip: Roan High Knob		B. Stow ell	423-239-7697
Nov 13	Maintenance Trip: Roan High Knob		B. Stow ell	423-239-7697
Nov 13	Hiltons Fire Tow er	E-M	C. Chew	423-239-6237
Nov 20	South Beyond 6000 Hike **Rescheduled from Nov 13**	D	G. Luttrell	423-239-9854
Nov 20	Fall Dinner Meeting	FUN	C. Fritz	423-477-4669
Dec 4	A.T.: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap	M	B. Stow ell	423-239-7697
Dec 18	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stow ell	423-239-7697

Fall Dinner Meeting

Carl Fritz reporting

Our annual fall dinner meeting will be Saturday, November 20 at the Eastman Lodge. There is no UT football this day, so come out and enjoy some good fellowship starting with a social hour at 5:00 PM. Mountain Sports, LTD. will be displaying some of their outdoor equipment. In addition, our club will have a silent auction on a wide variety of merchandise. At 6:00 dinner will be catered by Wright's Cafeteria and will include beef tips served over rice and country fried chicken breasts with all the trimmings including vegetables, salad and assorted deserts. At 7:00 we will present the Konnarock T-shirts. To climax the evening, Ed Oliver will present a slide show on

"Exploring Colorado's San Juan Mountains".

Please return your dinner reservation form by Tuesday, November 16. Dinner is only \$10 per person. As always, you are welcome to show up about 6:45 without reservations if you prefer just the program.

Fall Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Please fill out the form below and send a check made out to TEHCC to:

Mike Morrow, Building 469

Or

Mike Morrow

1028 Surmont Ct.

Kingsport, Tennessee 37660

Reservation Form

Name(s): _____

Number of Meals _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please note: The check and reservation form must be received by Tuesday, November 16th.

Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports

Fire Tower Hike: Hilton's Fire Tower, November 13

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237, Rating: Easy-Moderate

This hike will take us to the highest point, 3145 ft., (or right next to it) in the Kingsport area with views of Kingsport, Gate City, the long ridge of Clinch Mountain and more. It will be a three-mile hike, uphill 1800 feet to the old fire tower on a Virginia Dept. of Forestry Road. We are welcome on private property but all are requested to register with Mrs. Curtis before starting up. She said she would not allow hunters in at that time and I don't go when the hunting seasons are in anyway. The fire tower is not in good repair but can be climbed safely with due care. Meet at the regular place between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. The drive is only 15 miles and the round trip hike is about 6 miles; we should be back in early afternoon. Bring water, good snack, and appropriate clothing. For information, call Collins Chew at 423/239-6237.

South Beyond 6000 Hike - Mt. Mitchell, November 20 (rescheduled from November 13)

Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854, Rating: Difficult

We'll hike up the Commissary Ridge Trail, 5.5 mi., 2600 ft. elevation gain, from Black Mountain Campground and qualify Mt. Mitchell and Mt. Hallback. Phone the hike leader for arrangements.

Hike Report: Laurel Falls Family Hike, August 14

Steve Wilson Reporting

This hike started from Dennis Cove near Hampton, Tenn. and consisted of our hiking 1-1/2 miles into Laurel Falls and back. We started hiking at 9:30 AM in the morning and finished by noon, but the hike was still warm and humid. The steps leading down to the falls were quite an improvement compared to the old gravel trail. There was a good amount of water flowing over the falls, since it had rained the night before. We found only a small amount of trash near the falls, which we picked up and carried out. On the drive home we stopped to view some unusual flowers beside the road between Dennis Cove and Hampton, which were identified as yellow-fringed orchids, southern bellflowers, and Turk's Cap lilies. The group had a very pleasant time and all enjoyed the short hike. Participating in this hike were: Randy, Kim, Kelsie, and Dustin Gardner (from Arkansas Eastman); Vic, Beth, Kara, Clark, and Ben Hasler; Sonya Gilliam, Juanelle and Jacob Lambert; Maggie Stamey; Steve Woody; and Steve and Jill Wilson.

Backpack Report: Carter Dome and Bigelows, N.H.

Sept. 24 - Oct. 3

G. S. Luttrell reporting

Three of us, Gether Irick, Garry Luttrell, and Richard Lane met Saturday in Gorham, NH, for a week of backpacking and hiking 51 mi. of the A.T. in the White Mountain and Bigelow areas. On Sunday we started a 3-day backpack trip at Pinkham Notch and finished at Gorham, with overnight stops at Carter Dome Hut and Imp Campsite. The weather was ideal for hiking and we had gorgeous views of the Presidentals from Wildcat Mtn., Carter Dome, and Mt. Height. Then we drove to Stratton, Maine, to begin a 2-day trip crossing the Bigelows, in spite of the forecast for rain on the 2nd day. We spent the night in the Horns Pond lean-to, listening to the howling wind all night. Next morning, before we reached the above treeline section to Mt. Avery, the driving rain began. At times, the wind and rain was so fierce, we were forced to stop and hang on to cairns, rocks, or whatever to keep from blowing off the mountain. As we were hiking down to the car on East Flagstaff Road, of course the rain and wind ceased and the sun popped out. On Friday, Gether and I day hiked the 13 mi. section of the A.T. trail south of Highway 4 and the Saddlebacks, again in gorgeous weather, and with the fall colors very near peak. One word of caution: If you stay in the Carter Hut, beware of using the wool blankets, which we think was the source of the "Armpit Chiggers" that inflicted Richard.

Hike Report: Grassy Ridge Moonrise Hike, Sept. 25

Richard Colberg reporting

Seventeen people hiked to Grassy Ridge to watch the sunset and moonrise. We hiked from Carvers Gap, arriving at the top of Grassy Ridge about 15 minutes before sunset. It was cool and windy at the top; the sky was nearly cloudless, but hazy. We enjoyed a nice sunset, and a fantastic moonrise -- it looked like the "Great Pumpkin" with a sideways grin; either that, or it was a "Big Orange" Tennessee moon. We hiked back to Carvers Gap after dark, enjoying the light of the full moon shining off the surrounding ridges. Witnessing this moonrise were Katrin Baker, Bob Bowles, Kimberly Brooks, Richard Colberg, Melissa Cyr, Lauren Donohoe, Emmett and Phillip Dougherty, Waylon, Carol, and Alan Jenkins, Gabriel Lee, Fang Liu, Sean Maddox, Wesley Moyer, Binh Tat, and Nancy Wilson.

Hike Report: A.T. - Dickey Gap (Va 16&650) to So. Fork Holston (Va 670), October 2

Neil Dotson Reporting

The main bit of excitement on this trip was encountering what was likely a large black rat snake who was being rather territorial about a bit of the A.T.; all survived to tell the tale, but some were more shaken than others by this blot on an otherwise lovely fall day. There were occasional views, early on, back towards First, Second and Third Peaks, Pine Mt. and Mt. Rogers, and then at High Point a nice view of Rye Valley. Trimpi Shelter is an impressive stone structure with a fireplace. Past Trimpi, the proposed trail relocation noted on the 1996 map is apparently complete, avoiding the mined area (surface-mined, not land-mined) and the mining/logging roads. It's a good relocation, and one of the prettiest spots is crossing a pasture just before Va 672: the hills before us, with trees turning colors, enjoyed in autumnal warmth. Neil Dotson led the hike, Freda Kuo found the snake, her friend Diane Ball comforted her, Randy Ojanen joined us from Bristol, and Jeff Caumiant (all the way from Belgium - well, via Bristol as an exchange student) brought the Belgian chocolate.

Hike Report: Max Patch Hike, October 2

Ed Oliver reporting

Frank Williams, Bill Stowell, and Ed Oliver participated in the easy/beginners/family hike at Max Patch. The weather was ideal with cool morning and warm afternoon temperatures. The views were outstanding. The only problem was that very few people showed up for the hike - well maybe next time! Max Patch is truly one of the beautiful mountains in the southern Appalachians. If you get a chance, go and enjoy the views.

Hike Report: Iron Mt Gap to Indian Grave Gap, Oct. 16

Steve Banks reporting

We had a beautiful fall day for our hike, with clear blue skies and fall colors of red, orange, and yellow. I took advantage of the opportunity to wheel this 10.8-mile section of the trail, which slowed our progress considerably, constantly checking distance and elevation. Hikers were Steve Woody and Steve Banks.

Hike Report: Bays Mountain Hike, October 23

Collins Chew reporting

Three hikers enjoyed pretty leaves, great conversation, cool breezes, and a bit of sleet as we hiked 9 miles around the Southwest perimeter trails of Bays Mountain Park which were cleared last winter for the first time in several years. Hikers were Olin Babb, Hugh Thompson, and Collins Chew.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

November Third Saturday Maintenance

Bill Stowell reporting

We will not be having a 3rd Saturday outing in October and November. We currently have 3 Saturdays lined up with groups of students from Appalachian State University. We will be installing water bars and steps in the Roan High Knob area. Please come out and work with the students if you can. The dates for these projects are November 6 and November 13.

Chainsaw Certification and Recertification Class

Bill Stowell reporting

It will soon be time for the people who were certified 3 years ago to get recertified for using chainsaws. Also there might be other people who need certification. For club members and

adopters to be covered by the Volunteers in the Forest you must have current USFS chainsaw certification. VIF covers your cost of medical expenses as a result of an injury while doing trail maintenance. Let me know if you are interested in taking certification or recertification class. We will need to set this up with the USFS in the near future.

Bill Stowell

Address 475 Merman Rd
Kingsport, Tennessee
37663

Phone 239-7697

May 22, Maintenance Report: Dennis Cove to Bitter End

Mike Watts reporting

Mike Watts, Tim Watts, Susan Rook, and Missy Wright did annual trail maintenance from Dennis Cove to Bitter End. Total: 40 hours.

August 28, Trail Maintenance: Spivey to Temple Hill Gap

Bill Berry reporting

Completed section check from Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap. Trail is in good shape, had several small blowdowns to remove. Still have three big trees down across trail, but you can cross or go around them with no trouble. I'll be removing them in the next few weeks. Total: 10 hours.

September 22, Maintenance Report: Section 17 between Cherry Gap and Low Gap

C. B. Willis reporting

We installed all the water bars, which had been pre-cut by TEHCC. On the way out we counted 37 we had installed today. There were a few more flagged but we weren't prepared to cut the logs today. This is a job that is 'almost' done. We also renewed blazes and covered many superfluous markers. We worked on the open flowing spring on the north side of Unaka Mountain and are trying to decide how to improve this spring for the thru-hikers. There were a few small blow downs on Unaka, which our team removed. We also voted unanimously to thank the members of TEHCC who worked with us a couple weeks ago and taught us the art of constructing water bars. We do appreciate your cooperation, Bill. We really would not have gotten this job done so expeditiously without your good help and advice. Members of the Old Timer's Hiking Club present were: Hueston Fortner, Howard Guinn, Carl Kincheloe, Dick Lewis, Sam Lloyd, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Clyde Taylor, Malcolm Wolf, and C. B. Willis. Total: 96 hours.

September 23, Maintenance Report: Cut Waterbars & Steps For Trail Repair On Roan Mountain.

Ed Oliver reporting

Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Peoples, John Thompson, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver cut locust trees into lengths for waterbars and steps. We then took the logs to Toll House Gap and to the area near the old hotel site on Roan Mountain and stored them out of view so that they would not be used for campfires. The students from Appalachian State University will install these waterbars and steps in October and/or November. We were all tired after cutting over 30 waterbars and 30 steps but enjoyed the beautiful fall day on the mountain. The views were outstanding. We also inspected the floor of the Roan High Knob Shelter and cleaned out the spring behind the shelter. The spring needs some more attention but it was flowing enough to supply water to hikers. Total: 70 hours.

September 27, Maintenance Report: Campbell Hollow Road

Steve Banks reporting

I measured the Campbell Hollow Road relocation in both directions - it is 5,214 feet long and added

0.2 miles to the A.T. TEHCC's section is 127.5 miles. There is ample evidence of horse use between Buck Mountain Road and the north end of the relocation, and a few minor scattered blowdowns. Total: 8 hours.

September 28, Maintenance Report: Flag Trail Relocation Trail North Of Bitter End

Ed Oliver reporting

Morgan Sommerville of ATC and Ed Oliver flagged a trail relocation trail north of the Forest Service Road crossing near Bitter End. The Forest Service people requested this work to be sure whether or not the trail relocation in this area would eliminate the need to buy land near the trail. The landowner is not a willing seller. In addition to getting the trail farther away from private land, the relocation will greatly improve the approach to a stream. The existing trail is very steep. We were able to flag a relocation which will accomplish both objectives. We will submit this relocation for approval with the Elk River Relocation. Total: 18 hours.

September 30, Maintenance Report: Flag Relocations Trail South Of Bitter End

Ed Oliver reporting

Bill Elderbrock, Frank Williams, and Ed Oliver flagged relocations trail south of Bitter End. The Forest Service should begin the approval process for the Elk River relocation this fall and winter. We wanted to flag the relocations near Bitter End so that they can be included in the Elk River relocation approval process. Total: 24 hours.

October 2, Maintenance Report: Wilder Mine Hollow

Steve Banks reporting

My son Steven and I measured the two Wilder Mine Hollow relocations in both directions. The lower relocation - completed several years ago - is 1,628 feet long and added 0.1 miles to the A.T. The upper relocation - completed in June 1999 - is 4,428 feet long, and reduced the length of the A.T. by 0.1 miles. So the net effect is the A.T. is still 13.4 miles long between U.S 19E and Carvers Gap. Both relocations are in excellent shape. Total: 12 hours.

October 3, Maintenance Report: Bitter End

Bill Stowell reporting

Ed Oliver, Mary & Bruce Cunningham, and Bill Stowell drove to Bitter End and lopped trail north and checked a flagged relocation. Then continued flagging trail south. Also lopped and cut blow downs to the bridge. We then continued flagging south of the bridge. Total: 40 hours.

October 5, Trail Maintenance: Watauga Lake to Pond Flats

John Thompson reporting

Section adopters Frank Williams and John Thompson, aided by Darrol Nickels, did late-year checking of this trail on a beautiful day. Moist dirt suggested a recent heavy rain, although the spring near Pond Flats had no flow, only a small seepage pool. Plenty of leaves were down, reflecting the drought. We removed two fallen 10-in. trees and one 14-in log plus six clusters of 3-7 small rhododendrons. We also clipped where needed and repainted the blazes. No hikers were seen. Total: 27 hours.

October 8, Mahoney's Outfitters Section Trail Maintenance

Mark Stover reporting

The Mahoney's Outfitters Trail Maintenance group has finished maintenance along our adopted section of the A.T. Bill Stover, Mark Stover, and David Ramsey participated. The section looks really good I think and it is cut back and ready until springtime rolls back around. We have had two trips: Sept 4 and Sept 17. Total: 40 hours.

October 13, Open Areas Management

Ed Oliver Reporting

We now have 2 outstanding vistas approximately 3/4 trail north of Iron Mountain Gap. Also the open area in the apple orchard 1.1 miles trail north of Iron Mountain Gap was greatly enlarged. Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, Frank Williams, and Darrol Nickels worked on both projects which were in support of our open areas management. Total: 36 hours.