

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

January 2000

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Jan 1	A.T. Hike: Mt. Rogers Headquarters (Va. 16) to I-81	M	N. Dotson	245-6105
Jan 1	Paddling: Polar Bear Trip, Lower Noli	ll	B. Becker	288-5886
Jan 8	Paddling: Leader's Choice	IV-V	M. Morrow	245-1201
Jan 15	Paddling: Noli/Watauga (Double Trouble)	IV-V	P. Champeau	232-1960
Jan 15	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	239-7697
Jan 22	Hike: Chimney Top	M	C. Chew	239-6237
Jan 22-23	Paddling: Leader's Choice	IV-V	J. Gaither	288-6461
Jan 29	Family/Beginner Hike: Doe River Gorge	E	S. Perri	349-5091
Feb 5	South Beyond 6000: Plott Balsams	D	G. Luttrell	239-9854
Feb 5	Paddler's XMAS Party	Fun	M. Morrow	245-1201
Feb 19	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	239-7697
Feb 19	Paddling: Clinch River	ll	D. Faulkner	348-7902

Fall Dinner Meeting

Carl Fritz reporting

Almost seventy club members and guests enjoyed an evening at the Eastman Lodge on Saturday November 20. While socializing with refreshments supplied by Steve Perri, we had the opportunity to look over the latest technology hiking and fishing gear displayed by Bert Whitzman of Mountain Sports, LTD. Steve Wilson coordinated a silent auction of a tent and a backpack from the club's rental equipment plus many leftover items from the Radford ATC meeting. Mary Fanslow and her Girl Scout Troop festooned the tables with Thanksgiving pumpkins. A buffet dinner served by Wright's Cafeteria satisfied our growling stomachs. Then Joe DeLoach presented the Konnarock T-shirts to those hearty souls who put in five days digging trail with the Konnarock crew this summer. Ed Oliver capped the evening with some beautiful slides of wild flowers, mountains, lakes and snow from "Exploring Colorado's San Juan Mountains". Many thanks to Bill Stowell, Mike Morrow, Shannon Stanforth and Jan Mayo for making all the arrangements.

Volunteers Needed

Carl Fritz reporting

Several key officer positions are open. Any member can serve our club in one of these roles. If interested, please contact any steering committee member, or me at 423-477-4669.

Newsletter Editor:

Usually three to four hours are required to assemble the newsletter each month from the articles submitted by other club members. A PC with Microsoft Word and e-mail is a must. This is a critical club function.

Events Coordinator:

Primary task is getting together our 6-month calendar of events (mostly paddling and hiking outings) twice a year.

Rental Equipment Coordinator:

Primary tasks are to decide what equipment to obsolete, make new equipment purchases or arrange for repair of damaged equipment.

Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports

Hike: Chimney Top

January 22

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237

Rating: Moderate

This will be a 6-mile round trip hike to the sharp-topped mountain that looks like a volcano to the South from much of Kingsport. Nice views are found from the area of the old Mail Plane Beacon and there is an interesting hike of about 1/3-mile along the narrow relatively level ridge at the top. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing. We will hike from the gracious owner's (Faulkners) driveway to the summit along the old road with the total round trip hike of about 6 miles with a fairly good climb of perhaps 1600 feet. Meet between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 22, 2000 for the drive of about 15 miles. Hike will be cancelled if roads are icy. For information call Collins Chew, 239-6237.

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 that 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, & Dustin Gardner (from Arkansas Eastman); Vic, Beth, Kara, Clark, & Ben Hasler; Sonya Gilliam, Juanelle & Jacob Lambert; Maggie Stamey; Steve Woody; and Steve & Jill Wilson.

Hike Report: Friday Hikers

December 3

Collins Chew reporting

Today's hike was on Pretty Ridge Trail, Lower Cross Ridges Trail and Back Hollow in Bays Mountain Park, about 6 miles total. We cleared blowdowns and clipped brush on all trails, and blazed the Lower Cross Ridges Trail. A stream crossing was improved and locations selected for stiles to be installed later. Hikers were: Mike Alley, Bob Harvey, Bill Elderbrook, and Collins Chew.

Hike Report: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

December 4

Bill Stowell reporting

We met at the usual place and drove to Iron Mountain Gap and parked cars and met one of the hikers. We then drove to Hughes Gap to begin the hike. We had cool but pleasant weather. The views from Little Rock Knob were great, as there was little haze. Also along the way we got to see to wild turkeys take off as we came near them on the trail. Along for the hike were Volker Jung, Freda Kuo, Steve Woody, Shelton Thompson, and Bill Stowell.

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects

TEHCC Members Participate in USFS Chain Saw Re-certification Course

Steve Perri reporting

Eight TEHCC members recently participated in the re-certification course offered by USFS on November 21, 1999. Ben Lawhon from ATC helped arrange for a course close to the area for our club and Warren Bonham and Manuel Johnson from the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area came through to help arrange for a class offered in Sugar Grove, Va. As required by ATC and the USFS, volunteers in the forest operating chain saws now need to be both operator certified and CPR/First Aid certified. We spent the first 4 hours in classroom training reviewing video tapes, regulations, personal safety equipment and practices. In the afternoon we drove to the Grindstone Campground and conducted the field training. The certification has the restriction of certification limited to felling trees up to 8 inches in diameter and conducting limbing and bucking.

Several other club members indicated a desire to have the first time training which is a 1.5-day course. Ben is in the process of organizing a possible training course after the first of the year. TEHCC will also help offer another CPR/First Aid training course opportunity through the American Red Cross for those interested as well. Anyone interested in the chain saw course or First aid training can contact either Steve Perri (423-349-5091) or Bill Stowell (423-239-7697).

Those participating in the training course include: Steve Banks, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Rick Lott, Garry Luttrell, Steve Perri, Bill Stowell, and Steve Wilson.

Total: 88 hours.

November 23, Toll House Gap And Roan High Knob Shelter

Ed Oliver reporting

Frank Williams and Ed Oliver trimmed the two boards left at the Roan High Knob Shelter and installed them along the edge of the floor to close off the last of the holes in the floor. We also transplanted twelve fir tree seedlings and seven small rhododendrons to the open area at Toll House Gap.

Total: 16 hours.

December 1, A.T. Maintenance

Section 18

C. B. Willis reporting

Members of the Old Timers Hiking Club inspected the trail from the switchback on the south side of Unaka Mt to Indian Grave Gap and cleared minor obstructions. Picked up several bags of trash at the Gap PA. Also cleaned the steps across from Indian Grave Gap in Section 19. The following members of Old Timers Hiking Club worked 3 hours each: Heuston Fortner, Carl Kincheloe, Dick Lewis, Sam Lloyd; Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld; Sandra Perry; Ed Schell; Wayne Sparks; Bob Spencer; Clyde Taylor; CB Willis; Don Mackey, and Rick Culbertson.

Total: 42 hours.

December 8, A.T. Maintenance

Section 17

C. B. Willis reporting

The Old Timers Hiking Club cut the timbers and installed the remaining water bars which had been flagged by TEHCC. We cleaned out all leaves and debris from the water bars that we had previously installed. We dug out the spring at the Cherry Gap Shelter, greatly improving the water flow. We felled a big rotten tree that may have fallen on the shelter. We cut up firewood from downed trees in the Cherry Gap Shelter area and left a good supply for through hikers. We carried out some trash. We cut a large dangerous widow maker on the trail between Cherry Gap and the shelter. Members present were: Rick Culbertson, Howard Guinn, Carl Kincheloe, Dick Lewis, Sam Lloyd, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Neil Ottenfeld, Sandra Perry, Wayne Sparks, Clyde Taylor, C. B. Willis, and Malcolm Wolf.

Total: 91 hours.

December 16, Wilder Mine Hollow

Darrol Nickels reporting

Darrol Nickels, Scotty Meyers, and Ben Lawhon met at the old apple orchard in Wilder Mine Hollow to find a route for mowers to get in to keep this area open. Scotty Meyers will connect two old roads by using a bulldozer. This will be done some time in February. This area has some good locust trees that can be saved for use in repairing the Koonford Bridge. They should be retrieved and stored at the USFS work center for later use.

Total: 15 hours.

December 18, December 3rd Saturday

Bill Stowell reporting

We drove to Carvers Gap and put up a sign on the back side of Round Bald to try to keep hikers on

the trail and not cut down the old trail. We also built a wall from rocks to try to discourage walking down the old trail. Then we walked to Engine Gap and moved the post and put up a new sign in the old trail on that end. We also transplanted rhodos and blueberry into the old trail. We then drove to Elk Falls to look at a possible trail route that would go by the lower falls on Jones Branch. All present felt that it would be very worthwhile putting the trail to the falls as it is a magnificent 100-foot cascade that would add a tremendous asset to the A.T. Along for the trip were Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Joe Deloach, Derrick Stowell, and Bill Stowell.

Total: 45 hours.