

**THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN**  
**HIKING & PADDLING NEWS**

February  
2000

www.tehcc.org

**Contents**

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Winter Dinner Meeting](#)
- [TEHCC 1999 Accomplishments](#)
- [ACA Acts to Prevent Streamgauge Losses](#)
- [Volunteers Readily Accepted](#)
- [Trail Skills Training](#)
- [Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects](#)

NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Feb 5	South Beyond 6000: Plott Balsams	D	G. Luttrell	239-9854
Feb 5	Paddler's Winter Party	Fun	M. Morrow	245-1201
Feb 12	Y2K Bike Ride: Bays Mountain	M	E. Montgomery	247-7795
Feb 19	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	239-7697
Feb 19	Paddling: Clinch River	II	D. Faulkner	348-7902
Feb 25	Maintainer's Dinner Meeting		B. Stowell	239-7697
Feb 26	Nolichucky River	III-IV	N. Coggins	753-9509
Mar 4	Watauga/Doe River	IV-V	D. Fuller	764-7340
Mar 11	Leader's Choice	IV-V	M. Morrow	245-1201
Mar 18	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	239-7697
Mar 18	Winter Dinner Meeting	Fun	C. Fritz	477-4669
Mar 18	Doe River	II-III	D. Ingram	282-5856
Mar 25	South Toe River	II-III	E. Montgomery	247-7795
Mar 25	Equador in Tennessee (Leader's Choice)	III-IV	J. Hefferman	669-9597

## Winter Dinner Meeting

*Carl Fritz reporting*

Reserve Saturday evening, March 18 on your calendar for our winter meeting at the Eastman Lodge. Next month's newsletter will contain the details.

# TEHCC 1999 Accomplishments

Steve Perri reporting

## Club Projects

- 1) Provided maintenance stewardship for 127 miles of the Appalachian Trail
- 2) Increased participation with non-employee members through the "Adopt a Trail Program"
- 3) Provided a donation to the Appalachian Trail Conference
- 4) Provided financial support of the Konnarock Trail Crew
- 5) Provided training for water safety through Canoe School with 28 participants
- 6) Organized a class for members for safety training in Standard First Aid
- 7) Organized a class for members for Chain Saw Certification
- 8) Organized an ATC sponsored workshop for "Trail Water Drainage"
- 9) Provided presentations to schools and civic organizations about our Club and activities
- 10) Expanded our link with our Trail Adopters Program for club participation by non-employees
- 11) Provided input/consultation on USFS projects (logging options to minimize impact on the A.T., boundary and rare plant monitoring)
- 12) Provided volunteer support for the Konnarock Trail Crew for 3 weeks of trail work

## Historical Appalachian Trail Maintenance Hours, Events, Number of Participants

1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
3995 hrs	7457 hrs	6779 hrs	5857 hrs	5638 hrs	6835 hrs	6880 hrs	7980 hrs
127 events	262 events	219 events	226 events	195 events	228 events	243 events	246 events
129 people	196 people	250 people	157 people	147 people	146 people	211 people	269 people

## Hiking/Paddling Activities

- 1) Hosted approximately 40 outings for hikers during the calendar year
- 2) Hosted approximately 20 outings for paddlers during the calendar year

## Trail Construction and Related Projects

- 1) Completed a trail relocation of about 1 mile of new trail near Roan Mt north of Doll Flats
- 2) Installed a relocation at Campbell Hollow Road to move the last piece of trail section off of the road
- 3) Began a new relocation process for Elk River to remove the hazards of steep and eroding trail segments
- 4) Installed numerous water bars on several sections of trail with Club members and "Old Timers Club"
- 5) Completed construction and installation of primary bog bridges on the Appalachian Trail near Shady Valley, Tennessee

## Special Joint Youth Projects

- 1) Coordinated an Eagle Scout Project to replace flooring in Roan High Knob Shelter
- 2) Coordinated an Eagle project to install secondary bog bridges on the Appalachian Trail near Shady Valley, Tennessee
- 3) Coordinated trail projects with 46 Appalachian State students to install water bars on Roan Mt for improved water drainage

- 4) Coordinated trail projects with 3 East Tennessee State University students to install water bars on Roan Mt for improved water drainage
- 5) Coordinated special dinner decoration projects (2) with local Girl Scouts
- 6) Assisted in coordinating the 1999 Fun Fest Moonlight Hike

## **Recognition/Awards**

Provided the following plaques and awards to members and participants:

- 1) Hiker of the Year, 2) Paddler of the Year, 3) Maintainer of the Year, 4) Stan Murray Award, 4) Club and USFS Maintenance Hour Patches

# **ACA Acts to Prevent Stream Gauge**

## **Losses**

### ***Paddlers Asked to Voice Support for Gauges to Lawmakers***

### ***Paddlers Asked to Voice Support for Gages to Lawmakers***

*Springfield, Va.* -- The stream gauges that paddlers have come to rely on for up-to-date water level information are being lost at an alarming rate due to a lack of funding support from the Clinton administration and Congress. Without a significant increase in funding, hundreds of gages will be lost over the next few years. Responding to this threat, the American Canoe Association (ACA) has begun a major advocacy effort to make lawmakers aware of the importance the USGS (United States Geological Survey) Stream gauging Network plays in people's lives, and to get the people who depend on stream gauge information to make their voices heard.

The ACA is calling on paddling clubs to make their members aware of this problem and to urge those members to write their congressional representatives. It is critical that both the White House and Congress understand that the nation's stream gauges have a lot of public support. "It is both ironic and unfortunate that at a time when technology has greatly improved paddlers' access to stream flow data the gages that provide that data are being lost," says David Jenkins, Director of Conservation and Public Policy for the ACA.

According to Jenkins, the current funding problem stems largely from the fact that many potential advocates for gage funding have been unaware of the problem, and because this diverse constituency has never come together to push for increased funding. "When Congress and the Administration are only hearing from groups representing state geologists, civil engineers, and flood plain managers it is hardly a wonder why they have not connected this issue to the needs of the general public. It is time for lawmakers to finally hear from average voters about how important these stream gauges are."

The USGS Stream Gauging Network is currently comprised of over 7000 gages nationwide. Approximately 70% of these gages are now equipped with satellite telemetry and can provide real-time data to paddlers via the Internet. Beyond the problem of not enough funding, the problem for USGS is compounded by the fact the agency fully controls only \$5 million of the \$89 million currently spent on gages each year, the rest is controlled largely by state, local, and other federal partners. Therefore, when a locality or an agency such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decide that a gage is no longer a priority, the USGS is virtually powerless to pick up the tab and keep the gage operational.

The Network's infrastructure is in decline at a time when it is needed most. The hardening of watersheds through development, increased demand for water and changing weather patterns all

underscore why an increased investment in the Network is so vital. One only has to look at the frequency and magnitude of major flooding events, and the human costs that result from such events, to understand why more data is needed.

The role the USGS Stream Gauging Network plays in outdoor recreation and recreation safety also provides a compelling case for increased funding. Canoeists, kayakers, fishermen, and even backpackers regularly rely on stream gage information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable outing. Stream flow data is used extensively in the whitewater paddling community to assess the skill level required to safely paddle a given river or stream.

To meet these demands requires that the Network be more than simply maintained, it greatly needs to be expanded and modernized.

The ACA is asking Congress for a \$20 million dollar increase in funding for the USGS Federal Program in FY 2001. Increasing this funding from \$5 million to \$25 million will provide the support necessary to help the USGS Streamgaging Network to meet its current needs.

This substantial increase in dollars for the USGS Federal Program, when combined with more modest increases in the federal matching funds for the state and local cooperative program, will not only prevent the loss of hundreds of gages over the next few years, it will help USGS begin to meet the growing public need for additional streamflow and water quality information. The ACA, along with other recreation groups such as Trout Unlimited and American Whitewater, is asking members to contact their representatives in Congress, let them know how important streamgages are, and urge them to increase funding for FY 2001.

For more information about this issue and to contact your elected representatives please visit [www.acanet.org](http://www.acanet.org) after Congress reconvenes on January 24, 2000.

## **Volunteers Readily Accepted**

*Carl Fritz reporting*

In our recent survey some of you expressed interest in helping the club with some activities as specific as planning programs for dinner meetings or more generally as trail maintenance. Since the survey was anonymous, we do not know who expressed particular interests. If you will contact another Steering Committee Member, or myself we will gladly provide you more information. Bill Stowell as our A.T. Maintenance Officer and Steering Committee Member is another good contact.

## **Trail Skills Training**

*Carl Fritz reporting*

The Appalachian Trail Conference has organized some training opportunities for volunteers in the southeast. Most locations are in Sugar Grove, Virginia or Smoky Mountains National Park. They are spread out from March through July in one or two-day classes and cover a diversity of trail maintaining skills. Courses include Crosscut Saw Techniques, Rock Work, Trail Design, Wilderness First Aid, Basic Maintenance, Leave No Trace, and Stone/Wood Cribbing. If you are interested, please contact me for more details.

## **Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports**

**Hike: South Beyond 6000**

**Plott Balsam and Yellow Face, 2/5/00**

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

This will be a full day hike, with an early start and late return to Kingsport. The first objective will be to qualify Plott Balsam, and the second objective will be to qualify Yellow Face. Waterrock Knob and Jones Knob can also be qualified on this trip. We may choose to spend Friday night in North Carolina, if everyone is agreeable. Gear for winter conditions is required. Contact the hike leader by phone or .

## **Hike: Doe River Gorge, Feb. 12**

*Leader: Steve Perri, Rating: Easy*

This is a relatively easy hike since it is fairly flat. Total distance is about 5 miles round trip. The gorge is usually lined with icicles dangling along the rock walls for some beautiful scenery if the winter weather has been cold and wet. This year, its anyone's guess what the walls will be like this year. There are two railroad tunnels we pass through and several overlooks with views of the river. Dress appropriately and bring food and water. Current plans are to meet in Colonial Heights between Burger King and McDonalds at 8:00 am, the standard departure time and place. Keep an eye on the weather; inclement weather or hazardous roads may be cause for postponement or cancellation. We can enjoy lunch on the way back at the Classic Malt Shop in Elizabethton if the group would like. We will most likely be back early in the afternoon. Call for more information (423-349-5091).

## **Hike Report: Hump Mountain, October 9**

*Joe DeLoach Reporting*

Ever been in a hurricane? We got a taste of one in a climb on the A.T. from 19E to Hump Mountain on October 9. We set out under threatening skies and it drizzled on us as we walked through the relocation we put in this summer. But, then the rains stopped and we enjoyed good views from the cliff below Doll Flats. From there on, it got foggier and windier until we emerged onto the open bald with gale force winds. Utterly unscientific estimates of the wind speed were 50-60 miles per hour, with gusts maybe even higher. We pushed on to the cold summit with no view whatsoever, but we made it. This Trail section is in good shape and through the relocations we have made it one of our best day hikes. Those who braved the elements included Diane Ball, Neil Dotson, Griff Johnson, Freda Kuo, Sean Maddox, and Joe DeLoach.

## **Hike Report: A.T., Mt. Rogers NRA Headquarters to I-81, January 1**

*Neil Dotson Reporting*

In my hike description I had claimed that this section of trail was Y2K compliant, but as the more clever among you might have suspected, I was bluffing - I hadn't verified this at all! Thus it was a real possibility that, upon reaching the trailhead, there would be nothing before us but a great, yawning abyss. However, your hike leader was spared this humiliation and (as it turned out) the trail was Y2K compliant - more than compliant, a real treat. We had patches of snow early on, one Great view of the valley before us and the mountains awaiting through-hikers about to cross I-81, and a visit to another fine shelter. But all the lowlands walking in the last miles of the trail were the best: pleasant meadows and fields, visiting the old schoolhouse at the Settlers Museum, and crossing the Middle Fork of the Holston (more a tine than a fork this far upstream) - and quite a bit of this part of the trail had been newly relocated. Celebrating the New Year with an 11.5-mile hike were Neil Dotson, Ed Oliver, Phylis Cairnes, and Mary Ellen Ress.

## **Hike Report: Chimney Top, January 22**

*Collins Chew reporting*

Four hikers ventured out on the cold morning to climb Chimney Top. The route was obvious, as someone had hiked through the snow ahead of us. The hike was steep and somewhat slippery as expected with nice views from the old airmail beacon clearing of snowy fields, dark woods, I-81, clouds which were lowering on the Unakas, and the oncoming snowstorm which blanked out all to the Southwest. It was too cold to tarry and we were soon back at the Faulkner's who are so kind to allow us to hike from their place. We arrived home at noon and before it started snowing in earnest. Hikers were Mike and Chris McGinn, Jud Barry, and Collins Chew.

## **Wilderness Wildlife Week**

*Garry Luttrell reporting*

I was at Wilderness Wildlife Week last week and went on one of their organized hikes on Friday to Brushy Mtn., which is 5 mi. up the Trillium Gap Trail from Greenbrier. It was very cold, but great on top. On another hike, I found out about an old locomotive that was wrecked and abandoned years ago, below Clingman's Dome. One of the hike leaders gave me enough information, where I think I could locate it, if any want to go on an exploration trip sometime. The Park doesn't really publicize its location, but I was told that hikers could go anywhere they want. Another spot I found out about was an old farm site, Quilliam family, located just a few miles off the road just below Chimney's picnic area, that has an interesting rock spire, waterfall, nice views, and a cave located beneath a bluff above the farm site. We didn't go to the cave, so I'd like to go back there and explore sometime, and take some pictures. We'd have to wait for the Clingman's Dome road gate to open to explore for the locomotive, but the farm site is accessible.

# **A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects**

## **Thanks for a Great Job**

*Carl Lewis reporting*

TEHCC received a \$10 check from Lewis Hicks with this note.

"My trail partner and I hiked in your territory between the two U.S. 19's from 3 to 9 April this year. Please accept the enclosed as a token of my appreciation for the good job your members do maintaining the trail.

Yours truly,  
Lewis Hicks"

## **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club Maintenance Dinner**

*Bill Stowell Reporting*

This year's Maintenance Dinner will be held on Friday February 25 starting at 5:00PM. It will be at Eastman in Bldg. 310 room 219 (same as last year). The cost should be 2-3 dollars each. Ed

Oliver and Mary Cunningham are preparing the dinner. Bring a desert if you like. Let Bill Stowell know if you are coming so we can plan on how much food to prepare.

## ATC Trail Skills Workshops

*Bill Stowell reporting*

This is a list of the trail skills workshops offered by the ATC for the year 2000. If you need further information on how to sign up, etc contact Bill Stowell, Work Phone: 423 229-5163, Home Phone: 423 239-7697.

These are good classes, so take advantage of the opportunity to learn.

Date	Workshop	Registration Deadline	Fee	Location
March 4&5	Leave No Trace		\$20	Mt Rogers NRA
March 18& 19	Crosscut Saw Techniques			TATC Cabin, Three Ridges, Virginia
April 8	Crosscut Saw Techniques			Konnarock Base Camp
April 9	Rock Work			Konnarock Base Camp
April 15	Basic Maintenance			Konnarock Base Camp
April 16	Trail Design	April 7		Konnarock Base Camp
April 29 & 30	Wilderness First Aid	April 1	*	Konnarock Base Camp
May 5 thru 7	Campsite Rehabilitation			Tye River, Virginia
May 17	Basic Maintenance			Franklin, North Carolina
June 3	National Trail Days			Great Smoky Mountains National Park
June 3	National Trail Days			Amicalola Falls State Park
June 17 & 18	Leave No Trace		\$20	Great Smoky Mountains National Park
July 15	Stone/Wood Cribbing			Great Smoky Mountains National Park

\* Fee \$80 for A.T. Club member, \$100 non-member  
Optional CPR class evening of 28 for additional \$20

Meals available for weekend for additional \$25

## December 23, Vista Improvement

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Darrol Nickels improved at least 3 vistas between Indian Grave Gap and Curley Maple Shelter. Darrol walked to the shelter for an inspection and noted that there might be small leak in the roof. This will need to be looked at occasionally to determine when repair might be needed. Total: 27 hours.

## December 31, Flagging Trail Relo at Elk Falls

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Derrick Stowell, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Bill Stowell went to Elk Falls to complete the flagging that ties in the proposed relocation by the falls on Jones Branch to the A.T. near where the Campbell Hollow relo comes into the A.T. The Falls was spectacular as the water was frozen on the falls. This completes the flagging effort. Total: 32 hours.

## January 7, Relocation Flagging

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Morgan Sommerville finalized the relocation flagging trail north and south of Laurel Fork Creek in the Bitter End area. Total: 30 hours.

## **January 8, Trail Rehab at Indian Grave Gap**

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, and Bill Stowell hiked in near Indian Grave Gap on the side trail that leads to the A.T. We did some trail rehab on some sections Ed had flagged earlier while doing some vista maintenance a few weeks ago. We also did some lopping on the sections we were rehabbing. Total: 27 hours.

## **January 11, Toll House Gap**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, and Frank Williams picked up a load of mulch from the chipping of the green and drove to Toll House Gap. The mulch was used to mulch rhododendrons and Frazer Fir trees, which had been planted previously to create a screen to block the view of the road from the A.T. Total: 15 hours.

## **January 12, White Rocks Fire Tower Area Impact**

### **Assessment**

*Ed Oliver reporting*

Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Morgan Sommerville, Ben Lawhon, Candace Allen, Amy Fore, and Terry Bowerman went to the White Rocks Fire Tower area to look at the impact a proposed mountain bike trail might have on the A.T. and a new radio tower to replace the fire tower. The mountain bike trail will be looked at further. A relocation for the A.T. will be flagged to bypass the area where the new tower will be. This flagging can be added to the Elk River Relo package. Total: 42 hours.

## **January 14, A.T. Maintenance Bitter End to Dennis Cove**

*Collins Chew reporting*

Bob Harvey, Charles Beggerow, and Collins Chew did A.T. Maintenance between Bitter End and Dennis Cove, 10.1 miles. We clipped briars, rhododendron, etc. We cut a number of small blowdowns and removed quite a bit of storm debris. We left several larger blowdowns between 0.9 miles north of Bitter End and 0.5 miles north of Moreland Gap Shelter and some more north of the Firetower. The one nearest Bitter End would be the most trouble as a duck-under for backpackers; others are not much trouble to get around, over, or under. Some backpackers told us that there were many blowdowns on the higher parts of Pond Mountain. It was a beautiful, very cold day on some steep trail with many leaves, frozen ground, and a dusting of snow. This led to tricky footing and a number of falls. Total: 30 hours.

## **January 15, 3rd Saturday Maintenance Trip for January**

*Bill Stowell reporting*

Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Mike Floyd, Bob Peoples, Ronald Batchler (Seiko), and Bill Stowell drove to the gate near Greasy Creek Gap and worked on trail rehab between Greasy Creek Gap and Clyde Smith Shelter. Also cut some small blow downs up to Little Rock Knob. Some of us have heard of a "Perri". Well, Bob and I got to see a "Carl". Carl was pulling a root, which broke. Carl went somersaulting down the hill. He did several rolls before a tree helped him stop 20 to 25 feet below the trail. He was ok. This section could use some water bars between the flat area at the old homestead and Clyde Smith Shelter. Total: 54 hours.



