

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

November
2000

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
November 11	Moonlight Hike to Grassy Ridge	E	Richard Colberg	423-288-8333
November 18	Third Saturday Work Day		Bill Stowell	423-239-7697
December 2	Guest River Gorge	M-D	Collins Chew	423-239-6237

Hike Leaders Needed!

January to June 2001 Hike Schedule Planning

Consider leading a hike in the last half of the year: a favorite place, somewhere you've always wanted to go or someplace you think would be popular with others. We live in a great area with many interesting places nearby. Sometimes we even go to far away places for hiking adventure. At any rate, it's great to lead a trip to a place where you really want to go. If you haven't led one before, there are many of us willing to teach you the ropes. If you aren't up to leading but have a desire for a hike to a certain destination, let me know and I will try to set it up. Of course, we will plan on third Saturday Maintenance as usual. To volunteer to lead a hike, just send me an e-mail note or give me a call telling me: (1) what hike you'd like to lead, (2) what day you'd like to lead it, (3) the difficulty rating (I can help you determine this), and (4) your home phone and e-mail number. Our deadline of Tuesday, October 31, 2000, has just passed, but we still need more hikes scheduled. Please consider leading a hike if you haven't sent me anything. I have nothing for January, one for February 3, none in March, hikes for April 14 and 28, one for May 5, and nothing in June.

Some suggestions include:

- Appalachian Trail
- Family/beginner hikes (Greenbelt, Warriors Path, Bays Mountain, Buffalo Mountain, Creeper Trail, Grassy Ridge, Grandfather Mountain, etc.)
- Favorite creek side or waterfall hikes
- Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area (SW Virginia)
- Cumberland Gap National Park (SW Virginia)
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Tennessee/North Carolina)

- Linville Gorge (North Carolina)

Thanks,
Collins Chew
609 Green Meadow Drive
Kingsport, Tenn. 37663
E-mail:

ATC Needs Volunteers for monitoring program

The ATC needs volunteers on the TEHCC section of the Appalachian Trail for the Natural Heritage Monitoring Program. Volunteers will be asked to visit their site at least once a year and check on the populations of rare plants or animals found there and then file a report. No experience is necessary, only interest and desire. A monitoring packet of information is provided. The N.C./Tenn. section of the Appalachian Trail has the highest density of natural heritage sites along the entire A.T. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact:

Valerie Shrader, Regional Assistant
Appalachian Trail Conference
Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee Regional Office
P. O. Box 2750
Asheville, N.C. 28802
Phone: 828/254-3708
Fax: 828/254-3754
E-mail:

Special Activity and Trip Reports

Backpack Trip in the Smokies: Camp Rock Campsite, October 14 - 15, 2000

Leader: G. S. Luttrell

We spotted a car at Elkmont, then drove to Clingmans Dome, to start our 7.5 mi. hike on a beautiful, warm day. We followed the A.T. to Double Springs, had lunch, then walked down the Goshen Prong Trail to Camp Rock Campsite. Warning signs about aggressive bears were posted throughout the area, but the only wildlife we heard was a hoot owl during the night. Fellow campers at the site included a Wisconsin couple and the wife had a seeing eye dog. On Sunday, we broke camp and hiked 7 mi., following the Little River Trail back to Elkmont. Fall colors very nice from about 2000 - 4000 ft. elevations. Participants, wondering why other TEHCC Club members or guests would miss such a great weekend for a backpack trip, included Arvell Luttrell and Garry Luttrell.

Hike Report: Hiking the A.T. near Watauga Lake, October 28, 2000

Steve Wilson reporting

We started hiking at the road crossing of Hwy 321 near Hampton, Tennessee and hiked around Watauga Lake to the dam and back. This Saturday morning hike had wonderful weather with clear skies after the morning fog lifted. We started hiking the 6 miles round trip around 9:30 AM and finished at 12:30 PM, which allowed plenty of time for the group to stop and enjoy the view of the lake and fall colors. Participating in the hike were: Diane Ball; Freda Kuo; Lee Neely; Kim Peters; Vic, Clark, Ben, & Fritz Hasler; and Steve Wilson.

Chimney Top Hike, October 29, 2000

Collins Chew reporting

Twelve hikers enjoyed the clear, cool Sunday afternoon on a hike/scramble up Chimney Top Mountain, which

has such a striking appearance from Kingsport. The leaves were nearly gone so the views were very good. Hikers were Mike Alley, Bob Cassell, Collins Chew, Emmett and Phillip Dougherty, David Gibson, Vic Hasler (and dog Fritz), Freda Kuo, Barbara and Jim Marasia, Lee Neely, and Kim Peters.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

A.T. Moonlight Hike: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, November 11, 2000

Leader: Richard Colberg, 288-8333

Rating: Moderate (5 mi)

November 11 is a full moon, and hopefully will offer clear weather. We plan to hike from Carvers Gap, enjoy the sunset and moonrise (about 5:30 PM) from the top of Grassy Ridge, and hike back in the dark. We'll meet at the parking lot between McDonald's and the former Burger King in Colonial Heights at 1:45 PM, for a 2:00 PM departure. Bring appropriate clothing (it could be cool and windy after dark), flashlight and batteries, and water and snacks. Good footwear (e.g., boots) is recommended since the trail is rocky and we'll be hiking after dark. This hike is weather dependent since we can't see the moon in overcast (or rainy) weather. Call hike leader for details.

Hike Notice: Guest River Gorge, Saturday, December 2, 2000

Leader: Collins Chew

Rating: M-D

This is a hike along a Rails-to-Trails old railroad grade beside the rushing Guest River between Coeburn, Virginia and the Clinch River. There are a number of pretty and interesting sandstone cliffs, some with colorful beds, that border the trail. If we go all the way to the Clinch River, the round trip is 12 miles but since it is in and back, the trip is only as far as we want to go; the grade is always easy, and the footway nice and even. There is about a 50 mile drive one-way. Trip will be cancelled if roads are icy. Meet at 8:00 AM between McDonalds and the former Burger King in Colonial Heights. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather; bring lunch and water. For information call Collins Chew 423/239-6237, .

Mt. Elbert, Leadville, Colorado, August/Sept 2001

Leader: Collins Chew

Several have asked me to repeat a trip like the Mt. Whitney, California trip of 1990. This trip will include doing a day of hiking to acclimate to altitude around Leadville, Colorado (10,160 ft., highest city in the US) and hike up nearby Mt. Elbert (14,433 feet, highest in Colorado, 2nd highest in the lower 48). This would take about 4 or 5 days in Leadville (motel or San Isabel NF campground) with day hikes in the spectacular high country interspersed with other local sights/activities such as a scenic railroad, mining museums (home of "The Majestic Mine" of Baby Doe fame), an underground mine tour, shopping in nearby Aspen and Vail, and hiking scenic road passes. In other words, this should even be attractive to non-hiking spouses although too late in the year for school children. The timing is to miss the crowds, let the snowfields melt, hopefully miss most of the summer thunderstorms but be too early for hard snow. We will pick the exact time later. Mt. Elbert has several trails of about 6 miles one way with a 4,000+ foot climb. It would be a day hike. Mt. Massive, next highest in the country and 12 feet lower, is just across the road and with a somewhat longer and more difficult trail. I plan a loosely organized trip with people doing their own thing but having enough for mutual support particularly on high trails. The trip could be a part of a longer Western vacation. If interested, contact Collins Chew at 423/239-6237 or .

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Projects



Tuesday, September 26, 2000 - Section 5 (Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap) - Trail Maintenance

Ed Oliver reporting

Number of People: 2 (Ed Oliver and Bill Elderbrock)

Total person-hours: $2 \times 9 = 18$

Ed Oliver and Bill Elderbrock worked on the trail from Tenn. 91 past the Iron Mountain Shelter cutting weeds and blow downs. We also painted the shelter. This section was measured for the new guide book. In all 9 hours were spent.

(Webmaster's note: due to hiker abuse, access to Turkey Pen Gap has been CLOSED.)

Tuesday, September 28, 2000 - Section 12 (Bitter End to U.S. 19E) - Check Flag Line to Jones Falls

Ed Oliver reporting

Number of People : 2 (Ed Oliver, Candace Allen)

Total person-hours: $2 \times 8 = 16$

Ed Oliver and Candace Allen went to Jones Falls on the Elk River relocation to find a safe place to view the falls. A place was found and the flag line was moved to correspond to the change. In all 8 hours each were spent on the effort.

Thursday, September 28, 2000 - Section 20 (Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap) - A.T. Measurement

Collins Chew reporting

Participants: 6 - Mike Alley, Bill Elderbrock, Freda Kuo, Garry Luttrell, Lee Neeley, Collins Chew

Total Person Hours: $6 \times 8 = 48$ hours total

Mike, Bill, Freda, Garry, Lee, and Collins measured the A.T. from Spivey Gap to the Nolichucky River on September 28, for use in a new A.T. Guide Book Revision. Total mileage went from 10.4 to 11.2 miles due to several relocations.

Saturday, September 30, 2000 - Sections 14 and 15 - A.T. Measurement

Collins Chew reporting

Participants: Charlotte and Collins Chew

Total Person Hours: $2 \times 7 = 14$

Charlotte and Collins Chew measured the planned and recent A.T. relocations on both sides of Carvers Gap and the side trail to Grassy Ridge for use in a new A.T. Guide Book Revision. Total mileage went up about 0.5 miles for the combined relocations. There were mobs of people out on this pretty autumn day. Many commented on our newly graveled trail up Round Bald and all were very complimentary of the trail and the club's effort.

Saturday, September 30, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Trail Relocation

Bill Stowell reporting

Number of People: 10 (Ed Oliver, Joe DeLoach, Steve Perri, Bill Stowell, Carl Fritz, Craig Haire, Jeff Siironen, Bill Murdock, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples)

Total person-hours: $10 \times 9 = 90$

We continued working on the trail relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road. We built a log crib from the road at Carvers Gap down into the woods to the first bridge and filled this section with gravel. We also continued work on the section between the steps at the switch back and the existing trail and gravel was hauled into the section over tree roots at the section bridge. It should take one or two additional trips to complete this section. Ed Oliver, Joe Deloach, Steve Perri, Bill Stowell, Carl Fritz, Craig Haire, Jeff Sirol, Bill Murdock, Kim Peters, and Bob Peoples were along for this effort.

Tuesday, October 3, 2000 - Section 14 (Hump Mountain to Carvers Gap) - Paint Shelter, Put in Support Posts

Bill Elderbrock reporting

Number of People : 3 (Bob Peoples, Seiko, and Bill Elderbrock)

Total person-hours: 3 X 8 = 24

Summary: Bob Peoples, Seiko (the hiker), and Bill Elderbrock drove to Carvers Gap. Seiko drove steel fence posts along the lower border of the new relocation of the trail which has not yet opened. Bob and I hiked the three miles to the Stan Murray Shelter and painted the inside of the shelter to eliminate the graffiti. The distance hiked in and out was 6 miles. It was a beautiful day and we met three southbound through hikers who had stayed at Bob's hostel two nights earlier. We also met about 15 other day hikers. The time spent was 8 hours.

Saturday, October 14, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Third Saturday Work on Trail Relocation

Bill Stowell reporting

Number of People : 13 (Hikers - Jackie Blumberg, Adam Moore, Jim Montgomery, Levi Mason, Rodney Montgomery, and Seiko; Dan Honrath (from Jonnies), Bob Peoples, David Gibson, John Thompson, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bill Stowell)

Total person-hours: 13 X 8 = 104

We had third Saturday a week early because Ed and I had to be out of town the next week. We continued work on the trail relocation from Carvers Gap to the Hack Line Road. Bob worked with one group putting 10 steps on the upper section. The rest of us hauled gravel to an area where log cribbing was used. We were delayed by a ground wasp nest under a concrete slab in the middle of where the trail needed to go. After some gas and two cans of wasp and hornet killer, work continued. We had another good turnout as Bob brought 7 recruits. Those working were: Jackie Blumberg, Adam Moore, Jim Montgomery, Levi Mason, Rodney Montgomery, and Seiko, Dan Honrath (from Jonnies), Bob Peoples, David Gibson, John Thompson, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, and Bill Stowell.

Tuesday, October 17, 2000 - Section 13 (U.S. 19E to Hump Mountain) - Regular Trail Maintenance

Bill Elderbrock reporting

Total person hours: 16 (2 x 8 hours)

Participants: Ed Oliver and Bill Elderbrock

We parked where the A.T. crosses 19E and walked to Doll Flats and back. We trimmed, cut a few blowdowns, and painted blazes both ways. We also painted the blue blazes to and from the water source near Doll Flats. The water source there was just a trickle and was very black. It might be improved with a section of pipe. We met a day hiker who was returning from Hump Mountain and he said that the trail was clear from Doll Flats to Hump Mountain. We met one through hiker going south who was trying to hike 22 miles and his goal was to stay at the barn at Yellow Mountain on Tuesday evening.

Saturday, October 28, 2000 - Section 8 (Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321) - Trail Maintenance on the A.T. near Watauga Lake

Steve Wilson reporting

Person-hours = 1 x 5 = 5

Cut briars and small tree branches with hand loppers during a hike on the A.T. section between Hwy 321 and Watauga Dam. The trail is in good shape, but two blowdowns were seen and there are some faded blazes making the trail's path confusing in the open woods near the lake. The first blowdown is about 1/4 mile in from the highway crossing, while the second tree is about 3/4 mile from the dam. Both blowdowns will need a chainsaw or cross-cut saw to cut the 8 to 10 inch log crossing the trail. The trees are around knee to waist high, thus encouraging hikers to walk around them.

Tuesday, October 31, 2000 - Section 15 (Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap) - Preparation for Upcoming Workday Trip

Bruce Cunningham reporting

Total person hours: 8 x 7 = 56 hours

Completed various projects at Carvers Gap in preparation for the upcoming workday on Saturday, November 4, when we will be joined by volunteers from a local football team. Participants: Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, David Gibson, Bob Peoples, "Seiko," and thru-hiker "Rolling Stone."