

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

March 2002

www.tehcc.org

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NEXT TWO MONTHS				
Description	Leader	Rating	Date	Phone
Various Trail Maintenance Trips	Bill Stowell			423-239-7697
Maintenance Dinner	Bill Stowell	Fun	March 1	423-239-7697
SB6000 Yellowface/Waterrock Knob	Garry Luttrell	A/3/A	March 9	423-239-9854
SB6000: Shining Rock Wilderness	Kent and Nancy Wilson	A/2/B	March 23	423-239-7554
Obed Paddle Festival	Richard Guinn		April 6-7	423-477-5711
Nantahala Outdoor Center Spring Sale and Swapmeet	Richard Guinn		April 12	423-477-5711
A.T.: McQueens Gap to Damascus	Richard Colberg	A/3/C	April 13	423-288-8333
TSRA Whitewater Rendezvous	Richard Guinn		April 17-21	423-477-5711
Massey Gap-Wilburn Ridge Loop	Collins Chew	A/2/C	April 27	423-239-6237
Spring Wildflower Hike: Pinnacle Mountain Nature Preserve - POSTPONED FROM APRIL 6	Kathy McDavid	C/4/C	April 27	423-349-4901

TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, April 12, 2002

Reporting: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854

Mark your calendar, April 12th, for the TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting at the Eastman Lodge. The social time will start at 5:15 pm, dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, and the annual awards presentations and program will begin at 6:45 pm. Further meeting details and the reservation form for the dinner will appear in the April Newsletter.

Designer and Ideas Sought for New Club T-Shirts

Several club members have expressed the desire to have available new club T-shirts. Previously we had designed shirts for the 50th Anniversary of the club. Many of those shirts are worn out and so there is now an opportunity to create a new shirt available to the general club membership. Anyone interested in providing volunteer time, designs, or ideas are welcome. To contribute, please contact Steve Perri (423-349-5091, email:).

The design volunteer will be awarded a free t-shirt and dinner at an upcoming Club Dinner Meeting.

TEHCC Members Complete CPR/First Aid Training

Steve Perri reporting:

Several members of the club are now certified in CPR and standard first aid thanks to a grant from ATC. During the month of February several of the club's members signed up for 2 evening sessions to complete the certification courses offered by the American Red Cross in Kingsport. Our CPR instructor, Tammy Heron, took pride in calling us the "Eastman Chain Saw Crew." I guess our reputation precedes us and so we are now partially certified for Chainsaw use too. So now we are more updated on our training as we are certified for CPR for a year and 3 years on the first aid. Those present for the training were: Steve Banks, Bob Clemens, Richard Colberg, Joe DeLoach, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Mike Morrow, Steve Perri, Bill Stowell.

Records: 7 hr each, except Bob Clemens only had 3 hr (59 total).

Canoeing News

No news this month.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

A.T. Hike Report - Low Gap (U.S. 421) to Damascus - February 2, 2002

Mary Ellen Ress reporting

We had a perfect day for this delightful hike from Low Gap on U.S. 421 to Damascus. The partly cloudy skies cleared by mid morning bringing bright sunny conditions. But the temperatures were quite a change from the 70's a couple of days earlier - I doubt it ever reached 40 degrees, which was a very comfortable hiking temperature as long as we kept moving. But it got cold fast when we stopped for a quick lunch at the Abingdon Gap Shelter. We'd heard there had been sightings of a pesky bear in that area last year, but we had the shelter and trail to ourselves. Collins was kept busy mapping the section and noting the blowdowns for the maintenance folks, while the rest of us just enjoyed the company and fine hiking. Once in Damascus, some of us found bargains at the outfitter's in town before the compulsory stop at Cowboy's. We had no trouble

getting to Damascus, but it sure was hard getting out of town! After several wrong turns and u-turns Collins declined to drive down the Creeper Trail, and we made our way back to Low Gap to complete the shuttle. Hiking were Nancy, Kent and Alan Wilson, Collins Chew, Freda Kuo, Brenda Whitt, Kim Peters, Phyllis Cairnes, Larry Miller and Mary Ellen Ress.



Hike Report - Spivey Gap Loop - February 8, 2002

Bob Harvey reporting:
The hike of Friday, Feb. 8 started at Spivey Gap on the Appalachian Trail. At 1.4 miles trail-north of Spivey Gap we began a loop trail that took us partly around Flattop Mountain, then over a low crest of this mountain and back to the A.T. via an unimproved Forest Service road. Then it

was 1.4 miles back to Spivey Gap, making a total distance of 12.2 miles -- but it seemed longer.

We were surprised to find that almost as if by design, we got to snow and ice as soon as we crossed the Tenn.-N.C. line on U. S. 19W on our approach to Spivey Gap. Evidently it had recently snowed in that area around three or four inches and much of it was still on the ground. That made the footing uncertain along some stretches of the trail, but it added greatly to the beauty of the scenery, particularly with the sun shining brilliantly on it all.



Our route called for leaving the A.T. and continuing on F.S. road 5506. This road was well graded, but it was only around 1.5 miles long. The continuation was F.S. trail 188, a narrow footpath, much of it being on the sides of steep slopes and with countless rhododendron branches heavy with snow hanging down in our way.

It was our good luck to be at a good level location at noon, our customary lunch time. Another bit of luck was having a couple of hikers catch up with us who could tell us where we would pick up the trail again -- it had gotten indistinct at this point. This lunch location, by the way, was hardly fifteen minutes away from the isolated former community of Lost Cove. On leaving our lunch spot, we soon got to the trail, F. S. 196; we took a right turn on it and hiked up to a low crest of Flattop Mountain, where we were treated to a panoramic view that was close to being a full circle. The air was clear and it was a pleasure to be there. After we had taken in all the beauty we could stand, we went over the crest a short distance to F. S. road 278, which took us back to the A.T. eventually.



The hikers were: Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo, Larry Miller, Kim Peters and Nancy Wilson. Except for me, they're shown in the first picture, standing at the junction of the A.T. and F. S. road 5506. The next photo was taken from one of the narrow paths on the steep slopes and it's looking south; you can almost see the Nolichucky Gorge. The last photo is

a view looking north. At the top of the pyramidal mountain in the near distance is "Ephraim Place," and if you use your imagination you can see the high part of Clinch Mountain just east of Moccasin Gap on the skyline.

There were so many picture opportunities that I came close to running out of virtual film, so I've got plenty of shots to show for this excellent hike. Anyone who would like to see a sampling of more of them, let me know.

Hike Report: Doe River Gorge - February 9, 2002

Steve Perri reporting:

Weather this year cooperated for this trip on the first try compared to my usual record for this hike. Temperatures were in the upper 50's with the sun providing warmth enough to melt the ice stalagmites hanging on the walls of the gorge. Lots of changes have occurred to the camp facilities with new cabins across the river. The railroad is partially operational up to about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in the gorge where a boulder has fallen onto the track. We watched as the motorized maintenance "speeder" drove in into the gorge on our way out. This turned out to be a very casual hike to take advantage of the weather. We were on our way home by lunchtime. Those present for this hike include: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, Greg and Martin Drone, Olin Babb, Fred Cleveland, Bob Miller, Steve Woody, Bill Stowell, and Steve Perri.

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (*Future*)

Hike Notice: South Beyond 6000 - Yellow Face and Waterrock Knob, March 9, 2002

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

Rating: A/3/A

This hike was originally scheduled for February 23rd, but is rescheduled for March 9th (due to expected arrival of new granddaughter). This will be a full day hike, with an early start and late return to Kingsport. We'll drive to Soco Gap and hike Route #2 listed in the booklet: a climb of 2000 ft. and 3 mi. following an old road and then the ridge crest to Waterrock Knob; then, another 2 mi. to Yellow Face and back to the parking lot at Waterrock Knob. This hike will involve some bushwhacking, so leather gloves and heavy clothing is recommended. Then we will follow the Blue Ridge Parkway 4 mi. back to Soco Gap. Gear for winter conditions is required. Contact the hike leader by phone or for further information.

Basic Trail Maintenance Workshop - March 16, 2002

Steve Perri reporting

Anyone interested in taking the basic trail maintenance workshop with TEHCC and ATC is welcome to attend to learn the fundamentals of trail maintenance. This includes trail drainage, cutting back growth, blazing, etc. We'll meet in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am in the parking lot below McDonalds and carpool to Iron Mountain Gap to meet up with Derek Ibarguen, our local ATC representative. Bring lunch, water, gloves, and other appropriate clothing. Those who plan on attending are encouraged to contact Steve Perri by March 13 so we can arrange/coordinate supplies, transportation, and equipment. Steve can be reached at 423-349-5091 or .

Hike to Shining Rock - Beyond 6000 Feet - March 23, 2002

Nancy and Kent Wilson reporting

On March 23, we will drive to the Blue Ridge Parkway and leave a car near the Parkway where the Art Loeb Trail begins the ascent up Black Balsam Knob (6214'), Tennent Mountain (6040'), Grassy Cove Top (6040') and on to Shining Rock (6010'). We will likely return on the Ivester Gap Trail which is an old railroad grade. The trip to Shining Rock will be approximately 10 miles roundtrip with an elevation gain of about 950 feet. These mountains are open and the views are outstanding. For those desiring an extra 6000' peak, side trips to Sam's Knob (6055'), Chestnut Bald (6025') and Mount Hardy (6120') may be attained after reaching the parking area. There is no bushwhacking on the trip to Shining Rock. Due to the long drive, we will leave the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 7:00 a.m. For more information, contact Nancy and Kent Wilson at (423) 239-7554.

Hike Notice: Massey Gap - Wilburn Ridge Loop, April 27, 2002

Leader: Collins Chew

This will be an 11 mile hike, mostly on the A.T., in Grayson Highlands State Park in Virginia. This is one of the most scenic hikes in the area with miles of open grasslands

with beautiful views and many spectacular exposures of the old volcanic rock. The climb is moderate (1500 ft.). We will start from Massey Gap and loop back to that point. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for high country at this time of year. Round trip drive about 200 miles. Meet at 8:00 A. M. on Saturday, April 27, 2002, between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. For information, call Collins Chew, 423/239-6237, email .

Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (*Past*)

Do you have questions about A.T. maintenance? Click on this handy link for stories and advice about A.T. maintenance. For even more accounts involving our own club, read the reports below.

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about/pubs/register/index.html>

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: January 29, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Clear and Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 7 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 7 X 9 = 63

Bob and Carl used chainsaws to clear the large trees in the new trail to the unnamed waterfalls. Some were fallen locusts of about 20 inches in diameter. Except for a couple of down and rotten softwood trees, most everything was cleared. Both the sawyers and the saws were low on fuel by late in the afternoon on this unusually warm day. Likewise, the five other maintainers were low on fuel after clearing and digging about 200 feet of trail nearer Walnut Mountain Road.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: February 16, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Trail Relocation

Number of People: 12 (John Arwood, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Craig Deloach, Joe Deloach, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Dan Grace, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 12 X 9 = 108

Bruce did some clearing, while we dug about 300 feet of trail. The duff was a wonderful foot thick with rhododendron roots dispersed throughout! David Gibson asked why there seemed to be no earth worms in the Tennessee soil. That was enough inspiration to keep us digging in the afternoon. We did find two worms even though they were small. We were glad to meet and have two new and very hard workers in John Arwood and Dan Grace, who are members of the Sierra Club.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: February 19, 2002

Section: 12 near Walnut Mountain Road

Purpose: Dig Trail Relocation

Number of People: 7 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 7 X 8 = 56

The B-Team of Bob, Bruce and Bill installed six steps at a switchback. They then assisted the four others in digging trail. A long and three-foot deep mound of duff and rhododendron roots was conquered in the afternoon. We did successfully put in 260 feet of trail today.

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Date: Friday, February 22, 2002

Participants: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock and David Gibson

Total person hours: 3 X 10 hrs. = 30 hrs.

Project: Preparation for 2/23 work trip to Curley Maple Gap Shelter.

Made final measurements at the shelter, FOUND, clipped and cleared the old A.T. going up hill from the shelter to the Forest Service road so materials (4'x8'plywood, etc.) could be carried in. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE OLD A.T. HAS BEEN CLEARED!!!

Bruce Cunningham reporting:

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2002

Participants: Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Ron Davidson, Craig and Joe DeLoach, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver and Bob Peoples

Total person hours: 10 x 8 hrs. = 80 hrs.

David Gibson, as A.T. shelter chief, provided leadership and the group carried the necessary materials and tools, and rejuvenated and re-floored the shelter deck. The crew also upgraded the terrace in front of the shelter by locating a locust tree, felling it and transporting it to the shelter where it provides a wall at the front edge of an area which was filled with many buckets full of dirt mined nearby - making a level space under roof where the picnic table is now located. This dirt was also put around the cement support where dirt had washed away. The roof was swept, and judged to be "rustic" looking and leak-free.

Carl Fritz reporting:

Date: February 26, 2002

Section: mostly 12

Purpose: Build bog bridges

Number of People: 6 (Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams)

Total person-hours: 6 X 6 = 36

On this wintry day we constructed six bog bridges of twelve foot length. Extra money in our Recreation fund was used to purchase these materials near year-end. There was some debate about which team of three drilled some crooked holes when the threaded rods did not fit easily during assembly. We hope that assembly of these 2x4"s will eliminate their warping. We expect to use these bridges later this year in constructing trail relocations. Thanks go to Joe DeLoach for providing the work site and dry storage for these bridges and materials.

