

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

September 2005

www.tehcc.org

**Note:** The deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month's newsletter is the 15th of the month!

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<b><u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u></b>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Sept 8-11	Hazel Creek Backpack (S900M)	A/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Sep 10	A.T. Beauty Spot to Pleasant Garden	B/3/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Oct 1	Laurel Fork Falls (F/B)	C/3/C	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493
Oct 9 (Sunday)	Lakeside Trail at Bays Mt. Park (for Eastman Worldwide Technical Conference)	C/4/D	Debi Berry	423-348-6127
Oct 22-23	Doe River Gorge	B/3/D	Steve Falling	423-239-5502

*For an explanation of the hike ratings, see [Hiking Schedule](#).*

## For the Record - 2005 Konnarock Crew

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

In 2005 we had three weeks of support from the Konnarock Crew for our continuing series of relocations on White Rocks Mountain. We normally ask for and receive more than three weeks of Konnarock Crew support, but asked for less this year because of our heavy involvement with the ATC biennial conference at ETSU. The A.T. between Bitter End and the site of the former White Rocks Fire Tower was characterized by many, many unnecessary short and sharp ups and downs, some through wet areas where erosion

easily occurs. We have flagged seven individual relocations to move the Trail to a more stable sidehill grade. Several relocations have already been completed due to Club, Crew, Hard Core, other thru-hiker, and student group support. This summer we tackled one almost 1/2 mile in length just south of the Moreland Gap Shelter. The project was a long way in and we hit some pretty rocky terrain during the construction, but we still managed to complete about 1600 feet of new Trail construction and opened most of the relocation. About 500 feet remains to be constructed. There are two more relocations left on White Rocks Mountain, one north and one south of the shelter. We expect to complete these in 2006.

We have been told and statistics indicate that we generally have some of the best support for volunteer Trail crews such as Konnarock of any A.T.-maintaining club. This year we had 14 volunteers who worked 547 hours with the Crew, a total of 63 person-days. In addition, five employees of Price Waterhouse each spent a day working with the Crew as part of a community service project, an additional 45 hours. Though that's a decent turnout in a year where we have been very busy, it would have been good to have more volunteers come out. By comparison, in 2000 we had 44 volunteers work over 1000 hours in three weeks, and in 2002 we had 27 volunteers work over 1300 hours, also in three weeks. We rely much too heavily on a few stalwarts, and are very fortunate that we've been able to augment their efforts with student groups and hikers. In 2006 we'll have five weeks and a new location after completing this project, so we really hope to have more Club volunteers. Evidence of our stalwarts comes from having seven Club volunteers work at least five days and earn the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. Those volunteers were Paul Benfield, Craig DeLoach, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and Bill Stowell. Those seven gentlemen together accounted for 75% of all the Club hours this summer. We greatly thank them, and all the other Club volunteers who came out. Those include Donna Ashby, Bruce and Mary Cunningham, Scott Davis, Joe DeLoach, Mary Fanslow, and Dana Koogler.

### **ATC Southern Region Multi-Club Conference Cancelled**

The Multi-Club Event for 2005 has been cancelled due to extremely low turnout. All registrants have been notified of the cancellation and their checks have been returned. The purpose of this email is to inform other interested parties of the cancellation and ask them to spread the word to club members who may have been considering attending the event without registering in advance.

The decision to cancel was difficult considering the history of the event and the amount of effort that NBATC and many other parties expended in planning the event; but the decision was also very easy and quite obvious considering the low turnout. The expectation of people to come to the event to meet, hike, camp and socialize with people from the other clubs could not have been met due to the low turnout.

We have received general feedback from several clubs that with the Regional Partnership Meetings and The Biennial Meeting in the same year there was too little need and time for yet another meeting.

### **Call for Hikes: October - December 2005**

*Neil Dotson, quietly pleading*

It is time to get the hiking schedule together for the 4th quarter of the year. To schedule a hike, send a note or call me to let me know:

- what hike you'd like to lead (where),
- what day you'd like to lead it (when), and
- the difficulty rating (see current calendar for the rating system, but if this is confusing, I will try to help).

I'd like all responses by **Monday, September 19**. Calling might be preferable, especially as that date approaches, so that I can tell you what Saturdays are without hikes.

As for where to hike, for Saturday hikes people have gone to places as near as Bays Mt. or Warrior's Path, and as distant as the Smokies, Cumberland Gap, the Mt. Rogers area, Grandfather Mt., and Linville Gorge. (I don't know if anyone has ever tackled Frozen Head, but why not?) Thanks for considering leading a hike!

Neil Dotson

quarterly schedule coordinator

423-224-0557 (days)

e-mail:

## **Reminder to Eastman Chemical Company Retirees**

*Richard Colberg reporting*

If you plan to retire from Eastman and would like to continue receiving the TEHCC newsletter, please send an email to Richard Colberg () with your home e-mail address (if you have e-mail at home) as well as your home street address. We prefer to send the newsletter via e-mail to save us time and money, and so you can receive it (and any late hike notices) in a more timely manner. However, we would also like your street address so we can still reach you if your e-mail address changes. Thanks.

## **TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-7 - 2 Person Backpacking Tent**

*Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator ()*

HT-7 is an older (probably 1999) two person REI half dome backpacking tent. Two person means just enough floor space for two people to sleep with the backpacks and other gear outside (no vestibule). It has a light average weight (5 lb, 8 oz). The set of three thin aluminum poles and stakes can be carried by one person, while the other has the tent, fly, and a thick walled plastic sheet to use as a ground cloth (needed to protect the bottom of the tent!). It is quickly assembled into a free-standing tent. I slept in it during the August 12th weekend at Roan Mountain (including nighttime rain). It is in usable condition (one repaired hole in the netting), but has a noticeable musty odor from when someone didn't take the time to ensure that it was completely dry. (Please take the extra day or two, if needed, to hang or set up a tent to let it dry out □ even if just from a heavy morning dew!) The steering committee has agreed to lower the rental rate to "C" (\$2 for 1-4 days, \$3 for 5-10 days). For the cheap □ here's an option.

HT-6 was its twin. This tent has been removed from the rental system as it had a broken pole (they will bend, but only to a limit), multiple cuts in the netting, and a heavy musty odor. The fly and second pole will be kept as spare parts for HT-7. Plans are to replace it with another REI Half Dome 2 tent, but an upgraded one that has separate doors on both long

sides and vestibules (for those stinky hiking boots). Estimated cost is \$159 plus shipping and tax.

Also, the steering committee has decided to put more detailed equipment information on the TEHCC website as links from the main listing. This information will be similar to what is in the current black 3-ring binder in Bldg 310, and include comments on the specific condition of our equipment.

## Seeking Nominees for TEHCC Steering Committee

*Submitted by Vic Hasler*

TEHCC is seeking nominees for the Steering Committee. This six member group is responsible for managing all the affairs of the club. Primary responsibilities are overseeing and approving the spending of the club's money, giving out annual awards and planning the dinner meetings that are held twice per year. Membership on the Steering Committee a good way to become familiar with club activities and to get to know other TEHCC members. You do not need to be an experienced hiker/paddler or be familiar with trails/rivers in this area to participate. You do, however, need to be a current Eastman employee, LSE or retiree. Elections will be held in December and elected members start their term in January. Steering Committee members serve a two-year term and three new members are elected each year. So if you want to meet new people, help spend other people's money, put on a great party, or know of someone else who might be interested, please contact Kent Wilson (), Vic Hasler (), or any other [Steering Committee member](#).

## TEHCC Welcomes a New Member

Tommy Russell

New members are eligible for a free dinner at the next Dinner Meeting.

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

*For an explanation of the hike ratings, see [Hiking Schedule](#).*

**Backpacking Trip: 900 Miler, Hazel Creek, Sept 8-11, 2005**

*Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854*

Rating: A/3/B

This hike will be much like two previous enjoyable trips, Lakeshore Trail and Settlers Trail trips, since we'll again be exploring historical sites of early residents before the Park existed. We'll ride the marina boat shuttle across Fontana Lake to Hazel Creek and, over four days, casually hike to the trailhead at the "tunnel to nowhere" and Lakeside Drive. The itinerary: Thurs, 9/8: Leave Colonial Heights 6:30 am, stop for breakfast after Asheville, spot a car at the "tunnel to nowhere", board boat shuttle before noon, hike from Proctor to Campsite 83 (5.6 mi, 600 ft climb) for two nights. Fri, 9/9: Explore Bone Valley Tr, Jesse "Crate" Hall farm, Kress mansion site, remnants of Ritter Lumber Company, Hazel Creek Tr, trout fish (Hiker's choice). Sat, 9/10: Hike Cold Spring Gap Tr, side trip to High Rocks, Bear Creek Tr to Campsite 75 (8.9 mi, 2000 ft climb). Sun, 9/11: Hike Bear Creek, Forney Creek, Whiteoak Branch, & Lakeshore Trails to the "tunnel"(7.7 mi, 800 ft climb), drive to Kingsport. There will be numerous creek crossings, so a stout hiking stick and water shoes

are recommended. Hikers will need to bring 3 breakfasts, 3-4 lunches (we can get lunch on Thursday in Bryson City), 3 dinners, snacks, tents or hammocks for the primitive campsites, and we can share water purification equipment, campstoves, fuel, etc. Since we will be using campsites, the number of hikers is limited to eight (you must notify me, and I'll take the first eight reservations, with additional names on a waiting list, in the order received). Contact me by phone or email ( ) to reserve your spot. The costs of boat shuttle (\$10 per person) and high priced gas will be shared by all hikers.

**Bone Valley:** The name came from the bleached bones of a cattle herd that perished here in the 1870's when a late spring blizzard caught them by surprise. A lower valley farmer miscalculated the end of winter and was driving the herd to the high altitude balds for summer pasturing.

**"Crate" farm:** Crate, Mary, and their four children, settled in Bone Valley in 1877. By 1892, the number of kids had grown to 13, so they built a new, larger cabin. This house is the most remote historic structure in the Park, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **A.T. Hike: Beauty Spot to Pleasant Garden, September 10, 2005**

*Leader: Vic Hasler*

Rating: *B/3/C (6-8 miles round trip/moderate pace/average terrain □ for this area)*



This hike is listed as a TEHCC favorite hike. I would like to go from Beauty Spot - a natural grassy bald (summit 4,437 feet) on the A.T. over to Pleasant Mountain overlook and back. This is roughly 3-4 miles each way on the A.T. and USFS road, although it is possible to stage a car at the latter for those wanting a much shorter hike. On a clear day, there are spectacular views of Roan Mountain, the Black Mountains, Big Bald and Flattop Mountains, and the upper Toe River Valley. Blueberries might still be in

season for a snack. The drive is down to Erwin then onto TN-395 (Indian Grave Gap) to USFS-230. Neil Dotson says he has been to Beauty Spot in a Saturn, a Civic, and minivan. Bring lunch and water, comfortable boots or sneakers, rain gear and appropriate clothing. There are 3-5 geocaches along the road/trail to be hunted. Disclaimer □ I have not done this hike before, so trip may be adventurous (but likely no bushwacking). Meet at the usual spot in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. Return by 4PM. E-mail ( ) or call 239-0388 if any questions and to let me know if you are coming to know headcount.

**Family/Beginner: Laurel Fork Falls, October 1, 2005 (note change in date)**

*Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-323-3493*

Rating: C/3/C

To the north of Doe River Gorge □ where Steve Falling is leading a hike later in October □ is Laurel Fork gorge, and one of its beauties is Laurel Fork Falls. We will approach the falls via the A.T. from Dennis Cove rather than Hampton. A good share of the walk is on old railroad grade, but around the creek crossing there □s a bit of climbing, if my memory serves, and there is the long walk down the many steps to the falls. We □ll need to mind the children in these areas □ as well as at the falls! □ but it should be worth it, since all ages should be delighted by the water falls. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 8:30 a.m. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Dress appropriately for an early fall hike and bring adequate water. We should be out by 1:00 or so, and may catch a late lunch in Elizabethton or thereabouts.

### **Doe River Gorge Overnight Trip; October 22-23, 2005**

*Leader: Steve Falling, 423-239-5502*

Rating: C/4/C(Easy)



The Hiking Club has reservations for 24 overnight visitors in two cabins at beautiful Doe River Gorge, Hampton, TN. We are timing this trip to enjoy the autumn foliage. DRG is an easy 60 minute drive from Kingsport. Since the cabins are only a short walk from the parking area it is hard to really call this an overnight hike. But the plan is to drop off our food and belongings at the cabin then take an easy hike up the gorge along an old railroad bed. Of course it is fine to do something else like relax at the cabin overlooking the river.



We have reserved the large riverside cabin and one small riverside cabin. Here is what their website, [www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities.php](http://www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities.php), says about the cabins: "A short walk across the footbridge leads to the large cabin nestled in a beautiful stand of mature hemlocks along the bank of the Doe River. This rustic, yet elegant log cabin, complete with central heat and air and fireplace, sleeps a total of 20 people in 2 rooms with comfortable bunk-style beds. Each bunk area has 2 private bathrooms. The cabin also includes a kitchen and a large, tastefully furnished living area suitable for group gatherings. Relax in a rocker on the large, covered porch overlooking the beautiful Doe River as it flows through the scenic gorge. Small Riverside Cabins (2 units): Near the large cabin, our

small cabins also have central heat and air and sleep up to 10 people in comfortable bunk-style beds. Each cabin has a kitchenette, 2 full private bathrooms, living area with woodstove, and a porch overlooking the Doe River."



The cost per person is \$22.00. This price only covers lodging (bring sleeping bags or sheets/blankets) so we will make arrangements for the preparation of supper and breakfast. We only have reservations for 24 people, so call in your request before sending money. To make a reservation or for more information call Steve Falling, 239-5502.

### **Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)**

Nothing to report this month.

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

**Name:** John Arwood

**Date:** June 18, 2005

**Purpose:** Blazing & Weeding

**Location:** Section 7 - From the trailhead at Watauga Dam Road.

**People:** Catherine Batts, John Arwood

**Summary:** We white blazed & weeded from the trail head at Watauga Dam Road north to the spring at 2.7 miles in. The rest of this section was blazed on our previous trip.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** August 15, 2005

**Purpose:** Scheduled maintenance trip

**Location:** Section 17, from Cherry Gap Shelter south to the access trail near Low Gap

**People:** Gil Derouen, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko, Dave McMillin, CB Willis.

**Summary:** Cleared blowdowns and laurel thickets on access road and on the AT. Dug large rocks, which were obstructing safe travel, from the trail. Cleaned all water bars in this area of silt, mud and debris (about 80 waterbars). Improved the treadway in places. Spent much time and effort to stabilize the spring at the shelter. This was done by removing the old pipes, replacing with new, larger pipes. The new pipes were anchored much better than previously and are providing an improved water flow from the spring.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** August 19, 2005

**Purpose:** Mow the Trail across Osborne Tract

**Location:** Section 4, Osborne Tract on Cross Mt.

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** Jim Mann is recovering from surgery, so I took a turn at mowing the AT across

the Osborne Tract. Thanks to Jim's efforts through the year it was in great shape already. Nice place to spend an evening.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** August 24, 2005

**Purpose:** Prepare for ASU Outing

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Mike Hupko, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Flagged 1800 feet of trail to be dug with up to 12 teams of Appalachian State University students this coming Saturday.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** August 27, 2005

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

**Location:** Section 17, Trail south of Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** TEHCC members included Paul Benfield, Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Bob Miller, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, and Jeff Sirola; plus 99 ASU participants!!

**Summary:** The freshmen from Watauga College of Appalachian State University (ASU) joined us again this year to work on the trail. 13 TEHCC members, 5 professors, 5 ASU Trail Maintenance Club members, and 6 sophmores participated. We successfully dug 1800 feet of trail and installed a number of side logs. There is some minor tidying up work needed in several spots, but it is very close to being completed. Camaraderie was built today in achieving this goal. Thanks for everyone's help!