

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

October 2005

www.tehcc.org

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

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Fall Dinner Meeting](#)
- [TEHCC Rental Equipment](#)
- [Seeking Nominees for TEHCC Steering Committee](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [Hot Springs to Celebrate Appalachian Trail Town Status](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(Future\)](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(Past\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)

<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
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 15	Mt. Mitchell	A/2/A	Joe Deloach	423-234-0374
Oct 19 (Wed)	A.T.: Sams Gap to Spivey Gap	AA/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Oct 20 (Thurs)	A.T.: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River	A/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Oct 21 (Friday)	A.T.: Nolichucky River to Indian Grave Gap	B/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Oct 21-23	Dry Sluice Gap (S900M)	AA/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Oct 22	A.T.: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mt. Gap	A/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Oct 22-23	Doe River Gorge	B/3/D	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
Oct 23 (Sunday)	A.T.: Hughes Gap to Iron Mt. Gap	B/2/C	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Nov. 4	Fall Dinner Meeting	Fun	Vic Hasler	
Nov. 5	Roundtop Trail (S900M)	B/2/C	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854

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

Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Fall Dinner Meeting
November 4, 2005

Make your reservations now to attend the Fall Dinner Meeting!

When: Friday, November 4th, 2005 starting at 6:00 pm
Where: Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Program: "China" Presented by Collins Chew
China is much in the news these days. The huge, progressive cities, the poor and primitive country, great projects, fascinating scenery and history, and unique feathered dinosaur fossils distinguish this very interesting country that is developing and changing so fast. Collins Chew will present a slide show to entertain you by presenting this land of contrasts with many of its facets.

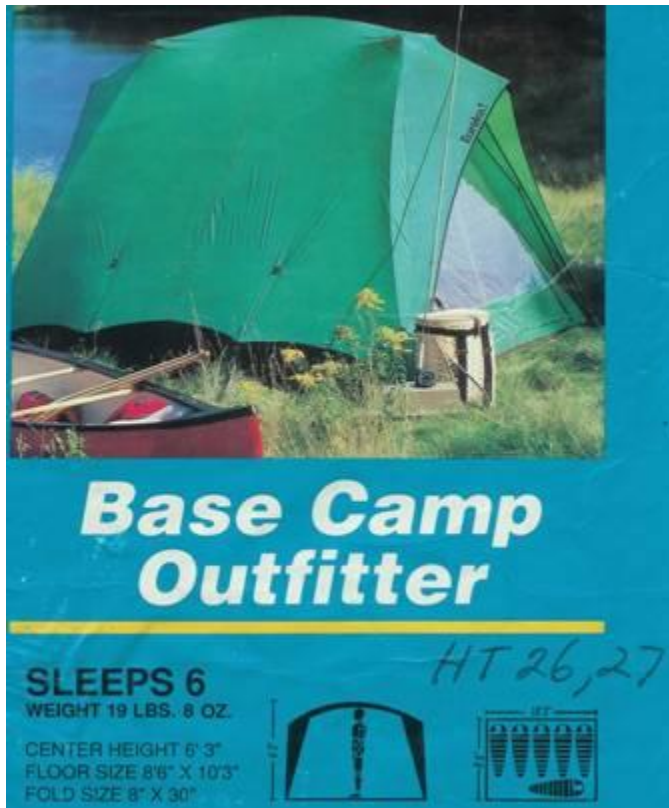
Note: Reservations need to be received by **October 28**. Click [here](#) to open printable form.

TEHCC Rental Equipment
HT-26 and 27, 6 Person Base Camp Tents

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,
HT-26 and 27 are brown (not green like the picture) Eureka! Base Camp Outfitter 6 tents purchased around 2002-03 (current cost is \$300). At 18-19 pounds each, these tents serve as a base or car camp for hiking in an area, but are not suitable as a backpacking tent. Six people are reasonable if two are parents with small children, but tight for six adults □ especially in this age of supersizing. Note the 8.5' x 10' floor layout shows sleeping bags only. Best would be four sleeping bags in a row with some space for small gear along one side of the tent. Six scouts with all their overnight gear would be very crowded.

The design is a classic freestanding A-frame on steroids, which can be set up by two people. (Possible, but really difficult for one, but where are the others?) Make sure that you have 14 stakes before leaving Bldg 310 □ and check the assembly instructions, which are now being linked to the rental equipment webpage for on-line reference.

Both tents are in great shape, although during the 2005 annual inspection, HT-26 was observed to have been turned in with lots of leaf litter. Please take the time to make sure the tent is dry, cleaned out, and zippers closed before folding. Pack a small whisk broom, if necessary. Finally, remember tents are for sleeping and not an all-day playroom □ especially on hot days.



Seeking Nominees for the 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 is 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 New Members

Roger Colberg Jeff King
Robert L. Fox Keith Rouse

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

Hot Springs to Celebrate Appalachian Trail Town Status

Join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on October 3rd for License Plate Celebration and A.T. Sidewalk-Emblem Ribbon-Cutting

HOT SPRINGS, N.C. □ At a celebration in Hot Springs, the only North Carolina town the Appalachian Trail passes through, former State Senator Joe Sam Queen will be advocating the purchase of a license plate as a new way for the public to be involved in trail stewardship. Senator Queen was responsible for getting the Friends of the Appalachian Trail license plate authorized by the North Carolina legislature. This new source of revenue (\$20 from each plate) for the nonprofit ATC will help the organization expand its community and school outreach programs - in search of more volunteers to help preserve the natural and cultural resources along the famous footpath. Mayor Deborah Ponder and Senator Queen will be presenting ATC with a replica of the initial \$10,000 check from the Division of Motor Vehicles, and kicking off a campaign to sell more than 5,000 plates by the end of 2006.

Following the check presentation, Mayor Ponder and other officials will dedicate new A.T. sidewalk emblems, made by Hand Made in America, with a ribbon-cutting. The diamond-shaped emblems are being placed along the Appalachian Trail where it passes through the town to promote the Trail as well as the town and their relationship. David Quinn, from the Small Cities Program, states that the emblems □ were made to appreciate the A.T. as an important natural resource for the town of Hot Springs. There are so many assets that the town has, and we want to bring attention to them. We are very happy and appreciative to have partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, the ATC and the town of Hot Springs that have made this possible.□

Light refreshments will follow the ceremony which starts at 11:00am.

For more information contact Julie Judkins, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, 828-254-3708,

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)

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

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.

Mt. Mitchell, October 15, 2005

Leader: Joe DeLoach, 423-753-7263;

Rating: A/2/A

Even though it's the highest mountain in the Eastern U. S., the views from Mt. Mitchell are often not good. But, October's bright blue weather can bring the best times of the year for a visit. This year has an added attraction. The lookout tower which has been atop the mountain since 1959 is scheduled for demolition late this year and replacement with a handicap-accessible structure in 2006. The current 30' tall tower, the fourth on Mt. Mitchell since the first was built in 1915, has been determined to be weakening due to age and the extreme conditions on the summit. The trail to the summit will also be reconstructed when the tower is replaced. That short trail is the easy way to reach Mt. Mitchell; there are much more challenging routes from the valley floor across the rugged Black Mountain crest. We'll check the wishes of the group on route selection but lean towards either a) the steep but direct climb from Black Mt. Campground, an 11 mile round trip with an elevation gain of around 3700' (source of the listed rating), or b) a much easier and very scenic route from the Blue Ridge Parkway on the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail and the Old Mt. Mitchell Trail. If you're interested, please let Joe know in advance; I won't be at the parking lot if no one tells me they want to go. We'll plan to leave Kingsport at 7:30 AM, and hikers will need to be prepared for changeable weather; it has snowed every month of the year on Mt. Mitchell and certainly can in October.

A.T. Series Hike, October 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, 2005

Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson, 423-23-7554

We have a hiking friend from Delaware who will be in town to do the following hikes:

Wed Oct 19: Sam's Gap to Spivey Gap, 13.3 miles.

Thurs Oct 20: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky, River 11.2 miles.

Fri Oct 21: Indian Grave Gap to the Nolichucky River, 8.3 miles.

Sat. Oct 22: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mt Gap, 10.8 miles.

Sun Oct 23: Hughes Gap to Iron Mt Gap, 9.1 miles.

If you are interested in joining us for any or all of the above hikes give us a call and we will set up a meeting place.

Backpacking Trip: Smokies 900 Miler, Dry Sluice Gap Trail, Oct. 21 - 23.

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

Rating: AA/3/A

This will be a three day trip, starting at Newfound Gap and ending at the Hyatt Ridge Trailhead at Straight Fork Road. We'll start at higher elevations and will end at lower elevations, but there'll be climbs and descents each day. On Friday we'll need to get an early start since we'll hike 9.7 miles, 1800 ft climb, 3200 ft descent, following the A.T., Dry Sluice Trail, and Cabin Flats Trail to Campsite 49. Saturday: Hike 6.7 miles, 2800 ft climb, 1400 ft descent, following Cabin Flats Trail, Bradley Fork Trail, Hughes Ridge Trail, and Enloe Creek Trail to campsite 47. Sunday: Hike 2.9 miles, 800 ft climb, 1600 ft descent, following Enloe Creek Trail and Hyatt Ridge Trail to Straight Fork Road. Hikers will need to bring 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, snacks, tents or hammocks for the primitive campsites. We can share water purification equipment, camp stoves, fuel, etc. Since we will be using campsites, the number of hikers is limited to eight. Contact me by phone or to reserve your spot. The costs of high priced gas will be shared by all hikers.

Dry Sluice: A small, narrow valley or gorge where the stream disappears underground for a distance, then re-emerges above ground.

Cabin Flats: Contains an old growth forest that escaped lumber company clear-cutting.

Enloe: Brothers Wes and Abraham Enloe settled in the Oconaluftee River area in 1804 and managed a farm. One of the farmhands, Nancy Hanks, became pregnant while working on the farm; and, there was some dispute on which brother fathered the child. Wes helped the girl to relocate to Kentucky, where she raised her son, Abraham. Supposedly, there's a strong resemblance of the Enloe family to the former president, Abraham Lincoln.

Most of the Enloe Trail is in a virgin forest, and there are many waterfalls and cascades along the route.

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, 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*)

Trip Report: Little Stoney Creek Falls, August 20, 2005

Hike Leader: Vic Hasler

Proviso □ Although no one showed up for one of my favorite hikes, I went anyway, but it is not a good idea to hike solo. So here's what you missed An enjoyable drive up with stops at the Scott County veterans' memorial and the grave of David Cocke, a private in Daniel Boone's militia during the Indian Wars who had a farm in Virginia. A steady hike up along the Little Stoney Creek, which was at a high flow due to all the rain this summer. The lower falls were a wide curtain of white cascading down the steep rock face, while the upper fall jetted out into a deep pool. The water was nicely cool for wading on this hot day. The forest was a lush green canopy with dots of red Indian paintbrush, various colored fungi, and yellow butterflies. The only sounds were the splashing water and locust with very few folks at the falls. A boulder was climbed to enjoy the vista during lunch. Some clipping maintenance was done along the trail, which has had a section relocated in the past three years to move it above the stream. The trip home had a stop at a gas station to pick up a brown cow ice cream bar and a frosty cold Diet Coke, and so was home by 4PM. These types of pleasures can be shared with others, so please join a TEHCC hike in the future.

Trip Report - A.T. Hike: Beauty Spot to Pleasant Garden, September 10, 2005

Leader: Vic Hasler

On a clear, beautiful early fall-like day, only my older son Clark and I showed up for this TEHCC favorite hike. We had a great time exploring several sections on the A.T. along Forest Service Road 230. South of Indian Grave Gap we met Steve Wright (Bldg 500) and Tom Ecay (ETSU) leading a Boy Scout troop. The views from Beauty Spot were excellent as my son and I pointed out and discussed which peaks we had covered in past hikes. Instead of hiking to Pleasant Gardens on Unaka Mountain, we decided to drive to avoid the backtracking. The access spur was a bit rough for a Ford Taurus, but passable. We added an extra stop to check out Red Fork Falls, which had a good flow of water down the cascade. A final stop at DQ in Johnson City had us back in Kingsport by

2:30 so that both family cars could be hand washed. During the evening, Clark commented to my wife that he had a fun day with his dad.

Trip Report: Smokies 900 miler, Hazel Creek, September 8-11, 2005

G. S. Luttrell reporting

This was an interesting trip for wildlife, to say the least. We had nine bear sightings □ one mama bear with 3 cubs, one mama bear with 2 cubs, a nuisance bear raid on our Bone Valley campsite, another solo bear on our Saturday hike across Welch Ridge, and an encounter with 8 wild hogs. We also saw a dead copperhead.

The barge ride from the marina was enjoyable, especially since we had just enough time to consume our sub sandwiches purchased in Bryson City. The barge left us at the mouth of Hazel Creek and we started out hiking up the creek. We passed remnants of past logging activities, including a large kiln, and valve houses and gauging station for the various splash dams in the area. The bear excitement began on Thursday evening when Debi saw a mama and three cubs while exploring our first campsite. On Friday, we hiked up Bone Valley, which involved four significant creek crossings most of which could be rock hopped; but a few hesitant hikers removed boots and waded in the cold water rather than chance getting wet boots and socks on only the second day out. We visited Craten Hall's cabin, the nearby remnants of the S. H. Kress mansion, and the Hall graveyard. There's got to be an interesting story behind the Hall gravesites of a 69 year old lady and a 2 year old girl (granddaughter?) who died on the same day in 1884. We ate lunch back at camp and then hiked half way up the Hazel Creek trail. We returned to camp after hiking a total of 14 miles that day. Later that evening, Kim left her food bag for just a few minutes. A bear grabbed the bag, took it across the creek, and had supper at Kim's expense. The funny thing was, when Kim returned, she said "Oh look, that bear's got our neighbor's food. Do you think we should tell them?" Then, the truth struck, "Hey, that's my bag!" The rest of us who still had food, pooled our resources to keep Kim fed for the rest of the hike. The bear continued to circle and came back to camp several times looking for food. We chased him off each time. During the night, he (or his friend) came through camp again, brushing tents and hammocks and scaring their occupants. He didn't find anything though as we were extra careful to hang our food well out of reach. On Saturday, I was the last one to leave camp, due to fly fishing since daybreak. As I was hiking up the trail, I looked ahead and trotting towards me were 8 black, wild hogs. Fortunately I startled them, so they did a 180 and trotted in the opposite direction. Later that day, we enjoyed a somewhat hazy view of Fontana Lake from High Rocks on Welch Ridge, then continued on to our campsite for Saturday night at Poplar Flats. On the side trail to High rocks, we saw a beautiful flower, Monk's Hood, which although is very poisonous, is the basis for the heart and nerve medicine, Aconite. Our last wildlife encounter was less dramatic: a dead copperhead, with a smashed head, from a horse, no doubt. The hikers on this trip are shown in the photo sitting on Crate's Cabin steps, from the top, Kim Peters, Taylor Pickard, Randall Simpson, Debi Berry, Garry Luttrell, and Owen Holbrook.



Click on image to enlarge. Photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell and Kim Peters



Owen boarding the barge for the ride across Fontana Lake.



Owen, Taylor, Debi, Randall and Kim eating lunch on the barge.



Garry on the barge.



The barge captain.



Getting off the barge at Hazel Creek.



An old kiln on Hazel Creek.



A valve house for a splash dam.



A river gauge.



Taylor, Owen and Randal rock-hopping on the hike up Bone Valley.



Debi and Taylor creek crossing.



Owen and Taylor rock-hopping.



Remains of the Kress Mansion.



Bear tracks.



Hammock Camp on the creek.



Bear eating stolen food.



Monk's Hood.



A Fungus.



Wide Leafed Coneflower



View from High Rocks.



Group taking a break at Forney Creek.



Copperhead (dead)



The last shuttle ride! Owen, Randall and Taylor.

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

Name: John Arwood

Date: August 21, 2005

Purpose: Weed, prune, blaze water trail, check shelter

Location: Section 7, North from Watauga Dam Road.

People: Catherine Batts and John Arwood.

Summary: There were few weeds to whack along the first 2.7 miles to the spring crossing. The rest of the way to Vandeventer Shelter, there was more than enough weeding and pruning to give us a good workout. We removed a fair amount of trash from in and around the shelter. Because of the considerable amount of time spent weeding and pruning, we were only able to blue blaze the beginning of the water trail before night fall sent us packing back to the trailhead.

Name: Carl Fritz reporting

Date: August 29, 2005

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 13, Trail south of Apple House Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Mike Hupko, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, HIKER Roger Colberg, PROFESSOR Rachel Brand, STUDENTS Jessee Thomas, Ray Dukes, Jess McEnaney, Moon Honey, Scott Eneix, Alex Cohen, Pete Wenzler, Mike Duncan, Tony Shreck, Zach Fletcher, EXTRA Gary Evans

Summary: Club members, a hiker from Charlotte, NC, and students from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio completed a 400 foot relocation trail south of Apple House Shelter.

Name: Carl Fritz reporting

Date: September 13, 2005

Purpose: Improve water supply at Moreland Gap Shelter

Location: Section 11, Moreland Gap Shelter

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Thompson

Summary: With the dry season, it is very hard for hikers to collect any water at Moreland Gap Shelter. A better spring source was located several hundred feet below the current water supply. Twenty feet of four-inch drain line was installed as well as a plastic bucket for a reservoir. Temporary signage was installed to let hikers be aware of the second source of water.

The group celebrated Bill Elderbrock's and Ed Oliver's birthdays with cup cakes and song. Bill admitted to being 39. Ed thought under those circumstances he was not over

29.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: September 13, 2005

Purpose: Repair barbed wire fences on Round Bald

Location: Section 14, Carvers Gap to Round Bald

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko

Summary: We installed about a roll and a half of barbed wire and appropriate posts. We added a new section at the second switchback. We added two more strands of wire to the upper fence at rock, and we added essentially two more fences across the short opening at old A.T. closer to Carvers Gap. All of this is necessary because day hikers are determined to walk off the graveled trail in concentrated paths that then badly erode the fragile soil and plant life. Walking off trail is okay as long as trails do not begin to form.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: September 14, 2005

Purpose: Repair muddy trail and clip

Location: Section 18, from Beauty Spot Gap to Indian Grave Gap

People: Mike Hupko, Bob Miller, Gil Derouen, Malcolm Wolf, Dave McMillin, CB Willis

Summary: Completed paving (with rocks) the wet spot just south of Beauty Spot Gap and clipped rhododendron, etc that obstructed the trail from Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap.

Name: Carl Fritz reporting

Date: September 14, 2005

Purpose: Biological survey

Location: Section 17, Low Gap to summit of Unaka Mountain

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Checked proposed trail relocation for biological problems.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: September 15, 2005

Purpose: Agree on handicap trail on Osbourne tract

Location: Section 4, Osbourne Tract

People: Morgan Summerville, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: We met with the Forest Service and decided to run trail up field on right side of driveway. Morgan has funds and will obtain contractor to do job before end of year.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: September 22, 2005

Purpose: Design shelter for Mountaineer Falls

Location: Section 12, Near Mountaineer Falls

People: Carl Fritz, Garry Luttrell, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: We finalized a conceptual design for a new shelter near Mountaineer Falls. We considered design and construction features as well as site location and preparation. The shelter will typically hold 12 with an overflow capacity of almost that many. Dimensional lumber will be used. We plan to have the design ready to submit to USFS on October 11.

