

Note: To submit an article for the newsletter, send an email to:

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Rental Equipment Inspection](#)
- [Trailfest in Hot Springs, NC](#)
- [Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees](#)
- [TEHCC New Rental Equipment](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking 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>	
Mar 2	Rental Equipment Inspection	Worthwhile	Vic Hasler	423-229-2557
Mar 3	A.T. Watauga Dam Road to US 321	B/2/C	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Mar 4	Rich Mountain Loop (Smokies Dayhike)	B/2/B	Niel Dotson	423-323-3493
Mar 10	A.T. Maintainers Dinner (**NEW DATE**)	Fun	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Mar 11	Little Greenbriar Trail (SM900) (**NEW DATE**)	A/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Mar 17	A.T. Low Gap to Cross Mountain	B/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Mar 31	A.T. Bitter End to Dennis Cove Road	B/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Apr 21	A.T. Bitter End to US 19E	A/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Apr 21-23	Trailfest, Hot Springs, NC	Fun	www.trailfest.net	

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



Rental Equipment Inspection

Thursday, March 2, 2006, 5-7pm

Eastman Recreation Center, Room 115



Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

Yes... Spring is coming along with greater opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, including overnight outings. One benefit of TEHCC membership is ability to rent some gear, such as that extra/lighter/bigger tent needed for an outing or perhaps a backpack to check out a frame design. Each winter, the Steering Committee sets up all of the tents and looks over all of the other rental stuff to ensure that it is ready to go for another year. We try to make this fun and pizza and drinks are provided to those helping with the checkout. So, if you would like to see all the equipment that the club has for rent actually set up (but not all at the same time), including the three new tents purchased in 2004-2005, then come help us out this evening. Let Vic (Work: 229-2557 or e-mail above) know beforehand if you have preference on pizza and beverages provided or else just show up. If you cannot make this invitation, then take a look at the equipment links being set up on the TEHCC rental equipment webpage, tehcc.org/rental. Any feedback on this continuing effort is welcome.

Trailfest in Hot Springs, NC, April 21 - 23, 2006



Come and join us for the 11th annual Trailfest in Hot Springs, NC on April 21 - 23, 2006. Music, food, games, river rafting/cleanup trip, World Famous Duck Race, a basic Trail Maintenance Workshop, an Invasive Species Workshop plus many other fun activities!

This year we will have a special dedication to the Appalachian Trail as granite A.T. logos are installed in the sidewalk throughout town. Free camping at the Silvermine campground provided by our National Forest Service. Other camping plus accommodations available at area B&B's and motels. Check out the web-site for pictures and more information:

www.trailfest.net



Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees

Submitted by Richard Colberg

If you plan to retire from Eastman and would like to continue receiving the TEHCC newsletter, please send Richard Colberg, , an e-mail note 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 New Rental Equipment

REI Habitat 4 Base Camp Tent - HT-21

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

HT-21 is the newest tent in the TEHCC rental equipment - purchased in December 2005 for \$245. It is a BIG 4-person tent in terms of vertical – reaching 6'6" at the peak inside. Floor space is roughly 7' deep by 8' wide, thus four long adult sleeping bags would fit. Pictures posted in different reviews also show two cots with plenty of space in between for gear. This tent would serve as an excellent base camp for hiking or canoeing in an area.



The tent comes in a large dark brown zip bag that will be heavy and quite stuffed. Please read the instructions on the bag before starting to be efficient and avoid damaged to the poles. This is a tent you do not want to set up for the first time in the dark or in a hurry. The design uses four flexible snap poles to expand out the nylon walls into a big freestanding box. It will require two people and an area twice the size of the tent. A tarp was purchased to protect the bottom, as this tent is expected to get heavy use like our other big tents HT-26/27. There is a small bag of eight heavy-duty stakes. The corners should be staked as wind will more likely affect this high profile design. There is a ziplock bag with the orange guylines, but these may only be needed in more windy conditions or to pull out the fly for more air circulation. 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. It will be a challenge to fit everything into the carrying bag (fold the tent into quarters), but please do so. Finally, remember tents are for sleeping and not an all-day playroom – especially on hot days.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Linda H. Rose

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

Scheduled Hiking and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (*Future*)

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

A.T. Watauga Dam Road to U. S. 321 at Shook Branch, Friday, March 3, 2006, 8.4 miles, 400 foot climb

Leader: Collins Chew, 423/239-6237;

Rating: B/2/C

This will be the first of a series of Friday Hikes to cover all of the A.T. maintained by the Tennessee Eastman Club during 2006 and to celebrate the Club's 60th anniversary. Tee shirts will be awarded to club members who complete all of the TEHCC Section on

reported hikes. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just north of I-81), at 8:00 A. M. on Friday, March 3, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing (consider dark glasses for snow and ice cleats). Hike will be cancelled if roads are icy.

Smokies Dayhike: Rich Mountain Loop, March 4, 2006

Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-323-3493

Rating: B/2/B

I know this risks merely being a running Hiking Club joke, the Hike That Never Was, but here goes again. Unless erosion has worn it away since I first scheduled this hike, Rich Mountain is still in the western part of the Smokies, standing on the north side of Cades Cove. This 8.5-mile loop uses the Rich Mountain Loop Trail, Indian Grave Gap Trail, and the Crooked Arm Ridge Trail to make the climb from 1900 ft to 3700 ft and back down again. This hike is somewhat complementary to Garry Luttrell's hike a year ago from Cades Cove to the Wye – where he went east from the Crooked Arm trail, this hike will explore the loop just to the west (see his report and pictures in the January 2005 newsletter). With leaves down, we should enjoy more numerous and more expansive views – and each of the three trails we use have advertised views even when the leaves are in place: views of the main spine of the Smokies to the south, and of Cades Cove lying between. Perhaps there will be snow, underfoot or in the distance. Closer at hand, we will see the several different forest types, Crooked Arm Falls, the John Oliver Cabin (from early 1800's), and a fire tower site. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 7:00 a.m. - yes, the hour is early but it is a long drive to the entrance of Cades Cove where the trailhead is, and the days will still be short. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Watch the weather; dress appropriately for a late winter hike and do bring lunch and adequate water. Depending on the hour we may eat out on the return trip.

A.T. Maintainers Dinner

This dinner meeting is rescheduled for Friday, March 10. It will still be at Eastman Lodge.



5:30 Social Time
6:00 Dinner
6:30 Meeting and Open Discussion

Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver have graciously volunteered to provide dinner again. The meal cost will be about \$3. If you have been before, you know you can't beat the quality for the few dollars cost.

I will have a packet of information for each maintenance section.

Please contact Carl Fritz (423-477-4669 or) to let me know how many people may come for dinner, so we can plan accordingly.

Little Greenbriar Trail, 900 miler, March 11, 2006

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

Rating: A/3/B

This hike will involve 1900 ft. of climbing the Little Greenbriar Trail, then a 1700 ft. descent of the Laurel Falls Trail to Fighting Creek Gap. Total hike distance is 8.3 mi. Contact the hike leader to get further details and reserve a spot.

A.T. Low Gap, U. S. 421 to Cross Mountain, Tenn. 91, Friday, March

17, 2006, 6.5 miles, 1,800 foot climb

Leader: Collins Chew, 423/239-6237;

Rating: B/2/B

This will be the second of a series of Friday Hikes to cover all of the A.T. maintained by the Tennessee Eastman Club during 2006 and to celebrate the Club's 60th anniversary. Tee shirts will be awarded to club members who complete all of the TEHCC Section on reported hikes. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just north of I-81), at 8:00 A. M. on Friday, March 17, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing (consider dark glasses for snow and ice cleats). Hike will be cancelled if roads are icy.

A.T. Bitter End to Dennis Cove Road, Friday, March 31, 2006, 10.4 miles, 1,800 foot climb

Leader: Collins Chew, 423/239-6237;

Rating: A/2/B

This will be the third of a series of Friday Hikes to cover all of the A.T. maintained by the Tennessee Eastman Club during 2006 and to celebrate the Club's 60th anniversary. Tee shirts will be awarded to TEHCC members who complete all of the Eastman Section on reported hikes. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just north of I-81), at 8:00 A. M. on Friday, March 3, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing (consider dark glasses for snow and ice cleats). Hike will be cancelled if roads are icy.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Trip Report: Hot Springs Loop, Saturday, February 18, 2006

Mary Ellen Ress reporting

Eight intrepid hikers met in Colonial Heights on February 18th for this snowy 12-mile loop hike out of Hot Springs, N.C. The snow was falling thickly but the roads were clear – when we left! It was a bit dicier as we crept out of Greeneville and through Allen Gap on an unplowed slippery highway, and then slid down the mountain into Hot Springs, where it was spitting some snow but mostly rain! But as we climbed up Lovers Leap Ridge on the A.T. from the French Broad River, the rain changed to snow, and we hiked the remainder of the hike in 3 – 4 inches of snow. With the flakes falling fast and furiously at times, the winter views were very limited and the sky looked threatening all day. Some took a shortcut via the Silvermine Trail and found chicken wings at the Paddlers Pub in town. The trail lunch was a very brief, cold affair at the side of the pond just trail south of Tanyard Gap. At the Gap it was reassuring to see that although we were still in snow, the highway below was clear. We actually saw several other hikers out this cold winter day, but once we turned onto the Roundtop Ridge Trail the trail was unbroken for four+ miles. At the end of the hike it was a great disappointment that Steady Eddy's (a fantastic coffee shop on the road back to Greeneville) was closed, but we checked out the outfitter's store in Hot Springs before heading home. Hikers were Richard Strang, Charlotte Anderson, Kim Peters, Kat Johnson, Rolla Wade, Phyllis Cairnes, Christine Bush (visiting from Wake Forest, N.C. - welcome) and leader, Mary Ellen Ress.



Some of the hikers(left to right):
Mary Ellen Ress, Richard Strang, Phyllis Cairnes, Christine Bush, Charlotte Anderson



View of Hot Springs from Lovers Leap Ridge



Lunch spot



A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (*Past*)

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: January 29, 2006

Purpose: Inspect and clear the trail

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Forest Service Road 230, about one mile.

People: Howard Guinn and Faye Guinn

Summary: Cleared trail of blowdowns

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 1, 2006

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 20b, several hundred feet north of Spivy Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

Summary: We worked 360 feet of trail starting north of first old road. This part is in good shape.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 1, 2006

Purpose: Flag trail relocation

Location: Section 12d, U.S. 19E to Bishop Hollow

People: Jim Foster, Ed Oliver, Bill Murdoch

Summary: We flagged a short relocation to take out a steep section between 19E and Bear Branch Road. After crossing Bear Branch, we flagged new trail to left and up the hill. This puts trail above the hill and moves it away from the existing A.T. until the lower end of Bishop Hollow. Disadvantage of this is that it moves trail away from the stream. The advantage of this proposed relocation is the trash along the other side of the stream is not visible. If you have a preference on trail location, please contact Ed Oliver at 423-349-6668.

Name: C.B.Willis

Date: February 1, 2006

Purpose: Clear trail of blowdowns

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cleared trail of blowdowns and low hanging trees and leaners. We cut 21 trees total from about 5-inches to 16-inches in diameter. Trail is now clear.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 3, 2006

Purpose: Determine biologically rare species

Location: Sections 14a and 14b, from Bradley Gap to Grassy Ridge

People: Jim Foster and Ed Oliver

Summary: Jim and Ed visited with Joe McGuinness in his office and reviewed maps of rare species for Bradley Gap to Grassy Ridge. Copies of maps are being made for our use. This is in preparation for flagging trail relocations within this area.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 8, 2006

Purpose: Cut dimensional lumber for new shelter

Location: The shelter will be near Mountaineer Falls; but this work was at Carl Fritz's

People: Mike Alley, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: We cut all the dimensional lumber to required lengths for the new shelter. There are about 200 pieces now. The rough sawn lumber has yet to be tackled.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 15, 2006

Purpose: Cut lumber for new shelter

Location: The shelter will be near Mountaineer Falls; but this work at Watauga Work Center

People: Mike Alley, Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ron Lapp, Bill Murdoch, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: All the rough sawn lumber for siding and lathes is stored at US Forest Service Watauga Work Center. We sorted all the lumber, cut the siding and ripped the battens from the boards. Thanks to everyone for making this large task simple. Thanks to Bill Murdoch

for bringing his sliding compound miter saw.

Name: Bruce Cunningham

Date: February 21 , 2006

Purpose: Review proposed Forest Service work near A.T.; Shinwhite Project

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Matt Davis, Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: We met with the Forest Service crew at Indian Grave Gap where the road was clear. As we proceeded up the FS road to Beauty Spot, the snow got deeper, reaching about 5 inches. Three vehicles got stuck on the way. We finally made it and surveyed the various proposals. No. 71-1, which was our concern, has been taken off the list and replaced by an open eating area (suggested by North Carolina Wildlife) near the southeast end of Beauty Spot. It looked OK to everyone. When we came back down the hill, my car was missing! It had slid off the road, except for one back wheel. We cleaned off the snow down to the dirt. All the power went to the back wheel and out came the car!

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: February 22, 2006

Purpose: Check status of handicap accessible trail on Osborne Tract

Location: Section 4b, TN 91 to end of new handicap accessible trail

People: Matt Davis, Carl Fritz and Ed Oliver

Summary: We met with Teresa Martinez, two US Forest Service representatives, and Carl, who is working part time for ATC, to document four cases of trail near or on the A.T. that are or are being made handicap accessible. We walked the proposed section, replaced a few flags, and Teresa got GPS measurements. We answered a lot of questions about the decision process. The contractor has not started on the trail building and probably will not for several more months.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: February 24, 2006

Purpose: Clear trail after winter weather

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to just past Beauty Spot

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

Summary: We removed 8 trees from trail along with smaller debris and cleared mud from some water bars. We found one tree between Beauty Spot Gap and Deep Gap that fell and blew out the trail. We will go back with pulaskies, shovels, saws, etc. to fill the hole in the trail left by the tree root.