

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

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<b><u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u></b>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Nov 24	S900M, Hikers Choice	?/3/?	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Dec 9	Buffalo Mountain Park Trails	B/2A	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

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

## **New Steering Committee Members**

Do you have an interest in hiking or paddling?

Do you like spending other people's money?

Would you like more input on outdoor activities?

Would you like to take responsibility for the direction of our Club?

We are looking for new members for the TEHCC Steering Committee. If you would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee or would like more information please contact Kent Wilson by November 13. We are seeking six nominees to stand for election for three Steering Committee positions. Steering Committee members serve a two year term.

## **Anniversary T-Shirt Design Contest**

As you may be aware, 2006 is the 60th anniversary of TEHCC and we have offered special T-shirts to any member who completes the TEHCC A.T. section and reports it in the newsletter. This is your chance to be involved in this process by designing the T-Shirt. One side will have the TEHCC logo, but the other side is open. Please submit your designs

to by Dec. 1, 2006. The TEHCC Steering Committee will vote on the designs. The winner of the design contest will be awarded one of the limited edition T-Shirts.

## **TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-30 Kelty Journey Child Carrier**

*Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,*

Attention - parents and grandparents of young children:  
At the excellent suggestion of a club member, TEHCC has purchased a new piece of rental equipment – a child carrier. Now you don't have to try to carry a squirming infant or toddler in your arms or on your shoulders. Use this pack to give them their own "car seat" and save your back so that you can enjoy the great outdoors. The carrier has many features. It has spring-loaded legs to stand up the carrier while a child is lifted and lowered into the harness. Warning – do not let a child climb into the carrier to seat themselves as it will tip over.



The carrier has a number of adjustments to fit 15 - 22 inch torso and 27 - 45 inch waist/hips. The relative height of the child versus your head can also be adjusted within a six inch range. The pack weight is roughly seven pound with a maximum load limit of 50 pounds for child + pack + gear. Remember to not overload yourself, it is recommend that you carry no more than 25-30% of your body weight.

There is a 500 cubic inch pocket for toys and child essentials. Two net pockets are available (to provide water for you; bottle for infant). The storage space is actually a detachable kid pack with shoulder straps, in case your child wants to carry his own load (for a few yards – right?).

We also purchased the removable sun/rain cover. It collapses and snaps to the back when not in use, thus how we will have it stored for Bldg 310.

When done, please ensure that the carrier is clean from sticky fingers and other mishaps. The "cockpit" is removable for washing.

This rental will give you a needed carrier for the occasional use or a chance to evaluate whether you would want to invest in your own for regular hiking outings.



## **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**

Ron Frey Ignacio Garcia

Ed Hall

Lester Penie

Perry M Murdaugh

Charles Jason  
Pierce

Brent A Tennant

Scott Van Dam

Ann Zhao

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](#).

### **S900M, Hiker's Choice, Friday November 24, 2006**

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

*Rating: ?/3/?*

If you're like me, you'll need a nice dayhike in the Smokies to work off that Turkey, Dressing and Pumpkin Pie. This could be the hike for you! The hike trail(s) for the day, right now are unknown, and we may not know until we meet at 10 – 10:30 am at the Wye. I'm willing to hike trails I've already done for 900 milers, so it's up to the other hikers to make a suggestion. It just needs to be in the Elkmont – Tremont – Cades Cove area, and a reasonable dayhike, probably not more than 10 – 13 miles in length. I will be coming from Knoxville on that Friday morning, so I will need someone else will need to take the lead in coordinating the carpooling from Kingsport. I would recommend leaving by 7:30 – 7:45 am, from the usual lot next to McDonalds in Colonial Heights. Send your hike nominations to the hike leader , or phone. I will need to know who intends to hike, with phone numbers, even if you don't have a hike nomination, by Wed, Nov 22nd. I will have a cell phone and can contact all known hikers if there is a need to postpone due to weather.

### **Buffalo Mountain Park Trails, December 9, 2006**

*Leader: Vic Hasler, 239-0388*

*Rating: B/2/A*

This hike will be a group choice once we meet factoring in the weather and need to be off the mountain before the gate closes at 5PM. Note the stiff rating as I am considering a grand circular hike of the perimeter trails – estimated to be six miles and up/down 1100' from the parking lot to Tip Top and around past White Rocks overlook. There are also a number of “geocache” containers to find using a GPS in high-tech orienteering. Meet at the usual spot by McD's in Colonial Heights at 8:30 AM for carpooling the 22-mile drive or at 9:15 AM at the park trailhead in Johnson City. Wear appropriate clothing layers for the likely cold weather (hike will be postponed in case of heavy rain or icy roads). Bring snack lunch and drinking water in a daypack. Contact the hike leader by e-mail or call 239-0388 if you have any questions.

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

### **Anniversary Hike: Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap, September 22, 2006**

*Collins Chewreporting*

The hike was on the A.T. from Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap, 10.8 miles with about 3,000 feet of climbing. It was a cool, breezy, overcast day, and the rain held off until nearly the end of the hike. There were a number of other hikers out. There were a good many wildflowers: goldenrod, lobelia, turtlehead, snake root, etc. Special congratulations to Jim Foster who recently completed the entire Appalachian Trail by section hiking over

several years. Hikers were Lee Bockman, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Steve Darnell, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Bob Harvey, Jan Mather, Larry Miller, Sam Robinette, and Collins Chew.

## **Anniversary Hike to Buckeye Falls, September 29, 2006**

*Collins Chew reporting*



Fourteen hikers honored the memory of Frank Oglesby and his traditional decade anniversary hike of TEHCC with the seven mile hike to Buckeye Falls and return. Frank led the first TEHCC hike here in 1946 and followed up by leading it in 1986 and 1996. The falls (cascades) were running pretty well today. Unfortunately the trail has deteriorated with many blowdowns and indistinct, overgrown areas in the upper half. The talus/scree slope at the base of falls was much like always with finding a lunch spot where you don't slide a difficult job. Everyone seemed happy that they had made the difficult climb. Some had tried unsuccessfully to find it on previous occasions. I even learned to put waypoints on my GPS which helped me find the route. Hikers were: Don Baker, Lee Bockman, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Faye and Howard Guinn, Steve Kasten, Nancy and Joe Keys, Larry Miller, Judy and Bill Tindall, and Collins Chew.

*Pictures from the Buckeye Falls Anniversary hike, click on an image to enlarge. All photos courtesy of Jim Foster and Steve*

*Kasten*



## **Anniversary Hike: Bitter End to Dennis Cove, September 29, 2006**

*Kent Wilson reporting*

This was a Friday afternoon hike in beautiful weather. I drove to Kincora hostel and had Bob Peoples shuttle me to Bitter End for a nice afternoon of hiking. The trail was in good shape with only one blow down (reported to Bob). Making this hike was Kent Wilson.

## **Anniversary Hike - Carver's Gap to 19E, September 30, 2006**

*Kent and Nancy Wilson reporting*

This was an absolutely lovely day for a hike. The colors were just starting to turn on Roan Mountain and the sky was clear. It was a popular day for a hike as we met many people on the trail including a group of 25 or so from Raleigh, N.C. Making this hike were Kent and Nancy Wilson.

## **Anniversary Hike - Carver's Gap to Hughes Gap, October 1, 2006**

*Kent and Nancy Wilson reporting*

This was another good afternoon hike. We drove up to Carver's Gap for this leisurely hike. While waiting for Kent to change clothes, Nancy talked to a hiker just beginning the hike from Carver's Gap to 19E. He planned to have his friend pick him up at 5:30. Nancy tried to tell him that it wasn't likely that he could do it that fast, but he assured her he was fast hiker. It was interesting to see the article the following Tuesday about the hiker rescued at Doll Flats after his shuttler called 911 at 8 PM. Do you think there could be a connection? Anyway this was a very pleasant hike also. Making the hike were Kent and Nancy Wilson.

## **Anniversary Hike - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, October 6, 2006**

*Kent and Nancy Wilson reporting*

This was a cool, windy day, but not too bad for hiking. The trees were really beginning to show some good color across the way to Unaka Mountain. We only met four other hikers who had spent the night on Unaka Mountain in the storm. This was another beautiful hike (seems like that is a recurring theme - Is there ever not a beautiful hike?) Making this afternoon of hiking were Kent and Nancy Wilson.

## **A.T. - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River, October 6, 2006**

*Collins Chew reporting*

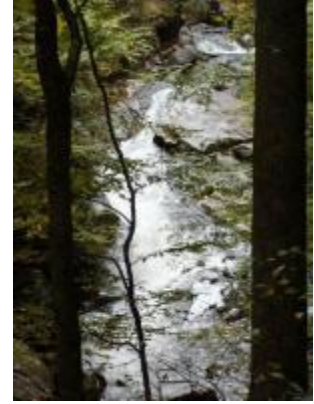
The Friday Hikers completed the TEHCC A.T. section with this section between Indian Grave Gap and the Nolichucky River, 8.3 miles. We started in fog with many nearby trees coloring nicely. Goldenrod, asters, gentian, and mushrooms decorated the trail. After lunch at Curly Maple Gap Shelter, we dropped down below the clouds and into the beautiful woods along Jones Creek. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Linda Coulson, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Laura Jacks, Anita Long, Jan, Jessica, and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, Judy and Bill Tindall, and Collins Chew. Also, Don Baker met us and made a key swap as he was shuttling some backpackers.

## **Smokies 900 Miler, Panther Creek Trail, October 7, 2006**

*Garry Luttrell reporting*



One thing about the Smokies, you've got to expect the unexpected. The original plan was to spot cars in Tremont, then drive to Elkmont to begin the hike. The unexpected was that when we approached the Smokies from Townsend, we found that the Little River Road between the Wye and Metcalf Bottoms was closed due to a mud / rock slide from the rains of Thursday night. This affected Owen Holbrook's plans to have us spot him so he could do the Curry Mountain, Meigs Mountain,



and Meigs Creek Trails. He was able to do his hike, but with a road walk from the Sinks to Metcalf. We decided to do an in and out hike from Tremont instead. We hiked to Jake's Gap and back using the Panther Creek Trail; then, we hiked the Middle Prong Trail to the Greenbrier Ridge Trail and back. [Middle Prong](#)

*(click on photo to enlarge)*

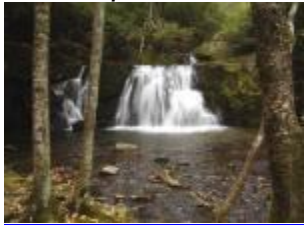
The Lynn Camp Prong crossings and the Panther Creek crossings were cold, but easy due to low flow. We saw two huge, trout-fed otters competing with the fishermen in Middle Prong . Middle Prong proved to be right up there as one of the most scenic streams in the Smokies with the cascades and waterfalls. Hikers included from left to right in photo below: Nancy Wilson, J G Campbell, Garry Luttrell, Debi Berry, and Kent Wilson.

*Cascades on Middle Prong*

*(click on photo to enlarge)*



Click on photo to enlarge. All photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell.



Indian Flat Falls on Middle Prong



J G and Debbi at Indian Flat Falls



Nancy and Debbi wading Lynn Camp Prong.



After the creek crossing



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

Reporting: Carl Fritz

**Date:** September 26, 2006

**Purpose:** Relocate Trail

**Location:** Section 11a, about half mile south of Moreland Gap Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Carole Lyle f, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We dug about 300 feet of trail on a relocation we have not been on for over a year. One more good day on this relocation will probably complete it.

**Reporting:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** September 30, 2006

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** From south end of section 15 north to entry into woods (end of weeds); also short section of section 16 just south of section 15

**People:** Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** We cut weeds and did a little trimming. We found one 15-inch blowdown just south of entry trail. It's not a problem--easy step over. When we go into area next time (i.e. to fix leaking shelter roof ???), we need to look at drainage problems on trail. It needs some water bars or at least some better ditches to let water escape.

**Reporting:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** October 1, 2006

**Purpose:** Do three small jobs

**Location:** Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Paul Benfield, Bill Elderbrock, Bruce Cunningham, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We repaired four steps taken out by horses about 30 minutes south of Bitter End. We put wire mesh on bog bridges just south of Cambell Hollow Road, overhauled crossing, and added new steps. It really looks great. We also arranged with Richard Whitehead for parking on Bear Branch Road for Saturday work trip with college students to Bishop Hollow.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 7, 2006

**Purpose:** Repair trail including water bars and wet areas

**Location:** Section 12d, Bishop Hollow and High Point

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart and ASU Ralph Lentz, Reed Thomas, Chad Kennedy, Amber Coble, Laura Davis, Rebecca Waggy, Ashley Craven, Steven Wooten, Erik Van Beek, Cameron Cochran, Angala Renfrow, Clancey Mary, Josh Bare, Laura McCarthy, Travis Adame, Ray Douglas, Christopher McKnight, Matt Lincoln LINK, Andy Kruse, Sean McAskill

**Summary:** With the help of this ASU freshman orientation class and several ASU Trail Crew members, we were able to install 16 locust water bars in the open field of High Point. The trail was severely eroding. Several wet areas in Bishop Hollow and lower end of High Point were repaired. A switchback in lower High Point still needs more work.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 8, 2006

**Purpose:** Relocate trail

**Location:** Section 17, About one mile south of Iron Mt Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Ralph Lentz II, John Layton, Jessica



Thivierge, Melissa Cavisten, Kenny Barco, Carman Iagulli, Blake Hooks, Alice Kent, Kristen Steele, Bailey Evans, Reed Thomas, Jordan Fowler, Hannah Hempel, Heather Morgan, Randall Steinberg, Tim Joyner, Tyler Propst, Molly McGee, Tom Berry, Philip Foster, Josh Lang

**Summary:** Thanks to this ASU freshman orientation class we finished the long relocation we started with the large ASU group on August 26. We also completed the short section just before it. Both sections are now officially part of the A.T.

**Reporting:** John Arwood

**Date:** October 8, 2006

**Purpose:** To check trail and shelter conditions

**Location:** Section 7, North on the trail from Iron Mountain Gap at Watauga Dam Road

**People:** Catherine Batts, John Arwood

**Summary:** It was a nice, cool day for a hike in the woods. We walked the entire Big Laurel Branch Wilderness section, in and out. There were many small blowdowns, most of which could be tossed from the trail; only two had to be cut. At Vandeventer Shelter, we placed a new register and removed the old one. We picked up the small amount of trash and also cleaned the gutters. Most of our work time involved cutting back rhododendron, greenbrier, and small tree limbs growing into the trail space.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 15, 2006

**Purpose:** Relocate trail

**Location:** Section 16b, Just trail north of Weedy Gap

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver and ASU Sophie Ballmer, Andrew Bouchard, Rebecca Cole, David Corkern, Coleman Costgrove, Shelly Crandallt, Ryan Davenport, Asher Flynt, Serra Gore, John Haywood, Aaron Headen, Bryan Hoffman, Miller Jackson, Jackson Marlowe, Andrew Murray, Aaron Sherwood, Rio Tazewell, Richard Wathern

**Summary:** With the help of another enthusiastic ASU freshman class, we dug 450 feet of the trail relocation just north of Weedy Gap. By the end of the day, we were admiring each others work and these folks had learned much about digging trail.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** October 18, 2006

**Purpose:** Scout trail for blowdown

**Location:** Section 20a, Nolichucky River to No Business Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** My purpose was to find a reported blowdown, but I actually ended up cutting and clearing many blowdowns, most of which were small-to-medium size. There must have been a significant wind in the last few days as there was much debris on the trail. There are three blowdowns that were too large for me to cut with my little saw; they are at the one, three and five mile markers going south from the river. They are all negotiable, but do need to be cut.

**Reporting:** CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** October 18, 2006

**Purpose:** To continue refreshing blazes

**Location:** Section 18, Beauty Spot Gap south to A.T. crossing of FS 230

**People:** Bob Miller, Sandra Perry, CB Willis

**Summary:** We refreshed blazes on this section and removed several smaller blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 24, 2006

**Purpose:** Open handicap accessible trail on Osborne Tract

**Location:** Section 4b, Trail north of TN 91

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, and HIKERS Tinker Bell, and ESP

**Summary:** With October snow flurries and cold winds, we cut weeds on handicap accessible trail. We installed and blazed locust posts and cut out a couple of blowdowns in the woods. The handicap accessible trail is now officially part of the A.T.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** October 24, 2006

**Purpose:** To check out trail and do needed maintenance

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

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

**Summary:** Howard and Faye removed five trees from the trail and trimmed three more to make the trail passable. A chainsaw will be needed to remove the remaining three. Trash was collected in the apple orchard and several water bars were cleared. Reported remains of a deer were not seen nor smelled. We received report of four blowdowns between Iron Mountain Gap and Beauty Spot, which we will check on soon.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** October 24, 2006

**Purpose:** Check Mountaineer Falls Shelter for handicap accessibility

**Location:** Section 12b, Walnut Mtn. Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I escorted Morgan Sommerville and Teresa Martinez to the Mountaineer Falls Shelter to do some measuring and checking for handicap accessibility per Forest Service guidelines. Their findings were minor and a report will be sent to the club.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** October 27, 2006

**Purpose:** Attend RPC meeting

**Location:** Asheville

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** We attended the ATC Southern Region Partnership Committee meeting. This group meets twice yearly and deals with the trail business for southern region. Further information will be shared elsewhere.