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

- **Next Two Months**
- **Request for Hikes And Paddling Trips**
- **TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-9 – Quest River Runner Tent**
- **Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation**
- **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**
- **Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)**
- **Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)**
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## NEXT TWO MONTHS

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

### Request for Hikes And Paddling Trips

*Neil Dotson pleading fervently*

Summertime, for some, may be the only time they would think of hiking - or at least, with school being out, when the schedules are free enough to allow for that sort of thing. And it is certainly an active time for paddling, in which the spray of water is a most welcome relief! So, I would like to encourage us to fill up the hiking and paddling schedules for the summer months, as there may be more people who would like to participate. If you would be willing to lead a hiking or paddling event, please send me the following:
• what you would like to lead
• when you would like to lead it
• difficulty rating (I can help on this)
Again, this is for the months July through September. Responses are needed by Friday, June 15. You can reach me through the following e-mail address: . Thanks!

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-9 – Quest River Runner

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

In continuing to review all of available tents, we now turn our attention to HT-9 which is a Quest "River Runner". HT-9 has actually been a fairly popular rental over the past four years that I have tracked. As an "older" tent (for a weekend) makes a cheap three-season shelter. (None of the club's tents would really be considered fully suitable for a "winter".)
The 60" x 96" floor gives adequate room for two people. The most notable feature is that the fly overhangs give a "porch" instead of a typical vestibule. The rear window has dual zippers, thus can be used as a second door. The design has sleeves which have to be navigated with the poles being attached to a central hub as spokes.

Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation

(May 31 - June 4, June 14-18, July 5-9, July 26-30, and August 9-13)

Joe DeLoach reporting

This year we have five weeks of Konnarock Crew time to continue work on the long relocation between the north side of Iron Mountain Gap and near the summit of Unaka Mountain. With the Konnarock Crew, we will work on the upper portions which have some technical construction requirements where their skills can be most useful. Some of the work can be physically challenging, but other tasks such as lopping brush to clear the way for the digging is not so tough. With the five weeks of Crew time, we hope to complete or come close to completing these upper portions. The Crew arrives on Thursdays and
morning, with the full days of Friday-Sunday being the ones we target most for Club support. Volunteers who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew will be rewarded with the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. Please contact Joe Deloach (423-753-7263) if you have any questions or would like to help.

Welcome!

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Bill Connely

Lane Letner
John Nypaver
Jonathan Smith

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

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

For an explanation of the hike ratings, see Hiking Schedule.

Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains) July 7-8, 2007

Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)
Rating: B/3/B (Moderate)

For the past 25+ years the Hiking Club has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge can only be reached by hiking trail. Supplies are brought in by llama train once a week. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way, depending on the route. The package price this year is $102 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We have eight reservations in two four/five-person cabins (double bunk beds!). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations please contact the hike leader for availability. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at Leconte-lodge.com. You can read the report from last year’s trip in the August 2006 Newsletter.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Catawba Falls, NC, April 14, 2007

Steve Kasten reporting

Rain was in the forecast, but held off until evening. Three brave hikers (Bill Dickason, Steve Kasten, Hugh Thompson) made the trip on what turned out to be a nice spring day in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina near Black Mountain. Following east along a ridge for about 1/2 mile above the Ridgecrest Boys Camp, we then made it down a steep descent (rope tied to a tree) to Chestnut Branch, and followed this mountain stream for about 2 miles to where it merges with the Catawba River. Chestnut Branch had some very nice small waterfalls and rapids of its own, shown in the pictures. There were several stream crossings but we managed to stay dry with the help of rocks, logs, and balancing sticks. We then reached Catawba Falls slightly upriver from the stream merge point. The lower falls come down an estimated 150 feet in multiple drops and fanouts. We ate lunch at the falls and discussed how to reach the upper Catawba Falls, which basically requires climbing up a dangerously steep cliff from the lower falls, or else starting at a different trailhead. Oh well, maybe that will be a future hike! We returned along our original path, this time mostly uphill, a 1000 foot total grade hardly noticed on the way in.

Click on an image to enlarge, photos courtesy of Steve Kasten
For the Record - Spring Wildflower Hike, April 28, 2007

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

The early April deep freeze which killed or stunted so many plants around Kingsport had little or no effect in our mountains, evidenced by a great display of wildflowers heading north from Devils Fork Gap towards Frozen Knob on the Carolina Mountain Club section of the AT. We counted 27 varieties in only about 2.5 miles of walking. While this didn't match our record of 40 species between 19E and Hump Mountain a few years ago, this year's total was in less than half the distance and net elevation gain. Among the flowers we saw were painted, white erect, and red erect trilliums, Dutchman's breeches and squirrel corn, larkspurs, Jack in the pulpit, spring beauties, and trout lilies. By the time we reached the mountain crest at Sugarloaf Gap the skies had become threatening, and we stopped for lunch and ultimately turned around at a recently cleared field short of the Frozen Knob summit, but still had good views of Big Bald, Rocky Fork, and the Greene County mountains on the way back didn't dampen our enthusiasm for the pretty scenery. Hikers for this year's trip were Donna Ashby, Kat Johnson, and Joe DeLoach. We try to make the spring wildflower hike an annual event, and if anyone has suggestions or requests for a destination for this hike in future years please let Joe know.

Hike Report, Smokies Wildflower Hike, Whiteoak Sink, April 28, 2007

*G. S. Luttrell, reporting*

As we were hiking up the Schoolhouse Gap Trail, the wildflower display was not too impressive, stunted growth, and normal for late April. We had some first time hikers with us, Dan and Angie McKinney, and I was thinking this could be the last time they hike with TEHCC. But, the further we descended into the sink, the groundcover changed from brown and dead to green and alive with wildflowers. We explored the entire Sink and found the waterfall that disappears into a cave, remnants of some pre-park home sites, and lots of wildflowers: White, Yellow, Painted, & Gatsby Trillium, Wakerobin, Columbine, Shooting Stars, Pink Lady Slipper, and Kent found a special, large Yellow Slipper. See photos. When we left the Sink, Angie returned to the trailhead, and four of us continued up the Schoolhouse Gap Trail and on to the Wye following the Chestnut Top Trail. We saw some more Pink Lady Slippers and some Flame Azaleas, but most wildflowers, Fire Pink, Meadow Parsnip, and Naked Broomrape, were seen in the last quarter mile of the trail near the Wye. Hikers included Debi Berry, Lowell Toof, Garry Luttrell, Dan McKinney, and Angie McKinney.
All photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell. Click on image to enlarge.

Waterfall to Cave  Columbine

Shooting Stars  Yellow Lady Slipper

Naked Broomrape Cancer Root  Flame Azalea

Fire Pink

A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: April 14, 2007
Purpose: Cut blowdowns
Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap and south a couple miles
People: Bill Berry, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan
Summary: The crew removed several large blowdowns in the Temple Hill Gap area. Thru hikers reported no more blowdowns to Spivey Gap, so they called it a day. Bill treated his sawyers, Paul and Ken, to a good meal.
Reporting: CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club
Date: April 30, 2007

Purpose: Clearing small blowdowns and debris from the trail
Location: Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to Bitter End
People: Mike Hupko
Summary: During a recreational hike, Mike performed needed maintenance. He removed debris, tree limbs, etc. and cut and removed several small trees that had fallen on the trail.
Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: May 1, 2007

Purpose: Flag and cut out relocations
Location: Just south of Cherry Gap Shelter and also higher on Unaka
People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver
Summary: One crew continued flagging and cutting out the relocation south of shelter in preparation for Hard Core. Another crew cut out laurels and trees on relocation where Konnarock worked last year and will continue this year.
Reporting: Jim Foster
Date: May 3, 2007

Purpose: Cut blowdowns
Location: Section 16a, Clyde Smith Shelter to Greasy Creek
People: Ken Buchanan, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster
Summary: Ken brought the saw and, with Paul’s help, cut four blowdowns, beginning on Blue Blaze to Clyde Smith. I scouted trail to Greasy Creek and cut one more with my small saw. Ken’s daughter and granddaughter came along to see what maintenance is all about and also to gather some ramps. A good time was had by all.
Reporting: Collins Chew
Date: May 4, 2007

Purpose: Measure relocation north of Iron Mountain Gap
Location: Section 16b, North of Weedy Gap
People: Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Collins Chew, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jan Mather, Taylor Pickard, Anna and Bob Sherrill
Summary: The Friday Hikers rolled the new relocations on the AT between Iron Mountain Gap and Greasy Creek Gap and found that it did not change the Trail mileage. The wildflowers were great.
Reporting: Joe DeLoach
Date: May 6, 2007

Purpose: Inspect Konnarock project
Location: Section 17, Between Low Gap and Unaka Mountain
People: Joe DeLoach
Summary: I met this year’s Konnarock crew leaders, Ted Wilson and Christine Hoyer, their assistants, Ken last year’s leader, Casey, to look at the project we’ll be working on this year. We stopped at Limestone Cove Campground, where they will stay, on the way up. We are about 300 to 500 feet from the switchback, with a total of 2000 to 2700 feet remaining. The rocks seem to let up some to the switchback and somewhat beyond. We may be able to ...
rather than having to crib around them or resorting to other construction techniques. Konnarock’s season starts May 10; their first week with us is May 31 to June 4.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters  
**Date:** May 6, 2007  
**Purpose:** General spring maintenance  
**Location:** Section 7, Watauga Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter  
**People:** Kat Johnson, Kim Peters  
**Summary:** We cleared a few small blowdowns, clipped briars, and beat back the weeds with a sling blade. We checked the shelter and left a new log book, then checked the water source - way on down that hill. (There were many complaints about the distance to water in the log book!) We met numerous hikers on this beautiful May day. This section is in good shape. Thanks go to John Arwood for his hard work on this section in previous years.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** May 6, 2007  
**Purpose:** Cut out relocation for Konnarock and special Hard-Core crews  
**Location:** Section 18, North side of Unaka Mountain  
**People:** Paul Benfield, David Bourke, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart  
**Summary:** We finished cutting out the major relocation we started with Konnarock last year. We welcomed David Bourke, a recent transplant from Florida to Hampton. We probably lack 500 feet of getting all the cuttings thrown off trail. I imagine we have enough cleared for three weeks or more of Konnarock and a couple of days with the small specialized Hard-Core crew.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** May 8, 2007  
**Purpose:** Cut out relocation for Hard-Core crew  
**Location:** Section 17, Near Cherry Gap  
**People:** Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ted Mowery  
**Summary:** They cut out trail relocation north starting at Cherry Gap to get more trail ready for Hard-Core. The relocation still has a few large blowdowns. There is plenty of work to occupy the Hard-Core crew.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** May 8, 2007  
**Purpose:** Pin flag relocations for Hard Core  
**Location:** Section 17, Near Cherry Gap  
**People:** Jim Foster, Ed Oliver  
**Summary:** Jim and Ed set out pin flags and marked sections for individual work crews for Hard Core. There are now 3150 feet of trail ready to be dug.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** May 15, 2007  
**Purpose:** Minor repairs to Roan High Knob Shelter  
**Location:** Section 15, Roan High Knob Shelter  
**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart, Ben Trotter, and hiker Politician  
**Summary:** We installed a new ridge cap using metal screws. We also replaced the hardware cloth on the front window. The majority of the crew knocked out the crumbling rock underpinning on trail side of the shelter and replaced it with framing plus hardware cloth. The underpinning on the back end of the shelter and the up-hill side need to be repaired on a future trip. Also some logs need to be repaired with concrete.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach
Date: May 17, 2007  
**Purpose:** Look for sign and cut weeds  
**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton trailhead to AT junction  
**People:** Joe DeLoach  
**Summary:** According to a recent newspaper article, two women failed to find Laurel Falls. I checked to see if the Hampton Blueline/AT junction was still there and evident. It is completely gone. I'll make another trip to see if a post hole can be dug for a new sign. The trees are out of the way for good viewing and it's probably more keeping with Wilderness ethics to not affix large signs to trees. I cut some weeds and brush along the way. Hemlock adelgid infestation is awful.  
**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

Date: May 19, 2007  
**Purpose:** Attend Forest Service Beaverdam Creek Watershed Open House  
**Location:** Shady Valley Elementary School  
**People:** Joe DeLoach  
**Summary:** The Watauga Ranger District held an excellent session to share information about National Forest lands along the ridges of Shady Valley. Several stations with different themes were set up, including viewshed/scenery management, recreational uses, biological considerations, historic issues, and open-areas management. I expressed support for protection of the AT corridor, i.e., viewshed preservation from Osborne Tract, Berry Fields, Scott Booher Tract, and Locust Knob. I expressed opposition to multi-use trails dead-ending on the AT. The citizen turnout was fair, with some opposed to having more public lands and others looking for additional Wilderness designation. I didn't detect any individuals or groups opposed to current AT management practices. It will be interesting to see what proposed management actions unfold.