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<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Sept 15	Little Stoney Creek Falls	B/3C	Wes and Lauren Moyer	423-239-9653
Sept 29	AT: US 321 to Watauga Dam	C/3/C	Vic Hasler	423-2390388
Oct 5-7	Hiawassee Old Timers Trip	II (III)	Ed Montgomery	423-247-7795

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

Call for Hikes: October - December 2007

Neil Dotson, pleading

Autumn. Cooler temperatures; unless some folks are correct far beyond their wildest prognostications. So, cooler temperatures. Snakes more lethargic. Ticks ticking more slowly. Less heat-haze. A time when, as Bruce Cockburn put it more years ago than he would likely care to admit, "the grey forest people cast off their old clothes," giving fall its name. It's time for a hike, is it not? And if you are of the generous sort, why not share with others by leading a hike for the hiking club? (*Just how long will I be able to think of new clever pleas for hikes? Assignment for next fall: write a ballad on hiking in the autumn-time, in common meter. Alliteration optional. Alternatively, a haiku, same subject. No puns.*) So schedule a hike, send me a note or call me, letting 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 your response by **Monday, September 17**. You can reach me through the contact

information below. Thanks and be seeing you!

Neil Dotson
Quarterly Schedule Coordinator
423-224-0557 (days)
e-mail:

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-2 – MSR Mutha Hubba 3 Backpacking Tent

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

The club continues to replace its aging rental equipment and the HT-2 tent is the newest addition to our rental tents. It was purchased in August 2007 at a cost of \$400, based on input from the Steering Committee to obtain a true three person backpacking tent. MSR's Mutha Hubba 3 was the winner of the 2006 Backpacker Magazine Editors' Choice Award. This 40-sq ft, three-person tent is equipped with two entrances and two 7-sq ft vestibules. While the 46" peak does not allow standing upright, its floor area is big enough for three adults - or a six person card game on a rainy day, per the magazine.

The club also purchased the footprint (\$50) to ensure longer life with good fitting floor protection. The total packaged weight (including bag and footprint) is 8 pounds, 3 ounces. The tent can be set up by one person in less than ten minutes; but you should use the help of one or two others. The instructions are attached to the inside of the tent bag. The only tricky part that I encountered was the connected main "H" frame poles, but the attaching straps are color-coded to help.

I like the two-door design with the mesh ceiling. The inside has several built-in pockets to stash gear. After being shown off at the TEHCC Fall dinner meeting, it will be available for the club to rent.



The tent came with instruction manuals in six different languages. (Sorry, East Tennessee was not one of the translations....) The warning tag had four main points. First, keep fire away from tents. Second, have good ventilation through the tent. Third, choose an appropriate campsite. Finally, anchor down the tent in windy conditions. (The guy lines are in a separate bag.)

For the Record - Konnarock Crew

Joe DeLoach reporting

In 2007 we continued work on our relocation of an AT section high on the north slope of Unaka Mountain. When the Trail was originally moved off the Forest Service road across the mountain, parts of the north slope dropped steeply past a spring and the entire area was wet. Even with steps put in in the 1980's, a deep, eroded ditch formed which made rehabilitation of the existing Trail futile. When conditions get that bad, it's time to relocate. Several years ago we flagged this as part of a series of relos to avoid numerous, pointless steep climbs and descents, all of which had erosion problems. We have been working on the lower relos with student and hiker outings, and have primarily worked on this one with Konnarock. We devoted all five weeks of Konnarock Crew time we had this year to the project, matching the five in 2006. Normally with ten weeks of time we would have been able to build a mile of trail or more, but not on this relocation. We were in a rockfield most of the time, and also had difficulty finding the stable mineral soil which makes the best Trail surface, as it was generally buried deep under soft black organic ooze. We also had to fight some rainy days in July. Despite this, we made good progress and constructed a very good quality Trail. We are within 300-400 feet of finishing, but instead of trying to finish ourselves this year we'll give the newly dug relo another year to stabilize and collect leaf litter which will make for better hiking when it's opened. We'll definitely need a grand opening hike! There are also some shorter relos flagged above and below, and more to do near Iron Mountain Gap, to complete this major project.

With five weeks of Crew time we were able to get nine Club volunteers who worked five days with the Crew and earn the Konnarock T-shirt, this year commemorating the 25th anniversary. Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, and Bob Peoples all got into double digits, and they were joined by Carl Fritz, Bill Stowell, Kim Peters, Jim Foster, Craig DeLoach, and Joe DeLoach. Overall we had 37 volunteers who worked 111 person-days for a total of 939 hours on this project. Thanks to all who came out and we hope to see you again!!



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Tracy Norton	Justin Freeman	Jacob Mitchell
William Coxe	Jennifer Wilder	Layne Nicholls
Aaron Grills	Jasper Clarkson	Charles Hurst
Nathan Stober	Tony Messina	Jonathan Bledsoe
Glen Hawkins	Bryan Dwain	Michelle Wood
Laura Ackley	Merry Rogers	Ashley Hood
Mickey Armstrong	Daniel Beverly	Bethany Thompson
Letitia Desjarding	Jacob Goodrich	Todd Hubbard

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](#).

Hike Notice: Little Stoney Creek Falls, September 15, 2007

Leader: Lauren and Wesley Moyer, 239-9653; or,

Rating: B/3/C

Little Stoney Creek Trail in the Jefferson National Forest near Dungannon, Virginia is an average level hike for the area following an old railroad bed up to a pair of very nice waterfalls. The creek is a rocky cascade down the heavily forested hollow. The trail path is rough in several places with rocks and tree roots, but features several sturdy bridges, thus no water crossings. The stout in constitution can try wading/swimming in the cold pools below either falls. Roundtrip distance is 5.2 miles. (B/3/C)

Meet between the McDonalds and the bank in Colonial Heights at 8:00 am.

Please contact Wesley or Lauren Moyer if interested.

Hike Notice: AT: U.S. 321 to Watauga Dam, September 29, 2007

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388,

Rating: C/3/C

One of the club's listed favorite hikes is the 4.2 miles from Watauga Dam over to Shook Branch Recreation area parking lot. This hike will be done as a shuttle. Meet at the usual spot by McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:30am for carpooling the roughly 38 mile/45 minute drive. This is a shorter hike we so could leave lunches in the car at the recreation area, and then just carry water, snacks, camera, etc. For those that have other plans that day, you could be back in Kingsport by early afternoon. Otherwise, folks could explore the area more. Contact the hike leader by e-mail or phone with any questions.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, July 19, 2007

Steve Falling reporting

Once again this year, the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club was asked by the Bays Mountain Park staff to help with the Fun Fest Moonlight Hike. This 2.5-mile hike around the Bays Mountain reservoir began at 8:00 PM and ended in darkness at about 10:00 PM. Our volunteers counted the hikers at the starting and finishing points and were posted at trail junctions along the route to keep hikers from making a wrong turn. A total of 461 hikers made the trip this year! The volunteer with the closest guess of the actual number of hikers (Alex Hartley with 437) won a \$25 gift certificate from the Bays Mountain gift shop. Volunteers helping this year were Kim Peters, Steve Perri, Steve and Steven Banks, Gary, Alex and Sidney Hartley, Neil, Daniel and Elizabeth Dotson, Randal, Matt and Mark Dean, Kat Johnson, Ed Oliver, Richard Colberg, Jon Penney, Greg, Betty and Lilly Kramer, Bill and Judy Tindall, Steve, Dennis and Julie Falling.

Photos courtesy of Steve Falling, click on an image to enlarge



Moonlight Hike volunteers



Naturalist Ken Childress rescues an abandoned baby raccoon before the start of the hike
Gentry Creek Falls, August 11, 2007

Vic Hasler reporting

TEHCC continues to have exposure in the community through its Funfest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mtn park and the website. Jerry Hash and Marsha McGovern joined me on this hike due to those respective reasons.

This hike was exploratory as the leader had never been to these falls before, but had reviewed existing information from the club and geocaching websites. After a couple of wrong turns, the trailhead was reached. Point of information for the future is that the first cul-de-sac parking lot reached on the gravel road is for a horse trail. Veer to the right to continue back to the dead end cul-de-sac with a trail marker for Gentry Creek Falls.



The trail was very gentle rise up a shaded valley with the expected 13-14 creek crossings over six log bridges (picture by Marsha) and the rest on stepping stones as the water level was down. Gentry Creek is pretty with small rapids. A large hiking group based out of Mountain City, TN was met. The two tiered waterfall as an enjoyable vista for lunch. Climbing to above the waterfalls was on a narrow and potentially dangerous path, thus not recommended. As the day was hot, a stop in Damascus for ice cream was needed. Overall, the roughly five mile hike was short

enough that we returned by 5pm without being rushed.



Hike Report: Bays Mountain Park, August 18, 2007

Elizabeth and Daniel Dotson reporting, Neil Dotson exercising editorial privilege

On the day of the hike, the temperature was warm but comfortable. On the way in, we were greeted by several turkeys near the gate. During the hike, we saw a handful of deer, plenty of butterflies, a toad, some birds of prey, and at the zoo after the hike we saw a wolf pup (not yet released to the adults) and a raccoon eating. The trail was rocky, a little steep, but that allowed us to go to some places to see over the valley. The hike was led by mommy (Patricia Dotson) (since papa, who was supposed to lead the hike, was ill), but she was helped by Mr. (Robert) Graham. Also hiking were his wife Vivianne Graham, with Olivia and Graysen (he was carried!); and the Dotson children, Joseph (on his own two feet) and ourselves, Daniel and Elizabeth. In photo: front row: Daniel, Olivia, Elizabeth, Joseph; back row, Robert, Vivianne, Graysen. Patricia (hike leader) not shown.



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

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: July 28, 2007

Purpose: Check trail conditions and clean off trail

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap

People: Bill Berry

Summary: Rain poured down all day, which was very good. I removed lots of tree limbs. There are three trees across trail twenty minutes south of Temple Hill Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 2, 2007

Purpose: Cut weeds, lop, and blaze

Location: Section 13b, Doll Flats to Hump Mountain

People: Carl Fritz, Ben Trotter

Summary: We cut weeds on water trail at Doll Flats. Pipes need to be reinstalled in water sources. The pipes were not to be found. We cut weeds and lopped to Hump Mt. We also painted blazes from Hump to within about 800 feet of Doll Flats when the rain storm hit.

Reporting: CB Willis for the Old Timers Club

Date: August 3, 2007

Purpose: Do needed maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap north 2.3 miles to rock outcropping and then south from the same gap

People: Mike Hupko, Miko Hupko Jr

Summary: We clipped weeds, lopped, and cleaned several water bars on the north side toward Greasy Gap. On the south side from Iron Mt Gap, we placed a USFS AT sign where the trail starts up the mountain from the old logging road. We lopped some branches over the trail and cut some roots up to the end of the new location.

Horse use was evident from Weedy Gap north where the ETSU students helped build the trail. It appeared to be only one horse, going and returning. There was also evidence of 4-wheelers in the Apple Orchard and at Weedy Gap. On the trail from Iron Mt Gap south, built last year by ASU students, there is definite evidence of horse traffic. I believe additional horse traffic has been in the last several weeks, as the trail is much worse from the traffic than when we went through in mid June.

Reporting: Garry Luttrell

Date: August 3, 2007

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Garry Luttrell

Summary: I cut weeds and removed a couple of small blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 7, 2007

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek and along Elk River

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Even though USFS had cut an open area earlier this summer, the weeds were already three feet high. They were up to eight feet high where they had not been cut previously. Hopefully, this part will be good for the rest of the summer.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 7, 2007

Purpose: Cutout relocation

Location: Section 12d, just north of Bear Branch

People: Ken Buchanan, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: The crew continued cutting out rhodos and trees on the relocation from Bear Branch up to Bishop Hollow. The ASU outing on August 26 will dig some of this. It was hot today even in the mountains.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: August 11, 2007

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to No Business

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cut several small trees, limbs and weeds. The bow saw gave out, so I must return with a bigger bow saw to finish cutting the trees.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 17, 2007

Purpose: Review open areas at Berry Fields

Location: Section 4a, Berry Fields

People: Jim Foster, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Julie Judkins

Summary: Ted, Jim, and Ed from TEHCC plus Julie Judkins from ATC met with Mark Robison and Scotty Myers from USFS to discuss the long term management of open areas in Berry Fields. First priority will be to maintain the two vistas on AT of Shady Valley. The first one which is smaller will be maintained by TEHCC by cutting new growth trees every several years. The second and larger vista will be planned to be bush hogged by USFS every two to three years with funding from ATC. USFS will seek funding from other organizations to cut other spots in Berry Fields to improve wild life habitat.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: August 17, 2007

Purpose: Check trail condition and cut annual woody growth

Location: Laurel Run and Kiner Hollow trails in Laurel Run and Bays Mtn parks

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I checked condition of trail since its formal establishment in 2004. Due to the summertime drought, the stream and fall water flows were at a minimum. The lower Laurel Run trail section appears to have heavy use with several mud holes to skirt. The upper Kiner Hollow trail section shows light use up to Pretty Ridge. I clipped as much annual growth as I could during the five-mile hike heading into the evening. There are a number of blowdowns (up to 8" softwood) that could be cleared with saws. One in the Kiner Hollow section is causing rerouting of the trail as it crosses the creek. Otherwise, a sickle would be useful to help clear low growth so that the trail does not stay at the edge of the hillside. This report will hopefully inspire a group to get together to address these concerns.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: August 19, 2007

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob Shelter

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: What started as a recreation hike in the cool fir forest turned into a maintenance trip, as there were plenty of briars, annual growth, brush, and even a few blowdowns. I had my saw and took care of them. Trail is in good shape; relo and drainage ditches are holding up well. There's very little water on this normally wet section.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: August 19, 2007

Purpose: Check assigned section

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

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: I try to get out and walk my assigned section at least every other month. I sawed and pulled out one large deadfall, and trimmed back branches at eye level and briars in treadway. I saw a large black sow with cubs in a blackberry thicket. There is no further evidence of ATV use, but there is a worn bank. I plan to go back and reinforce several hundred feet of the trail edge along the Laurel Fork. I discussed with Carl and

Steve about making a sign to identify the Laruel Fork creek bridge. Hikers complain of too few signs in this area. Otherwise, this section is in very good condition.

Reporting: Benjamin Trotter

Date: August 20, 2007

Purpose: Installing water pipes

Location: Section 13a, Apple House Shelter and Doll Flats

People: Benjamin and Jim Trotter

Summary: We installed water pipes at the Doll Flats spring and Apple House Shelter stream. This was a father and son outing, and Jim Trotter's first outing for trail work.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 21, 2007

Purpose: Install bridge

Location: Section 12d, Between Campbell Hollow Rd and Buck Mt Rd

People: Daryl Anderson, Ken Buchanan, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, and hiker Ron

Summary: LL Bean graciously supplied funding for a ten-foot bog style bridge. The crew totes the bridge and 6x6 supports in from Campbell Hollow Road to install it across a small stream before Buck Mt Rd. There were large rocks in the area to build abutments. They installed metal lathe on top to improve traction.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: August 21, 2007

Purpose: Cut weeds and zap some bees

Location: Section 12c, Jones Falls to Campbell Hollow Rd

People: Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, and hiker Ron

Summary: Paul cut back weeds and multiflora rose from Campbell Hollow Rd to stream crossing. Bob and Ron went after aggressive ground hornets near blue-blazed trail junction for Jones Falls. They eliminated one nest, but ran out of spray on second nest.