October 2007 www.tehcc.org

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

- Next Two Months
- Fall Dinner Meeting
- TEHCC Rental Equipment: HP-4 and HP-7 sleeping mats
- Appalachian Trail Museum Stan Murray's Measuring Wheel
- TEHCC Welcomes New Members
- Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (*Future*)
- Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)
- A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (Past)

NEXT TWO MONTHS						
			<u>Leader</u>			
Oct 5-7 (Fri-Sun)	"Old Timer" Hiawassee River Trip	II	Ed Montgomery	423-247-7795		
Oct 13	Road Prong Trail (S900M)	B/3/C	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554		
Oct 13-14 (Sat-Sun)	Lower Russell Fork	-   +	Jeff Willis	276-395-3358		
Oct 20	A.T. Relocation with ETSU Students near Iron Mt. Gap	Maintenance	Carl Fritz			
Oct 20-21 (Sat-Sun)	Fontana Lake Overnighter	Flatwater	Brian Pickett	423-782-6199		
Oct 26-28 (Fri-Sun)	Guest Appreciation Festival - Nantahala	Rivers from II to IV	Bryan Hogan	276-546-3569		
Oct 27-28 (Sat-Sun)	Backpack to Campsite 23 (S900M)	AA/3/A	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554		
Nov 9	Fall Dinner Meeting	Fun	Dale Douthat			
Nov 10	A.T Bitter End to Dennis Cove	A/3/C	Joe Deloach			
Nov 17	A.T. Relocation with ETSU Students near Iron Mt. Gap	Maintenance	Carl Fritz			
Nov 24	A.T Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain and back	AA/2/B	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493		

For an explanation of the ratings, see either <u>Hiking Schedule</u> or <u>Paddling Schedule</u>.

#### **Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**

#### Fall Dinner Meeting November 9, 2007

This year we are going all out to have a special and memorable event! We will be celebrating 60 years of maintenance of the Appalachian Trail. Our special program will capture many of the significant events and key individuals that have made our club a success over the years. Our meal will again be catered by the Troutdale Dining Room - one of the finest restaurants in the Tri-Cities.

When & Where: Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 starting at 5:30 pm

at the Eastman Lodge Main Dining Hall, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN

**Evening Festivities:** 5:30 pm - 6:30pm Social Hour & AT Photos by Kent and Nancy

Wilson

(Soft drink \$0.50, beer or wine for \$1.00, or BYOB if you prefer) 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Fine Dining Catered by Troutdale (\$15 per

person)

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Special Program

Program:

A Walk Down The AT Memory Trail - TEHCC's 60th

Anniversary as a Trail-Maintaining Club

Dinner Menu: Troutdale

Baked Chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, garden salad,

rolls, drinks and a selection of desserts.

**Dinner Price:** Adults: \$15.00 (Includes tax and tip)

Children 10 and under: \$7.00

Reservations for Troutdale dinner need to be received by **Tuesday**, **October 30<sup>th</sup>** There is no charge for attending the program only. Click here to open printable reservation form.

## TEHCC Rental Equipment: HP-4 and HP-7 - Therm-A-Rest ProLite 3 and 4 sleeping mats

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,

Thanks to luggage lost by Delta Airlines, TEHCC is replacing two sleeping mats: HP-4 was a green Therm-A-Rest Ultralight (a now discontinued model) and HP-7 was a heavy (3 lb, 2 oz) blue/gray Sumberjack mat. The club received only \$20 each for the used equipment. The decision was made to replace with better light-weight gear. In order to allow members to make their own comparisons, both the three and four-season Therm-A-Rest Prolite designs were purchased at roughly \$100 each, including protective bags.

HP-4 is now the ProLite 3 rated for spring-summer-fall. It is a regular size (20"  $\times$  72"  $\times$  1.0") tapered design. The 20-ounce weight is as light as some thin folding pads and it rolls to 11"  $\times$  4" diameter.

HP-7 is a regular sized (20" x 72" x 1.5") ProLite 4 rated for four seasons. While most club members (who are not involved in scouting) stay off the cold winter ground, you might enjoy the 0.5" more of cushion. At 24 ounces, the full length mattress now weighs the same as the older half-size models. It rolls up to a tight 11" x 5" diameter which slides into the carrying bag.



# Appalachian Trail Museum - Stan Murray's Measuring Wheel

#### Collins Chewreporting

Stan Murray's measuring wheel is now a major part of the Appalachian Trail Museum's display in ATC Headquarters in Harpers Ferry, WV. The history and reason is this: Myron Avery was the person who made the AT "happen" by organizing clubs, scouting the track, and actually rolling it all with a measuring wheel(s). When Stan Murray was elected chair of ATC, Myron Avery gave him the wheel now on display. Stan was immensely proud of it and used it rather exclusively for years. Eventually, he entrusted it to me with strict instructions to always use it with 40 psi air in the tires. I and other TEHCC people used it for many more years until the obsolete tire would no longer hold air and it was calibrated to read 2% long with no air. Steve Banks, I think, finally got a new wheel and I ended up with Stan's. I promised the Appalachian Trail Museum that they could have it if they had a good, safe place for display, hence the existing display in Harpers Ferry, which opened on June 2, 2007. We don't know how much Myron Avery used this wheel as it is mounted differently from one in pictures of him with one, but it is all we have and he did own it at one time. Except for pictures and posters, the only other items in the current display are the hat and typewriter of Benton McKaye, who first suggested the Appalachian Trail in a magazine article. Note that "TEHC" is painted on the counter cover of the wheel.





#### **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**

Timothy Schaefer

Rodney Lee Russell Shane Jones Aleta Metzler Chris Garrett Sarah Edwards Barney Smith

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 ratings, see either <u>Hiking Schedule</u> or <u>Paddling Schedule</u>.

Paddle: Hiawasee Old Timers, October 5-7, 2007

Leader: Ed Montgomery, or 423-247-7795

Rating: II(III)

You don't have to be an old timer to join in on the run. Everyone should run this classic river at least once. This is one great beginning river for newer boaters and a beautiful relaxing run for those who are more experienced. The Hiawassee is in close proximity to the Ocoee.

Hike: Road Prong Trail (S900M), October 13, 2007

Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson, (423)239-7554

Rating: B/3/C

This trail follows the old "Oconaluftee Turnpike" downhill from Indian Gap off the Clingman's Dome Road for 3.3 miles with an optional side trip up to Chimney Tops (2.2 mile round trip). The Road Prong Trail crosses the creek 10-12 times and the description does state that it might be just as well to walk in the creek until the trail decides which side of the creek to be on. The hike leaders may also add on the 1.7 mile Trillium Gap trail between the Rainbow Falls trail and the Trillium Gap trail off of Roaring Fork Motor Trail as an option for a few more miles. Please call the leaders if you are interested this trip at (423)239-7554. Since this is leaf season, we will plan to leave the parking lot between State of Franklin Bank and McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 7:30.

Paddle: Fontana Lake overnighter, October 20-21, 2007

Leader: Brian Pickett, or 423-782-6199

Rating: Flatwater

Have you ever looked at the island campsites in the middle of Fontana Lake and thought it would be cool to paddle out there and set up camp? Here's your chance. We'll set up camp and kayak (in our whitewater boats of course!) to the other side to explore the trails and Eagle Creek.

Backpack to Campsite 23 (S900M), October 27-28, 2007

Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson, (423)239-7554

Rating: AA/3/A

We will plan to hike the Sugarland Mountain Trail from the Clingman's Dome Road past Mt. Collins shelter downhill 4.8 miles to the Rough Creek trail for another 2.8 miles. Here we will follow the Little River Trail past campsite 24 (alternative camping spot if we can't get our first choice) for 0.8 miles and then climb 500 feet in another 3.3 miles to Campsite 23 for a total of 11.7 miles the first day. Then on Sunday we will continue on the Goshen Prong Trail up to the AT in 4.4 miles with about 2500 feet of climbing and follow the AT 2.2 miles with another 500 feet of climbing to Clingman's Dome. This trip will be limited to 8 people total since we have to reserve this campsite. Since we have a long drive and somewhat limited daylight bring a headlamp or flashlight in case we have to set up camp late. Please call the trip leaders to reserve your spot at (423)239-7554. We will plan to leave the parking lot between State of Franklin Bank and McDonalds in Colonial Heights at 7:30.

### Paddle: Guest Appreciation Festival: October 27-28 at Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway

Leader: Bryan Hogan, or 276-393-4985

Rating: Il to III on the Nanty, Il to III+ on the Ocoee

This is Nantahala Outdoor Center's Annual Festival and gear swap. The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast's will have sites reserved and a campfire ready, the only thing missing is you! This is the perfect beginner trip. For intermediate paddlers there is the Ocoee just down the road! Come one come all for a great time at a classic event.

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

None reported this month



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

Reporting: Carl Fritz Date: August 26, 2007

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 12d, Between Bear Branch Rd and Bishop Hollow

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Kat Johnson, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim

Peters, Jeff Siirola, Ben Trotter, 101 from ASU

**Summary:** Thanks to a great turnout of 15 TEHCC members, two from ASU Trail Crew, four professors, and 95 Appalachian State University (ASU) students, we started digging the new trail relocation just north of Bear Branch Road. On a hot and very humid day with the dry soil like concrete, everyone persisted until we had completed over 1000 feet of trail. Some more trail was roughly dug, but some places need special cribbing. ASU treated everyone to a barbecue dinner at Roan Mountain State Park.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** August 29, 2007

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation and cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 11b, About one mile north of Moreland Gap Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Rachel Hunger, Matthew Grock, Laura Condra, Danielle Boggs, Katie Meyer, Sarah Jones, Anison Condra, Tyler Shepherd, Trevor Schimmneller, Laura Bonvillian, Tyler Mittlestead

and HIKER M.K. Nicholson

**Summary:** Wright State University had students out hiking for several days and they scheduled a day of trail work with us. We went to White Rocks area north of Moreland Gap Shelter and finished the last relocation in the area. It was fairly good digging, but we ran into typical stumps, rocks, and the need for some rock cribs. The students really worked hard to complete 600 feet of trail and opened this new section by painting blazes. We also cut a couple of blowdowns north and south of shelter.

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

**Date:** August 29, 2007

**Purpose:** Perform needed maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Iron Mountain Gap **People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

**Summary:** The Guinns and Hupkos cut the taller weeds near the trail and lopped overhanging limbs. Several water bars were cleaned out and a new one was built. They hauled out several bags of trash. Generally the trail is in good condition. There is still some evidence of four wheelers between Weedy Gap and the Apple Orchard. The spring at the Apple Orchard is at a trickle, the orchard has been mowed, and nine of the eleven young apple trees planted several years ago are living.

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

Date: September 1, 2007

**Purpose:** Remove downed tree and do seasonal maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap

People: Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

**Summary:** We cleaned water bars and lopped. We removed several small trees from the trail and clipped the taller weeds, especially at Deep Gap. Beauty Spot and Beauty Spot Gap had not been mowed by the USFS.

**Reporting:** Dale Douthat Date: September 1, 2007

**Purpose:** Check trail and cut weeds

**Location:** Section 12d, U.S. 19E to Perment foundation

People: SC Robinette, Dale Douthat, Seth Douthat, Gearl Douthat

Summary: We checked the trail and clipped the bigger weeds and briars through the fields. We picked up some trash at the Bear Branch Road crossing. We didn't get all of the trash, but it does look better. We walked the new relo. When it's finished it will be a great improvement to this section. I'm planning another trip to mow the grass through the fields.

Reporting: Jeff Siirola Date: September 3, 2007 **Purpose:** Maintain section **Location:** Section 11b, Both sides of Moreland Gap Shelter

**People:** Steve Perri, Jeff Siirola

**Summary:** We continued heavy lopping, clipping, and briar cutting. One knee-high 12" blowdown remains 30 minutes south of shelter. The section is now completely trimmed

from Bitter End to 0.3 miles north of Moreland Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 4, 2007

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation and cut weeds

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

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl

Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We cut weeds from 19E to Bear Branch Road. Then we worked on some of

the difficult trail relocations we started with ASU students and could not complete.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 4, 2007

Purpose: Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 13a, Open area just south of U.S. 19E

**People:** Carl Fritz

Summary: I cut weeds near the bridge just south of 19E.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 5, 2007

**Purpose:** Help setup USFS survey of AT

**Location:** Asheville, NC **People:** Jim Foster, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Jim and Ed participated with other southern clubs to identify potential hiker exit sites on our trail section for the US Forest Service. These may be used in the future to

survey exiting hikers. **Reporting:** Collins Chew **Date:** September 7, 2007

**Purpose:** Measure recent relocations

Location: Section 11b, Bitter End to Dennis Cove

**People:** Olin Babb, Kathy Case, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey,

Anna Sherrill, Taylor Pickard

**Summary:** The Friday Hikers measured the AT from Bitter End to Dennis Cove with a measuring wheel. The distance is 10.8 miles with 0.4 miles added recently in relocations south of Moreland Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 11, 2007

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 12d, Between Bear Branch Rd and Bishop Hollow

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster,

Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We continued to work on some of the difficult areas of the relocation. For example, we cribbed over a large rock, put in steps and cribbing at the switchback, and

cribbed with large rocks in a ravine.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: September 18, 2007
Purpose: Repair boggy areas

Location: Section 5, Boggy areas south of TN 91

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave

Dunham, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** This group installed a new bog bridge and also built a number of approaches to the bridges to reduce the ankle deep mud. They used either stepping stones or built

turnpikes lined with locust logs.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: September 18, 2007
Purpose: Clean water bars
Location: Sections 4a and 4b

**People:** Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We cleaned all the water bars from U.S. 421 to TN 91, and repaired those that were being walked around. Double Springs is still flowing sufficiently to be a good water source.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach
Date: September 19, 2007

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 9, Laurel Fork across Pond Flats to U.S. 321

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We clipped briars, lopped brush, cut several blowdowns, and painted blazes in both directions. The blazes were needed; some along Shook Branch Road had been obliterated. There are only two places on this section where weeds get bad; along the railroad grade climbing out of the gorge and along the switchbacks near Shook Branch Road. The relocation on the Watauga Lake side completed in the early 1990's is holding up great, and the switchbacks we put in on the Laurel Fork side also look good. The short relocation of the blue-blazed trail gets very weedy and appears to be used very little. The old trail through the mudslide is still open and is used more. We need to decide whether we should provide stronger encouragement to hikers to take the relo.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach **Date:** September 20, 2007

**Purpose:** AT Committee meeting **Location:** Kingsport, Eastman B-310

People: Collins Chew, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed

Oliver, Kim Peters, and Jeff Siirola

**Summary:** 1a. Trash dumping on the Trail at Bear Branch road continues. We assembled a timetable for the events that have occurred over the last 6 years and will review at the upcoming ATC regional partnership meeting. Joe will get an update on any actions that have been taken or are planned prior to the meeting.

1b. Horse Use - We received reports of significant horse use and damage to newly relocated sections of Trail near Iron Mt. Gap this summer. We have not received any reports recently. We will ask volunteers to report observations, but not make special trips

to look for problems. We will mention this at the partnership meeting as this may become a larger problem.

- 2. Forest Service Burns The AT Committee supports asking the Forest Service to use the AT as a line for prescribed burns rather than burning across the Trail. We also request that compartments where shelters are located be removed from the burn rotation. The proposal to request burns in the fall instead of the spring is good from our perspective in theory; in practice the weather is often far too dry for prescribed burns in the fall.

  3. Bear Problem A problem bear has been reported in the vicinity of the No Business Knob Shelter. We will tell the Forest Service and see what measures they or other agencies might take. We feel the problem is not severe enough at this time to install bear cables, which have been vandalized along other parts of the Trail. It would be good to post signs reminding hikers of proper food storage techniques. Joe will talk to Steve Perri about making such signs.
- 4. Relocations We will review our major project plans at the partnership meeting. We hope to obtain approvals for relocations at the Roan Highlands, south of Damascus, and at Iron Mountain Gap this fall to allow us to effectively plan for 2008. We have completed the White Rocks Mountain relocations, have begun work from 19E to Bishop Hollow, and have about 4000 to 5000 feet remaining on Unaka Mountain. A relocation of the Backbone Rock Trail has been flagged.

Reporting: Collins Chew Date: September 21, 2007

**Purpose:** Test water to monitor quality

**Location:** Section 19, Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

People: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Kathy Case, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Freda Kuo, Anna Sherrill, Taylor Pickard, Benjamin Trotter **Summary:** The Appalachian Trail Conservancy agreed to participate in the International Water Quality Monitoring Day this year. Specifically, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity are being measured on water bodies along the AT between September 18 and October 18. The Friday Hikers measured these parameters along the AT at five water bodies between Indian Grave Gap and the Nolichucky River. We also had a fine Fall hike.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 22, 2007

Purpose: Relocate trail

Location: Section 12d, Between Bear Branch Rd and Bishop Hollow

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Chris Harrison, Mike Hupko, Mike Hupko Jr, Kat Johnson, Ted

Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Chad Tate, Ben Trotter, and 47 ASU students and leaders

**Summary:** Reed Thomas brought one of his Appalachian State University (ASU) freshman seminar classes. Annah Nesbitt brought a large group of ASU students from ACT (Appalachian and the Community Together), ASU's clearinghouse for community service opportunities. Seventeen TEHCC members and guests showed up to lead this effort. Everyone worked hard on an extremely hot day. We were able to open and blaze the primary 1500- foot relocation that significantly reduces the trail steepness.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: September 23, 2007

**Purpose:** Relocate and rehab trail

**Location:** Section 12d, Betwen U.S. 19E and Bishop Hollow

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, and 16

ASU students and leaders

**Summary:** Reed Thomas brought a second class of his ASU freshman seminar students. We installed a couple of side logs and a step on the 1500 feet of trail we opened yesterday. Also, we roughed in some more trail relocation in that area. We started and completed the 270-foot relocation between Bear Branch Road and 19E. We replaced many of the decaying steps trail-south of Bear Branch Road; and the students volunteered

to pick up most of the trash at Bear Branch Road.

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

Date: September 24, 2007

Purpose: Test water during scheduled fun hike

**Location:** Summit Cut to the Virginia Creeper at Taylor's Valley

People: Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, CB Willis

**Summary:** We tested water in three places from Summit Cut to the Virginia Creeper at Taylor's Valley. (For additional water testing information, see Collins' report of September

21.)

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam **Date:** September 27, 2007

**Purpose:** Improve treadway along Laurel Fork creek **Location:** Section 12a, Along Laurel Fork creek

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I reinforced the area along bank of Laurel Fork creek where hiker traffic and hiking poles had weakened the bank. I moved a large rock which was easy to stumble over and put creek sand and gravel in low spots along the treadway. This short section immediately adjacent to the creek is now more easily hiked.

**Reporting:** Dave Dunham **Date:** September 28, 2007

**Purpose:** Test water and wheel relocation **Location:** Walnut Mountain Road to U.S. 19E

**People:** Dave Dunham, Carol Dunham, Bob Harvey, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan **Summary:** We tested numerous water samples from Walnut Mountain Road to 19E. We also measured the new relocations north of Bear Branch Road and south of Bear Branch Road to 19E with the measuring wheel.

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

**Date:** September 29, 2007 **Purpose:** Conduct water tests

**Location:** Section 17, FS Road 230 to Rock Creek Park

People: Bob Miller, CB Willis

**Summary:** We conducted water quality tests at Cherry Gap Falls, the spring at Deep Gap,

and Rock Creek at the park.