

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

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<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>		<u>Leader</u>	<u>Contact</u>
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
Dec 8	Elk Park Trail to Houston Ridge/Elk River Falls	C/4/B	Vic Hasler	239-0388

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



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Mary Gamble

Rachel Gillis
Gregory Johnson
Jimmy Nelson
Michelle Wood

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 [Hiking Schedule](#) or [Paddling Schedule](#).

**Relocated Appalachian Trail between Bitter End and Dennis Cove:
Saturday, November 10, 2007**

Leader: Joe DeLoach, 423-416-1739;

Rating: A/3/C

During the last 20 years we have relocated many sections of the Appalachian Trail. Reasons for the relocations include moving the Trail away from private land and to avoid unsafe conditions or resource damage. For example, erosion can occur when a trail is built straight up and down a ridgeline. A recently completed relocation on White Rocks Mountain in Carter County was done for all of these reasons. The former route had many ups and downs making it a tough hike susceptible to erosion. Also, the Forest Service had dismantled the White Rocks Fire Tower removing the great view; so the tough climb on the old road was no longer rewarding. With the help of the Konnarock Crew, HardCore, student groups, and plenty of Club trips, we were able to complete seven individual relocations between Dennis Cove and Bitter End, an aptly named area between White Rocks and Walnut Mountains. The relocations eliminated pointless climbs and numerous crossings of wet and eroded areas, while preserving some of the views. In honor of our 60th year as an AT-maintaining Club and in honor of the volunteers who worked on this project, we'll hike this 11-mile section on Saturday, November 10. We'll depart from the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. A meeting point in Johnson City can be arranged on request. At press time we're working on getting a shuttle to Bitter End from Dennis Cove where we can leave the vehicles. The weather in early November can be fickle; dress in layers and have warm clothing available, avoid cotton, and bring rain gear. We scheduled this hike between muzzle loader and gun seasons, so the woods should be safer than the weekends before or after. However, it will be archery season, so wearing bright colors is a good idea. PLEASE contact Joe if you plan to come so we can plan the shuttle and will know to look for you.

AT: Carver's Gap to Yellow Mountain and Back: November 24, 2007

Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-323-3493

Rating: AA/2/B

The bald of Big Yellow Mountain is a Nature Conservancy [preserve](#) located off the AT in Avery County, NC, at 5540 feet. Although there are easier ways to get there, I plan to hike there from Carver's Gap, about 7 miles away on the AT. This is for two reasons: first, to allow fellow hikers the opportunity to work off their Thanksgiving Day meals, and second, to watch the full moon rise from Round Bald a little after 5:00, just before reaching the vehicles on the return trip. So the hike is a long one - 14 to 15 miles – and we will need to maintain a fast, but not manic, pace. We will meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 7:30 a.m. in order to get this done in the 10 hours of daylight we will have. Given the time of year, plans are likely to change owing to weather and cloud cover; please call on November 22 or 23 for more information and to let me know to expect you. Given the altitude of roughly 4900 to 5800 feet, this should be considered an early winter hike. So dress warmly with plenty of layers; bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water; wear blaze orange hat or vest or both (this is hunting season), and a flashlight for the final walk back to the vehicles. We will try to eat out on the way back. (Note: if anyone would like to lead a shorter hike the same day – say, to Grassy Ridge – and meet us at Round Bald at the end of the hike, I would be willing to entertain such a suggestion. Let me know.)

Elk Park Trail to Houston Ridge/Elk River Falls: December 8, 2007

Leader: Vic Hasler, 239-0388;

Rating: C/4/B

Up on Houston Ridge is a memorial plaque for Stan Murray. (Picture at right was taken in 2001 by Steve Wilson.) Searching the club website, I can find only one hike report for the Elk Park Trail. Bill Stowell reported that they followed Gary Luttrell doing maintenance in Oct 1998. My proposal is for a short, but strenuous day hike to burn off some holiday cheer. Meet in Colonial Heights at 8:30 a.m. for carpooling the 50-mile drive to Elk Park, NC. We'll hike the 2 miles up to the ridge to enjoy the pinnacle views down on Elk Park, Cranberry, and over to Grandfather Mt. I would also like to drive up to see the Elk River Falls before returning to Kingsport by late afternoon. Dress appropriately for cold and wind (which is hard to imagine when I am writing this notice on a 93°F day in August). E-mail or call if any questions.



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

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: September 29, 2007

Purpose: Clean trail

Location: Section 12d, Bear Branch trail crossing

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: On the way back from North Carolina I stopped at arguably one of the section's most abused road crossings and picked up five large garbage bags of trash.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: September 30, 2007

Purpose: Test Buck Creek water for Water Quality Study

Location: Section 13a, AT at Buck Creek by U. S. 19E

People: Collins Chew

Reporting: CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: October 1, 2007

Purpose: To check trail and perform needed maintenance

Location: Section 17, Unaka Mountain north to Iron Mountain Gap

People: Mike Hupko, Kent Gangshirt, Daryl Loyd, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Susan Peters, Dave McMillin, and CB Willis

Summary: We checked the trail, removed several dead trees from across the trail, lopped

limbs in trail, and removed two coolers left by campers and other similar trash. We tested water at South Indian Creek and picked up trash at Iron Mountain Gap. More blazes were placed in the public access area at Iron Mt Gap and others were refreshed to make the trail easier to locate at the junction. The second spring at Cherry Gap shelter is not running. The first spring is dribbling out about one pint per minute. The spring at Deep Gap is still adequate. Generally the trail is in good shape with minimum maintenance needed this time around.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 2, 2007

Purpose: Rehab trail and bridge; cut blowdowns

Location: Section 19, 2 miles south of Nolichucky

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: Water was undermining supports of the second bridge on Jones Branch. This group piled new rocks on both sides of the stream while the water was absent. They cut a blowdown amongst the bridges. Hikers reported a bad hemlock blowdown up the hill and they took it out. They started some work where the steep climb leaves Jones Branch. Another day of work remains in this area for a small group.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 2, 2007

Purpose: Cut out trail relocation

Location: Section 17, South of Iron Mt. Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Ed Oliver

Summary: They cut out and flagged 1400 feet of trail to dig with ETSU students this fall. There is another 300 feet that only needs pin flags to be ready.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: October 5, 2007

Purpose: Test water for Water Quality Study

Location: Section 10, Braemar to Dennis Cove and return

People: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Ken Buchanan, Kathy Case, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jan and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, and Collins Chew

Summary: On a pleasant day, three water quality tests were conducted on Laurel Fork and three on other water bodies along the AT between Braemar and Dennis Cove.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Case.

Reporting: CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: October 8, 2007

Purpose: Test water

Location: Bays Mountain Lake

People: Bob Miller

Summary: Bob tested water at Bays Mountain lake across from welcome center.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 9, 2007

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 12d, North of Bear Branch bridge

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: Paul, Ted and Ed worked on some of the trail relocation including the first switchback just north of Bear Branch Bridge. This area appeared difficult because of the presence of rocks. But they successfully got through the worst by building 75 feet of trail with 25 feet of rock cribbing. This included the first switchback. They reported that the trash at Bear Branch Road was not as bad as usual. (Editor's comment: Note that Scott VanDam picked up five bags of trash from this location on September 29.)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 9, 2007

Purpose: Install gutter, paint shelter, and pick up trash

Location: Section 8, Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Tim Stewart

Summary: This crew applied two to four coats of solid stain on the outside of Watauga

Lake Shelter. They also installed a gutter on the back side of the shelter to reduce water damage to the bottom of the siding. They cleaned up around the shelter where hikers are not using proper methods of burying body wastes. To complete the day they picked up ten bags of trash at the campsites.



Carol Dunham and Pat Buchanan painting Watauga Lake Shelter. Photo courtesy of Ken Buchanan.



Tim Stewart, Dave Dunham, Carol Dunham and Bruce Cunningham pick up trash along Watauga Lake.

Photo courtesy of Ken Buchanan.

Reporting: Michael Ray

Date: October 9, 2007

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 12e, From U.S. 19E to permanent stream foundation

People: Dale Douthat, Steve Poteat, Carl Ray, Michael Ray

Summary: The four of us used three string trimmers and clipped branches on our section of the trail. As of this date, there are no blowdowns on this section. A good section of ground had been cleared just a few feet from the trail in the middle-to-upper section of Bishop Hollow. From the track marks it appeared that a bulldozer or a trackhoe with a blade had done this. We filled four trash bags from the Buck Mountain road crossing and along Buck Mountain Road and 19E to the trail intersection. The trail relocation on this section is very nice. Thanks to all who worked on this.

Reporting: CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: October 11, 2007

Purpose: Install signage; check water sources

Location: Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap

People: Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

Summary: Mike and Marsha placed one distance sign and one AT footpath sign at Indian Grave Gap and checked the trail and springs. Beauty Spot has been mowed, but Beauty

Spot Gap has not been mowed. The spring near Beauty Spot is dry; the spring at Deep Gap is flowing at about two quarts per minute or better.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 16, 2007

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 12d, North of Bear Branch bridge

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Doug Hibshman, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: This crew built another 210 feet of trail. The rest of trail in this area should be fairly straight forward to dig. The trail at Bear Branch Road was covered in trash and we did not attempt to pick it up.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 16, 2007

Purpose: Repair wet areas

Location: Section 11b, Bitter End to Hard Core Cascade

People: Daryl Anderson, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: We repaired two wet areas. The worst was about 600 feet south of Hard Core Cascade. We turnpiked about 12 feet with locust logs and installed two steps on the south end. About a mile and half north of Bitter End was another wet area that already had stepping stones. We added about four more stepping rocks with one being 2 x 3 x 1 feet. At the large rocks skirted by the trail, we removed a 10" tree leaner that was difficult to get around.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: October 17, 2007

Purpose: Mow AT across Osborne Field

Location: Section 4b, Fields on Cross Mountain

People: Charlotte Chew, Collins Chew, Keron Privon

Summary: The AT path (including the handicapped trail) was mowed from TN 91 on Cross Mountain to the edge of the woods (0.8 miles). The leaves were pretty.



Reporting: Garry Luttrell

Date: October 20, 2007

Purpose: Finish AT maintenance

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mtn Shelter

People: Garry Luttrell

Summary: It was a great day to be on Iron Mountain: cool, sunny, and the leaves were at their peak color. On the last trip, I didn't make it all the way to the shelter, so this trip was to finish the rest of the section. I removed three blowdowns and cut the briars and weeds away from the trail corridor. There was no water at the bog bridges, near Nick Grindstaff Monument, or trail south of the shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 20, 2007

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 17, 1.5 mile south of Iron Mt Gap

People: Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart, ETSU Kevin O'Donnell, Susan Lachmann, Mary Dykes, Heidi Mason, Steven Soloman, ASU Andy Kruse, Vanessa Chumbley, Madeline Kaspor, Zach Vaughter, Sean McHugh

Summary: The leaf color was at its peak in Unaka Mountain area. These folks from ETSU, ASU Trail Crew, and TEHCC built 380 feet of new trail on this crisp fall day.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: October 25, 2007

Purpose: Attend Open Area meeting and purchase chain saws

Location: Mars Hill and Burnsville, NC

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Julie Judkins, ATC resource program manager, led an Open Area meeting with representatives from TEHCC, CMC, USFS, and SAHC. While in North Carolina, I was able to purchase some new chain saws and parts with the NC license plate grant monies.