

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN
HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

February 2009

www.tehcc.org

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

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COMING EVENTS				
February-March				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Feb 5	Intro to Touring Class	Informative	Deb Reynolds	423-723-7017
Feb 7	Trail Relocation south of Damascus	Maintenance		423-477-4669
Feb 20	Maintainers Dinner	Fun		423-477-4669
Feb 21	Family Hike to (hopefully) Frozen Waterfalls	C/4/C		423-229-6244
Feb 28	AT: Sam's Gap to Devil Fork Gap	A/2A		423-963-8654
Mar 5	Paddling Accessories Class	Informative	Deb Reynolds	423-723-7017
Mar 20-22	AT: Devils Fork Gap to Hot Springs	AA/2/A		423-963-8654
Mar 21	Trail Relocation at Cherry Gap with ETSU students	Maintenance		423-477-4669

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

TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday, April 17, 2009

Mark your calendars now to attend the Spring Dinner Meeting on Friday, April 17, 2009!

Club Awards will be presented and the program will be by Diana Niland, a 2008 AT thru-hiker and soccer coach at Virginia Intermont in Bristol. She will speak on her AT thru hike and do a photo show for Happy Trails Hour.

More details will be coming soon.

Calling for TEHCC hike leaders

, TEHCC Events Coordinator

Hello fellow hikers and outdoor lovers!

We are calling for TEHCC hike leaders for the first half of 2009.



Doe River Gorge

We want to hear from you about leading a hike whether it's a short day hike, overnight backpacking trip or long drive hike. We want to hear about your ideas and hiking opportunities. Your trips can include camping or biking as well, so let's set a goal to lead something every few months.

One of my personal goals this year is to visit Joyce Kilmer State Park to see for the first time the old growth trees. Sometimes I find great learning opportunities by finding ranger programs at state parks. Some of these learning programs offer a great opportunity to learn more about nature than I could ever imagine.

Please contact with your hike or trip information.

**Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains)
July 11-12, 2009**

For the past 30+ years the Hiking Club has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge (elevation 6593 ft) 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 \$121 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have eight reservations in two five-person cabins (double bunk beds and a single!). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations please contact Steve Falling, 423-239-5502, for availability. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at www.leconte-lodge.com/about.html.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Glenda Flick
Alison Page
Tony Garland
Joshua D. Noe
Audrey Stanley
Denise Vicars
Gopal Saraiya

Description of Scheduled Events

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

Intro to Touring Class, February 5, 2009, 5:30-7:30pm Eastman Recreation Center B310 Room 112

Contact: Deb Reynolds, 423-723-7017

Come learn about touring in a kayak. The course is intended for the beginner who may want to know what type of kayak to get, what type of other equipment, basic safety and courtesy rules, where to kayak around here, minimum types of gear needed and types of skills to develop. The instructor(s) will be either or .

Trail Relocation south of Damascus, February 7, 2009

Contact: : 423-477-4669

There have been hardly any opportunities to get out this year. The beginning of this week looks like bad weather. But it looks like it will clear up at end of week and give us a chance to get away from that cabin fever. We will plan on finishing the relocation just south of Damascus. With a good turn out it could be a reasonably short work day. Meeting times and places are:

- 8 AM at Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor in south Johnson City
- 8:20 AM at Food City in Elizabethton
- 8:30 AM in Colonial Heights between State of Franklin Bank and McDonalds

Please let Carl know if you plan to come and where you would like to meet.

Maintainers Dinner, February 20, 2009, Eastman Lodge

Contact: TEHCC - AT Maintenance Coordinator, 423-477-4669

We will have our annual dinner to kick off the primary maintenance season on Friday, February 20 at the Eastman Lodge in the class rooms. Thanks to Joe DeLoach for reserving these.

- 5:30 Social Time
- 6:00 Dinner
- 6:30 Meeting and Open Discussion

Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver have graciously volunteered to provide dinner. If you have been before, you know you can't beat the quality for the few dollars in cost. There will be packets of information for each maintenance section. Please contact Carl Fritz to let me know how many people may come for dinner, so we can plan accordingly for the meals. I will send out a list of trail section assignments in a couple of days. If I have not already been in contact with you there will be no surprises. You will have a chance to review before they are carved into stone.

Family hike to hopefully frozen waterfalls, February 21, 2009

Leader: , 423-229-6244;

Rating: C/4/C

This will be the second bimonthly Father-Children (family) hike. December's trip to Natural Tunnel State Park in Virginia went well for the two dads, three kids, and dog although we missed seeing a train go by. As soon as we climbed back to the top we could hear one roar through much to our disappointment. This trip will be to hopefully view some frozen water falls in the cold month of February. Final destination will be nailed down in the week prior based on actual conditions and likelihood that it will be frozen over at that time as well as ease for toddlers to walk or be backpacked there and back. Currently we are targeting either Dolan Branch Falls near Kingsport or Jones Falls near the AT and 19E. All are welcome, no fatherhood or children required.

We plan to meet at the parking lot between McDonalds and the Bank in front of Ingles on Fort Henry at 9am. Please contact Tim Schaefer beforehand to let him know to look for you.

AT: Sam's Gap to Devils Fork Gap, February 28, 2009

Leader: , 423-963-8654;

Rating: A/2/A

Highlights of this section include High Rock, Lick Rock and Hogback Ridge Shelter. This is an excellent chance to walk off some of that extra 10 pounds gained over Christmas since this hike will include some significant elevation gain and loss. We will need at least one other driver. Meeting place will be arranged based on those who show interest. If weather threatens, hike will be cancelled 1-3 days in advance. Contact Jake Mitchell for details.

AT: Devils Fork Gap to Hot Springs, March 20-22, 2009

Leader: , 423-963-8654;

Rating: AA/2/A

Jake will be leading a backpacking trip on the AT from Devils Fork Gap to Hot Springs on March 20-22. Since March 20th is the first day of Spring, we will celebrate on the trail. The plan is to leave out Friday morning from Kingsport and drive to Hot Springs. Jake will arrange a shuttle for transport back to Devils Fork Gap where we will start hiking the AT south. We will plan our night time stops on as the group sees fit. We will need all 3 days to complete this section as it is about 38 miles. Highlights of this section include the Rich Mountain fire tower, Big Butt and Bald Mountain. Contact Jake Mitchell if you are interested.

For the Record, Activity and Trip Reports

Paddling GPS and Map Course, January 17, 2009

Debbie Reynolds reporting

On January 17th, Joe Harrison of Penn Virginia presented a class on basic GPS functionality as well as mapping. Richard Ruhlen was present and is extremely skilled at using navigation maps. We learned how to use the web and maps to determine coordinates and enter them into the GPS to use for tracking, since currents and wind can take you off track. We learned how to use the maps to find permanent buoys or other landmarks to use as guides. We also covered topography maps and how to determine the direction of a river. The class was at the new Penn Virginia office in Sheridan Square and we were using the board room. This was much more comfortable than being on the water on a very frigid day. Joe plans to do a class on the water at a later date. Attending were Deb Reynolds, Jamie Aiello, Joe Harrison, and Rich Ruhlen.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: January 14, 2009

Purpose: Check trail for blowdowns and obstructions

Location: Section 16a, Trail south of Clyde Smith Shelter to Greasy Creek Gap

People: Jim Foster

Summary: There was snow on the Trail, and it was pretty cold, but a beautiful day none the less. I cut three small blowdowns near the blue blaze campsite south of the shelter. I'm assuming that these were the ones reported several months ago. The rest of the trail was clear and the water source (pipe) at Greasy Creek Gap (blue blaze) was still in good shape.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: January 15, 2009

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Bldg 310

People: Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Jeff Sirola, and Bill Stowell

Summary: HardCore will be May 17-18, with plans to work at least the first day on the relook north of Wilbur Dam Road. Konnarock will be working on the Roan Highlands relook July 2-6 and July 30-August 3. A large scale wind energy facility has been proposed for a ridge near Mountain City. This would be visible from several points on our Trail section but is a minimum 10 miles from a not particularly noteworthy overlook. Darrol pointed out the need to know where the transmission lines would be located. The AT Committee was impressed by the additions of section information to the website. There are ongoing discussions about user impacts in the Roan Highlands between ATC, the Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and SAHC; we have participated in some of these discussions and will continue to be involved, with recommendations yet to be made. Protection of a large tract near Yellow Mountain Gap by SAHC will preserve views from the barn and the Trail leading off Grassy Ridge. We have submitted two grant proposals to LL Bean that we should learn about soon, and one to the NC AT license plate program that will be decided in April.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: January 25, 2009

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 9b, Hampton Blue Blaze and Laurel Fork Gorge

People: Jake Mitchell, Tyler Kilgore, Bill Fuller

Summary: Our initial plan was to clear a large blowdown just before the AT/Hampton Blue Blaze intersection on the Blue Blaze. We got there and discovered that someone cut it out, most likely the Forest Service. We cleared some other brush from the sides of the trail and removed some trash.
