



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

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tehcc.org

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To submit an article for the Newsletter, send an email to: news@tehcc.org. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month.

From the Chair

Ian Powell, Steering Committee Chair

The holidays are over and if you are like me, they tend to be a little stressful at times. This year though, there was a welcome diversion. I am referring to the snow of course. I absolutely love hiking and backpacking in the snow. The exhilaration of hiking a newly snow covered trail by far overshadows any of the discomforts the elements can convey. Trails that you have hiked for years and know by heart are transformed into new works of art. The trail seems fresher, like it's the first time you've ever explored it. The type of snow makes a huge difference on the hike experience. Powdery snow will make moving easy and windswept drifts on the sides of the trail look like white sand dunes on a beach. Wet snow is heavy, more difficult to move in, but allows for easier identification of animal tracks in the snow. The trail seems especially quiet and peaceful after a fresh snow fall. I encourage you, if you get the chance, to get out and make the most of a snow day. If you hike with a friend, take turns leading so you both get first tracks in the snow. Be prepared for the elements, but enjoy them as they are a special part of trail culture. Take solace in the fact that you get out and enjoy the snow when others loathe it, only to complain about the impediment upon their daily routine that it causes.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-18- Kelty Trekker external frame backpack

Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator (rental@tehcc.org)



The Kelty Trekker is a classic external H-frame design first built in the 1950's. The pack bag has two central compartments with four side pockets and a large front pocket.

HB-18 is the lightest external frame pack the club owns. The 3210-cubic-inch size is good for up to 30 pounds of gear and food. With strap position and adjustments, this pack should fit folks with 15-23" torso.

This is a good basic backpack for a weekend outing, if you have your gear volume under control.

Save the Date – Spring Diner Meeting 2011

The spring dinner meeting will be held on Friday, March 11th. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Further information will follow in future newsletters.

Changes to A.T. Committee

Joe DeLoach reporting

In the late 1970's, the A. T. Committee was established to manage our Club's responsibilities for the Appalachian Trail. The A. T. Committee is composed of people who have experience with maintaining the Trail and other aspects of its management. It meets on an as-needed basis, roughly quarterly the last few years. The A. T. Committee Chair is our point person for Appalachian Trail issues involving TEHCC and is our point of contact with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Forest Service. Some of the issues are straightforward and do not necessitate discussion; for example, we don't take positions on a timber sale proposal well away from our Trail section, but do respond to help ensure that we'll be contacted for those which are close by. Other issues mainly involve communication, such as representing the Club at regional A. T. management meetings and the semiannual partnership meetings we hold with local Forest Service and ATC personnel. Some issues are more complex and do get A. T. Committee consideration; for example recent legislation to expand current and establish new Wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest, including an extension to the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness area through which the Trail runs along Iron Mountain. I've had the privilege to follow in the footsteps of Ray Hunt, Collins Chew, Paul Worsham, and Steve Perri to chair the A. T. Committee since 2006. Though there is no formal term length, past Chairs have served from 4-7 years, and after five years, it is a good time for someone else to assume this responsibility. Steve Perri will come back into this role effective January 1, 2011 for his second stint. He followed me after my first term and did a great job then, so he'll hit the ground running.

Some aspects of our A. T. section are considerably less problematic now than they were in the early 1990's; fewer incidents of vandalism to name one. Other aspects have become more involved and have little to do with traditional Trail maintenance; for example, outreach programs such as Trails to Every Classroom and the A. T. Community Partner program. A constant is the need to involve more people within the Club. We are doing very well with physical Trail maintenance, but that won't last forever without getting others involved in section maintenance and especially in leadership roles for all aspects of A. T. management. Steve and I don't need to pass the Chair back and forth until we croak, and big projects like our recent renovation of the Curley Maple Gap Shelter require not just laborers, but also building and engineering skills. There are many opportunities to get involved. [Steve](#), Maintenance Coordinator [Kim Peters](#), and A. T. Projects Coordinator [Carl Fritz](#) are all good contacts if you'd like to help.

Thanks for your support during these last five years and thanks to Steve for assuming the Chair once again. I know you'll help him as you've helped me, and we'll be in good hands. I look forward to staying involved and doing more digging and sawing than meeting!

Events Coordinator Position Opening

Ian Powell reporting

There is currently a position opening for an Events Coordinator. The position entails the upkeep of the TEHCC calendar as well as soliciting hike and trip leaders to lead outings each month. The coordinator works hand in hand with the Steering Committee on the club's bigger events as well. If you are interested in learning more about the position, please feel free to contact Ian Powell at ipowell@eastman.com. If you've been looking for some way to be more active in the club and see how things work, this is your opportunity.

AT License Plates



AT license plates are now available in the county clerk's office. If you didn't get around to purchasing one last year, now's your chance. Remember a portion of the proceeds from the plate go toward maintaining the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee. Help maintain the trail while showing your support at the same time.

2011 Gear Swap

Ian Powell reporting

An outdoor gear swap will be held on Saturday, March 26th, 2011 from 8AM to noon in the parking lot of the Eastman Employee Center, 400 South Wilcox Drive, Kingsport. The event is being sponsored by the TN Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club to give folks a chance to trade surplus equipment. Think backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, climbing, fishing, hiking, kayaking, paddling, skiing, and snowboarding. Do you have a "no longer used and in good condition" external frame pack, but need a water filter? Then come find another outdoor enthusiast to make a trade.

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule

Description of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Most Tuesdays: Weekly AT Trail Maintenance

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Tuesdays. Contact Carl Fritz (atvolunteer@tehcc.org) for dates and meeting places.

Tuesdays Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon (J.A.W.), APEs, and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool in Johnson City, TN from 7:10 to 9:10 pm every Tuesday for tips and tricks about basic kayaking and for learning how to roll. Have you already mastered the basics and have a bomb proof roll? There is still a lot of fun to be had at our pool session by practicing your flat-water freestyle moves and fellowshiping with other paddlers in a nice warm-water environment. Admission to the pool is \$2; rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423- 461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility. Please note: The J.A.W. provides the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc...). If you do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the APEs yahoo group site or send Wesley an e-mail asking other members to bring extra equipment. We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night!

Fridays: Friday Hikers

Join members of the TEHCC and other hiking enthusiasts for Friday hikes in the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia areas. Trips typically leave from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8 am. Trips to places farther away leave at 7:30 am. Contact Collins Chew to be added to the distribution list.

Scheduled Events

No non-recurring events on the schedule this month.



For the Record

Friday Hikers: Steele Creek Park, December 3, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a pleasant, chilly day for our 7 mile hike in Steele Creek Park in Bristol, TN. We hiked the "northern loop" as usual. Lunch was at Rooster Front Park. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Charles Beggerow, Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Bays Mountain Park, December 10, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

Again, we had a beautiful, cool day for our hike which was over the NE perimeter Trails of Bays Mountain Park, crossing over via Feagins and Ledbetter Gaps. There were many nice views. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Charles Beggerow, Anne Cosby, Bob Harvey, Allison Hewson, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Warriors Path State Park, December 24, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, chilly day for our hike in Warriors Path Park today. We started with the Devils Backbone Trail, then started the Fall Creek Loop, but cut off of it at Larry's suggestion and walked some on the bike trails of the area before returning to the Devils Backbone. We had great views of the lake and probably walked 6 to 7 miles. Hikers were Olin Babb, Jerry Jones, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Tom Boyd

Date: November 20, 2010

Purpose: General trail maintenance

Location: Section 2, McQueen Gap Road to Abingson Gap Shelter

People: Tom Boyd, Mike Rehart, Ian Powell, Corey Pitchford

Summary: We left a vehicle at Mt. Rogers Outfitters and shuttled to US 421 intending to camp near or just past Abingdon Gap Shelter. We cleared small blow-downs and briars all along the trail. We cleaned out some water bars that needed tending. We made a general check of the shelter and also cleaned out the water source below the shelter.

Reporting: Tom Boyd

Date: November 21, 2010

Purpose: General trail maintenance

Location: Section 2, Abingdon Gap Shelter to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Tom Boyd, Mike Rehart, Ian Powell, Corey Pitchford

Summary: We broke camp and continued our hike/trail maintenance from just past Abingdon Gap Shelter to the Backbone Rock Trail, clearing briars and a few minor blow-downs along the way. We noted a short section just south of Backbone Rock Trail that will need maintenance soon as the trail is almost completely worn away from the side of the mountain. Wet or snowy weather would make this section very treacherous.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: December 3, 2010

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 12d, South of Bishop Hollow

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

Summary: We finished rehabbing the Trail just south of Bishop Hollow. We repositioned the trail up several feet in many places, installed side logs and steps, and removed many roots. Almost the entire section between the upper end of the 2008 relo and Bishop Hollow has been redug. Today, in the light snow, we dug 400 feet of trail.