



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

October 2013

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

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## From the Chair

*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

A famous quote by George Eastman was that “What we do during our working hours determines what we have; what we do in our leisure hours determines what we are.” Since the Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club draws members from all across the company and region, it is a great way to develop connections beyond normal work activity. TEHCC is guided by a Steering Committee, who manages the recreation club during informal lunchtime discussions, and the Appalachian Trail Committee, which coordinates the maintenance and improvement projects. Examples of SC efforts in recent years are the new club shirts, Spring/Fall dinner events, Sunday afternoon hikes linked with the Mission Possible wellness effort, replacement of a six-person tent,

and more interaction with the APES paddlers group. The Steering Committee is now seeking folks to help provide direction for the outdoor club over the next two years. With the changes made to the club constitution changes earlier in 2013, the leadership will be just presenting a slate of nominees for confirmation. This opportunity is a chance to expand your network while enjoying leisure activities. Contact a [current Steering Committee member](#) to answer further questions.

## TEHCC Fall Dinner Meeting - Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

With the shorter days comes an opportunity to gather at the Eastman Lodge to trade stories with friends about your adventures. Dinner is a throwback to the 1970's when seafood was the fare at many club dinners.

Our evening program “Tennessee's Western Blue Ridge: America's next great park?” outlines a concept. The western rim of the Blue Ridge lies partially in northeastern Tennessee and includes spectacular wild places, such as the Roan Highlands, Unakas, Bald Mountains and Tennessee's newest state park, Rocky Fork. Informal discussions have begun among local citizens to have part of this region designated as a new national recreation area. David Ramsey, a nationally recognized conservation photographer who was a leader in the effort to preserve the Rocky Fork area, will present images and information in support of this ambitious goal.

Event	Time	Details
Fall Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall <a href="#">404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN</a>
Happy “Trails” Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Beer and wine for sale, or BYOB.
Dinner – Seafood Boil ( <i>fresh</i> jumbo shrimp, crawfish, clams, mussels, oysters, Andouille sausage, corn, potatoes), Hard bread and butter, Key lime or sundae pie, Tea/Coffee	6:30pm-7:15pm	Seafood obtained and boil prepared by Greene's Fresh Seafood (Bristol, VA) with other items purchased separately by the club. (\$16 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-8:00pm	- Update of club activities - Recognition of new ATC personnel
<b>Special Program: Tennessee's Western Blue Ridge: America's next great park?</b>	<b>8:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>David Ramsey</b>

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Friday, November 1st. A reservation form is located at the [end of this newsletter](#).

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## Appalachian Trail Movie at Erwin - October 20, 2013 6-8:30PM

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“Appalachian Impressions” is an epic story about hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. The movie takes you on a six-month, 2,180-mile journey along the most famous long-distance hiking trail in the world. Along the way, you'll meet hikers who have embarked on this trek, carrying everything they need on their backs. You'll hear their stories, experiences, and challenges of daily life traveling the Trail across fourteen states. Locally, the film is being shown at the Capitol Cinema in Erwin, TN on October 20, 2013 from 6-8:30PM. The opportunity is the 2013 membership drive, which for \$30 or more donation gains a year's subscription to the colorful AT Journeys magazine among several benefits. Youth under 13 can see the movie free. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

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## 3000<sup>th</sup> Hiker-Trail Volunteer Patch Issued

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Carl Fritz reporting



Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC) have very active outreach programs with hikers and college students to win their hearts and minds towards future trail and recreation work. Bob Peoples, who operates Kinchora Hostel near Hampton, TN, has spearheaded much of this effort. Bill Stowell, who was the TEHCC A.T. Maintenance Coordinator in the late 90's, also helped establish important working relationships with local colleges. In 1998 a thru-hiker Marty Allen (*The Artist*) designed a “Hiker-Trail Volunteer” patch depicting a crossed crosscut saw and mattock superimposed over Laurel Fork Falls, which is located on the A.T. It was lettered by thru-hiker Sara Allen (*Rosey*). We started issuing these patches in 1999 to any first-time, non-Club member, who would work on A.T. maintenance for a day. In this the 15th year we have issued our 3000<sup>th</sup> patch on August 16, 2013 when Appalachian State University students from Watauga Global Community worked with us. As of September we have issued 3055 patches.

In another outreach program we also recruit hikers for two days maintenance as part of Damascus Trail Days. This program was initiated in 2001 and became known as Hard Core. All first time participants earn a Damascus Hard Core patch. Due to the popularity of this program with thru-hikers, we currently limit the attendees to 50 returning hikers and 50 new hikers. In the thirteen years of this program we have recruited about 633 first time maintainers.

Between these two programs we have recruited almost 3700 first time maintainers over fifteen years. A small number of these recruits previously did maintenance on other trail sections, but they comprise less than 5% of the total. These first timers on their first day contributed almost 28,000 hours. 56% of these first timers were college students, 36% were hikers and 8% were others (boy scouts, venture scouts, high schoolers, and local volunteers). College students have been primarily from three universities, Appalachian State (ASU), East Tennessee State and Wright State. For many of the college students this was their first exposure to the Appalachian Trail. Likewise, most hikers and college students experienced trail maintenance for their first time.



Another outgrowth of these programs was the formation of an ASU Trail Crew in 2005. That crew has continued to participate with us several times a year in digging A.T. relocations or building shelters. In their most recent help on White Rocks Mountain in September they brought 20 student club members with 15 getting their first experience on the A.T. But more importantly, the ASU Trail Crew has taken on the responsibility of building new hiking trails in parks close to Boone, NC and have as many as forty students participating in their outings. Several from that trail crew are actively doing trail work in various parts of the country.

We plan to continue to share trail maintenance with hikers and college students. The patches are very meaningful to many. The hikers usually sew their patches on their pack that evening. The patch symbolizes their giving back to the trail!

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## New Tactic for Sunday Afternoon Hikes

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By Vic Hasler and Tim Schaefer

To continue building the club's Sunday afternoon hiking program, a new tactic has been proposed by Tim Schaefer – develop a planned schedule of hikes with written descriptions, ready for leaders to volunteer. The hurdle of deciding where and what is then cleared. A list has been created of suitable hikes – shorter distances within the region. To evaluate this concept, eight hike plans have been developed for October and November. These outings will be managed on the TEHCC.org schedule as edited using the Google Calendar app, along with other hikes on Saturdays as seen for October. This listing in the newsletter will represent the

upcoming month at the time of publishing, but could later be changed, so please check the on-line schedule to confirm. Feedback on this idea is welcomed. Interested hike leaders can contact [membership@tehcc.org](mailto:membership@tehcc.org) to be on the contact list, which would occasionally be used for emails as needed when hikes in the upcoming week or two have open leader slots.

## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Jonathan Morelock	Steve Ankabrandt	Eric Rouse
Alexandra Kleven	Brad Gaskill	Anthony Helton
Celia Buono	Dallas Mullins	David Teague

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule)

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
October 5	AT: Dennis Cove to Moreland Gap Shelter	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
October 6	<a href="#">Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower</a>	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676 423-384-6642
October 11-13	Watauga Lake Paddle/Camp	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
October 12	Fall Color Hike, Beartown Mountain	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
October 13	<a href="#">AT: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob</a>	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
October 19	Mt. Rogers Short Loop Hike: Massie Gap, Wilburn Ridge, AT	<a href="#">Garry S. Luttrell</a>	423-239-9854
October 20	<a href="#">AT: Cross Mtn to visit Uncle Nick Grindstaff</a>	Tim McClain	423-239-5353
October 29	F/B: <a href="#">Doe River Gorge</a>	TBD	
November 3	F/B: <a href="#">Warriors Path State Park - Mountain Bike Trails</a>	TBD	
November 10	F/B: <a href="#">Rocky Fork</a> - Flint Creek Battle Site	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
November 17	F/B: <a href="#">Buffalo Mountain Park - White Rock Overlook</a>	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676 423-384-6642
November 24	F/B: <a href="#">Bays Mountain Park - Fire Tower</a>	TBD	

## Details of Upcoming Events

### Recurring Events

#### Most Tuesdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Tuesdays. Contact Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669 ([atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)), for dates and meeting places.

#### Tuesday 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 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. every Tuesday for tips and tricks about basic kayaking and to learn 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 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 email asking other members to bring extra equipment. We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night!

#### Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 p.m.

For event details, go to <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/2013/06/27/kingsport-aquatic-center-kayak-session/>

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!**

Leaders: [Kim Peters](#), 423-366-0128, or [Joe DeLoach](#)

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month and help with some routine maintenance needs, such as cutting annual growth, cleaning out water bars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Contact [Kim](#) or [Joe](#) for details and meeting time and place.

## **Scheduled Events**

Hikes leaving from “Colonial Heights” meet at the parking lot below the recently rebuilt McDonalds (4317 Fort Henry Drive) which is NW of I-81 Exit 59. “Johnson City” meeting location is behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-81 Exit 24 at intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street, which is reached 20 minutes later. All hikes will leave promptly to stay close to schedule as the days are getting shorter. Carpooling is encouraged with passengers providing a few dollars each towards gas.

Bring water, snack, layered clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable footwear, bug spray, camera, and trekking poles as desired. Family dog can come if friendly and kept on leash. Walking speed is typically 2 mph including rest breaks. For more information, check the trail wiki (click on hike title for link) or call the hike leader. It is appropriate to contact the hike leader to let them know that you are interested in coming and provide a cell phone number in case plans change by either party.

An activity release form is signed by everyone going on the hike – and it helps capture the names and spelling for the trip report. Good digital photos from the hike are also appreciated for the newsletter and trail wiki.

### **AT: Dennis Cove to Moreland Gap Shelter, Saturday, October 5, 2013**

Contact: [Vic Hasler](#), 423-239-0388

A longer hike of 12 miles total to enjoy a great fall color view from White Rocks. Purpose of the trip is to measure the impact of several relocations which have opened recently to confirm whether the Appalachian Trail is longer. Starting at Dennis Cove Road, the wheel will be pushed up White Rock to Moreland Gap Shelter. Lunch will be when the group chooses. Depart from the parking lot below Colonial Heights McDonald's at 8AM. The weather in the mountains can be fickle, so dress in layers with warm clothing available (avoid cotton).

### **Pinnacle Mountain Fire Tower – Sunday, October 6, 2013**

Leader: [Barry Griggs](#), 423-239-5676 or 423-384-6642

Rating: Moderate 9 mile round trip hike with 1400 ft elevation gain at steady 6% grade

The fall colors could be at peak for this hike to the former fire tower, now refurbished as an observation platform, up on the Buffalo Mountain ridgeline. The 360 degree view includes Clinch, Green, Roan, Buffalo, and other mountain ranges ablaze with color from the hardwoods. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM. Alternatively, can meet in Johnson City by 1:20PM or at the trailhead (I-26 Exit 32 Unicoi) at 1:30PM. Expected return to Colonial Heights is roughly 6:30PM.

### **Watauga Lake Paddle/Camp, October 11-13, 2013**

Leader: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636

A 3 day 2 night paddle & camp weekend! Friday afternoon meet at Fish Springs Marina to paddle to a cove we found a while back to camp in. There is a fire ring and tent spots and also plenty of trees to hang a hammock! There is a spring on site to filter water from.

A group meal can be arranged for Friday night after setting up camp. There is plenty of dead wood to collect for a fire so bring a saw. Because it won't fit in my kayak if someone in a canoe will to haul my dutch oven I will make peach cobbler over the fire either Friday or Saturday night. Saturday morning after breakfast we can do a little cove hopping and exploring to view the fall colors and find a place to have a picnic lunch. One more evening under the stars for Saturday night and then depart on Sunday...sometime.

Fishing licenses and bait are available at the marina and what I like most is it is a good safe place to park our vehicles overnight.

Directions: <http://www.fishspringsmarina.com/map.php>

### **Fall Color Hike, Beartown Mountain, Saturday, October 12, 2013**

Contact: [Joe DeLoach](#), 423-753-7263

We tried this one as our 2013 Spring Wildflower Hike but were repelled by heavy rain and mud; so let's try it again as a Fall Color Hike. It used to be a gruesome 1.4 mile, 1440-foot climb (and a very slick descent) from Hughes Gap to Beartown Mountain, part of one of the steepest grades on the Appalachian Trail in the south. Now, after relocations completed in 2012, it is about 2.5 miles and a very enjoyable hike through curves, switchbacks, and open woods to the edge of Roan Mountain's spruce-fir forest. Maples and birch, among other trees in these woods, should supply good color, and along the way are views especially into North Carolina. We'll walk into beautiful Ash Gap for lunch and take a look at the remaining work to relocate the equally gruesome final climb up Roan. Departure times are 8:30 from Colonial Heights and 9:00 from Johnson City. Be ready for any kind of weather; we'll go above 5400 feet on Beartown Mountain. For more information or to sign up for the hike, please contact Joe.

### **AT: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob – Sunday, October 13, 2013**

*Leader: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388)*

Rating: Easier 4.4 mile round trip hike with 825 ft elevation gain on excellent trail

This hike is along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest to great views at Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918'). The overlook into North Carolina should be vibrant with fall colors. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM. Alternatively, can meet in Johnson City by 1:20PM or at the Hughes Gap trailhead at 1:45PM. Expected return is roughly 6-6:30PM.

### **Mt. Rogers Short Loop Hike: Massie Gap, Wilburn Ridge, AT, October 19, 2013**

*Leader: Garry S. Luttrell, phone (423)239-9854, or email: sb6ker@yahoo.com*

We will meet and leave from the lower parking lot at McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8 am. We'll drive to Grayson Highlands State Park, and park at Massie Gap (Each car will require a pass, \$4 – Riders will need to pay drivers for parking and gas). The route is easy, less than 4 miles, and ok for younger kids; and, hopefully we'll see some wild ponies. The Fall colors should be great, so we will return through Shady Valley. Bring lunch/snacks, water, clothing suitable for exposure to windy conditions on open ridges at 5,000 ft. elevations. Contact the hike leader if you plan to go, so I can communicate any changes, if needed.

### **AT: Cross Mtn to visit Uncle Nick Grindstaff – Sunday, October 20, 2013**

*Leader: Tim McClain (423-239-5353)*

Rating: Moderate 6.6 mile round trip hike with ~500 ft elevation gain on excellent trail

This hike is along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest up to visit the grave of a mountain hermit (epitaph reads: ... lived alone... suffered alone... died alone.) Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM. Alternatively, can meet in Johnson City by 1:20PM. Expected return is at sunset - roughly 7-7:30PM.

### **F/B: Doe River Gorge – Sunday, October 27, 2013**

*Leader: TBD*

Rating: Easy 5 mile round trip hike along a railroad grade with just 230 ft elevation gain

Since darkness will be an hour earlier, this easy walk up a beautiful hollow and back will be finishing up as the sun approaches the horizon. A nice walk on a crisp fall afternoon. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM or Johnson City at 1:20PM to arrive at the trailhead in Hampton by 2PM. Doe River Gorge has their own permission form which must be completed by the group and put into a drop box at the parking lot. Expected return is roughly 6PM with sunset occurring at 5:38PM after the Daylight Savings time switch.

### **F/B: Warriors Path State Park - Mountain Bike Trails – Sunday, November 3, 2013**

*Leader: TBD*

Rating: Easy 2-5 mile round trip hike along a single track paths with less than 300 feet elevation change

Since darkness will be an hour earlier, the trips need to be closer to Kingsport. This group choice hike will explore the Warriors' Path Mountain Bike Trail System is also open to walking. Tim McClain led this hike back in March traveling Darwin's Revenge, The Boneyard, and Lake Road for a five mile loop through the woods with some views of the lake. Hikers are to meet at 1:30 PM in the gravel parking lot at the end of Freeman Road. Note that this trailhead is not located at the main part of Warriors' Path State Park but is located off Buttermilk Road in the Fall Creek area. Expected finish is around 4PM with sunset occurring at 5:38PM after the Daylight Savings time switch.

### **F/B: Rocky Fork - Flint Creek Battle Site – Sunday, November 10, 2013**

*Leader: Vic Hasler (423-239-0388) with David Ramsey as informative guide*

Rating: Easier 3.2 mile round trip hike gravel logging road with <400 ft elevation gain

At the Friday, November 8th dinner meeting, David Ramsey will present an update about Rocky Fork, the newest TN state park. This short hike will explore the battlefield where John Sevier with local recruits defeated a war party of Cherokees and Creeks in 1789. There's not much to see now in the open field at the junction of Flint Creek and Rocky Fork, so you'll have to use your imagination. The logging road first follows a scenic mountain stream, but then we'll have to cross that flowing water (6-12" deep) both ways so bring water shoes and a small towel to switch between your footwear. Only a couple of hours in the park area since we plan to be back home before the sun sets at 5:32PM. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM or Johnson City at 1:20PM to arrive at the trailhead of I-26, Exit 46 by 2PM. Need to minimize the number of vehicles as limited parking available at the trailhead.

### **F/B: Buffalo Mountain Park - White Rock Overlook – Sunday, November 17, 2013**

*Leader: Barry Griggs (423-239-5676 or 423-384-6642)*

Rating: Moderate 3 mile round trip hike with ~1100 ft elevation up, and then back down

A closer to home hike since the days are getting shorter. A steep walk up trails or the gravel access road provides a reward of great view of the I-26 valley and mountains to the east. Leave Colonial Heights at 1:00PM or Johnson City at 1:20PM to arrive at the park trailhead by 2:30PM. Expected return is before the sunset at 5:27PM.

## **F/B: Bays Mountain Park - Fire Tower – Sunday, November 24, 2013**

*Leader: TBD*

Rating: Moderate 4 mile round trip hike with ~900 ft elevation up, and then back down

The final planned Sunday afternoon hike in conjunction with the Mission Possible wellness effort is a classic walk around the reservoir heading up to the fire tower. The loop provides different views of the water, then the look northward from the fire tower – even if you don't climb to the top. For this hike, we'll just meet in the park at the dam at 1:30PM. Bays Mtn Park has a \$4 entrance fee – unless you carpool with someone who is an annual member. We'll need to be out before the gate closes at 5PM.

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## **For the Record**

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### **AT: Roan High Knob Shelter/Cloudland Trail, September 8, 2013**

*Vic Hasler reporting*

I inadvertently picked a very busy time with Eastman road race the day prior and Roan Mtn Naturalist rally over the weekend, so ended up hiking solo. The afternoon was partly cloudy with 20°F drop from town up to the Rhododendron Gardens parking lot at 61°F. Some very early fall color was appearing in patches, thus giving hope for beauty to come in the days ahead. The Roan High Knob Shelter was reached by a roughly 0.7 mile hike north on the AT, and up the spur trail. No one was around, so was able to quietly explore the two-story cabin which is in excellent shape. The Cloudland Trail is a mostly level walk through alpine forest. The path was very muddy in some places, and could use some water diversion in others. The first overlook provided an expansive view of the forested valley below with only a few intrusions by man seen. Continuing onto the octagonal wooden overlook at Roan High Bluff gave further green vistas into North Carolina. I would recommend the Cloudland Trail for beginners and families.



*View NW from spur overlook*



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## **A.T. Maintenance Reports**

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### **ASU Watauga Global Community and Backbone Rock Trail**

*Carl Fritz reporting*

Since 2000 David Huntley, Director of Watauga Global Community College of Appalachian State University (ASU), has coordinated a maintenance event with Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC). Each fall he offers this outing for incoming freshmen as an orientation to get the students acquainted. David plans to retire this coming May so we look forward to this major event continuing with new leadership.

On Friday August 16, we continued the relocation of the Backbone Rock Trail just south of Damascus. Ninety six students and instructors of Watauga College plus seventeen club members and friends worked together to dig probably 1000 feet of trail. A couple of days with a good crew may allow us to open this first relocation of over 2500 feet.

These 112 people put in 1041 hours. **Club members and friends:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Kevin O'Donnell, Kim Peters. **ASU:** Daniel Leon, Destiny Edwards, Diana Rowe, Colby Bailey, Keven White, Alyssa Stulles, Sydney Burton, Leila Wright, Jessica Tomlinson, Naula Naugga, Samantha Michels, Carmen Reichle, Chris Dalas, Morgan Greenwood, Patience Perry, Kipenzi Perry, Chase Perry, Holden Perry, Taylor Hawkins, Monique Craig, Sydney Rowell, Emily Land, Maggie Phipps, Sydney Ryan, Ethan Janeh, Cassidy Quillen, Corinne Guillen, Nicholas Gallagher, Morgan Cook, Tyler Saunders, Jamie Ascher, Michael Dale, Cecilia Yanez, Brooke Jackson, Riley Parn, Meghan Seals, Brandon Poole, Eleika Ikezako, Krystina Doell, Tessa Lavara, Adrianna Castro, Hannah Byrd, Maggie Johnson, William Roemhildt, Evyan Gainey, Kyndle Craft, Alex Prestrud, Nick Eichen, Marilyn Wyman, Kenan Dudley, Karen Schaffer, Scott Hallen Avent, Tiffany Bennett, Rachel Styers, Joe Bryan, Nancy Xu, David Huntley, Savannah Druin, Aaron Epps, Andrew Wassil, Jeffrey

Huddleston, Nicholas Colebaugh, Alleya Williams, Luke James, Bridget Mundy, Anna Jaamir, Miles Patterson, Lauren Joyner, Nathan Haeme, Kasie Johnston, Morgan Broome, Rebecca Wolf, Molly Sharp, Tricia Nicholson, Margaret Boehlert, Sarah White, Elizabeth Albertson, Taia Miller, Leplen Scruggs, Liu Zhe Liu, Emily Kolakowski, Katherine Lee, Holly Ambler

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 8/12/2013

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 14a: Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Brian Schloff

**Summary:** Removed a moderate amount of trash from Stan Murray & the barn. Lopped the worst of the briars that were over the trail at various places. The firepit Kat had removed at the top of Little Hump was back in use, even with firewood stacked by it, so we dismantled it again. Noticed signs of horses again from Bradley Gap up Big Hump, but hopefully they were the old tracks Kat had reported.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 8/27/2013

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and dig relo

**Location:** Section 2a: State line to McQueen's Gap & Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Robert Horan, Greg Kramer, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** Greg, Tim, Joe and both Bobs cut weeds from Abingdon Gap Shelter to state line. There is a short section probably a mile and a half south of Backbone Rock Trail that they did not get. Briars and stinging nettle were bad from all the wet season this year. There is a 30" blowdown in center of this section but it is easily passable. They also cut about a third of weeds from shelter to McQueen's Gap. Horses have been on trail south of McQueen's Gap.

The rest of Tuesday Crew continued to dig relocation on Backbone Rock Trail and made good progress on a humid day.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 8/27/2013

**Purpose:** cutting weeds

**Location:** Section 14b: North side of grassy ridge

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I cut weeds from a section about a quarter mile south of Stan Murray shelter.

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** 8/30/2013

**Purpose:** shelter maintenance

**Location:** Section 2b: Abingdon Gap shelter

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade

**Summary:** Placed "Foot Travel" signs on trees a couple of hundred feet north and south of the road at McQueen's Gap. Horse travel had been reported on the trail there. At the shelter we placed a new register, picked up trash, and shoveled out the fire ring.

**Reporting:** Ted Mowery

**Date:** 8/31/2013

**Purpose:** Get dimensions of barn

**Location:** Section 14a: Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** Ted and Paul got some critical measurements to design a door for the loft. They enjoyed a hard shower while at the shelter.

**Reporting:** Scott Vandam

**Date:** 9/1/2013

**Purpose:** General maintenance

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

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** Responded to complaint by hiker of blowdown. Removed it, cleaned waterbars, lopped rhodos, picked up trash. Observed bear scat and paw prints in mud, indicating recent activity. Berries seem to be light this year

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/2/2013

**Purpose:** Precut Door

**Location:** Section 14a: Carl's house for Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ted purchased door hardware. Ed purchased paint and privy supplies. Ted and Carl precut and fit the door and window

pieces. Then they gathered tools, gravel and wood supplies for tomorrow's trip to Overmountain Shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/3/2013

**Purpose:** Shelter repairs & trail improvement

**Location:** Section 14a: Little Hump to within mile of Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Horan, Peter King, Greg Kramer, Lilly Kramer, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Ted and Paul successfully designed and installed an approximate 7'x6' sliding barn door for the loft. Lilly painted it. Other tasks included installing new legs and braces on lower sleeping platforms, reworking soil and containment near sleeping platforms, improving drainage on back side of barn, repairing picnic table, installing water diversions on blue blaze trail to AT, cutting some grass and weeds near shelter. This area has taken a lot of rain this summer. We were unsuccessful in clearing plugged road culvert. Probably a rock bar and post hole digger would help.



**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/4/2013

**Purpose:** Inspect trail for mowing

**Location:** Section 18: Beauty Spot, Beauty Spot Gap and Deep Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Checked Beauty Spot, Beauty Spot Gap, and Deep Gap for fall mowing. All three locations will need to be mowed soon.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 9/5/2013

**Purpose:** AT Committee Meeting

**Location:** Kingsport

**People:** Paul Benfield, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Tim Stewart, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Steve Perri

**Summary:** TEHCC AT Committee met to cover several items for decisions and for preparation of the meeting among the AT partnership in October. The AT RidgeRunner was discussed after the closure of this year's program by a meeting of the sponsoring organizers and Kat. Everyone was supportive of the program and would like to do it again. Some thoughts for improvements include: starting the advertising and interviewing process earlier, involving the USFS more in on-boarding, have ATC as administrator, plan and document messaging in advance, transfer learnings from other Ridgerunners covering balds, discuss uniform design and message it conveys. Overall the public perception from hikers was positive. Plans for renovating Koonford bridge have changed due to the continued high water this year which would prevent safe crossing of the creek during construction. The committee recommended purchasing all materials this year at an estimated cost of \$5K and doing installation in 2014. We will discuss options with the USFS whether to purchase decking materials (estimated at \$6K) for the other 2 bridges in the gorge so that they can be replaced at a future time. The USFS may be able to store materials at their work center. Funds are available for the TNLP and so TEHCC will submit proposals for 2 weed eaters. We still plan to do a field inspection for the proposed Iron Mt Trail connector to AT on Iron Mt proposed by the Mid-Appalachian Hiking Club. We're not likely to be able to do this until Oct/Nov during leaf off season. We discussed options for Shook Branch future trail location and it appears that the current plan might be the best due to the number of houses south of Watauga Lk. We plan to discuss the trail closure between US 321 and Wilbur Dam Rd when we meet with the USFS to see if we can work on improved wording and future considerations. We also will discuss removing the barbed wire on Round Bald where the trail comes out of the woods near the large boulder. We discussed plans to contact club members by phone to try to recruit more members for activities. Vic will work with Carl, Kim and Ed. The Fall ATC partnership semiannual meeting is Oct. 16th and we will recommend meeting in Unicoi to make it convenient for most attendees. Steve will work with Morgan to see if we can meet the new



Appalachian District Ranger closer to the holidays at the Mars Hill office.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 9/5/2013

**Purpose:** cutting weeds

**Location:** Section 14b: Lower switchbacks north side Grassy Ridge

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I cut weeds along a section along the lower switchbacks just south of Stan Murray shelter, picked up the small amount of trash around the shelter, and left a new broom and a new shelter register.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 9/7/2013

**Purpose:** Cut annual growth

**Location:** Section 14a: Stan Murray to Overmountain shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore

**Summary:** Took the trimmer & cut back the weeds from the barn to Stan Murray. Saw many day & backpack hikers, which may account for the fair amount of trash I removed from the barn. Everyone I spoke with really likes the new door on the barn!

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 9/7/2013

**Purpose:** Mow the Accessible trail

**Location:** Section 4b: Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** Mowed the Accessible Trail across the Osborne Farm. Rehabbed and Graveled 160 feet of the Accessible Trail. Trail is now open for use. Water Diversions were installed. Trail needs to be sprayed. Osborne Lane from gate to hy 91 is severely eroded . Must be graded and graveled to gain access to the accessible parking spaces. The Trail around the stile has been rehabbed and graveled 2 times in the last 3 weeks. If this doesn't hold it will need to be engineered and other action taken. Most cattle have been moved and the remainder are in the back fields. New entrance to the trail for vehicles is very good as long as it is dry.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 9/10/2013

**Purpose:** Multiple trail upkeep & rehab tasks

**Location:** Section 14b: Stan Murray Shelter to Grassy Ridge Trail Jct.

**People:** Bob Horan, Bob Peoples , Tim Stewart, Greg Kramer, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters, Brian Paley, Pat Loven, Richard Carter

**Summary:** Collectively we dug drainage channels for ten wet areas, improved four sets of rock steps with fairly major rebuilds, rehabbed sixty feet of trail, installed a rock water bar, moved a large rock to improve the width of the treadway, and cut weed growth along about 500 yards of trail plus the blue blazed water path at the shelter.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/10/2013

**Purpose:** Work on Overmountain Shelter

**Location:** Section 14a: Overmountain Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Roman Wall

**Summary:** We installed two small Plexiglas windows in peaks of barn sides to allow some light into loft when door is closed. We put more bracing on legs of sleeping platforms. We installed 15" culvert pipes and ditches on both main entry ways to insure water cannot get into barn. Lastly, we successfully dug out the three foot deep entrance to culvert pipe along road. Obviously, it has been plugging for years because some roots were as large as 1".

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/11/2013

**Purpose:** Fall Mowing

**Location:** Section 18: Beauty Spot

**People:** Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Mowed the entire trail across Beauty Spot from woods on the north side to the woods on the south side. Several trail markers had been removed. Plan to replace them in about 2 weeks. Picked up trash along the trail and at the parking area.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/13/2013

**Purpose:** Fall Mowing

**Location:** Section 18: Beauty Spot Gap and Deep Gap

**People:** Eric Middlemas, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Mowed Beauty Spot Gap and used brush mower for heavier plant growth along the trail. Mowed a section of the AT in Deep Gap and the trail to the spring.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/14/2013

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

**Location:** Section 11a: South of Coon Den Falls Trail

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Tim Stewart ASU TRAIL CREW: Jerrold Fernandes, Robert Alvis, Jeremiah Bolick, Andrew Burgess, Lea Vosberg f, Beth Lewis f, Rachel Quirin f, James Lautzenheiser, Hannah Krueger f, Caitlin McVa

**Summary:** With the help of 20 ASU Trail Crew members we worked on the one remaining AT relocation just south of Coon Den Falls Trail. 15 of the students were first timers with us. Most of the relocation is now roughed out and about 5 people should be able to finish this relo. Many of the students stayed the night at Kinchora Hostel.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/16/2013

**Purpose:** Inspect trail and bridges

**Location:** Section 10: Northern section including two lower bridges

**People:** Carl Fritz

**Summary:** Mary Jane and I inspected trail and primarily two large northern bridges. Sign post at junction of AT and blue blazed trail has broken at ground level. It appears that the 4x4 was not treated. Sign indicating falls has been scratched out.

**Reporting:** Becky Kinder

**Date:** 9/16/2013

**Purpose:** routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 13a: US19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold

Becky Kinder

**Summary:** Gayle and I hiked in little over a mile to check on weeds and any blowdowns. Three hikers came down the trail from Roan Mt. We asked how the trail was from Doll Flats to where they saw us, they said it was in good shape and no trees were down. We do have for about the last 3 weeks a homeless man camped about 10 feet off the 19E trailhead. We did take his trash, he had 3 garbage bags full.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 9/17/2013

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 8: US321 to Watauga shelter

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** Cut weeds from US321 to Forest Service gate. Lopped trail to Watauga shelter. Picked up half a bag of trash. Took pictures of bear tree in order to make it more bear-proof!

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 9/18/2013

**Purpose:** Plan program for new maintainers

**Location:** Section Other (Meetings/preparation/etc.)

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We laid out some plans to recruit more club members for routine maintenance a time or two a year. We are only getting about 15 Eastman employees out doing any maintenance in the entire year. We hardly have any maintainers less than fifty and some are having to give up their maintenance sections due to health reasons.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/18/2013

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 18: FS230 switchback to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Lopped branches and pruned small trees near the trail. Cleaned out water bars and rebuilt 2 water bars.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 9/22/2013

**Purpose:** Section maintenance

**Location:** Section 15a: Cloudland to Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** The main purpose for our trip was to clean up around the shelter for the first time after the Roan Ridgerunner's season ended. We were pleased to find not much there, though not sure what people were thinking when they left avocado shells and seeds on the old tower supports, and there were some real nasties in the woods. Along the way we whacked some briars and cut a couple of limbs. Still could really use some digging for water to turn off the Trail, and there is a very muddy wide place on the shelter trail

near the shelter that will be difficult to drain.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 9/22/2013

**Purpose:** Cut blowdown

**Location:** Section 19a: About 2.5 mi. trail south of Indian Grave Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Jim Foster

**Summary:** John and I hiked about 4 mi. and cut a large blowdown. John did a good job as there wasn't much to work with.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 9/23/2013

**Purpose:** Fall Maintenance

**Location:** Section 17: Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 switchback

**People:** Lamar Adcox, Andrew Cleland, Bruce Darby, David Douthat, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Lou Haase, Phil Hiatt, Jerry Jones, Wayne Jones, David McMillin, Judy Middlemas, Eric Middlemas, Jim Robertson, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Lopped branches, cleaned out water bars, cut 14 small trees from the trail, cleaned up around Cherry Gap Shelter, replaced the shelter register.

**Reporting:** Gayle Riddervold

**Date:** 9/24/2013

**Purpose:** To clean trash left @ trailhead left homeless man

**Location:** Section 13a: US19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Gayle Riddervold & Becky Kinder

**Summary:** Becky and I went to the trailhead at 19E to check on a homeless man that had been living off the trail for the past month. We had not seen him in several days. A social worker was supposed to find him a place to live. We saw a woman interviewing him a few weeks ago which lead us to believe he was telling the truth. Unfortunately shelter was never found for him in the past week. I became concerned and started making phone calls to get the man some help to no avail. When we noticed the man had not been seen for 4 days, we went down to trailhead and removed several bags of trash and I picked up over 30 cigarette butts. The tent, chair, and all the man's belongings were still there but no sign of the man. I made a call to the Sheriff's office and found out the man was taken to the Johnson City Medical Center last week. The homeless man stated he no longer needed his stuff and his brother-in-law would be coming to get him. The sheriff's office didn't know if the man's relatives were coming for his tent so they told me I could get rid of the stuff if it remains at the trailhead. We have a case of water, a one man tent with all the man's belongings, plus his chair to take to the Carter Co. dump. The stuff really stinks and its all sitting 2 inches from the trail. We will have to go back Thursday when it's not raining and bag up all his garbage. Would like to know what the protocol is when a homeless person makes a permanent home on the A.T. trail? Our trail seems to be pretty popular with stragglers and its creating a lot of trash.

**Reporting:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** 9/24/2013

**Purpose:** Dig relo

**Location:** Section 15b: North of Ash Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** Tuesday Crew continued the relocations south of Cloudland. Upper relocations are looking good after all the wet weather this year. They are well enough paved with rock that it is not necessary to step into mud. Twelve steps were installed in a switchback and 200 feet was dug. A new level of precision has been reached since the crew took a framing square!

**Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club**  
**Fall Dinner Meeting**  
**Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Reservation Form**

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to **Tim McClain**.

Within Eastman send to:  
Tim McClain, Building 448

Outside Eastman send to:  
Tim McClain  
448 Chesterfield Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37663

There is no charge for those attending the program and NOT joining us for the meal.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Check and reservation form must be received by **Friday 11/1/2013**. (So that there will be seafood in the pot for you!) Please note that US Postal service is normally two days, so don't mail reservations after Wednesday 10/30

Names of all attending (*please print*)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Children age 13 and under can share a meal with parent \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending without meal reservation: \_\_\_\_\_