



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

February 2014

tehcc.org

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TEHCC Fall 2013 Dinner Meeting

Mary Fanslow and Vic Hasler reporting

On Friday, November 8th, 2013 the club held its fall dinner meeting. Due to an illness which struck him that morning, David Ramsey was not able to attend to talk about how the Blue Ridge Parkway was originally designed to route through Tennessee. David, however, called his friend and fellow conservationist, Jay Leutze, to arrange for him to speak in his stead. Jay drove straight from the Chapel Hill, NC area to Northeast TN. Unfortunately, his GPS device took him to "404 Bays Mountain Rd" on the OTHER side of

the mountain in Rogersville near Laurel Run Park. Jay, using his folksy charming manners, befriended a local hospitable lady who drawled that he could either ruin his car by trying to drive it along the mountain ridge or take a more circuitous but safer route to his desired location.

Finally, Jay calmly strolled into the Eastman lodge with about five minutes to spare before the program. He then delivered an impassioned account of his book, *Stand Up That Mountain*, in which a few fiercely determined locals in Avery County successfully challenged, through his and others' legal assistance, an illegal gravel mining operation in the A.T. view shed. Jay concluded by summarizing other endeavors undertaken to preserve the mountains in our area. The club very much appreciates Jay's willingness to fill in for David, especially considering his "commute."

TEHCC also appreciates the hard work of the Schurgers that night. Marc, dealing with his own last minute illness, arranged for his wife Deb to supply the beverages and snacks for the Happy Trails Hour, which was then staffed by the McClains. The club also recognizes the efforts of Terry Dougherty, who arranged for the Low Country boil experience, courtesy of Greene's Fresh Seafood in Bristol, VA. He and Vic took turns in continually supplying the crustaceans, shellfish, and more right on the tables during the dinner hour. Dessert and coffee were also enjoyed during the evening conversations.

Club business first noted that there are roughly 2,716 TN A.T. plates on the road, which has generated \$111K in just under three years for support of projects along the trail corridor. The 2013 TEHCC hike program reported that 64 different participants enjoyed 23 events, primarily on Sunday afternoons. A letter from Town of Unicoi recognized the help in developing the Pinnacle Tower Trail, especially of Ed Oliver and Jim Foster. (Full letter was published in the December 2013 newsletter.) Appalachian Trail Work in 2013 saw 422 individuals contributing 12,770 hours. Relocations were completed near Nolichucky River and White Rocks Mountain with others in progress between Ash Gap and Cloudland, and along the Backbone Rock Trail. The club filled its responsibility for hosting workshops at the 2013 A.T. Biennial. It was also noted that the 3000th Hiker-Trail Volunteer Patch has been given out by TEHCC since 1999. (Full story in the October 2013 newsletter.)

The club then honored several with awards. 2013 Konnarock Crew t-shirts were given to John Beaudet, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, and Bob Peoples for at least 40 hours involvement. Appalachian National Scenic Trail Volunteer Recognition program had patches for Don Baker, Eric Middlemas, Andrew Cleland, Curtis Baird, Dean Baird, Bruce Darby, Vic Hasler, Becky Kinder, Gayle Riddervold, and Joe Morris for 100-499 cumulative service hours. Caps were given to Carol Dunham, Brian Paley, and Jim Chambers for 500-999 hours. Finally, Richard Carter received a fleece vest for exceeding 1,000 hours over the years. From first time to long term, TEHCC would like to sincerely thank the volunteers who maintain the path so that many thousands can enjoy our beautiful stretch of Appalachian Trail.

Footnote: David Ramsey says his forthcoming book on Rocky Fork tract is publishing soon; so the club has slated him to be the program for the club's Spring 2014 dinner meeting.

Wilderness First Aid Course - Saturday-Sunday, March 22-23

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club are sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid course taught by [Landmark Learning](#) on Saturday-Sunday, March 22-23, 8 am – 5:30 pm at the Eastman Lodge. There is a great need for this training in our local paddling, hiking, and outdoor community. Red Cross First Aid is not enough for the situations we encounter during our recreational pursuits.

If you plan to spend time in the backcountry, you need to be prepared. Fast paced and hands-on, this two day course covers a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel and work in the outdoors.

Obtaining this knowledge is a very important element in safety regardless of your recreational activity. This information could help save your own or a friend's life!

Contact: Scott Fisher, tfisher1@its.jnj.com or 276-698-4644

Course fee is \$137. For current TEHCC members, a limited number of \$50 scholarships are available (rebate upon successful completion). Contact a [Steering Committee member](#) to apply. The official registration form is obtained [here](#). Check for the course fee is payable to Landmark Learning, but being collected by Scott Fisher.

Alternatively this training is offered as part of the two-week [Wilderness Skills Institute](#) (May 19th-30th) in Brevard, NC. It is a bigger time commitment, but at no cost to ATC members. Other skills are covered, such as cross-cut saw certification and trail construction techniques.

CPR Class - Friday, March 21, 6-9:30pm

Landmark Learning will also offer an optional CPR class on Friday evening before the Wilderness First Aid course for those wanting to become CPR certified/re-certified. This is a separate class and participation in one is not required to take the other. Cost is \$45. To encourage the training, current TEHCC members can apply for \$20 rebate scholarships to knock the price down to same as Red Cross. The same info packet is obtained [here](#). Contact: Scott Fisher, tfisher1@its.jnj.com or 276-698-4644

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

TEHCC is glad to welcome this month's new members:

Kevin Sedgwick	Mack Cooke	Benjamin Bellamy	Yancey Appling
Noelene Hosking	Jeffrey Stanley	Steven Van Cott	Jeremy Franklin
Ashish Chaturvedi	David Inancsi	Michael Painter	

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Feb 18	TEHCC Steering Committee	Brien Lewis	chair@tehcc.org
Feb 21	Annual Maintenance Dinner	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
March 15	3 rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
March 18	TEHCC Steering Committee	Brien Lewis	chair@tehcc.org
March 21	CPR Class	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
March 22, 23	Wilderness First Aid Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
March 29	A.T. Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669

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), for dates and meeting places.

Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice

Come join the [J.A.W.](#), [Mahoney's Outfitters](#), some [APEs](#), and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool for tips & tricks about basic kayaking skills and 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.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Please note: The J.A.W. does provide 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...) for these sessions. If you are just starting out in the sport and do not yet have your own equipment, please post a message on the [APE's yahoo group site](#) or contact me with this link:

<http://worldkayakblogs.com/wildwildwes/contact-me/>

We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night! Also feel free to contact me for any other questions or comments you may have with the above link.

Thursday Evenings: Kayak Session, Kingsport Aquatic Center, 7 – 9 pm

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

Scheduled Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 18, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: *Brien Lewis*, chair@tehcc.org

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN, Bldg 75 - Room 407

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. Meetings are held monthly at lunchtime and are open to all TEHCC members. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the [Steering Committee](#) at least the day prior to arrange for a temporary pass.

Annual Maintenance Dinner, Friday, February 21, 2014

Contact: *Kim Peters*, 423-366-0128, atmaint@tehcc.org

The 2014 annual dinner to kick off the primary maintenance season will be held on Friday, February 21, at the Eastman Lodge in the banquet room. The event will start at 5:30 pm with a social time followed by dinner at 6 pm. After the meal we will present awards and discuss various issues related to maintaining TEHCC's section of the A.T. All maintainers or individuals interested in maintaining are invited to attend.

Ed Oliver has again graciously volunteered to provide the dinner. This year's meal will feature barbeque from Phil's Dream Pit and the cost will be \$5. You can pay for the dinner at the event.

Please contact Kim Peters (423-366-0128 or atmaint@tehcc.org) by Friday, February 14, to let her know how many people will come for dinner, so we can plan for the meals.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 12/24/2013

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter - Nolichucky River between Chestoa Bridge & USA Raft Nolichucky

People: Craig Haire

Summary: Encroaching saplings were cut back with a lopper. Trees across the trail were cut at four locations with an electric chainsaw: just past the north end of the new relocation, south of the relocation, near USA Raft Nolichucky, and two trees north of the RR tracks, at the south end of the section.

The Nolichucky River was very high--a good bit of the Nolichucky Trail was underwater. Jones Branch Road was covered with a foot of water where it went under the RR trestle.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/27/2013

Purpose: Survey potential campsites

Location: Section 13a, US19E to Doll Flats near previous Apple House Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Jack Tarlin

Summary: We scouted some potential campsites near the removed Apple House Shelter. The old mine would provide a good group campsite. Apple orchard is probably the first choice for individual campsites. Next step is to interact with Forest Service and ATC to finalize the site selection. While in the area with tools, we helped clean some water bars that were partially filled from recent rains.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/31/2013

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321 Shook Branch

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Becky Kinder, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Gayle Riddervold, John Robbins, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin

Summary: On a brisk day we accomplished much in the neighborhood of Shook Branch. Major tasks completed included digging a 40 foot ditch for a road culvert, turnpiking about 75 feet of trail near Old Butler Rd, removing all the logs and huge root balls collected at foot bridge near recreation area, rebuilding approach to bridge, installing steps on northern approach to bridge, cutting all the privet and multiflora rose back about three feet near Oliver Hollow Road, resetting center pier of long bog bridge, and picking up probably eight to ten bags of trash. What a volunteer crew!



Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 1/7/2014

Purpose: A.T. Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport

People: Dave Dunham, Ted Mowry, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Steve Wilson, Steve Perri

Summary: The A.T. Committee met to discuss project plans and activities coordinated with our agency partners. Konnarock Plan for 2014 consists of two weeks working south of Hughes Gap near Clyde Smith Shelter. Plans are to have the crew stay at the same location as last year. Hardcore dates are May 18 and 19th. The crew will be partially split across two locations with 50 or so at Ash Gap and 35 at Little Rock Knob. Dinner on the 18th will likely be at Roan Mtn State Park and the final night at Kincora Hostel. Plans are underway to hire a Ridgerunner again for the Roan Mtn area hired by ATC. Ideally they would like to have a short season Smokey's Ridgerunner roll into our position at the end of May. Ideal coverage would include Roan High Knob to Aw Mtn Gap, but edges could extend to Ash Gap and Doll Flats. The club will support the person in the field on day trips conducting minor trail work

and the club would consider supporting financially to provide outfitting equipment. TEHCC has submitted several grants for 2014 through the NC and TN A.T. license plate program. We have requested \$600 for each of the nights to help feed the Hard Core volunteers and another grant for a trail GPS unit. Future additional grants might include funds for training, safety equipment, and perhaps an AED. Purchases for the Koonford Bridge replacement are complete with materials stored at Rat Branch and some at Carl's. Our intent is to do the install in the fall during low-water levels using the temporary center span to assist trail users to cross downstream during the transitional building. A field trip is planned with the USFS to assess the larger two bridges in the gorge. John Odell has prepared a 2014 open areas mowing list due to the reduced funds available this year. A couple of suggestions were made to consider mowing Elk River once per year, reducing mowing on the non-trail side of the river, and maybe not cutting the Canute Place. A field inspection is also planned for assessing options to reduce cattle damage to the accessible trail on the Osborne property and to reduce erosion near TN 91. The committee also recommended/approved a proposal to change the district boundary between the Watauga District and Appalachian Ranger Districts to Doll Flats (between sections to be number 13 and 14) where the Watauga District will be covered from sections 1-13 (TN/VA state line to Doll Flats) and the Appalachian District from sections 14-16 (Dolls Flats to Iron Mtn Gap) and the Unaka District from sections 17-20 (Iron Mtn Gap to Spivey Gap). We recommend changes to start Jan 1, 2014. We are planning to recommend campsites to be constructed near the old Apple House Shelter location. A couple of options include the old mine site and the apple orchard across the creek being preferred. There is a lot of room for up to 6-8 sites. We will work with the USFS to assess these locations. In the meantime, there may be a higher demand for camping in the area if the Harbor Mountain Inn closes due to the owner's current health situation.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 1/9/2014

Purpose: Plan future management of Osborne tract

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery

Summary: Paul, Ted and Carl met with Matt Fusco, Matthew Gilbert and Reuben Potter of FS. We discussed management plan for Osborne tract and especially how to minimize impact of cattle on trail. Over multiple years we will especially move cattle away from accessible trail. This will be a phased approach and probably require significant fencing to be added. Some fencing along old driveway will be removed soon. We will have a follow-up field trip inspection.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 1/10/2014

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

People: Joe Morris, Robin Dean

Summary: We walked the section and lopped some rhodos, cleaned out the culvert, and cut greenbriar. Section was in remarkable shape. The rehab and work by the regular Tuesday Crew was fantastic. The rain held off and it was a great day to be outdoors.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 1/14/2014

Purpose: Flag relocation

Location: Section 4b, Trail south of Double Springs Shelter

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed and I flagged a 2000-foot relocation to take out a steep rutted-out and wet section of existing trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 1/14/2014

Purpose: Rehab, clean water bars and clear open area

Location: Section 4a, US421 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleaned all the water bars and there are many. We rehabbed several places. We cleared the small trees from the half-acre open area in Berry Fields.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 1/14/2014

Purpose: Clean water bars

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN91

People: Tim Stewart, Jim Chambers, Ken Buchanan

Summary: These three cleaned all the water bars on this section and added some water diversions.

Reporting: Robert Branch

Date: 1/19/2014

Purpose: Clear blowdown and 'leaners'

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Shelter cut-off trail

People: Robert Branch

Summary: I cleared one blowdown about a half mile up the trail and three 'leaners'. I also cut some low-hanging limbs that were about face high. The trail is cleared for skiing ... if we ever get enough snow.