The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

March 2015

In this Issue
- TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting
- Wilderness First Aid Course
- “Paddle with the Pros” Clinics
- Save These Dates! Bluestone River Trip and Nolichuky Cleanup
- TEHCC Welcomes New Members
- Event Schedule – Next Two Months
- Details of Upcoming Events
- A.T. Maintenance Reports

TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting
Friday, March 20, 2015

Time to enjoy fellowship as the outdoor season begins...

Our evening program is on “Trekking Kilimanjaro” by Michael Watts. Mt. Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world at over 19,000 feet in elevation. It is located in Tanzania east of the famous Serengeti. Mike will be talking about planning and preparation for the climb, and will share photos from his 8-day trek. The ascent of the slopes is a virtual climatic world tour, from the tropics to the Arctic. The trek includes breathtaking vistas, and passes through terrain and vegetation with an otherworldly appearance.

Mike Watts is a native of West Virginia, but has lived in East Tennessee for over 30 years. He acquired a passion for hiking in Boy Scouts. He has section hiked over half of the A.T. and seeks hiking adventures when he travels. Memorable hikes include the Grand Canyon, the Haleakala Crater (Maui), the Highline Trail in Glacier National Park, and over a half-dozen 14,000-foot peaks in Colorado. In 2012, Mike and his brother climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Dinner Meeting</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy “Trails” Hour</td>
<td>5:30 pm-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner – BBQ with sides</td>
<td>6:30 pm-7:15 pm</td>
<td>Catered by Phil’s Dream Pit ($12 per adult, $6 per child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dessert Tea/Coffee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Business</td>
<td>7:15 pm-8:00 pm</td>
<td>- Update of club activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trekking Kilimanjaro</td>
<td>8:00 pm-9:00 pm</td>
<td>Michael Watts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no charge for attending the program only, but if you would like to eat, please submit your reservation by end of Friday, March 13th. A reservation form is located at the end of this newsletter or click here for a printable copy.
Wilderness First Aid Course, Saturday - Sunday, March 28 - 29

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and TEHCC will host a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course taught by NOC/SOLO on March 28-29, 2015. 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. If you plan to spend time in the backcountry this training will provide you with the tools to provide patient care in remote settings where assistance may not be readily available. Training will include both classroom instruction and structured scenarios. All levels of training and experience are welcome. Minimum age is 18 years old (or 12 years old if accompanied by a chaperone). This class can be used to recertify WFR for an additional $15.

Optional CPR Class: NOC/SOLO has offered to conduct an optional CPR class on Saturday evening, March 28th, for those wanting to become CPR certified or re-certified, at a cost of $35. This is a separate class and participation in one is not required to take the other. CPR is a recommended certification for outdoor professionals and when provided immediately after cardiac arrest may double a victim’s chance of survival. This 2-hour class teaches you adult and child CPR and choking rescues using the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) curriculum.

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!

Times: WFA: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm both days; CPR: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Saturday
Location: Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Park Rd, Kingsport, TN 37660
Contact: Scott Fisher, tfisher1@its.jnj.com or 276-698-4644
Course fees are $115 for WFA and $35 for CPR. For current TEHCC members, a limited number of $50 and $20 scholarships are available for the two classes (rebate upon successful completion). Contact a Steering Committee member to apply. Registration form available here must be sent to Scott Fisher by March 20 with check payable to APEs. Note there is a 30-day prior cancellation policy as stated on the registration form.

“Paddle with the Pros” Kayaking and Canoeing Clinics

Andrea Ramsey Gass reporting

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) have an exciting year planned for all levels of paddlers looking to increase their skill level! This year APEs is bringing some of the best paddlers in the world to our local waters to teach beginner, intermediate, and advanced canoeing and kayaking lessons in the “Paddle with the Pros” clinic series.

To kick off the season, Eric “EJ” Jackson will be teaching an intermediate/advanced river-running clinic this month. EJ is a four-time World Freestyle Champion, the founder of Jackson Kayak, and has produced multiple instructional books and videos on kayaking. This one day course will focus on river running and freestyle techniques on the Nolichucky Gorge, so participants should be comfortable on Class III water, have a reliable roll, and own all applicable gear (kayak, PFD, helmet, paddle, sprayskirt, etc). There are 2 dates available – March 21st and March 22nd. The class will meet at 9:00 am at USA Raft in Erwin, TN. The cost is $85 for APEs/TEHCC members. Register online at http://www.riverapes.org/registration.html!

The “Paddle with the Pros” clinic series will continue with its second course for advanced kayakers and canoeists. Six-time US Freestyle Team member, creeking pioneer, and winner of the first Green Race, Clay Wright has offered to teach both an intermediate and an advanced creeking clinic in April! The intermediate course for Class III-IV paddlers will be hosted April 11 on a river similar to Wilson’s Creek. The advanced course for Class IV-V paddlers will be hosted on a river similar to the Watauga Gorge. Follow the TEHCC schedule for updates on these classes!

For the canoeists, World Champion canoeist Eli Helbert has generously agreed to teach two clinics – one for beginners and one for intermediate/advanced boaters! The beginner class is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of June 6th and the intermediate/advanced clinic is scheduled for the weekend of June 13th. The beginner class will be a great opportunity for those interested in learning more about whitewater canoeing and learning the basics from one of the best the paddling community has to offer!

This summer, Scott Fisher will once again be teaching a beginner whitewater kayaking course. If you’ve ever thought how much fun it would be to learn how to kayak, now’s your chance!! The Beginner Whitewater Kayak Course, sponsored by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, will be held in the Tri-Cities area. The clinic is designed for anyone wanting to learn the fundamentals of whitewater kayaking-fundamentals that will ensure a fun and safe time on the river. More details to come!

If you are interested in any of these clinics or want to know more about paddling in the Tri-Cities, contact Andrea Gass by email andrearamsey@eastman.com or by phone at 423-229-6495.
Save these dates! Bluestone River Trip and Nolichucky Cleanup

The Bluestone River Trip (36th year) will be May 22-24, 2015 at Pipestem Resort State Park, Pipestem, WV. The trip leader has reserved a block of rooms. To reserve your room call 800-CALL-WVA and ask for Pipestem State Park / Mountain Creek Lodge. To secure one of the club’s block rooms, reservations must be made by May 8. Other options include family camping at the state park campground. We plan to paddle the scenic Bluestone River both days. This is a Class III trip the first day and Class I the second day.

APEs are hosting their 14th annual Nolichucky River Cleanup event on Saturday, June 20, 2015. We will meet at U.S.A. Raft, 2 Jones Branch Rd, Erwin, TN starting at 11 am.

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Marla Merrick  Campbell Fuller  Jacob Mitchell
Bill Hodge  Paden Standifer

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>TEHCC Maintainers Dinner (Rescheduled from Feb. 20)</td>
<td>Kim Peters</td>
<td>423-366-0128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>TEHCC Steering Committee</td>
<td>Steve Ankabrandt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Rental Equipment Check-Out</td>
<td>Terry Dougherty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting</td>
<td>Steve Ankabrandt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools</td>
<td>Kim Peters</td>
<td>423-366-0128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21 &amp; 22</td>
<td>APEs Whitewater Kayak Clinic with EJ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>CPR Course</td>
<td>Scott Fisher</td>
<td>276-698-4644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28-29</td>
<td>Wilderness First Aid Course</td>
<td>Scott Fisher</td>
<td>276-698-4644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>F/B: Laurel Fork Gorge via Hampton Blue Blaze</td>
<td>Tim McClain</td>
<td>423-239-5353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>APEs Creeking Clinic with Clay Wright</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>F/B: Phipps Bend Trail</td>
<td>Yancey Appling</td>
<td>864-508-2754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Garlic Mustard Challenge, Devils Creek Gap</td>
<td>Dan Firth or John Odell</td>
<td>423-349-4135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>F/B: AT; Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob</td>
<td>William Werner</td>
<td>423-408-4469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standard Hike Information

Hikes leaving from “Colonial Heights” gather at the parking lot below 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 the intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street. “Gate City” spot is up on the hill above US23 at Kane Street intersection (traffic light) by Food Lion. All hikes will leave promptly to stay close to schedule. Carpooling is encouraged with passengers providing a few dollars each towards gas.

Bring adequate water, snack/lunch, clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable footwear, headgear/sun protection, bug spray, camera, and trekking poles as desired. At the discretion of the hike leader, the 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 if underlined for the 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 for 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.
Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

**Tuesday Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice, 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

*Contact: Wesley R. Bradley, 423-647-1321*

Come join the J.A.W., Mahoney’s Outfitters, APEs, and other paddlers from our region at Freedom Hall Pool for tips about basic kayaking skills. 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 fellowshipping with other paddlers. 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.

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 are just starting out in the sport and do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the APEs yahoo group site or contact Wesley R. Bradley. 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.

**Most Thursdays: Weekly A.T. Trail Maintenance**

*Contact: Carl Fritz, 423-477-4669, atvolunteer@tehcc.org*

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 133.6-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

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

*Contact: George Mauger, 864-414-0296*

Interested in kayaking but don’t know where to start? Basic kayaking training and practice is now available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the Kingsport Aquatic Center! During the winter months (October-April), the indoor pool is sectioned off specifically for kayakers to practice basic paddling techniques. Admission is only $3 for 2 full hours of fun and Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off outside the door closest to the pool then enter the main door to pay at the front desk. The pool does not provide paddling equipment, but if you are just starting out and do not have your own gear please contact George Mauger (864-414-0296). For additional event details, click [here](#).

**3rd Saturday, Hiking with Tools!**

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

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail on the 3rd Saturday of each month and help out on 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 for details and meeting time and place.

Scheduled Events

**TEHCC Maintainers Dinner 2015, Wednesday, March 4, 5:30 pm**

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

The weather did not cooperate with the Friday, February 20th date, so this event has been rescheduled for this Wednesday evening. This dinner is the kickoff of the primary maintenance season. The event will start at 5:30 pm in the banquet room of the Eastman Lodge with a social time followed by dinner at 6 pm. After the meal we will present awards and discuss various issues related to 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 again feature barbecue from Phil’s Dream Pit and the cost will be $5 payable at the door. If you haven’t already made a reservation, please contact Kim Peters immediately at 423-366-0128 or atmaint@tehcc.org so we can have an accurate headcount for the dinner. Hope to see you there!

**TEHCC Steering Committee meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

*Contact: Steve Ankabrandt, 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.
Rental Equipment Checkout, March 18, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Contact: Terry Dougherty, rental@tehcc.org
Location: Eastman Employee Center, Rm 112 and Lobby
It's time to ensure the Club's rental gear is ready for another year. We will evaluate all the equipment and propose necessary repairs or replacements. A light lunch of pizza, veggie tray, cookies, soft drinks and bottled water will be provided. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with available rental equipment. Come and go as your time permits. Many hands make light work. Please help if you can.

F/B: Laurel Fork Gorge via Hampton Blue Blaze, Sunday, March 29
Leader: Tim McClain, 423-239-5353
Rating: Easy 5.5 mile round trip hike with little elevation change
Let's check out the new Koonford Bridge and extensive trail upgrade performed on this blue-blaze route over the past several months by the special projects maintenance crew. Laurel Fork Falls should have a good flow. We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 pm to arrive at the Hampton trailhead by 2:00 pm. Expected return is at 6 pm.

F/B: Phipps Bend Trail, Sunday April 12
Leader: Yancey Appling (864-508-2754)
The Phipps Bend Industrial Park has a gravel "jeep" path which runs three miles along the Holston River – and is open to folks to hike, bike, or ride horses. The surrounding area has been designated a nature preserve with wetlands full of waterfowl – and deer. If desired, bring binoculars or camera. For kids, bicycles are an option – although there are some potholes which could be filled with water if we've had a recent rain. Hikers can either meet at 1:30 pm in Colonial Heights or in the parking area in Phipps Bend by 2 pm. We'll be back in Kingsport by late afternoon.

Garlic Mustard Challenge, Devils Creek Gap, Saturday, April 25
Contact: Dan Firth (423-349-4135) or John Odell (ATC)
In 2015, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is challenging itself and volunteers to pull 2,189 pounds of the invasive plant, garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata), from the Trail corridor (one pound for every A.T. mile). In the south, we'll need to pull garlic mustard in April, before it goes to seed. This event is to tackle a known infestation around Devils Creek Gap, north of Spivey Gap. The control work will be completed by hand-pulling as the plants are small and removed easily. The weeds will be bagged and weighed before proper disposal. Appropriate equipment for the day includes work gloves, boots or sturdy shoes, and suitable attire for variable spring weather plus lunch and water.

Let the event leaders know of your interest as car pools will be leaving at 8:30 am from both Kingsport, TN (below McDonalds in Colonial Heights) and Asheville, NC (SORO office at 160A Zillicoa Street). Everyone will assemble at Spivey Gap by 9:30 am, and then travel together to the work site. In case of rain, the back-up date is the following Saturday, May 2.

F/B: AT: Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob, Sunday, April 26
Leader: William Werner, Cell 423-408-4469
Rating: Easy 4.4 mile round trip hike with moderate elevation change
Hike along the Appalachian Trail through hardwood forest and switchbacks to great views at Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918'). We'll leave Colonial Heights at 1:00 pm to arrive at the Hughes Gap trailhead by 2:15 pm. Expected return is at 6:30 pm.

A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Kim Peters
Date: 1/28/2015
Purpose: Check No Business Knob Shelter
Location: Section 20b, No Business Knob Shelter
People: Phyllis Cairnes, Rolla Wade, Kim Peters
Summary: We hiked out to No Business Shelter to check out the work done by Thomas Merrimon as an Eagle Scout Project. Thomas's Eagle Scout Project was to improve No Business Knob Shelter by providing a picnic table, cleaning the area, repairing the
front knee wall, installing hardware cloth under the front of sleeping platform and painting the inside and outside of the shelter and cleaning the metal roof.

The brown exterior paint of the shelter looks good; however the white interior paint failed to adhere to the walls and is peeling off. It will need to be cleaned and repainted. We could not see the roof as it was covered with snow. Also, the hardware cloth looks too exposed. Hikers will catch on the top edge as they get on and off the sleeping platform. In fact, some of it had already pulled away and someone had placed duct tape over the protruding parts. The top of the knee walls are still open cinder block and should be covered.

We took measurements of the sleeping platform and knee walls for a future trip to fix these problems when the weather improves. We also picked up trash at the shelter that a recent backpacker had left, along with a nice note in which he apologized for doing so.

Reporting: Steve Perri  
Date: 1/29/2015  
Purpose: ATC Biennial Task Force Teleconference  
Location: Raleigh, NC  
People: Steve Perri  
Summary: The Biennial task force conducted a teleconference to review the results of a recent survey of ATC's membership, trail clubs and other accessible sources of respondents. The results were rather interesting in that the respondents had different interests depending on whether their main reason for attending was for hikes/workshops, for organized hikes, or for the membership meeting. Some respondents had never attended a meeting and were not fully aware of the events held at the meeting. The board will be meeting in a few months to discuss the results in light of their new strategic initiatives. It is likely that the recommended changes will occur for the 2017 Biennial and not for the 2015 meeting. Discussions are ensuing among the task force of how future resources for hosting the meeting might be reduced and what aspects of the meeting could be suited for a broader constituency.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 1/29/2015  
Purpose: Rehab Trail  
Location: Section 19b, Nolichucky Expeditions to Chestoa  
People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Jeff Rutter "Caveman"  
Summary: We did significant rehabbing of the trail from Nolichucky Expeditions to over half way to Chestoa. Most of the rehab involved rock cribbing or rock steps and back filling. The problems were a very narrow trail, sliding trail, or tree roots. This crew fixed 500 feet of trail.

Reporting: Jim Foster  
Date: 2/4/2015  
Purpose: Check bridge timbers for signs of rotting  
Location: Section 10, Two bridges trail north of Laurel Fork Falls  
People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster  
Summary: Ed and I checked the bridge timbers to see if any were rotting. We had replaced a few of the timbers last year. All the timbers seem to be okay at this time, but we will continue to monitor them for future replacement.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 2/4/2015  
Purpose: Rehab trail  
Location: Section 19b, North end near Chesota Bridge  
Summary: We rehabbed trail north and south of the railroad tracks. The dry gully about 1000 feet north of RR has been bridged with stepping stones and short railroad ties. Hopefully, there are enough rocks to hold everything in place when the high waters come.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold  
Date: 2/4/2015  
Purpose: Remove blowdowns  
Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats  
People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder  
Summary: Today we removed a fallen tree right below the trail head using a big rock bar. As we proceeded up the trail, we discovered two trees that had to be sawed and removed. Also, numerous branches had fallen and were cleared from the trail. Further up the path we cut a small tree in order to move another blowdown that was totally obstructing the path. After about 1¼ mile, we turned around and returned to the trail head where we collected a small bag of trash.
Reporting: Vic Hasler  
Date: 2/7/2015  
**Purpose:** Check recent rehab work and finish trimming up through switchback  
**Location:** Section 19b, Curley Maple Gap Shelter to Nolichucky River  
**People:** Vic Hasler  
**Summary:** Wow! The trail work from the Noli Bridge towards the outfitter has made the path really nice – as agreed with a couple of section hikers out on this sunny Saturday. I took pictures to document that the special projects crew has addressed Treadway TR014819 thru TR014823 deficiencies from the June 2013 ATC Assessment. I hauled out yet another tire and bag of assorted trash, and after lunch, headed north of the outfitter to trim the switchback.

Reporting: Vic Hasler  
Date: 2/9/2015  
**Purpose:** TEHCC A.T. Committee  
**Location:** Eastman Recreation Center  
**People:** Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Jim Chambers, Tim Stewart, Paul Benfield, Vic Hasler, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery  
**Summary:** Beginning at 5 pm, the group touched on a long list of topics. “Just Jim” Chambers gave an update about his trek. New flyers for norovirus are now available. Current thoughts are the virus is coming from off-trail and spreads because of lack of hand sanitation. Report any incidents to Julie Judkins at ATC SORO office. Maintenance Dinner is Friday, February 20 (since postponed and now scheduled for March 4) with a BBQ meal for $5 payable at door. Carter County has scheduled a discussion on Wednesday, February 25 to consider being an A.T. Community. Julie Judkins will be speaking. Bob People mentioned that 30 folks have been invited. ATC Southern Partnership Meeting is March 27-29 with Steve Perri and Vic Hasler representing the club. Wilderness First Aid Course is March 28-29 at Eastman lodge. Scholarships are available. ATC Partnership Meeting is April 8 afternoon. Conversation turned to trail closure around Watauga Lake. Signs were left up all winter. There is a desire to reword specific signs to give better guidance to thru hikers in both directions. ATC has a challenge to remove a pound of garlic mustard per trail mile in 2015, so John Odell will lead an event around Devils Creek Gap on April 24. More information will be in the club newsletter. Joe DeLoach will again be the contact with the Roan Ridgerunner. Mike Hupko shared that USFS has plans for ditch work along FS230 road in March-May. Discussion regarding Hardcore was primarily about the number of folks who might be coming. Preparations will continue to unfold in the next few months. Jim Chambers mentioned that PATC is using a graffiti-resistant paint; he will inquire to get specific information. Konnarock weeks were recently requested, so dates are unknown. Some lodging options for the crew were discussed. Relocations at Cross Mountain are scheduled for Watauga College in mid-August. The club has inspected the Laurel Fork bridges and is meeting with USFS about them on February 17. Paperwork is out on Wilder Mine Campsite, Shook Branch Bridge and Campsite, and Old Ridge Road relo. Joe DeLoach will be attending the Open Areas Meeting on February 19. LL Bean grant ideas were discussed with shelter paint or a mower suggested. After the meeting, John Odell (ATC) replied that no final decisions have been made on the 2015 tag grants. Local management plan is not perfect, but will begin pursuing formal feedback and approval. Idea from Tim Schaefer about sending recent TEHCC retiree a contact letter was well received, but needs to be drafted. The evening wrapped up by 6:45 pm.

Reporting: Carl Fritz  
Date: 2/11/2015  
**Purpose:** Rehab trail  
**Location:** Section 19b, South of Nolichucky Expeditions  
**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bob Peoples, Mike Price, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe  
**Summary:** We finished the majority of the rehab just trail south of Nolichucky Expeditions by installing a lot of cribbing and a number of rock steps. The trail from the Expeditions to Chestoa bridge is in pretty good shape. What a great day to be out.

Reporting: Richard Carter  
Date: 2/25/2015  
**Purpose:** Routine maintenance  
**Location:** Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap  
**People:** Richard Carter  
**Summary:** I walked the section and surprisingly found only two small blowdowns which I removed. I also removed a small amount of trash from Stan Murray Shelter.
Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club
Spring Dinner Meeting
Friday, March 20th, 2015

Reservation Form

Fill out the form below and send it with a check payable to Yancey Appling.

Within Eastman send to:
Yancey Appling, Building 150B

Outside Eastman send to:
Yancey Appling
400 Highland Avenue
Johnson City, TN 37604

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 3/13/2015.

Names of all attending (please print)

Name(s):

Number of Meals: Adult

x $12.00 = $

Child

x $6.00 = $

Number attending without meal reservation: