



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

December 2017

tehcc.org

Co-Editors – [Koustubh Kulkarni](#) and [Terry Oldfield](#)

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Steering Committee – New Members for 2018

November was the time to approve the 2018 additions to the Steering Committee. Next year Tim Schaefer and Mark Cox will rotate off as Steering Committee Members. The club is very thankful for the great job they have been doing and their services. Kay will become Past Chair and Rahul Subramanian will be Chair. This slate approval was for the following additions for a two year term. As of the time of writing 24 responses have been received.

Summer Brickey

Summer is from Kingsport, TN. I started working at Eastman in May 2017 as Central Customer Master Coordinator. My favorite hobbies are running, cooking and reading. My hiking experience is mainly in scouting deer trails on High Knob. I would like to see more of the trails we have here, especially Roan Mountain.



Chris Chambers

I am a native of East Tennessee and have been an outdoorsman all of my life. Although my early passion was for hunting and fishing, it has shifted to hiking and backpacking in recent years. I typically enjoy shorter day hikes with my family, but a bucket list item is to thru-hike the AT someday. I am blessed to continue my enjoyment of the outdoors in new ways, and hope to do so for many years to come.



Andy Steffan (TEHCC/APES Liaison)

I am originally from Mebane, NC and moved up here about a year and a half ago to work at Eastman Chemical. I went to school at NC State and am a huge sports fan, so some of my free time is spent supporting my Wolfpack. My other hobbies include recreational day hikes, kayaking, rafting, and home renovations. I became a member of APES last year so this position seems like a good opportunity to mesh both my interests of kayaking and hiking and benefit both clubs.



Hal Yungmeyer

Hal has been a member of TEHCC since starting work at Eastman as a financial analyst ten years ago. He has been hiking since his days as a Boy Scout and is an avid cyclist and occasional paddler. Hal looks forward to increasing his involvement with the club by serving on the Steering Committee.



Rental Questionnaire

As the end of the year approaches and the club reviews its finances, a discussion is underway on whether the club should use some of those remaining funds for stocking the rental equipment. This open request is for any thoughts or ideas the Steering Committee should consider. Our current set can be found on our [club rental page](#). In general, the club's rental offerings are to support three primary use cases.

- Gear for those just getting into the activity or are infrequent participants
- Gear that is expensive and used less frequently (e.g. large tents)
- Gear you would like to try out (e.g. sleeping hammocks, SteriPEN Light Pens for water purification, etc.)

If you can think of something that fits those goals or think we should increase offerings in a category, please complete the survey on rental equipment (also has the option for approving the 2018 Steering Committee slate – the date has already passed).

<http://eteams.eastman.com/sites/ts10/Lists/2018%20Steering%20Committee/overview.aspx>

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

No new members

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

For information on APEs/TEHCC paddling events, see <http://regions.worldkayak.com/tri-cities/category/regional-events/>.

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
No events this month – Enjoy the holidays!			

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Usually every second Tuesday of the month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Contact: [Kay Parker](#), 423-963-8461

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75 PCRA

The Steering Committee guides the general program for the club. The Committee normally meets at lunchtime on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to all TEHCC members. Bring your lunch or grab a bite at the B-75 cafeteria. After going through the turnstiles at the main B-75 entrance, continue straight. The room is immediately to the right. Members who are not current Eastman employees need to contact a member of the Steering Committee at least three days prior to arrange for a temporary visitor's pass.

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 fellowshiping 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 Wesley 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 133.8-mile section each week, usually on Thursdays.

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

Contact: Ryan Shealy, 423-963-6066

Interested in kayaking but don't know where to start? Basic kayak training and practice is available in Kingsport on Thursdays at the [Kingsport Aquatic Center](#)! Admission is \$3 for two full hours of fun; Aquatic Center members may attend free! If you have equipment, you may drop it off, at the door closest to the indoor 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 Ryan Shealy (423-963-6066). For additional event details, click [here](#).

Scheduled Events

For the Record

Laurel River Trail, Saturday, November 18, 2017

Vic Hasler reporting

The forecasted rain was delayed until late evening, so 14 adventurers joined from MAHC (Mid-Appalachian Highlands Club) and TEHCC to wander the old railroad bed along the cascading Laurel Creek to the French Broad River. The stream was observed to be popular with families fishing from the boulders, and the trail for couples walking their dogs – all on leashes.

The trail was found to be in excellent shape with only four blowdowns to cross. There is a section sluffing into the stream which could benefit from a log bridge. A grocery bag each of aluminum cans and trash was picked up. Hiking time was 3.5-4 hours as folks spread out during the return leg.

Most of the group afterwards took the short drive to enjoy a late lunch and conversation at the Iron Horse Station in Hot Springs. This hike and meal combination was a fun way to spend the day, thus should be considered for some future outings. Hiking from TEHCC were Vic Hasler and Gerald Scott.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 11/1/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Ken Murray, John Beaudet

Summary: We removed 3 large and 2 small blowdowns, one of which had to be cut numerous times as the butt end kept sliding down into the trail. On the way out, we fixed a chronically wet spot where a trailside spring was diverted to the rootwad of a blowdown; so the water ran down the trail.

Reporting: Steven T. Perri

Date: 11/2/2017

Purpose: ATC Conference Calls

People: Steve Perri

Summary: Conference calls were made with ATC to plan the Fall RPC meeting agenda, the ATC Trail Communities round table, APPA bimonthly calls, and the roll out of the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.

Reporting: Greg Kramer

Date: 11/2/2017

Purpose: Prepare for moving gravel

Location: Section 14c, Round Bald

People: Greg Kramer, Bill Murdock, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Saylor Fox, Emily Adler, John Beaudet

Summary: Ted and Paul walked to Engine Gap from Carvers Gap and reported that there was less water damage east of Round Bald than west. The west side received extremely high rainfall and water damage on Sunday, Oct 22. Pictures were sent separately. Gravel was washed off the footpath exposing the ground cover. Emily and Saylor repaired a large gouge in the path near a sharp turn in the trail in the woods leading up to Round Bald. Bill and John removed gravel from the side of the road near the A.T. crossing and repaired the trail up to the fence line. Earlier Greg and John cut down locust trees.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 11/2/2017

Purpose: Paint Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Location: Section 12b, Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Terry Oldfield, Rick Lott, Kim Peters

Summary: The Thursday crew returned to Mountaineer Falls Shelter to finish the paint job started by the 3rd-Saturday team who had run out of paint before finishing. With two more gallons of paint, we were able to complete the job and succeeded in covering up almost all of the graffiti inside the shelter. On the way out, we removed a blowdown in the camping area using the "brute force" method, as we had no tools with us other than paint brushes and rollers.

Reporting: John Beaudet

Date: 11/5/2017

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 19b, Jones Branch

People: John Beaudet Frances Figart

Summary: Having noticed Vic's post of 4 blowdowns in Jones Branch and no postings of anyone handling them, I employed Frances as swamper and took care of it. We entered by the blue-blaze by the river outfitters and went north up Jones Branch and cut out and cleared no less than 9 blowdowns ranging in size from 10 to 18 inches in diameter, some pine or hemlock and 3 red oak. The last one was at the switchback, and once cut allowed the root ball to come down the hill into the trail requiring more cutting and removal. Frances stopped hikers from walking into danger as I cut.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/6/2017

Purpose: Clear Trail

Location: Sections 1 and 2, VA/TN line to McQueen's Gap

People: Ed Spear

Summary: Ed hiked from McQueen's Gap to Damascus and camped out. He cleared small branches and blowdowns. The trail is in good shape and no blowdowns are blocking hikers. Almost all are step-overs, except for one leaner. All are less than 18". There are two between McQueen's Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter. There is one just north of the shelter. Greater than 2 miles north of shelter there are 12 blowdowns until Backbone Rock Trail. Between Backbone Rock Trail and state line are 4 more blowdowns.

Reporting: Kevin Sedgwick

Date: 11/6/2017

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Kevin Sedgwick, Gloria Sedgwick

Summary: Gloria shuttled me and helped with the screen on northern bog bridge. We nailed it back down the best we could. The metal is rusting out. I rehabbed 30 feet of trail, cut back vegetation, cleaned out 16 steps/water bars, and continued my assault on keeping ATVs off the trail. I dragged as much brush as I could across their entrance points. There were several small blowdowns on the lower part of section; using hand saw and pulaski, I was able to remove them. There are four 10" to 20" blowdowns that fell from the top of the switchback across the lower part. I cut a path for hikers the best I could; removal will require a chainsaw. The Forest Service mowed the fields again. It was a wet day.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 11/8/2017

Purpose: Check reported downed power lines

Location: Section 12c, North of Campbell Hollow Road

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I responded to reported downed power lines across the trail north of Campbell Hollow Road. Upon arrival, it was determined that the downed lines are actually communication lines. Mountain Electric Co-Op in Roan Mountain confirmed that CenturyLink is responsible for these lines and they were called. CenturyLink created a Work Order and said they would respond within the next 24 hours.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/9/2017

Purpose: Repair trail

Location: Section 14c, North of Carvers Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, George Thorpe; plus SAHC reps: Michjelle Durr, Emily Adler, Saylor Fox, Bettye Boone, Pat Gagan

Summary: The volunteers, including significant help from SAHC, continued from last week to recover the trail from Carvers Gap to Round Bald. The heavy rain, probably about 8 inches on October 23, washed the gravel trail as it never has in the almost twenty years of its existence. Much of the gravel trail was washed clean of gravel. Some gravel traveled 200 feet before being washed off the trail as far as 30 feet. Thanks to the many volunteers with shovels, rakes, buckets and wheel barrows, the trail is now looking reasonable up through the woods. We added more and larger water diversions. This work repaired the worst of the damage. Another day of work towards the top of Round Bald should do the immediate job.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 11/10/2017

Purpose: Remeasure trail distance

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Grindstaff Monument

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: Carl Fritz questioned the “no change” reported last month in the 0.8 mi. distance between TN 91 and the stream listed in the Data Book. The TN-NC guidebook mentions two streams 100 yards apart on bog bridges, thus this gap can swing the results which are stated in 0.1 mile increments. I took Friday afternoon as vacation to repeat the rolling wheel measurements, but to another specific milestone of the Grindstaff Monument at 3.3 miles from TN 91. I was glad to have worn layers, including blaze orange, for the crisp hike as the sun settled on the horizon. The trail itself remains in great shape.

The new measurements taken in both directions found the distance from TN 91 centerline to the Grindstaff Monument to be 3.4 miles (1.2% difference in the two readings). Reviewing the data reveals the shift occurs between crossing the USFS logging road at 0.5 mile and the next series of bog bridges. This location is where the ASU students worked to improve the A.T. back in 2015. The streams are measured as 0.80 mile for the blue-blaze and 0.86 mile for the best stream flowing under the most southern bog bridge. The 0.1 mile shift is then consistently seen in the subsequent milestones for the double white-blaze turn at Iron Mtn crest through the monument. The deadline for the 2018 Data Book submissions just passed, so this 0.1 mile increase in A.T. distance will be reported for the following year’s edition.

Reporting: Ken Murray

Date: 11/10/2017

Purpose: Install hiker graffiti board

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter

People: Ken Murray, Lotta Murray

Summary: We prepared and hung a new graffiti board at the recently painted Stan Murray Shelter. It was a beautiful (but cold) day to be out in the Roan Highlands. Many hikers headed to the barn.

Reporting: Kayla Carter

Date: 11/10/2017

Purpose: Post-season sweep

Location: Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road

People: Kayla Carter

Summary: There’s a powerline across the trail rendering it impassible. I went in from Campbell Hollow Road and made it no farther than 100-200 feet, just past the conifers. The line is waist height above the ground. I did not want to risk crawling under it. A tree fell on the line and has it pinned dangerously low! I sent photos to Carl. It’s a fairly large tree with multiple branches mangled in the line. It is about five feet in diameter. I will find another day to go back to sweep the rest of the section and now plan to only enter the section from Elk River Falls. There was a lot of noise out there. Several dogs were wailing and I heard multiple gun shots. This rattled my nerves a bit too, so I just left upon finding the powerline. (Note Jim Chamber’s report of November 8. Downed lines were determined to be a communication lines and were reported to CenturyLink.)

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/16/2017

Purpose: Rehab gravel trail

Location: Section 14c, Carvers Gap to Round Bald

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Saylor Fox, Pat Gagan

Summary: We continued to recover gravel and rehab trail from the late October storm. We completed up through the forest and are approaching the top of Round Bald. It was a brisk day with maximum temperature of 40° with 20 mph winds. The chilly weather encouraged us to work and kept the number of pleasure hikers low. We reworked almost all the water diversions and added more; and we hauled tons of gravel by bucket and wheel barrows.

Reporting: Ken Buchanan

Date: 11/18/2017

Purpose: Clear blowdown

Location: Section 4b, Blue-blaze trail at Double Springs Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan

Summary: Various people had told me about a blowdown blocking the blue-blaze trail to the water source at Double Springs Shelter. I finally took the hint, recruited a more or less willing worker and with sharp axe in hand walked the section. We crossed two step-over blowdowns on the way to shelter. The blue-blaze trail blowdown was a white pine and cut like hot knife through butter. The blowdowns were dead oak and not easy at all. However, we got 'em. We also cleaned some trash from the fire ring at the shelter. The log book is a bit ratty. A fine day but no hikers to be seen.

Reporting: Gayle Riddervold

Date: 11/18/2017

Purpose: Routine Maintenance

Location: Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

People: Gayle Riddervold, Becky Kinder

Summary: We walked half way up the trail cutting back a few thorny weeds and removing several small trees from the trail. We also cut a small stump sitting in the middle of the trail. There was very minimal trash on the trail.

Reporting: Dan Firth

Date: 11/20/2017

Purpose: LL Bean Grant Evaluation

People: Dan Firth

Summary: I prepared and submitted an evaluation report for the 2017 LL Bean grant to purchase handheld saws.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 11/22/2017

Purpose: Check section and place shelter plaque

Location: Section 14c, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I hiked in from Carvers Gap and mounted a wooden plaque with Stan Murray's name on an overhead beam near the front of the shelter. I picked up a small bag of trash from around the shelter, checked the spring, which is running well, and placed a new shelter register. On the return hike, I cut 5 blowdowns of 3"-5" size, plus one treetop blowdown of multiple small limbs. I picked up and removed several blowdowns of 2"-3" size, and cut back some encroaching bushes and briars.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/24/2017

Purpose: Rehab gravel trail

Location: Section 14c, Round Bald

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Brian Carter, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Connie Squires, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We continued recovering gravel from Carvers Gap up Round Bald and halfway to Engine Gap. We also reworked water diversions where needed and added a lot of cribbing. Again we moved tons of gravel by bucket. We were not the only ones missing Black Friday shopping. The mountain was covered with hikers and dogs. Parking lots and along the road were overflowing with vehicles. It was a beautiful day to be out.