



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

January 2018

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

Co-Editors – [Summer Brickey](#) and [Terry Oldfield](#)

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## TEHCC Rental Equipment – Hammock Tent HT-1



### *Vic Hasler reporting*

Back in June 2005, the TEHCC newsletter reported that a new item added to our club's rental program was a Hennessy Expedition hammock tent (HT-1). Folks could try out this concept before investing in their own gear. It is strongly recommended that you set up this tent in your own backyard to learn the instructions before attempting in the field.

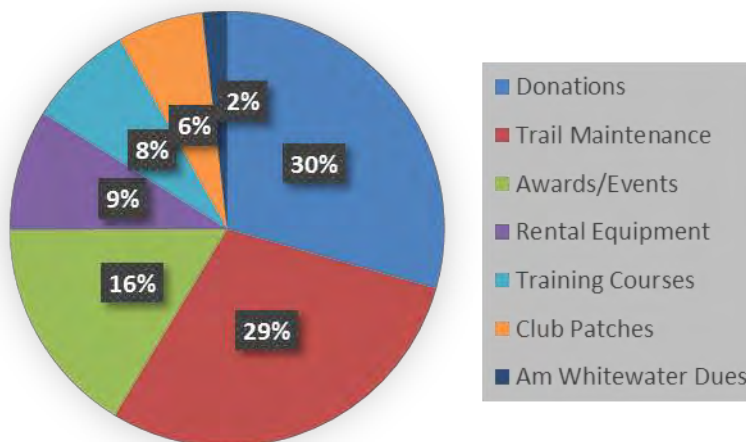
Unfortunately, this tent disappeared from the Recreation storage closet in Bldg. 310 sometime during 2017. Since the 3 lb, 5 oz Hennessy Expedition is a durable three-season design capable of fitting up to a 6 ft, 250 lb person, the Steering Committee decided to purchase a direct replacement for \$140 (plus sales tax) from Amazon. The club's rental rate for this tent is still the same as it was over a decade ago at \$8 for a weekend.

## 2017 Budget Review

### *Vic Hasler reporting*

On behalf of the Steering Committee, this article reviews last year's income and expenses as a club. By Eastman Recreation policy, no balance can be carried forward into the next year. TEHCC received \$3735 in dues (member and affiliates) and donations plus another \$350 from equipment rentals. As seen in the pie chart below, 30% of the funds (~\$1200) were used for donations to the Konnarock Crew, ATC, SAHC, and Bays Mtn Park. A similar amount was used directly for upkeep of the Appalachian Trail. Two dinners meetings and associated recognition awards were the third highest category. Investments equal to the user fees were made in a replacement hammock tent, new backpack, and tent stakes for the rental equipment. A few club members were reimbursed in 2017 for training related to water activities. Any further questions can be directed to a Steering Committee member. Thanks for your support.

## Recreation Expenses




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## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

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No new members

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

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

Date	Description	Contact	Telephone
February 23	TEHCC Maintainers Dinner	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-336-0128

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## Details of Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

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

Contact: [William Werner](#), 423-229-2253

Location: Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 280 Cafeteria

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-280 cafeteria. After going through the turnstiles at the main B-280 entrance, continue straight then right. Continue straight and turn left and through the hall by the vending machines. The cafeteria is directly ahead. 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](mailto:Carl.Fritz@tehcc.org), 423-477-4669, [atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto: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

### TEHCC Maintainers Dinner, Friday, February 23, 2018

Contact: Kim Peters, 423-366-0128, [atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org)

The annual dinner to kick off the primary maintenance season will be held on Friday, February 23, at the Eastman Lodge banquet room. The event will start at 5:30 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 AT. All maintainers or individuals interested in maintaining are invited to attend.

Ed Oliver has once again graciously agreed to provide the dinner which will feature barbecue from Phil's Dream Pit. The cost is a mere \$5 and you can pay for the dinner at the event. Please contact Kim by Monday, February 19, if you are planning to attend for an accurate head count and so we may plan for the meal.

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## For the Record

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No hiking or paddling reports in December.



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Kayla Carter

**Date:** 11/19/2017

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

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

**People:** Kayla Carter

**Summary:** I did a sweep of my section to winterize it. The communication pole on the Campbell Hollow side that was down previously has been fixed!

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/21/2017

**Purpose:** Check Trail

**Location:** Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Road

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed removed minor blowdowns and branches. Obviously, there were some recent winds that brought down some trees. Most of the problem blowdowns are in the spring area. There is the top of a poplar tree, a couple of wild cherry trees with a 12"er being about five foot high, and a three-limb oak 4' high with largest limb being 12".

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/23/2017

**Purpose:** Check Trail

**Location:** Section 4b, TN 91 to Locust Knob

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed removed small blowdowns and branches. Recent winds have brought a few more minor ones down. Ed was very appreciative of this section of trail and claimed it to be the best trail in East Tennessee with the relocation and rehab.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/24/2017

**Purpose:** Check Trail

**Location:** Section 4a, US 421 to Locust Knob

**People:** Ed Speer

**Summary:** Ed cleared small blowdowns and branches. There are still some minor blowdowns that are stepovers.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/29/2017

**Purpose:** Rehab gravel trail

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to turnpikes

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

**Summary:** Ken, Bob, and George recovered gravel washed away by the October storm. The worst area was coming down the steps at TN 143. More work is needed.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 11/29/2017

**Purpose:** Rehab gravel trail

**Location:** Section 14c, Round Bald to Engine Gap

**People:** Richard Carter, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We continued working from Round Bald towards Engine Gap. We recovered gravel where we could, cleaned water diversions, removed some sod encroaching on the trail, and reworked some areas. We covered some of the most exposed geoweb with geotextile and pulled one large piece of geoweb. Most of the big rehab from the October storm is completed from Carvers Gap to Engine Gap.

**Reporting:** Vic Hasler

**Date:** 11/30/2017

**Purpose:** TEHCC A.T. Committee

**Location:** Eastman, Bldg 310

**People:** Bob Peoples, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Jim Chambers, Paul Benfield, Steve Perri, Steve Wilson, Ted Mowery, Vic Hasler

**Summary:** The club's A.T. Committee met to discuss several issues regarding upcoming projects and how we organize ourselves to best handle ongoing tasks. This report shares a few items.

TEHCC will submit requests for a 2018 tag grant for painting three shelters, providing Hiker-Volunteer patches, and purchasing gravel fill for the trail section between Carvers Gap and Cloudland.

After two years, TEHCC will fully handoff the 2018 Hard Core event to VARO/MRATC.

Lack of available training slots is impacting our ability to have fully approved sawyers for field work. We'll continue to highlight the gap to ATC/USFS partners, while also evaluating the path and conditions for having a certified trainer within the club. Discussion indicated that, if necessary, the club's A.T. Committee would be willing to cover reasonable travel costs to attend appropriate sawyer training available farther away – if recognized by our USFS partners.

Spreading out the maintenance coordinator duties has been a continuing conversation. The biggest opportunity is to arrange outings (location, participants, tools, and transportation). We need to separate tasks by time of year, location, and partners to have better defined work packets to recruit leaders. Steve Perri will coordinate the Konnarock Crew program – which is open for the next couple of years, but needs to propose any projects for seven years out. Ed Oliver will begin handling distribution of the first-time volunteer patches and keeping records. Several tasks can be completed by folks not regularly going out into the field. Since TEHCC has a surplus of digging tools, the A.T. committee agreed to supply the regular Thursday crew with their own digging tools - thus the maintainer will be responsible for keeping them in shape.

**Reporting:** Vic Hasler

**Date:** 12/3/2017

**Purpose:** Remove graffiti from rock face

**Location:** Section 19a, 0.5mi north of Chestoa parking

**People:** Vic Hasler

**Summary:** A follow-up to the October 4th trip report was to further remove "M+L" graffiti located roughly a half-mile north of the Chestoa bridge parking. For the prior attempt, I used Goof Off hydrocarbon spray with two-thirds success. This time, more Goof Off was applied, then full-strength Awesome cleaner dribbled onto the rock face. A plastic bristle brush and water from a spray bottle were also employed to continue removing the graffiti. After another hour's effort, the blue coloring is very faded, but normal weathering of the sandstone surface will be required to finish the job.

I also pulled a six-inch blowdown off the trail, while leaving two 16+ inch rotted pines – one between the parking and railroad, and the other at the base of the incline to the overlook for the Unaka Springs trestle. A chainsaw will make short work of these two, but the Katanaboy saw could break them up so they can be rolled off the trail. Of the two yellow plastics warning signs hung at the

railroad crossing in December 2014, only half of one remains. I picked up one bag of trash from the parking lot, including a black BSA neckerchief.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 12/4/2017

**Purpose:** Rehab gravel trail

**Location:** Section 14c, Close to Carvers Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bettye Boone, Richard Carter, Saylor Fox, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We continued to gather washed gravel off the old trail. We also added more water diversions close to TN-143. We built sumps at many water diversions, so hopefully they will catch much of the gravel when it washes off.

**Reporting:** Scotty Bowman

**Date:** 12/4/2017

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns and assess Trail

**Location:** Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to spring 3.3 miles Trail North

**People:** Scotty Bowman

**Summary:** This was a perfect day to go out and do some maintenance. It was a little bit chilly at first, but then warmed up. I chatted with a previous thru-hiker (2016) who was meeting up with two others who are south-bounders. On the way out, I met a couple who were out for the day and hiked to Vandeventer and back out. I removed a total of five blowdowns between Wilbur Dam Rd and the spring 3.3 miles traveling trail North. Along the way I cleaned out two waterbars. I also carried out an abandoned tent, sleeping pad, and bag of wet rope that someone had tossed off the side of the trail. The spring did have a couple of small pools of water.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 12/6/2017

**Purpose:** Determine log needs

**Location:** Section 15a, Both ends of section, Carvers Gap to Cloudland Hotel

**People:** Dan Firth, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** We estimated the additional locust log needs for steps and water diversions in the two end areas that were graveled about 14 years ago. We did clear an eight-inch blowdown near Cloudland. With the cooler temperatures and strong winds, we saw no other hikers.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 12/7/2017

**Purpose:** Cherry Gap Shelter Design

**Location:** Elizabethton

**People:** Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We attended the Bartleby Open House by Elizabethton High School. In 2016 they placed among 13 national winners in the XQ Super School Project. They received the Student Leadership Award and \$200,000 to develop an innovative educational model that could be successful in public schools nationally. Part of the program is to have selected students working on real projects of their selection within the community. One of those projects is designing a potential replacement shelter for Cherry Gap Shelter. The two students who will be working on that are currently working on Tweetsie Trail cleanup and beautification.

**Reporting:** Dean Baird

**Date:** 12/21/2017

**Purpose:** Routine trail inspection and maintenance

**Location:** Section 9b, Hampton Blue-Blaze Trail

**People:** Curtis Baird, Dean Baird

**Summary:** We inspected the trail, which was in good shape, and removed a large bag of trash.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 12/21/2017

**Purpose:** Prepare locust logs for trail

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland Hotel, Birdhouse Cabin

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; SAHC: Marquette Crockett, Michelle Durr

**Summary:** We cut locust trees and started preparing them for trail logs. Also, we cleaned up some of the branches in preparing the area for Golden Wing Warbler habitat.