



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

February 2018

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

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

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## TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-36, Mountainsmith Apex 60 Backpack



*Chris Chambers – Rental Equipment Coordinator*

A new backpack has been added to the TEHCC rental fleet – the Mountainsmith Apex 60. It was purchased in December 2017 from Mahoney's Outfitters in Johnson City. Weighing in at 4lbs-15oz, this 60-liter (3660 c.i.), internal-frame backpack is made for extended journeys and thru-hiking on long trails. It has ample capacity for multi-day adventures, and can be easily adjusted to fit 16" to 21" torsos. The hip belt is a tuning fork design that has a rated capacity of 60 lbs, and can be adjusted to fit 28" to 48" waists. (Note: I personally own this backpack model and can testify that it is very comfortable). This pack should be used with one of the club's pack covers (HR-1, 2, or 3), since an integral cover is not included.

Rental rate "A" (\$8 weekend, \$10 week-long) will be set for this pack.

## Save the Date: "Early Spring" Dinner - Friday, March 2, 2018



Availability of our dinner speaker, Chloë de Camara, set the earlier-than-normal date this year, since she starts her patrols as a Ridgerunner in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park the following day. Come share some warm fellowship on this Friday evening as we learn about having "A Relationship with the Appalachian Trail" based on her experiences from her 2015 thru-hike to current role as Ridgerunner/Camp Coordinator.

Barberitos will be supplying the main meal. Be assured, the Steering Committee learned from last year to get extra portions. The cost is \$9.50/person with the Steering Committee acquiring the beverages and dessert. Attending just the program is free, however we'll need a headcount to properly size the food order, so please let Hal know by February 28<sup>th</sup>. The reservation form [is here](#).

Use the attached calendar item to add this meeting to your calendar!

Event	Time	Details
Spring 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 – Barberitos taco and fajita bars plus soda, tea, coffee and desserts	6:30pm-7:15pm	Barberitos provides a fajita / taco bar. Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee. (\$9.50 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-7:30pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
Program: A Relationship with the Appalachian Trail	7:30pm-9:00pm	Chloë de Camara (Appalachian Trail Conservancy)

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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 9	APE's Winter Meeting	<a href="#">Steven Adams</a>	423-650-1293
February 23	TEHCC Maintainers Dinner	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-336-0128
March 2	TEHCC "Early Spring" Dinner	<a href="#">Hal Yungmeyer</a>	

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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](mailto:Ryan.Shealy@tehcc.org), 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**

### **APE's Winter Meeting, Friday, February 9, 2018, 7 – 9 pm**

Contact: [Steven Adams](mailto:Steven.Adams@apeclub.org), 423-650-1293, [campingskeeter@gmail.com](mailto:campingskeeter@gmail.com)

This meeting will be held at the Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Park Road, Kingsport. APEs Club members are hosting a chili and potato bar potluck for the meal; so break out your favorite chili recipe and potato fixings to bring to this meeting. Please let Steven know what you plan to bring for the meal. The club will provide tea and water.

The focus of this meeting will be advocating for volunteers for office to further support the club's leadership going forward. Any recommendations or nominations for office would be very much appreciated! Further we will be discussing club events and trips. Please spread the word and advocate for attendance.

Here is our list of current officers:

President: Ryan Shealy (Nominee: Rahul Subramanian)

Cruise Director - Touring & Class I-II: Debbie Briscoe

Cruise Director - Class III-IV: Wesley R. Bradley

Safety/Education: Jerry Smith (Co-chair Nominee: Ryan Shealy)

Secretary/Treasurer: Patrice Riesenberg

Social Director/Marketing: Steven Adams

Conservation: Michael Potter (Nominee: Trevor Lee)

Website: Jeremy Whitaker

TEHCC Liaison: Rahul Subramanian (Nominee: Andrew Steffan)

New Office: Cruise Director - Class II-II (Nominee: Jerry Griffin)

All offices are up for nominations. Please let Patrice Riesenberg (423-292-8060 or [riesen92jk@hotmail.com](mailto:riesen92jk@hotmail.com)) know by February 7 if you are interested in being nominated for any of these offices or have an idea for a new office.

### **TEHCC Maintainers Dinner, Friday, February 23, 2018, 5:30 pm**

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

The annual dinner to kick off the primary maintenance season will be held 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 A.T. 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 dinner at the event. Please contact Kim by Monday, February 19, if you plan to attend, so we can get an accurate head count and plan for the meal.

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## **For the Record**

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No hiking or paddling reports for January.



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## A.T. Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 12/27/2017

**Purpose:** Clear blowdown

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze to Dennis Cove, north of first bridge

**People:** Craig Haire, Helga Mitchell

**Summary:** We did some clearing with a handsaw and cut a pretty big head-high tree with two cuts using a cross-cut. We moved it to the trailside with a peavey. On an earlier hike (12/23), 5 step-overs and 1 duck-under were noted between Shook Branch and Pond Flats. The trail was pretty clear between Pond Flats and Hampton trailhead.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 12/28/2017

**Purpose:** Prepare locust logs for trail

**Location:** Birdhouse Cabin

**People:** John Beaudet, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Tim Stewart,

George Thorpe SAHC: Marquette Crockett, Bettye Boone, Saylor Fox

**Summary:** We continued to cut locust trees and buck them into usable logs for the A.T. near Carvers Gap (Section 15a). It was a cool day, but full sun and no wind. So it was a pleasant day to see the scenery.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 12/30/2017

**Purpose:** Submit License Plate Grants

**People:** Dan Firth, Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler

**Summary:** We prepared and submitted Tennessee and North Carolina License Plate grants for funds to paint Curley Maple, Roan High Knob, and Overmountain Shelters and for gravel to harden the section of Trail between Cloudland and Carvers Gap.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 12/30/2017

**Purpose:** Finalize Roan Highlands Campsite Report

**People:** Dan Firth

**Summary:** I finalized the Roan Highlands Campsite inventory report.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 12/30/2017

**Purpose:** Check Section

**Location:** Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Dan Firth, Ben Firth

**Summary:** We enjoyed a raw winter day, clearing blowdowns and other impinging branches from the trail.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 1/6/2018

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton Blue-Blaze to Dennis Cove Road, middle of section

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** Using a crosscut saw, I cut and removed two blowdowns between the bridges and the shelter. I also cut and removed a log and a large fallen branch with a handsaw and crosscut on the high waterside trail.

**Reporting:** Lotta Murray

**Date:** 1/10/2018

**Purpose:** Locate blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap

**People:** Lotta Murray, Peggy Cantrell

**Summary:** We GPS'd the location of blowdowns and replaced the shelter logbook.

**Reporting:** Dan Firth

**Date:** 1/10/2018

**Purpose:** Highlands of Roan Stewardship Committee Meeting

**People:** Dan Firth, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** We attended the Highlands of Roan Stewardship Committee Meeting. This meeting is an annual opportunity for partners to share updates on initiatives. A significant highlight is that several new tracts of land are now protected within close proximity of the A.T. Dan reported results from the campsite inventory and impact assessment conducted during the summer.

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** 1/10/2018

**Purpose:** Maintain Abingdon Gap Shelter

**Location:** Sections 2b and 3, Low Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Deb Helmer, Phyllis Cairnes

**Summary:** Walking north from Low Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter, we took photos of 4 blowdowns of varying sizes and sent these to the maintenance coordinator. At the shelter, we picked up trash, shoveled out the firering, cleaned out the gutter, and left a new journal. It was finally warmer and a great day to be out.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/11/2018

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

**People:** Carl Fritz, Joe Morris

**Summary:** With rain and high winds approaching, we were able to cover the section and remove the reported blowdowns without getting wet. We removed six step-overs and three major duck-under. The trail section is basically in good shape.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 1/25/2018

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns and check trail

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

**Summary:** We cut six small-to-medium blowdowns using the big Silky. We cleaned the waterbars and carried out a large bag of stinky trash that someone had carelessly left at the shelter. There's one large step-over that will need a chainsaw about a half-mile from Greasy Creek Gap.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/25/2018

**Purpose:** Build bridge

**Location:** Carl's House

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We built a fifteen-foot bog bridge. It will be installed south of Bitter End (Section 12a).

**Reporting:** Ken Murray

**Date:** 1/25/2018

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

**People:** Ken Murray, Green Faircloth

**Summary:** We removed many small but nasty blowdowns. We also cleaned a firering.

**Reporting:** Terry Oldfield

**Date:** 1/26/2018

**Purpose:** Maintain Double Springs Shelter

**Location:** Section 4b, TN 91 to Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

**Summary:** We arrived at the TN 91 parking area noting that the information kiosk has been vandalized. The glass on the both sides is broken and much of the content destroyed. At Double Springs Shelter, we picked up trash, cleaned out the gutter, and replaced the logbook. The waterbar log that was placed to keep rainwater from running into the shelter area had been moved and the end used for firewood. Kim retrieved the log and put it back in place. The springs are running well. On the way back to TN 91, we met Ed Speer. He had cleared the step-over we saw on the way to the shelter, so that all of Section 4b is now in good condition.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 1/26/2018

**Purpose:** Check Overmountain Shelter

**Location:** Section 14b, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We checked the condition of the shelter. There has been no discernible movement of the shelter in the last 14 months. Some siding repairs will be needed if it is painted this year. We removed some trash. Even with a 40 degree afternoon, the high winds did not make the shelter very hospitable.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 1/26/2018

**Purpose:** General maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I lopped from Wilbur Dam Rd to Watauga Dam, and from US 321 to the Forest Service gate. I cleared two blowdowns, one on each end of the section.