



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

January 2019

tehcc.org

Editor – [Terry Oldfield](#)

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2019 Steering Committee

Submitted by Vic Hasler

Per the TEHCC constitution, the Steering Committee will comprise returning second year members: Chris Chambers (Rental Equipment Coordinator), Andy Steffan (APEs Liaison), and Hal Yungmeyer (Treasurer) along with Past Chair William Werner. The slate below was approved as the incoming first year leadership. This committee is also supported by the unofficial, but frequent, attendance of Tim Schaefer (Membership/Webmaster) and Vic Hasler (A.T. Committee Chair). Your input regarding the club's activities and management is welcomed by contacting any one of these folks.

Scott Orsburn

I grew up at the entrance to Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Sevier County, Tennessee and developed an appreciation for hiking and spending time outdoors at an early age. As my own children have grown, we have started to more time on the trails in Northeast Tennessee including several backpacking excursions on sections of the Appalachian Trail. We hope to continue exploring local trails, additional sections of the AT, and other outdoor recreation areas throughout the US.



Isaac Keebler

Growing up in the Tri-Cities, I've had the chance to take advantage of our local outdoor paradise for years. My hobbies include mountain biking, trail running, backpacking, and, newly, bikepacking. I've been at Eastman for six years and am very grateful for the plant's proximity to many miles of trails. I serve on the Bays Mountain Park Association Board of Directors, and I'm excited about the opportunity to serve on the TEHCC Steering Committee.



Jonathan Shumaker

I moved to Kingsport three years ago to start working at Eastman. Prior to that I was in school at the University of Arkansas studying Chemical Engineering. I have enjoyed hiking and camping in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia especially along the A.T. Any time my girlfriend Teni and I have friends or family in town visiting, we always try to take them on a hike to share some of the trails we have experienced in the area.



New Colonial Heights Meeting Location

After several decades, the meeting location for hikes leaving from Colonial Heights has changed. A gas station is being constructed in the former spot between McDonalds and Taco Bell, shown as red X in the aerial photo. (Remember when the latter was a bank or Burger King?) The new gathering place, shown by the red pin, will be the southeast corner of the Ingles grocery store parking lot. This secure location is used by several groups for carpooling as it provides easy access to I-81 (Exit 59) and I-26.



TEHCC Renewal Season

By [Tim Schaefer](#)

It's renewal time again for TEHCC. Your course of action depends on which category you fall under.

Eastman Employees – You have no action to take. Dues are automatically removed by ERC in your first paycheck of the year.

Eastman Retirees – I request a [courtesy reply](#) that you're still interested in receiving the newsletter along with any updates.

Member Affiliates – Complete the [Membership Application](#) and return to the address listed with the appropriate dues amount.

Still on the fence about renewal? Remember that TEHCC membership gives you discounts of 10% at area outfitters; employees may rent club gear; and most importantly, the overwhelming majority of dues goes directly to paying for materials and tools for maintaining our 134 miles of the Appalachian Trail.

TEHCC Membership Discounts

By *Andy Steffan*; Submitted by *Vic Hasler*

One of the TEHCC membership perks is a 10% discount at five local outfitters (subject to their restrictions): [OverMountain Outdoors](#) (downtown Johnson City, TN), [Mahoney's](#) (Johnson City, TN), [Mountain Sports, Ltd.](#) (Bristol, VA), [Mount Rogers Outfitters](#) (Damascus, VA), and [Highlands Ski and Outdoor Center](#) (Abingdon, VA). The savings on the purchase of good hiking footwear can cover your annual club dues. The [Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute \(NOLI\)](#) is also offering TEHCC members a discount on classes. Your Eastman Recreation Club card with "Hiking Club" indicated is your proof of membership, or the club will provide a suitable membership card upon contacting us at membership@tehcc.org.

OverMountain Outdoors is the newest addition to the membership perks discounts. They were established in 2015 and recently moved to their new location on Tipton Street in Downtown Johnson City. Matt Whitson, a local and an ETSU grad, established the business, which was named after the regional Overmountain Victory Trail. Their friendly staff sells name brand clothing, footwear, hiking and outdoor gear, gift items, etc. Their website is currently in development, but the above link is to their Facebook page.

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
January 12	Margarette Falls Hike	Tim Schaefer	
January 14	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
January 28	New! January "Off Trail Hangout," 11:30 am	Tim Schaefer	
February 15	TEHCC Maintainers Dinner	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
February 16	Laurel Fork Falls Hike	Tim Schaefer	
February 16	A.T. Maintenance with ETSU Students	Carl Fritz	

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Usually the Second Tuesday of the Month, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

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

Location: *Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN; Bldg 75 Room 402*

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. 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, \[atvolunteer@tehcc.org\]\(mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org\)](#)

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

Margarette Falls Hike, Saturday, January 12, 2019, 8:00 am

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#)

Margarette Falls is a shorter waterfall hike and for years has remained elusive to me for a good freezing over. We'll try again this year. The hike is fairly short, just shy of three miles round-trip. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for a cold outing. Meet in the parking lot by Ingles in Colonial Heights along Ft. Henry Drive at 8:00 am. The hike will be cancelled if roads are icy. For more info, email [Tim Schaefer](#).

January "Off Trail Hangout," Monday, January 28, 2019, 11:30 am

Eastman B150, Rm 418

Leader: [Tim Schaefer, \[tschaefer@eastman.com\]\(mailto:tschaefer@eastman.com\)](#)

This is the inaugural attempt at a routine "get together." Likely topics will include what we want to get out of this, recent past hikes discussion, upcoming hikes discussion, what hikes and events to plan beyond that, and filling it out with a Trail Wiki tour. Show up, bring a lunch or get one from the cafeteria nearby (is it still open?), and let's chat! For more info and a courtesy reservation so I know we have an appropriately sized room, email Tim Schaefer (tschaefer@eastman.com).

TEHCC Maintainers Dinner, Friday, February 15, 2019, 5:30 pm

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 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 11th**, if you plan to attend, so we can get an accurate head count and plan for the meal.

Laurel Fork Falls Hike, Saturday, February 16, 2019, 9:00 am

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#)

This will be our second attempt at a frozen waterfall visit for 2019. Much like Margarette Falls, [Laurel Fork Falls](#) continues to elude me to plan a hike to see it iced over, but the hike is always great. We can plan the hike as needed to accommodate the group, but my favorite is starting at Hampton, hike towards the falls on the high water trail. This affords us the pleasure to hike DOWN the stairs, see the falls, then return to Hampton along the river. This ends up being around a 5.5 mi hike but with the planned routing, never exceedingly steep. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for a cold outing. Meet in the parking lot by Ingles in Colonial Heights along Ft. Henry Drive at 9:00 am. The hike will be cancelled if roads are icy. For more info and a courtesy reservation so I know to look for you, email Tim Schaefer (tschaefer@eastman.com).

A.T. Maintenance with ETSU Students, Saturday, February 16, 2019

Contact: [Carl Fritz](#)

We will remove encroaching vegetation from Indian Grave Gap to Culry Maple Gap ([map](#)). Contact Carl for additional information.

For the Record

No hike or paddling reports for December.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Note: The government shutdown temporarily suspended A.T. maintenance.

Reporting: Gerald Scott

Date: 11/9/2018

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

People: Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler

Summary: We tried to drive in from Elk River Falls but found the lock had been changed and our key no longer worked. Thanks to the sawyers, all the large blowdowns had been cleared. We cleared several smaller ones that had fallen since the sawyers went through. High winds had blown tree tops on top of rhododendrons in several places pushing them down. We removed the tree tops and lopped the rhodos back. The old road near Elk River continues to erode. Carl Fritz is addressing the erosion problem.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 11/29/2018

Purpose: Meet with TDOT on US 321 crossing; Remove blowdown

Location: Section 8, US 321

People: Morgan Sommerville (ATC), Bryan Bartnik, Rick Kilby (TDOT), Carl Fritz, Vic Hasler, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri (TEHCC), Keith Kelley (USFS)

Summary: Primary objective was to meet with TDOT to discuss routing the A.T. safely across Highway US 321 between the Shook Branch Recreation Area and Atwood property. A long-term possibility is a crossing roughly 250' west of the rec area entrance and over to a new sidehill path below the cemetery. TDOT will evaluate this location versus the current crossing onto Shook Branch Road, including appropriate highway signage and line-of-sight. After TDOT left, the rest of the participants explored path and campground options for the A.T. across the Atwood land. An interim rerouting onto existing forest roads could avoid the current switchbacks.

While in this immediate area, Carl Fritz used a chain saw to cut a 16" blowdown below the US 321 parking lot.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 11/30/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

People: Paul Benfield, Scotty Bowman, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: Most of the rehab work was in the first mile on either end. We cut out two recent blowdowns; one was 20". Mostly, we rehabbed rooty areas by adding side logs. We added two large waterbars to one of the steep roads. Some more rehab is needed, especially to deal with the wet areas near Elk River.

Reporting: Carl E Fritz

Date: 12/3/2018

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321, South of Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux

Summary: We removed blowdowns reported by Gayle and Becky. We cut nine blowdowns. Most were about 0.6 to 1 mile south of the shelter. Two of the blowdowns were 20". Others were smaller, but one was a significant hazard over the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/3/2018

Purpose: Fasten stakes to logs

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap - Cloudland Hotel, Primarily south of Carver's Gap

People: Carl Fritz, Elzear Lemieux

Summary: We attached stakes to both new and old logs with screws or nails to reduce the frost from heaving stakes out of the ground. We did the same for a few new logs placed on the approach to Round Bald.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/6/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Joe Morris, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We primarily rehabbed trail south of Watauga Dam by redigging trail, removing a stump, and adding some locust steps and side logs. Some more rehab is needed right at the campsite south of the dam, but otherwise the trail condition is good. We did not inspect trail from the dam to Wilbur Dam Rd. We did remove some blowdowns about a mile south of the dam. One was 16" and two others were about 12". Some more uphill brushing is needed here and probably on Killer Hill.



Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 12/17/2018

Purpose: TEHCC A.T. Committee

Location: Eastman B310

People: Vic Hasler, Steve Perri (by phone), Carl Fritz, Dan Firth, Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart, Kim Peters, Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield, Steve Wilson

Summary: The TEHCC A.T. Committee met to cover several topics, including the 2019 maintenance kickoff dinner, graffiti boards, A.T. tag grant requests, opportunities for Konnarock crew, and the US 321 crossing. A few other areas of interest were also discussed before the two-hour meeting time ran out.

* Maintainers need to check trail sections for open passage after the heavy snow in December, as many evergreens and rhododendron have been pulled down.

* If you were recognized at least seven years ago with an ATC ballcap which is now "worn or damaged" and participated in trail maintenance during 2018, please contact Vic about possibly obtaining a replacement.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 12/19/2018

Purpose: Rehab trail and brush

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US 321

People: Ken Buchanan, Phyllis Cairnes, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Elzear Lemieux, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Kevin Sedgwick, Tim Stewart, Rolla Wade

Summary: Recent snow broke some large rhododendron, especially near the shelter; Greg and Tim cut them out. Phyllis and Rolla walked the entire section cutting back encroaching vegetation and, with Kim, cut all the heavy growth between the dam and Wilbur Dam Road. The rest of the crew, plus Tim and Greg, rehabbed about 240 feet of trail just south of the dam by redigging and installing locust log cribbing. This entire section is in pretty good shape.

