



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

February 2019

tehcc.org

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*Machu
Picchu*

*Photo Credit:
Anna Stowe
Travel*



TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting – Friday, March 15, 2019

Why is the TEHCC newsletter featuring a photo of Machu Picchu? The Inca Trail in Peru is consistently ranked as one of the top treks in the world. TEHCC's own Mike Watts will be speaking at the TEHCC Spring Dinner meeting about his recent experience on the Inca Trail. The trek concluded at Machu Picchu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He'll also share his excursion to a remote lowland rain forest of the westernmost Amazon Basin in Manu National Park, considered one of the earth's most biodiverse places.

The Steering Committee seems to favor BBQ and Mexican, so we're back to Barberitos again for the main meal. Cost will be \$10/person with the Steering Committee acquiring beverages and dessert. Attending just the program is free, however we'll need a paid headcount to properly size the food order, so please let Hal Yungmeyer know who is coming by Monday March 11th. Checks payable to Hal can be mailed to his attention at PO Box 511, Building 280, Kingsport, TN 37662-5280.

Event	Time	Details
Spring Dinner Meeting	5:30pm	Location: Eastman Lodge, Main Banquet Hall 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN
Happy "Trails" Hour	5:30pm-6:30pm	Donations accepted for beer and wine, or BYOB
Dinner – Barberitos taco and fajita bars plus tea/water, coffee and desserts	6:30pm-7:15pm	Barberitos fajita / taco bar. Beverages and dessert by the Steering Committee. (\$10.00 per person)
Club Business	7:15pm-7:30pm	- Update of club activities - Awards
Program: Inca Trail in Peru	7:30pm-9:00pm	Mike Watts (TEHCC club member)

ATTN Podcast – Trail Stories Worth Your Attention

Article by Vic Hasler

The Outdoor Development group of the Northeast Tennessee Regional Economic Partnership created a series, first as three YouTube videos, then 18 podcasts, to share stories highlighting the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee and its benefit to the area. Host, Ken Medley, conducts live interviews of community members and thru-hikers at several open venues (thus background noise) to explore relevant topics including the A.T. experience, hostels, and volunteerism. Each session is 10-30 minutes long, thus the first season is roughly five hours of binge listening content.

The podcast and its host are still evolving the show format. The opportunity has been to gain insights from NOBO thru-hikers, who have typically been on the A.T. for one month, about what is great in the region. (Listen yourself for the answers.) I found the background on community businesses, such as the hostels Doe River Hiker Rest and Mountain Harbour, to be especially interesting, along with the “sustainable crop” view by Commissioner Mike Hill. Our own Tim Stewart was interviewed during the last episode for 2018 about volunteering for trail maintenance.

Erica Malpass of NeTREP Outdoor Development group confirmed that this series is an experiment. Feedback is desired to inform their decision whether to produce another season. (Contact them at appalachiantrailtn@gmail.com.) Some topics which the podcast could explore include Roan Mountain Trail Days and Hard Core, zero-day activities (Nolichucky River), favorite food and drink, resupply needs (what wears out after a month or should just be replaced), trail maintenance tools, role of the US Forest Service, natural species (another session with Mr. Botany), geology (university professor), shuttles, and more. These shows would provide entertaining stories while being informative about the businesses and partnerships supporting outdoor development across Northeast Tennessee.



Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains), Sat-Sun, July 13-14, 2019

For several decades, TEHCC has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the second Saturday in July. This lodge (elevation 6593 ft) can only be reached by hiking trails. Even supplies are brought in by llama train once a week. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. ***This year will be the last year that TEHCC will have priority for this reservation.*** The club has paid a total of \$666.09 for four reservations in a five-person cabin (double bunk beds and a single) which include supper on Saturday, overnight lodging, and breakfast on Sunday. The fifth spot can also be obtained. You can find out more about the Mount LeConte Lodge at www.lecontelodge.com.

For TEHCC members interested in this reservation, please contact Vic Hasler (atchair@tehcc.org) by the **March 15th** dinner meeting. Preference will be given to the first group of four with payment, followed by the Steering Committee arranging a group of four or five to share the cabin, using a lottery if necessary. Payment to the club will then be promptly required to secure the slot(s) to provide you with the appropriate lodge paperwork. This is a rare opportunity, as these reservations – and the entire wait list – are full for ALL Saturdays in 2019.

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
February 2	Laurel Fork Falls Hike, 9:00 am	Tim Schaefer	
February 14	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
February 15	Rental Equipment Inspection, 11:00 am	Chris Chambers	423-707-5359
February 15	TEHCC Maintainers Dinner, 5:30 pm	Kim Peters	423-366-0128
February 16	A.T. Maintenance with ETSU Students	Carl Fritz	
March 14	Steering Committee Meeting, 11:30 am	William Werner	423-229-2253
March 15	TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting, 5:30 pm	Hal Yungmeyer	Reservation to B280

Details of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

TEHCC Steering Committee Meeting - Now on the Second Thursday 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 Thursday 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

Laurel Fork Falls Hike, Saturday, February 2, 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).

Rental Equipment Inspection, Friday, February 15, 2019, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Contact: [Chris Chambers, 423-707-5359](#)

Location: *Eastman Employee Center 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. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the available rental equipment. Come and go as your time permits. Many hands make light work, so please help if you can. A light lunch will be provided. Contact: Chris Chambers, 423-707-5359 or rental@tehcc.org.

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.

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

Contact: [Carl Fritz](#)

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

For the Record

Margarette Falls Hike, January 12, 2019

Tim Schaefer Reporting

The run up was fairly pleasant destroying any chance for a frozen falls experience. There was also the threat of rain, but it didn't materialize until much later in the day. Our winter has been wet, which could lead to a good flow, but that can cut both ways as it can mean wetter trails and bigger streams to cross. In this case it seemed "typical" and was a fairly pleasant hike to the falls. The trails were mostly dry and the one non-bridge stream crossing continued to be a fairly easy rock hopper. The group made it to the falls, enjoyed a quick lunch, and turned back for the return. Doug Lowman joined us at the trail head for this hike. Bill Tindall wished to carpool but our family of six filled our car and the remaining interested parties were no-shows.



A.T. Maintenance Reports

Note: A.T. maintenance was suspended during the government shutdown.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 01/06/2019

Purpose: Attend Southern Appalachian Work Center Meeting

Location: SAWC, Elizabethton

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Southern Appalachian Work Center (SAWC) with founder Jim Chambers held its first official advisory board meeting. Most advisors were present including Scott Ourth from Iowa. Several guests attended including myself representing TEHCC. Minutes of the meeting will be issued. The physical facility for SAWC is complete including a bunk house for two. SAWC hopes to provide trail maintenance to A.T. along the entire southern part, in some state parks, as well as other trails. After the meeting, there was a dinner and celebration of SAWC's first year.