

## **Cherokee Hiking Club 2017 Hike and Event Schedule** (Tentative)

### **January**

- January 19-22, Thursday-Sunday - Winter Hike Week in the Smokies, SEFTC. See January 2017 newsletter for more details, or contact Rick Harris.
- 1/28 – Saturday – Dry Pond Lead hike; Section 12 of the BMT. Hike leader: Randy Morris. Strenuous, 9 miles, around 1700 feet elevation gain. Meet at Ocoee Hardees at 8:30 a.m. or at the Thunder Rock parking area at 9:00 a.m. Contact Randy at 423-650-0485.

### **February**

- 2/2, Thursday – Booker T. Washington Hike, Lakeshore to Park's Point. Leader: Ann Gray. Easy, 3 miles. Meet at the Cleveland Hardee's on 2780 Keith Street at 9:00 a.m.
- 2/4, Saturday – Thunder Rock Express Hike. Leader: Clayton & Ruth Pannell. Easy with optional strenuous climb. 3.5 miles with car shuttle. Will do a car shuttle up to where the BMT crosses FS RD 45. We will hike south on the BMT to the Thunder Rock Express, and follow it back to the power house and parking lot. Note: this trail is also a bike trail and may have bicyclists on it. Please dress in layers for cold weather and bring plenty of water, as winter air may be very drying. Meet at Hardee's in Ocoee at 9:00 a.m. or at the Thunder Rock Trail parking area at 9:45 a.m. Contact Clayton at 423-263-9730 (home), 423-435-1843 (cell) or email at [crpannell@comcast.net](mailto:crpannell@comcast.net).
- 2/9, Thursday – club meeting at Monterrey Mexican restaurant at 3055 Keith Street in Cleveland at 6:00. Eat for hour or so, then meeting at around 7 to 8:30. Ann Gray has reserved our spot.
- 2/18, Saturday – Fort Loudon State Park hike. Leader: Sue Robinson. 3.5 miles, easy/moderate. Bring your dogs (leashed please), this is a great dog walk. Optional Meadow Loop for an additional ¼ mile. Meet at the office/museum by the Fort Loudon State Park at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. Hike will begin around 11:00 a.m. Call Sue at 423-253-6817 or text at 423-519-9751.
- 2/? (TBD) – Day Hike to Mount LeConte on the Alum Cave Bluff Trail. Leader: Buddy Arnold. Strenuous, 2763 feet in elevation gain, 5.5 miles. Scheduling depends on the weather. Contact Buddy for more information.
- 2/25, Saturday – Stone Door Hike at Savage Gulf State Natural Area on Big Creek Rim and Laurel Loop Trails. Leader: Jack Callahan. Easy/moderate, 7 miles, 100 feet in elevation gain. View of the Great Stone Door and the gulfs. Trailhead is at Stone Door Ranger Station, 1183 Stone Door Road, Beersheba Springs TN, and follows Big Creek Rim Trail out and Laurel Trail back to beginning. Meet at Cleveland Home Depot parking lot (546 Paul Huff Parkway, Cleveland TN) at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to trailhead. Drive time to trail head is around 1.5 hours. Pack a lunch. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).

### **March**

- 3/9, Thursday – club meeting at the Old Fort Restaurant , 1422 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland TN, at 6:00 p.m. Ann Gray will follow up on the reservations.

- 3/11, Saturday – Oswald Dome Hike in Reliance TN, Trail #80. Leader: Sue Robinson. 7-8 miles total, 2000 foot elevation gain, moderate/strenuous. Great workout. Meet at Trail head at the Quinn Springs campground parking lot on Highway 30 at 10:00 a.m.; bathrooms at trail head. Text Sue at 423-519-9751 or call her at 423-253-6817.
- 3/16, Thursday – Indian Boundary Hike. Leader: Ann or Ruth? Miles/rating: ? Meet at the Etowah Food City (841 U.S. 411, Etowah TN) at 9:00 a.m. or at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center (225 Cherohala Skyway, Tellico Plains TN) at 10:00 a.m.
- 3/25, Saturday – Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest/Haw Knob Hikes. Leader: Jack Callahan. First stop will be the Joyce Kilmer hike: moderate, 2 miles, through old growth forest. Pack a lunch for a picnic at the Joyce Kilmer. Next stop will begin trip back to Tellico Plains with a hike to top of Hooper Bald meadow: moderate, 1.5 miles one way, 200 feet elevation gain. Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center (225 Cherohala Skyway, Tellico Plains TN) at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).

## April

- 4/1, Saturday – BMT Hike on the BMT, Section 5 (Wilscott Gap to Shallowford Bridge). Leader: Randy Morris. Strenuous, 7.7 miles, around 4100 foot in elevation gain (up & down). Car shuttle needed. Meet at the Hardee's in Ocoee to carpool (time TBA). Contact Randy at 423-650-0485. We may eat in Blue Ridge GA on the way back.
- 4/8, Saturday – Cloudland Canyon Hike on the Bear Creek Backcountry Trail in Cloudland Canyon State Park in Georgia. (NOTE: Requires permit at park office.) Leader: Buddy Arnold. Strenuous, 9 miles. Trail can be subject to closing in high water. If trail is closed, we will consider doing the West Rim Loop trail combined with Sitton's Gulch Trail, which is 9 miles total. This trek is more moderate in difficulty, but rated Strenuous due to the length. Meet at the Cleveland Home Depot (546 Paul Huff Parkway, Cleveland TN) at 8:00 a.m. to carpool.
- 4/8, Saturday – Ocasawsee Festival. Leon Bates will lead the Gee Creek Hike at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- 4/12-15, Wednesday-Saturday, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the GSMNP. Leon Bates will lead 5 hikes for this historic event. See <http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org> (not updated for 2017 yet as of 1/12).
- 4/13, Thursday – club meeting. Location TBA.
- 4/15, Saturday – John Muir Trail Maintenance. This twice-yearly trail maintenance is a responsibility of the CHC. Leaders: Ruth & Clayton Pannell. Easy, 6 miles both ways, or 3 miles with a car shuttle. This covers the maintenance of the JMT from Childers Creek to Big Bend. Maintainers and hikers meet at the Childers Creek parking lot in Reliance TN at 9:00 a.m. Directions: from Highway 411, turn onto Highway 30 at the Hiwassee Corner Market, going toward Reliance. Turn left on Highway 315 as it crosses the Hiwassee River, cross the railroad, and immediately turn right onto Childers Creek Road. Continue a short distance to the Childers Creek parking area on the right. Contact Clayton Pannell at 423-263-9730 (home), 423-435-1848 (cell) or email at [crpannell@comcast.net](mailto:crpannell@comcast.net).
- 4/22, Saturday – Dutch Fields/Settlement Hike in the Ocoee Ranger District. Leader: Jack Callahan & Leon Bates, and possibly a local historian or archeologist (Quentin

Bass?). Easy, 2.5 miles, 150 foot elevation gain. Trailhead at Pace Gap on FS RD 221. This area was settled in the early 1830's and several old home sites are still evident to the skilled eye. Hike will include a discussion on the history of the area, as well as locating remains of structures, out buildings and spring houses, with possible mushroom finds. Meet at the Thunder Rock trailhead parking lot on U.S. 64, adjacent to the Powerhouse #3 at 9:00 a.m. Or meet at the carpool location at the Ocoee Hardee's on U.S. 411 at 8:30 a.m. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).

- 4/27-5/1, Thursday – Monday. Great Smoky Mountains Spring Backpack/Hike. Leader: Jack Callahan. 22 miles total, moderately strenuous; steep trail sections. This is a 4 day/3 night backpack. Begin hike at Clingman's Dome parking lot and hike the AT around 4.6 miles to the Silers Bald Shelter for the first night. On Day 2, hike the AT around 5.7 miles to Derick Knob Shelter for Night 2. On Day 3, hike around 6.5 miles to the Spence Field Shelter for Night 3. On Day 4, hike to the trailhead at Cades Cove by way of Bote Mountain and Anthony Creek Trails, approximately 5.2 miles. **NOTE:** this hike is currently full; it is limited to 6 hikers due to the difficulty in reserving slots at the shelters, and may have to be reduced further if slots are not available. Contact Jack Callahan at [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net) if you wish to be put on the waiting list.

## May

- 5/6, Saturday – Grassy Gap Hike. Leader: Jack Callahan. Strenuous, 8 miles, approximately 1200 feet elevation gain and rough trail conditions. This hike covers Wolf Ridge trail #66, Grassy Gap trail #67 and Big Creek trail #68 in a loop in/near the Big Frog wilderness, beginning and ending on FS RD 221. The Grassy Gap Trail was constructed by the CCC and generally follows the 2400 foot contour. This hike will require fording of Camp Branch around 1 mile from the end of the hike. Meet at the Thunder Rock Campground trailhead just downstream of Powerhouse #3 of U.S. Highway 64 at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the beginning of the hike on FS RD 221. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).
- 5/10-13, Wednesday-Saturday – Wilderness Wildlife Week. Leon will be leading some hikes for this. More information to come.
- 5/11, Thursday. Monthly club meeting, location TBA.
- 5/13, Saturday – Cleveland State Community College trail maintenance. The college will be leading this up, but the Club will assist. Leader: Rebecca Levings. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot between the gym and tennis courts on Adkisson Drive, Cleveland TN. Contact Rebecca Levings at [reblev155@aol.com](mailto:reblev155@aol.com) or Kimberly Harrington at Cleveland State CC at [kharrington@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:kharrington@clevelandstatecc.edu). Sorry, no dogs are allowed for this event, because of a state law.
- 5/15, Monday – Oak Ridge UTK Arboretum Hike. Leader: Jack Callahan and Leon Bates. Easy, 5 miles or less, nature walk. The Arboretum (901 South Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge TN) is a self-guided system of trails with emphasis on tree identification. There are numerous options for easy walking loop trails, which if all walked would total 5 miles. The Arboretum covers 250 acres, with over 2500 native and exotic woody plants, including an extensive holly population. We can decide to pack a picnic lunch or eat at one of the restaurants in Oak Ridge. Web site is <http://utarboretum.tennessee.edu>. Meet at the

Cleveland Home Depot parking lot (546 Paul Huff Parkway, Cleveland TN) at 9:00 to carpool. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).

- 5/20, Saturday – Boyd Gap/Old Copper Road Hike. Leader: Clayton Pannell. Easy, 3.5 miles with optional 1 mile hike to the dam and back to the trail. We will hike down the Boyd Gap Trail to Old Copper Road Trail, optionally hike that trail to the #3 dam (about ½ mile one way) and return to Boyd Gap Trail and continue our hike to the Whitewater Center. Meet at the lower parking lot of the Whitewater Center on U.S. Highway 64 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Clayton and Ruth Pannell at 423-263-9730 (home), 423-435-1848 (cell) or email via [crpannell@comcast.net](mailto:crpannell@comcast.net).
- 5/23, Tuesday – Turtletown Falls Hike. Leaders: Linda Kryssing and Sue Robinson. Moderate, 3.5-4.5 mile loop with 2 waterfalls along the way. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Farner Post Office off Highway 68 in Farner TN. Sue is also willing to carpool from Tellico Plains if needed; those wishing to carpool from Cleveland will be responsible for their own carpool. Contact Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 (text) or 423-253-6817 (voice). Note: a 4-wheel drive vehicle will be needed to drive to the trailhead.
- 5/30, Tuesday – Fort Mountain Wildflower Hike. Leader: Ruth Pannell. Easy, 1 mile plank walkway through blooming flowers. Hike will take place in Fort Mountain State Park near Chattsworth GA. Meet at the Ocoee Hardees on U.S. 411 at 9:00 a.m.

## June

- 6/2-5, Friday-Monday – AT/Cosby Campground Backpack Hike. Leader: Buddy Arnold. Strenuous, 31 miles total. We will depart Cleveland Friday afternoon, June 2 and camp that night at Cosby Campground, then shuttle to Newfound Gap on Saturday June 3. We will hike the AT from Newfound Gap to Cosby Campground via Low Gap Trail, and take a side trail to the Mount Cammerer fire tower. We will return to Cleveland on Monday, June 5. Note: this hike is limited to 5 campers/hikers. It requires camping permits at AT Shelters and the Cosby Campground for the first night. I plan to get a commercial shuttle from the Cosby Campground to Newfound Gap: cost is \$25 per person.
- 6/3, Saturday – Murphy River Walk. Leader: Mick Friedman. Easy, 3 miles. We will be walking a pleasantly wooded, flat, paved trail along the Hiwassee River in the historic part of downtown Murphy NC. We will afterward eat at one of the local restaurants, possibly the well-known “Shoebooty”. We will meet at the Hardee’s in Ocoee on U.S. 411 at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. For those wanting to meet in Murphy: come to the trailhead by the L&N Railroad depot next to the Hiwassee River on Hiwassee Street at 10:30 a.m.; drive time from Cleveland to Murphy is around 1 hour 20 minutes.
- 6/8, Thursday – monthly meeting, location TBA.
- 6/10, Saturday – Laurel Falls Hike. Leader: Sue Robinson. Moderate/strenuous, 6 miles. Meet at the Home Depot parking lot at 546 Paul Huff Parkway, Cleveland TN at 9:00 a.m.
- 6/17, Saturday – Rhododendron Trail Hike. Leader: Joann Jackson. Easy paved trail, 3 miles round trip, 100 feet maximum elevation gain. Bring a lunch and we will eat at one of the picnic tables at the Whitewater Center. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Thunder Rock Trailhead, off U.S. 64 just downstream from the TVA Powerhouse #3 at the entrance to the Thunder Rock campground. We will identify wildflowers and fungi along the trail.
- 6/20-23, Tuesday-Friday, Roan Mountain State Park campout. This event has been announced in the December 2016 and January 2017 newsletters, and will continue to be

announced in the newsletter though June. Leader: Jack Callahan. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).

- 6/25, Sunday – Walls of Jericho Hike. Leader: Rick Harris. Strenuous, weird bridge. See this amazing natural rock formation on the AL/TN border in the Cumberland Plateau.

## **July**

- 7/8, Saturday – Canoe/Kayak Float Trip. Leader: Clayton Pannell. We will float on the Hiwassee River from the Gee Creek boat ramp to Patty Bridge. We will meet at the boat ramp in the Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park at 2:00 p.m. to work out a shuttle to Patty Bridge, so we can haul our canoes/kayaks back to Gee Creek. Please make arrangements to bring your own canoe/kayak and bring life jackets, paddles, etc. The water should start coming up around 3:00 p.m., and we will begin our float then. Contact Clayton and Ruth Pannell at 423-263-9730 (home), 423-435-1848 (cell) or [crpannell@comcast.net](mailto:crpannell@comcast.net).
- 7/13, Thursday – no club meeting this month.
- 7/18, Tuesday – Booth Western Art Museum Tour. Leaders: Jack Callahan and Ann Gray. This museum in Cartersville (501 North Museum Drive, Cartersville GA) has excellent exhibits of western art. We will not hike, except in the museum. See their website at <http://boothmuseum.org>. After the tour, we will eat at one of the local restaurants in Cartersville, possibly the Grand Old Mansion. The tour costs \$10 per head/\$8 per head for seniors. Lunch at the Grand Old Mansion runs around \$15 per head. Meet at the Home Depot (546 Paul Huff Parkway, Cleveland TN) parking lot at 9:00 a.m.; drive time to Cartersville is approximately 1.5 hours. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).
- 7/28, Friday – BMT Hike to Ocoee River. Leader: Claire Sullivan. Easy, 3.4 miles. This hike will traverse the Benton MacKaye Trail, Section 11e. It starts on FS RD 221 and continues to the Ocoee River and U.S. Highway 64. The hike is 98% downhill from Forest Service Rd 221 down the backside of the Tanasi Trail area to Thunder Rock Campground. It starts with a walk down an old roadbed and old growth forest. The trail crosses Forest Service Road 45 and goes along a ridgeline, then descends steeply down switchbacks to the Ocoee River and the beautiful Thunder Rock Campground. A restroom is available in the Thunder Rock parking lot. Meet at the Thunder Rock Campground parking lot at 9:30 a.m. A shuttle will be organized from the parking lot. Contact Clare Sullivan at [clare7982@gmail.com](mailto:clare7982@gmail.com) or 404-849-0872.

## **August**

- 8/10, Thursday – monthly club meeting, location TBA.
- 8/12, Saturday – Perseid Meteor Shower. This is not a club event, but just an announcement of this amazing event in case any members want to get together privately and view it. See more at <http://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/earthskys-meteor-shower-guide>.
- 8/21, Monday – Solar Eclipse Event. Hosted by Rick and Brenda Harris at their home outside of Tellico Plains. The Eclipse will occur about 3:30 p.m. The Harris home is directly under the maximum shadow of the eclipse. If the Harris's happen to be out of town then, they will tell us where they hide their house key. We will have snacks after viewing the

eclipse, so please bring desserts, appetizers and other goodies. Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor's Center in Tellico Plains to carpool to the Harris home, time TBA.

## **September**

- 9/14, Thursday – club meeting, location TBA.
- 9/23, Saturday – Narrows Hike. Leader: Ruth Pannell. Easy/moderate, involving one switchback, 4-5 miles round trip. Hike to the Narrows on the Hiwassee from the Appalachia Power House, via the John Muir and Benton MacKaye Trails. The trail we will be taking to and from will be the old trail along the river. Meet at the vacant lot across from the Hiwassee Corner Market, on the corner of U.S. 411 and Highway 30 at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch; we will have lunch at the rocks near the Narrows. Call Ruth at 423-506-9623 or 423-263-9730.

## **October**

- 10/12, Thursday – club meeting, location TBA.
- 10/15-18, Sunday-Wednesday – Great Smoky Mountain Fall Backpack/Hike. Leader: Jack Callahan. Strenuous, steep ascents, approximately 17.2 miles total. We are starting with Sunday night car camping at Big Creek Campground, near Waterville on the far eastern end of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. On Monday (Day 1), we will begin our backpack hike up Big Creek Trail to Walnut Bottom Campsite #37, a total of 5.3 miles. On Day 2, we will hike up Swallow Fork, Mount Sterling Ridge and Baxter Creek Trails to the top of Mount Sterling, and spend the night there at Mount Sterling Campsite #38, for a total of around 5.8 miles. On Day 3, we will hike down Baxter Creek Trail back to our vehicles at the Big Creek Campground, for a total of 6.1 miles. There are no shelters, so camping will be in tents and/or hammocks. This backpack is limited to 6 hikers; as of this date (1/15/2017), there is only 1 slot left. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).
- 10/21, Saturday - John Muir Trail Maintenance. This twice-yearly trail maintenance is a responsibility of the CHC. Leaders: Ruth & Clayton Pannell. Easy, 6 miles both ways, or 3 miles with a car shuttle. This covers the maintenance of the JMT from Childers Creek to Big Bend. Maintainers and hikers meet at the Childers Creek parking lot in Reliance TN at 9:00 a.m. Directions: from Highway 411, turn onto Highway 30 at the Hiwassee Corner Market, going toward Reliance. Turn left on Highway 315 as it crosses the Hiwassee River, cross the railroad, and immediately turn right onto Childers Creek Road. Continue a short distance to the Childers Creek parking area on the right. Contact Clayton Pannell at 423-263-9730 (home), 423-435-1848 (cell) or email at [crpannell@comcast.net](mailto:crpannell@comcast.net).
- 10/22-27, Sunday-Friday – Big South Fork Bandy Creek Campground Group Campout. Leaders: Ruth and Clayton Pannell. This campout will be at group site #1, near Oneida TN. We will be camping for 6 nights. Plan to arrive Sunday 10/22 after 2:00 p.m. and depart on Saturday 10/28 by noon. We will have our own bathhouse, screened-in shelter with lights, electrical outlets, fireplace, area for cooking and large grilling area. There are about 20 camp sites, and in the group camping area no one can set up except members of our group. We will plan our hikes or other excursions, and will buy firewood after we arrive at the campground. You will need to bring your own camping gear and hiking equipment. We usually share meals and take turns preparing breakfasts and suppers. There is a limit of 30

for this event. Note: we attempted to include a full weekend for this date range, but both sites were reserved. However, we learned from campground personnel that if we book a full year ahead we probably would have a better chance to include a weekend. We will try to do that next time. Contact Clayton and Ruth Pannell at 423-263-9730 (home), 423-435-1848 (cell) or by email at [crpannell@comcast.net](mailto:crpannell@comcast.net).

- October ? to November ? – Grand Canyon Backpack. Leader: James Anderson. Strenuous, 4500 foot elevation gain. This hike covers one rim of the Canyon to the other, one week in duration. We will be taking 6 or maybe more. If you are interested, contact James to get on the going or waiting list.
- 10/28 (or 11/4), Saturday – Blood Mountain Hike. Leader: Randy Morris. Strenuous (elevation gain), approximately 6 miles. This hike may be cancelled in the case of rain, as the views are too amazing to miss. Meet at the Hardee's in Ocoee at 7:30 a.m. to carpool. We need to start early, as the Atlanta people quickly fill up the small parking area at the trailhead. Contact Randy at 423-650-0485 by the evening before.

### November

- 11/9, Thursday – club meeting, location TBA.
- 11/11, Saturday – Cleveland State Community College trail maintenance. The college will be leading this up, but the Club will assist. Leader: Rebecca Levings. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot between the gym and tennis courts on Adkisson Drive, Cleveland TN. Contact Rebecca Levings at [reblev155@aol.com](mailto:reblev155@aol.com) or Kimberly Harrington at Cleveland State CC at [kharrington@clevelandstatecc.edu](mailto:kharrington@clevelandstatecc.edu). Sorry, no dogs are allowed for this event, because of a state law.
- 11/25, Saturday – Linda Davis Memorial Greenway Hike. Leader: Randy Morris. Easy, 9.5 miles or less. This hike is on the flat, paved Cleveland Greenway. Hikers can choose to go the whole length or part of the way, since there are parking areas at various points along the trail. We will start near the middle of the Greenway, at the Raider Drive Pavillion. The hike will be cancelled in the case of rain. Contact Randy at 423-650-0485 by the night before.

### December

- 12/2, Saturday – Foster Falls Hike. Leader: Randy Morris. Moderately strenuous, 6-7 miles. This hike will be on the Cumberland Plateau in Marion County, near Jasper TN. Most of it will be a loop hike, with lovely views of Foster Falls. We will meet at the commuter parking lot beside the BP gas station at Exit 25, off I-75 (second Cleveland exit, coming north or south) at 8:30 a.m., to carpool.
- 12/9 Saturday – monthly club meeting and annual Christmas Party. Location TBA.
- December ? – Loop Hike on Big Frog. Leader: Jack Callahan. Strenuous, 2200 feet elevation gain. Contact Jack at 423-284-7885 or [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).