

The Cherokee Hiker

JANUARY 2020 Volume 37, Issue I

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 198 Crews Drive Benton TN 37307

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

EVENTS SINCE LAST CLUB MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2019 THURSDAY ASSAULT UP OSWALD DOME

Led by Clare Sullivan. Clare had no one join her for this walk so it will be rescheduled.

DECEMBER 14, 2019 SATURDAY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The club met at the Benton Station Baptist Church to celebrate the Christmas season and induct new officers for the 2020 year. The catered meal was provided by the Dam Deli, and after a business meeting, the program was turned over to Jennifer Schroll who performed the induction ceremony. Jennifer always uses ingenious ways to introduce and induct the officers. New officers for 2020 are Jack Callahan, President; James Anderson, Vice President; Randy Morris, Treasurer; Judy Price, Newsletter; Rick Harris, Webmaster; Jim Passmore, Secretary; and Ann Gray, Publicist. Following induction of officers, Gail and Edmond Gray handled the Unwashed Santa duties, as members exchanged and stole gifts. Total attendance was 33.





DECEMBER 18, 2019 WEDNESDAY FALLS BRANCH FALLS/JEFFREY HELL TRAIL

Sue Robinson led two club members, four guests and a canine on a frosty hike to Falls Branch Falls and Jeffrey Hell Trail in Citico Creek Wilderness/Cherokee National Forest off the Cherohala Skyway. The falls were roaring, but unfortunately the hikers could only look from afar as the creek was full and the crossing rocks to the trail continuation were icy. On the way back, after lunch at the trailhead, the club hiked the adjoining Jeffrey Hell Trail almost to the end. Again, the creek there was rushing and the rhododendrons formed a frosty tunnel. Approximately six and a half miles out and back on both trails.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

JANUARY 12, 2020 SUNDAY 2 TO 5 PM CLUB MEETING AND PLANNING FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR YEAR, WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH, ETOWAH, TN

Come prepared to place your proposed 2020 events on the club calendar. Be specific about the difficulty, mileage, special considerations (as stream crossings) lunch and water needs. Give the time and location to meet and the contact information for the leader. Please put one event per sheet of three ring binder paper and we will fill the calendar (paper will be available at the meeting). Club will provide drinks and individuals may bring snacks.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

JANUARY 1, 2020 WEDNESDAY 10 AM TO 12 NOON FIRST DAY HIKE OCOEE HIWASSEE STATE PARK

Meet at the Gee Creek Ranger Station and the hike will involve a walk at Taylor's Island, then on to the Fisherman's Trail and Lowery Falls. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/events/2524532661164192/> for information.

JANUARY 4, 2020 SATURDAY 1 PM CHIEF VANN NATURE TRAIL

Meet at the Vann House, 82 Highway 225 N, Chatsworth, GA, and enjoy a guided tour of the nature trail. Included in the admission of the park \$5.50-\$6.50. The walk is about one mile.

JANUARY 15, 2020 WEDNESDAY 830 AM TO 3 PM CANEY CREEK SETTLEMENT WORK TRIP

Rick Harris is planning a work trip on FS trail #74, the access to Caney Creek Settlement. Meet at Thunder Rock trailhead parking area just below Powerhouse #3 on the Ocoee River to carpool to the beginning of the trail. Plans are to use watercraft to ferry workers and equipment back across river to Caney Put-in. See <http://www.facebook.com/events/662380380964532/> for more information. Work will include tree removal, brushing, and blaze painting. Drivers will be needed to return vehicles to the trailhead at Thunder Rock after dropping off work crew. The trail is approximately 3 miles, and the crews will be allowed to drive in to the end of the closed road to beginning of trail to save time. If interested, contact Rick Harris at harrisri@aol.com or text 513-260-1184.

JANUARY 16-19, 2020 LOOKOUT WILD FILM FESTIVAL TIVOLI THEATER CHATTANOOGA

Several members have attended this event over the past couple of years and it is well worth the trip. Cost is \$15 per performance or \$45 for the entire production. Go to www.lookoutfilmfestival.org for more information. Last year several of us got together for supper in downtown Chattanooga afterwards, and will plan on doing so again this year for the Saturday afternoon performance.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 7, 2020 TELLICO TRAIL OF TEARS REMEDIATION PROJECT

Please consider joining us one or more days between Jan 29 and Feb 7, including the weekend days to fix issues with the Unicoi Turnpike where it travels through the 400 acre parcel of land recently acquired by the USFS near Coker Creek which includes the site of Fort Armistead. The Unicoi Turnpike was used by settlers to travel between NC, SC and TN through the low gap in the mountains, Unicoi Gap. The BMT runs right through this gap. Fort Armistead was a waypoint for the Cherokee and Creek to move them from the mountains to Oklahoma around 1838 on the Trail of Tears. Fort Armistead was also the site of a Civil War encampment.

Eventually it is hoped that this stretch of the Unicoi Turnpike will be linked to the Unicoi Turnpike Historical Trail, which comes off the BMT near Unicoi Gap. Also, in the future a visitor center or placards may be built at the site of Fort Armistead. As indicated in the flyer, there is a need for about 10 volunteers each of the 10 days of this project. Personnel with the USFS will be using machinery to repair the tread of the Unicoi Turnpike. Volunteers will be smoothing and compacting the soil and will be involved in building wooden zig-zag fences and other activities. If you are available any of these days, sign up by contacting Melissa Twaroski as noted in the flyer. This

is a great opportunity to support the activities of the USFS, the Cherokee Indian Nation, and the Trail of Tears Association.

Representatives from the BMTA, the Thursday Tellico Trail Crew, the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, and the Cherokee Hiking Club are meeting with Melissa in early January to work out the details for the remediation project. So, keep an eye on the BMTA and Cherokee Hiking Club Facebook pages for further information, as well as the Tellico/Ocoee Volunteer Trail Crew Facebook page.

Richard Harris
TN/NC BMTA Maintenance Director

As always, go to the specific sponsor web page for more information on these events if you plan on attending.

CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB

14 DECEMBER 2019 MINUTES

Club met at the Benton Station Baptist Church for the annual Christmas Party.

Jack Callahan opened meeting at 6 pm with a welcome to new member Yvonne Rittenhouse, and visitors Richard Taylor and Raj Chondhuri, followed by the blessing.

After a meal catered by the Dam Deli, Jack began the business meeting with the treasurer's report given by Randy Morris. November balance was \$1928 with expenses of \$30 to Etowah Senior Center for November meeting. Balance as of December 6 was \$1898. Report was approved as reported.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as posted.

Unfinished Business

Short discussion on the possibility of the club purchasing Paint Sticks for hike leaders to carry to use to freshen up trail blazes where appropriate. Information was passed around for review and the club will bring to a vote at next meeting whether to buy a small amount of the material to begin using.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Hikes/Events since the last club meeting

16/17 November 2019 Chief Ladiga Bike/camping trip... 5 bikers made the 20-mile bike ride from Esom Springs to Piedmont and three persons then camped at the private campground at milepost 7.5 on the trail. Trail is a well-maintained paved trail with very little grade and is a great ride. Event Leader Jack Callahan

16 November 2019 Narrows hike...eleven hikers met at the cable suspension bridge and hiked the 3 + miles to the narrows and enjoyed lunch and the scenery at this unique place on the Hiwassee River. Flowers were still in bloom. Hike Leader Sue Robinson

21 November 2019 Caney Creek settlement hike. Eleven hikers made the 8-mile round trip into the old abandoned settlement at the confluence of the Ocoee River and Big Creek. The town was inhabited by workers for the construction of the flume and powerhouse, and the operation of same for almost 35 years before the town was shut down. Lots of interesting relics still remain, and it is a very interesting place to visit. Hike Leader Jack Callahan

30 November 2019 Linda Davis Memorial Greenway walk led by Randy Morris, had five walkers join him for a 5-mile stroll along the Cleveland Greenway.

5 December 2019 Oswald Dome hike, led by Clare Sullivan. Clare had no one join her for this walk so it will be rescheduled.

Upcoming Events

12 January 2020 Annual Planning Meeting to be held at the Wesley Memorial Church in Etowah from 2 to 5 pm. Come prepared to place your proposed events on the club calendar. Be specific about the difficulty, mileage, special considerations (as stream crossings) lunch and water needs. Give the time and location to meet and the contact information for the leader. Please put one event per sheet of three ring binder paper and we will fill the calendar. (paper will be available at the meeting). Club will provide drinks and individuals may bring snacks.

Jack then gave a short recap of the 2019 events and turned the program over to Jennifer Schroll who performed the induction ceremony for the new officers, which is always done in a very interesting manner. New officers are Jack Callahan, President, James Anderson, Vice President, Randy Morris, Treasurer, Jim Passmore, Secretary, Judy Price, Newsletter Editor, Rick Harris, Webmaster, and Ann Gray, Publicist.

After this ceremony, the program was turned over to Gail and Edmond Gray, who performed the duties for the Unwashed Santa gift exchange, who did their excellent job of controlling mayhem.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Jack Callahan **Cherokee Hiking Club**