

The Cherokee Hiker

SEPTEMBER 2021 Volume 38, Issue IX

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Cherokee Hiking Club Members.

For our September Club meeting, we will be meeting at Lettie and Jim Whisman's place on Springplace Road and at the pavilion on Wildwood Lake. Please park in the parking lot of Springplace Road Church of God of Prophecy. (2620 Springplace Rd SE, Cleveland, TN). Walk down the gravel driveway beside the parking lot to the pavilion. For those with mobility challenges you can drive down the gravel driveway and park near the pavilion. All others please park in the church parking lot. If we finish our meeting soon enough, those who want to can walk around the lake which is about a mile. Also, please bring folding chairs as there is limited seating. Due to the recent uptick in Covid, we will continue to bring our food individually and not yet return to the potluck dinner situation. Since it is outdoors there will be plenty of room to social distance as you see fit.

During this meeting we want to hear from you about what kind of hikes and other activities you might be interested in for next year. Please ponder that topic and be ready to share any ideas you may have.

Last but not least, we really need to hear from all of you who are planning to go on our Group Car Campout to Big South Fork. It is scheduled for Tuesday October 19-Sunday October 24. It has always been a lot of fun. The accommodations are really nice with a screened in group pavilion with a big fireplace and electricity in the pavilion. The nearby bathhouse is heated and very nice. It also has a dishwashing station. Practically all the comforts of home!!

So far, I have heard from the following people that they are attending:

Jack and Margaret Callahan
Karen and Fritz Kocher
Jerry Schneider
Rick and Brenda Harris
Larry Van Dyke
Jennifer Schroll
Michele Ritter
James and Phyllis Anderson

Additionally, if you are willing to lead a hike or activity at our Big South Fork campout then please let me know exactly what you have in mind so we can get that info out to the Club. Please email me with that info to jeandersonishere@gmail.com

Thanks.

James Anderson Club President

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 9, 2021 COKER CREEK FALLS PARKING LOT TO TN68



Hike Leaders: Richard and Brenda Harris. Attendees: Richard and Brenda Harris, Jack Callahan, Patrick and Judy Iverson, Penny Strickland, Teresa Greene, Teresa Wyatt, Doug Lynch, and Mary Alton. Distance: 6.8 miles Elevation Gain: 1522'. On this hot and humid day, the ten of us met at 9 am at the TN 68 crossing of the BMT for this joint Cherokee Hiking Club and Benton MacKaye Trail Association hike. We carpoled to the Coker Creek Falls parking lot to begin our hike. We hiked past the iconic water cascades of Coker Creek and were tempted to jump in, but instead we just took a bunch of pictures. We hiked mostly downhill along the valley of Coker Creek to the Coker Creek primitive campsite at the junction of this trail with the BMT by the bridge over the creek. The hike down was strenuous due to many rocky, root-y, and brushy areas, but the trees had been cleared off the trail recently by the Tellico/Ocoee Volunteer Trail Crew, making the hike a pleasure - mostly. It was at least tolerable. At the primitive campsite we ate lunch and chatted and some went rock hopping out into the creek bed. We found a dead snake, but thankfully no live venomous ones. We then crossed the BMT bridge over Coker Creek and headed uphill about 1500 feet elevation rise over 2.5 miles to the crest of Unicoi Mountain, then level and downhill back to our cars at the gap in the mountain where TN 68 crosses the BMT. In the parking area we all enjoyed cold watermelon before the rains came. While retrieving our shuttle vehicles, the heavens opened up for a good soaking.



NO CLUB MEETING IN AUGUST

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday at 4:30 pm, Jack Callahan leads a 3.75 mile walk on the greenway.



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Every third Thursday of the month, Jack Callahan and a group of the Club meet at 8:30 am at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland to enjoy breakfast and lively conversation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governmental agencies and offices regarding [COVID-19](#), weather, or other conditions. An email will be sent to members if an event is canceled.

SEPT 9, 2021 THURSDAY 6 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

We will meet at Lettie and Jim Whisman's place at 2620 Springplace Rd SE, Cleveland, TN, and at the pavilion on Wildwood Lake. Please park in the parking lot of Springplace Road Church of God of Prophecy. Walk down the gravel driveway beside the parking lot to the pavilion. For those with mobility challenges you can drive down the gravel driveway and park near the pavilion. All others please park in the church parking lot. If we finish our meeting soon enough, those who want to can walk around the lake which is about a mile. Also, please bring folding chairs as there is limited seating. Due to the recent uptick in Covid, we will continue to bring our food individually and not yet return to the potluck dinner situation. Since it is outdoors there will be plenty of room to social distance as you see fit.

SEPT 12-17, 2021 SUNDAY-FRIDAY CAMPOUT AT FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK

With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. Hike each day Mon-Thurs. Reserve your campsite now. We will be in campsite A30. Or reserve a room in the lodge if open by then (being rebuilt), or reserve a cabin. They go quickly. Monday we will hike trails at the state park. Tuesday we will hike to Virgin Falls. Wednesday we will hike at Burgess Falls. Thursday we will hike to Cummins Falls and swim below the falls (online permit required). Contact Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at 423-253-6358 or Harrisri@aol.com.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 SATURDAY LITTLE RIVER TRAIL IN ELKMONT AREA OF SMOKIES

This is an easy trail that parallels the picturesque Little River. The trail is 5.1 miles and is an out and back so hikers can turn around at any point. There are a variety of other trails that could be tacked on or done instead. These include the Cucumber Trail, Jakes Creek Trail, or Huskey Gap Trail. If anyone wants to carpool or follow the Hike Leaders Ruth and Clayton Pannell, meet at 8:30 am in Etowah at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church one block off Hwy 411 and with the side entrance on 10th street. The drive time is approximately 2 hours and they recommend bringing rain gear, water, snacks, and lunch. Possibly they will eat an early dinner or late lunch in Townsend on the way home. Contact the Pannells at 423-506-9623 or 423-263-9730 or crpannell@comcast.net.

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2021 SUNDAY-MONDAY HIKE UP MOUNT LECONTE/STAY IN LECONTE SHELTER

This is a difficult hike with an elevation gain around 3,000 feet and a distance of over 5 miles each day. The Hike Leader is Jack Callahan. Anyone interested should text Jack at 423-284-7885. It is very limited in the number who can participate and there is a cost to stay in the park.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway while social distancing, meeting at the lower end of the parking lot across from Perkits and the Gondolier restaurant adjacent to Keith Street. Meet time is currently 4:30 pm. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 am at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

[TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW](#)

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

[BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION](#)

See the calendar for upcoming events.

JUNE 4, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 FRIDAYS [LOOKOUT WILD FILM FESTIVAL](#)

“Out of concern for our attendees and as an opportunity to share wild places and the people they inspire with a new audience in Chattanooga, we have arranged for LWFF 2021 to take place along with Nightfall. Instead of 15 hours of films in one weekend, we’re breaking the films up into 15 1-hour blocks right after Nightfall on the screen in Miller Park. The films will run from approximately 9:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. every Friday night from June 4 to September 10. We are working to release the full lineup of films on this site and in our email newsletter.

LWFF 2022 IS SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 13-16 AT THE TIVOLI THEATRE.”

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