

# The Cherokee Hiker

SEPTEMBER 2020 Volume 37, Issue IX

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

[www.cherokeehikingclub.org](http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org)

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The coronavirus (COVID-19) in Bradley County continues to be a problem as well as in several surrounding counties. Many stores and local establishments require the wearing of masks. Observing personal distancing and meeting outdoors, we will have our regular second Thursday club meeting at Charleston (TN) City Park Pavilion at 6 pm. Each individual will be responsible for their own meal. There will be no potluck meal. We will also have our Third Thursday breakfast at Old Fort restaurant at 8:30 am on September 17. We may have to sit at a couple of tables depending on how many will attend.

Hike/event leaders continue to be responsible for managing their events as they best see appropriate. Participants must contact the event leader to get on the attendance list, and be updated on any specific restrictions for the proposed event. These may include a restricted number of hikers, specifics on carpooling and the wearing of masks.

The current situation at Bandy Campground Group Camping in Big South Fork continues to be different than last year. The Park has not instituted any restrictions on group size or mask restrictions. However, to help reduce the possibility of spreading Covid-19, individuals and family groups will prepare and eat their own meals. There will be no potluck meals for group consumption.

We need some volunteers to fill several officer positions which will be vacant next year. These include the Vice President and the Secretary. Your participation is vital to the club.

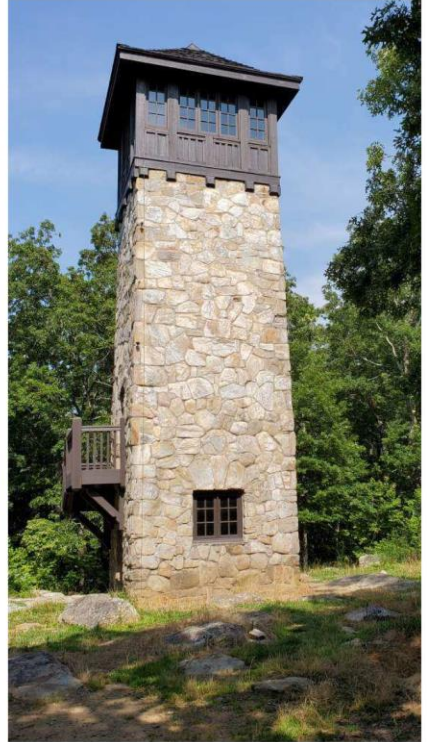
Hikes are ongoing according to the schedule, but always check with the Leader. If you want to add a hike to the schedule, please come prepared to discuss it at the upcoming club meeting and it will be reflected in the minutes; or, if you have an addition you would like to schedule before then, please contact me and I will make sure it is sent to all members. In the meantime, be safe and stay hydrated.

Jack Callahan

# EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

## **JULY 21, 2020 STONE TOWER LOOP AT FORT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

Three members made the hike: Judy Norton and Hike Leaders Ruth and Clayton Pannell. We met at Ocoee Hardee's at 10 am to carpool to Fort Mountain State Park. About 2/3 of the way up the mountain, we saw a large black bear. In the park, we first hiked up the steps to the rock piles and then on to the fire tower. Next, we hiked down a lot of steps to a great overlook. Next stop was at the Cool Springs Overlook, and then on to the trail around the lake. We ate lunch at a shelter along the lake. The trail around the lake is very good and may be one mile.



## **JULY 22 TO AUGUST 1, 2020 BACKPACKING TRIP IN ANSEL ADAMS WILDERNESS**



On July 18, the advance party of Rick Harris and Jerry Schneider flew to Reno and made their way to Mammoth Lakes (ML). They spent time in Yosemite, a ghost town, Mono Lake, and many other sites of interest in the area.



On July 22, the remaining party of Al Johnson, Bruce Lee, Jennifer Schroll, Megan Callahan and Hike Leader Jack Callahan joined up in Las Vegas and made the drive to ML. The trip took the group through Death Valley, where the temp after 9 pm was still 110 degrees F. On the west side of the Valley, Jennifer pulled off into an overlook and we were treated to a view of the comet Neowise with the naked eye. During our acclimation period in ML we toured Devils Post Pile, Rainbow Falls, Mono Lake, Obsidian Mountain and other local sites.



On July 25, we began our hike, taking the High Trail (PCT) out of Agnew Meadows and hiking to our first night's campsite at Badger Lakes. We were treated with a thirty-minute hailstorm a few minutes after arrival, but most hikers kept their tents dry.



Day two, we hiked by Thousand Island Lake, Ruby and Emerald Lakes and climbed through a pass on the John Muir Trail (JMT) to our second campsite on Garnet Lake (elev. 9678). A couple of brave souls took a very short dip in the lake to cool off.

Day three, we continued on the JMT over a 10200-ft pass and down to Shadow Creek Trail where we hiked upstream to Ediza Lake for nights three and four. Ediza Lake campsite was our zero day. After a good rainstorm, we had a great location for meal prep and enjoyed the scenery of Mt. Ritter and the Minarets across the lake. Every night Al got up just after the moon set to take some great pics of the night sky.

Day four, we did a day hike up to Iceberg Lake, and Jerry, Megan, Jennifer and Al made the next climb up to Cecile Lake (elev. 10239). Returning to camp, all but one took a short swim in Ediza Lake. Very little video footage of this event remains.



Day five, we hiked back down along Shadow Creek, and had lunch at Shadow Lake. From there, we continued down a steep 800-foot descent, crossed the San Joaquin River and arrived at our proposed campsite at Olaine Lake around 1:30 pm. This location was a poor campsite and the group voted to hike out and stay at a motel in Lee Vining. After breakfast on July 30, Rick and Jerry headed back to Reno via Lake Tahoe and Donner State Park to return to Cincinnati.

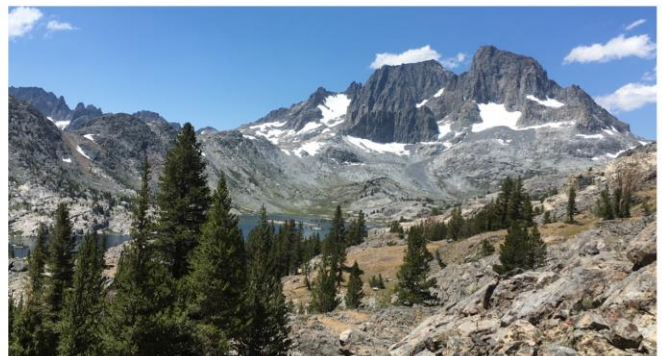


The rest of the group drove to Yosemite NP and toured the valley as well as took a side trip to Glacier Point. We spent the night in Curry Village in the valley; and on July 31, we headed back to Vegas, where a few toured part of the strip and had a nice supper in an Italian restaurant. August 1, we flew out to our respective locations.





It was a great trip and the scenery was some of the best you can imagine. The hike was not difficult, and, where we camped, we had great campsites on level ground with water always nearby. Insects were a non-issue and other than the two short rain/hail events, we had beautiful weather.



**NO AUGUST MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

**THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST**

Canceled.

## WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway while social distancing.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## **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 6:00 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.

## **SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 THURSDAY 6 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

Due to current COVID-19 precautions, we will not have a potluck dinner. Bring your own meal to the Charleston (TN) City Pavilion in Hoyt Berry Municipal Park.

## **SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 TUESDAY TURTLETOWN FALLS**

Approximately 5-mile hike to the upper and lower falls just west of Farner, TN. Meet at 9 am at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center in Tellico Plains, TN to carpool to the site. Wear good hiking shoes and pack a lunch and water. There is one ford in the access road which is best crossed with a high clearance vehicle. Hike Leader, Sue Robinson, text 423-519-9751, or keyster162@gmail.com.



# NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

## [TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW](#)

Check the Facebook page for future work days.

## **SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 TUESDAY 6-8 PM [PICKIN' IN THE PARK](#) HIWASSEE/OCOEE SCENIC RIVER STATE PARK**

Meet at Gee Creek Amphitheater. Bring your instrument and a lawn chair. Enjoy a nice crackling fire and make a s'more. Learn about the history of Appalachian music. They ask for a \$2 donation per person for this program. They ask that you please maintain social distancing. If you cannot, please wear a mask.

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