

# The Cherokee Hiker

NOVEMBER 2020 Volume 37, Issue XI

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

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

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The group camp at Big South Fork was a fun time this year. Details will be in next month's newsletter.

There will be no Christmas party this year. Benton Station Baptist Church canceled our reservation due to Covid-19. Also, several people had indicated concern about attending indoors because of the pandemic.

Therefore, we will have officer induction at the November club meeting. It will be held at Charleston City Park and again will be individual brown bag meals in place of potluck.

Happy trails and stay safe.

Jack Callahan



# EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER



## SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 TUESDAY TURTLETOWN FALLS

There was a great turnout for our approximately five-mile hike. We started out up over the ridge, taking a slight detour to look at Jasper Stewart's grave site. We continued along the ridge before descending down to the first waterfall to eat our lunch. A large blowdown at the lunch area provided a few more seating areas. Then we continued to the next waterfall. Water was flowing nicely in both. Hiking with new and old friends always makes for a nice hike.



## SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2020 BACKPACKING TRIP FROM CARVERS GAP TO HWY 19-E

Twelve hardy backpackers met at Mountain Harbor B&B on the afternoon of September 29 and took the shuttle to Carvers Gap. Weather radar showed a clearing in the rain by late afternoon, but this never happened. The group hiked up to Round and Jane Balds, where the winds were over 15 mph with a wind chill of 31 degrees, and with fog and horizontal rain. At the intersection of the side trail to Grassy Ridge, the Hike Leader made an incorrect turn and after about 200 yards realized the mistake. At that point, after a brief discussion with the group, it was agreed to continue on the AT and spend the night at the Stan Murray Shelter. This was the correct decision, as the wind howled all night and the rain finally stopped around 5 am. Two brave hikers stayed in the shelter while the rest set up tents.

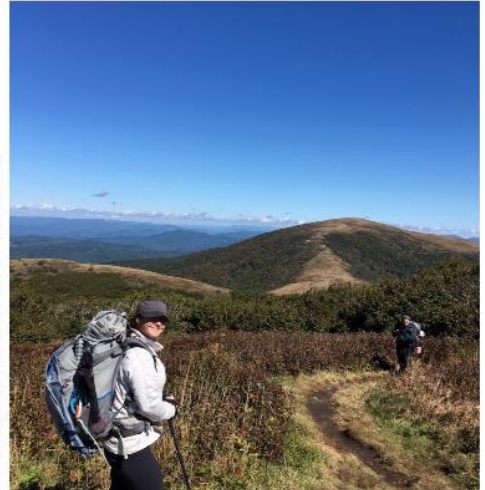


Wednesday morning brought beautiful blue skies, great hiking temperatures and a lively breakfast around the picnic table. Setting off at 9 am, the group continued north on the AT, with a brief stop at the intersection of the Overmountain Trail. A few went down to the Barn Shelter to replenish water and see the Barn. Then the serious climbing began as the group labored up to Little Hump Mountain. Along the way there were great views of Grassy Ridge and the Barn in the valley below. Reaching the top of Little Hump, the wind chill dictated lunch on the east side of the crest, in a nice sunny spot. After lunch, the group continued on to a nice campsite just south of Bradley Gap. At this point, the decision was made to continue on another three miles to Doll Flats, as it was only around 2 pm.





The climb up Big Hump Mountain was next, and it is a test for folks with heavy packs. Reaching the top, everyone enjoyed the 360 panoramic views with Peakfinder helping out on mountain identification. After a brief rest, the group began the descent off Big Hump to Doll Flats, which is a very nice primitive campsite. Most set up camp under the large trees at the edge of a great clearing, where moonrises and sunrises are easily viewed with no obstruction. Several folks gathered firewood and we enjoyed a great campfire.



Morning broke to another great clear cool day, and the group headed down the last leg of the hike, returning to Mountain Harbor. Arriving at our vehicles around noon, most stopped at a local pizza place in Roan Mountain and enjoyed a filling lunch before heading our separate ways home. Hikers included Sandra Fenton, Michelle Ritter, Megan Callahan, Sue Robinson, Al and Brandon Johnson, James Anderson, Otis Pannell, Darrell Morgan, Rick Harris, Jerry Schneider, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan.



This is a great hike and a must-do again, possibly a 3-night, 4-day trip with some lazy mornings and a night on Yellow Mountain.

**OCTOBER 3, 2020 BOB BALD FROM BEECH GAP**

This was a joint BMTA and Cherokee Hiking Club hike. Seven hikers and one dog set their sights on Bob Bald with a 7.6-mile round trip hike from Beech Gap at the state line on the Cherohala Skyway to the top of Bob Bald at about 5400 feet elevation, led by Brenda and Rick Harris. Upon reaching the top, the group enjoyed the great views off to the south and ate lunch. It was a beautiful cool fall day with the leaves starting to turn a variety of colors. Hikers included Rick and Brenda Harris, Clare Sullivan, Doug Lynch, Mary Alton, Will Dostie, and Sandra Fenton. Numerous other day hikers and backpackers were encountered along the way. As a matter of fact, when we arrived at Beech Gap, the parking area was full and we had to drive down to the Unicoi Crest Overlook to park.



### **OCTOBER 8, 2020 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

The club met at the property of Lettie and Jim Whisman and began with a tour of their new historic home. Beautiful wood is used extensively in the very nice home. Afterwards, we joined at the pavilion near the lake to the rear of their home and enjoyed a sack supper, to avoid unnecessary contact due to the virus. There was a nice turnout, and the weather was perfect for an outdoor meeting. A special thanks to Lettie and Jim for their hospitality.

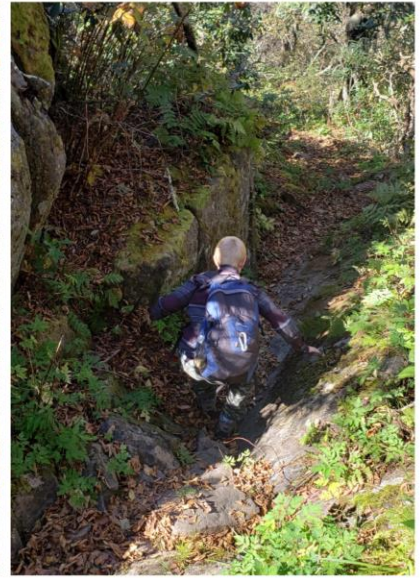


### **OCTOBER 10, 2020 JOHN MUIR NRT/BMT CLEANUP DAY**

Canceled. Will be rescheduled.

### **OCTOBER 17, 2020 THE HANGOVER FROM WOLF LAUREL TRAILHEAD**

Ten hikers and one dog hiked from the Wolf Laurel Trailhead to the Hangover in the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness along the BMT on this beautiful fall day. The parking lot was overflowing when we arrived there around 10 AM. The day started out cool at a little above freezing but warmed up to the mid-fifties by day's end with sunny clear skies all day. This difficult 7-mile hike with over 2000 feet of elevation gain started with a steady climb from the trailhead up to the BMT on the Stratton Ridge Trail. We then turned north on the BMT steeply downhill to Naked Ground, then steeply uphill to Haeo, then down to the Hangover itself. With many leaves off the trees, the views were impressive.



At the Hangover, we met a group of Boy Scouts from Knoxville who were training for their 10-day trek scheduled next summer at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. They were encamped at Bob Bald on the BMT and were dayhiking to the Hangover from there. We also met a group of hikers with the Tennessee Trails Assn. taking the same route as us. We also came across numerous other solo and couple backpackers and day hikers. The trail was very busy. We ate lunch at the Hangover with 360-degree views of the Smokies and the surrounding mountains. We then hiked back to the Wolf Laurel Trailhead and returned home. We had quite a job exiting the trailhead with us almost being pinned in. It seems everyone was enjoying "Our Big Backyard" out of Tellico Plains.







Hikers included Rick and Brenda Harris, their son David and grandsons Benton and Alex, Sue Robinson, Mary Alton, Judy Price and Sandra Fenton. Zoe, Sue's dog, was also well-behaved and did great on the hike. David Harris had backpacked solo from the Tellico River up to Whigg Meadow where he spent Friday night to temps in the teens and high winds. On early Saturday morning he met us along the road to the trailhead.

### WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a socially-distanced 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway.



### **THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST**

Seven club members met at the Old Fort Restaurant for breakfast, and enjoyed a nice meal and lots of storytelling and catching up. There were loads of apple butter and extra biscuits to share, and no one left hungry (some did not leave empty-handed). Members included Ann Gray, Carol and Carroll Guhne, Gail and Edmond Gray, Jennifer Schroll and Jack Callahan.



# 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.

## **NOVEMBER 8, 2020 SUNDAY 10 AM POT POINT NATURE TRAIL**

4.1 miles, moderately strenuous. Park at the Ritchie Hollow/Pot Point trailhead at 17805 River Canyon Road, Chattanooga TN. Portion of trail along river for about one mile may be wet. Bring a lunch and wear good hiking shoes and we will plan to eat lunch at the Butterfly Waystation. Hike Leader Judy Price [jprice.bird@yahoo.com](mailto:jprice.bird@yahoo.com).

## **NOVEMBER 12, 2020 THURSDAY 6 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING**

Meet at the pavilion at Charleston (TN) City Park. Please bring individual brown bag meals in place of potluck due to Covid-19 concerns.

## **NOVEMBER 16, 2020 MONDAY RACCOON MOUNTAIN PUMP STORAGE FACILITY**

Tour the Visitor Center and the group will choose a trail to hike out of the 28 miles of trail. Several are along the rim which should have great views of the Tennessee River gorge. Wear good hiking shoes and bring a lunch. The facility is approximately a one-hour drive from Cleveland. From Cleveland, take I-24 to Browns Ferry Road to Elder Mountain Road to the TVA access road. To carpool from Cleveland, meet at the Park and Ride at I-75 exit 25 next to the Mapco gas station on Hwy 60 at 9:00 am. Event Leader Jack Callahan 423-284-7885, [jackn1945@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackn1945@bellsouth.net).

## **NOVEMBER 28, 2020 SATURDAY LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL WALK ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY**

Meet at 9 am at the pavilion parking lot on Raider Drive. Typically, we walk about 6 miles but can accommodate other options. Easy walk on flat paved walkway. Join us to enjoy great conversation and walk off some pumpkin pie. Hike Leader Randy Morris 423-650-0485, [randytaylorlormorris@gmail.com](mailto:randytaylorlormorris@gmail.com).

## **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.

NOVEMBER 7, 2020 SATURDAY [BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION](#) ANNUAL MEETING

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

Cherokee Hiking Club  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting  
October 8, 2020

The October meeting was called to order by the president, Jack Callahan. Jack thanked Jim and Lettie Whisman for hosting the meeting at their home on Spring Place Road in Cleveland. Members enjoyed touring Jim and Lettie's house before the meeting.

Jack provided an update on the health status of some of the club's members and cards were passed around to send to other members.

Jack gave the treasurer's report in Randy's absence. The balance on September 7, 2020 was \$2100. After receipt of \$60 from new members and \$30 in expenses, the club balance on October 5, 2020 was \$2130. The treasurer's report was approved by the members present.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published in the club newsletter, with one minor correction to the club bank balance.

#### Old Business

Trip reports on hikes, along with associated pictures, need to be emailed to Judy Price by the 25th of the month.

Jack discussed a change to the club membership form. There has been some confusion concerning the option for members to indicate that they do not want their personal information included on the club roster. In the future the club roster will be password protected and members may obtain a copy of the club roster by contacting either the president or the vice-president. The change to the availability of the club roster was approved.

Jim Passmore gave a report concerning the Christmas party. The party will be held at the Benton Station Baptist Church on December 12, 2020 and will be catered by The Bakery in Benton. The Bakery will provide a holiday meal for \$8 per person with the serving of the meal to be done by club members. Jim was given the go ahead to confirm the date, the menu and the price with The Bakery.

#### New Business

The January meeting will be dedicated to planning major hikes and events for the year.

Jack reviewed hikes and events that had taken place since the last club meeting. Upcoming hikes and events that are scheduled before the November meeting were discussed.

The next club meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2020. The location will be provided in the club newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

Jim Passmore  
Club Secretary

# Cherokee Hiking Club

## Membership Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Ph ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph ( ) - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

(You will receive my newsletter by email, so if you do not provide an email address, you will not receive the newsletter)

-----Club membership roster is password protected, and the club does not share membership with anyone but club officers or by request from an active member of the club.

-----Club members may receive a copy of the roster by requesting one from the President or Vice President.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check for \$15 for annual dues (membership includes the entire household). Check should be made payable to the Cherokee Hiking Club and returned with this completed form to 198 Crews Drive, Benton, TN 37307

### THE CLUB ALWAYS NEEDS HIKE LEADERS. To lead a hike, you should...

- Be familiar with the trail and know the best way to get to the trailhead, and whether there are restrooms, creek crossings, difficulty of the hike (based on elevation gain and length).
- Coordinate the date for the hike with the newsletter editor and webmaster, writing a description of the hike to be included in the newsletter and on the website, along with the meeting time and place for hikers to gather.
- Have each hiker sign the Liability Form the day of the hike, then lead the caravan to the trailhead. Be sure the hikers initial the photo release.
- After the hike, write a brief summary of the hike and submit it to the newsletter editor and webmaster along with digital images (if possible) for publication in the newsletter and on the website.

I would be willing to lead the following hike(s) for the club:

HIKE LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_ LENGTH \_\_\_\_\_ PROPOSED DATE \_\_\_\_\_