



The Cherokee Hiker

OCTOBER 2021 Volume 38, Issue X

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Hiking Club Members.

The weather is finally cooling down a bit and the humidity is getting a little lower. It's a fine time to be outside and enjoying the outdoors. Speaking of that, be sure to attend our next Club meeting Thursday, October 14 at 6pm. It's going to be outside at the Charleston Park Pavilion. Bring your own food again this month.

Also, our Club Campout at Big South Fork is just a few weeks away now. We again have the Bandy Creek Group Campground. It has 19 sites and they are on a first-come first-serve basis and not reservable individually. Remember, we have the group area from Tuesday, October 19 at 2:00 pm, until Sunday, October 24 at 12 noon. So far, a total of 23 people have said they are going. That's exciting!!! I really **NEED** at least one person from each couple or group, or if you are camping solo, then you need to contact me IMMEDIATELY and let me know what nights you are planning on being there along with how many are in your group. I need this information in order to be able to calculate the ballpark cost per person per night so I can tell you how much money to bring to pay for your camping cost. So please email me or text me the info ASAP. As you will be paying at the event, please bring CASH or a check made out to the Cherokee Hiking Club.

Another important matter we need to get nailed down relates to the hikes and activities during the campout. I hope that some of you who know your way around the area will contact me and let me know you are planning to lead some specific hikes or other activities. That way I can share the info with others attending.

If anyone has any questions about the Campout please feel free to contact me.

James Anderson, Club President

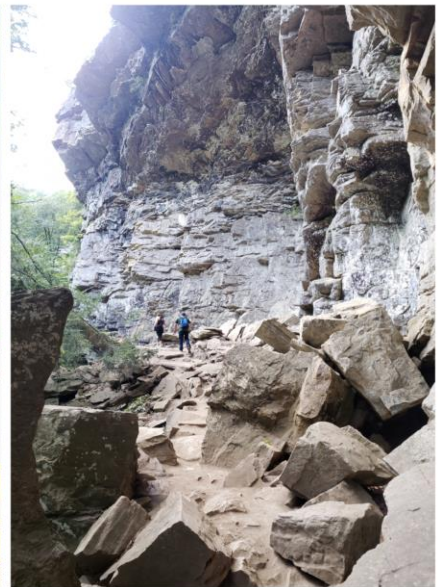
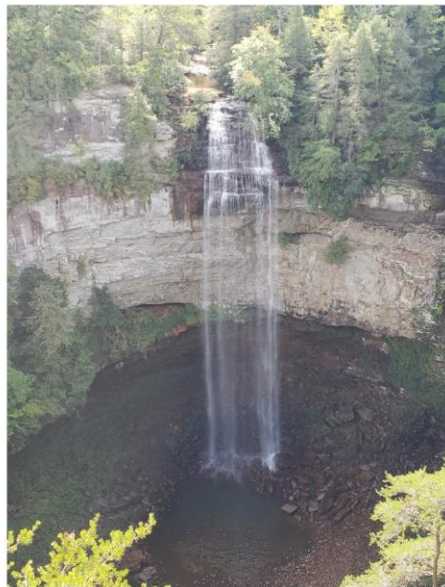
EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

SEPT 9, 2021 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING



SEPT 12-17, 2021 CAMPOUT AND HIKES AT FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK

Hike Leader and Co-Leaders: Richard and Brenda Harris. Ten folks participated in this campout at Fall Creek Falls State Park on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. Those camping checked in on Sunday, setting up camp all close to each other. Some of us wandered around the Mountain Folk Festival still going on from the weekend. Of special interest was watching a couple artisans carve figures with chainsaws--little tiny chainsaws. We listened to some bluegrass music on the outdoor stage as well.

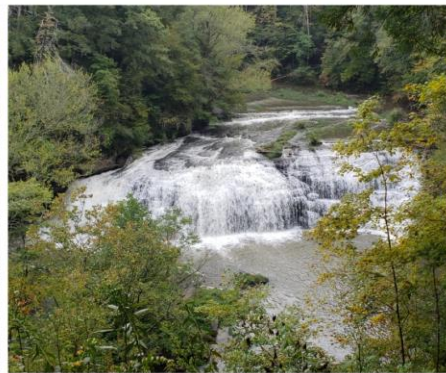


On Monday morning, we hiked the various trails around the park, visiting all the waterfalls and checking out the overlooks into the gorge. We hiked about six miles of fairly challenging trails, including the almost dangerous trail down to the bottom of the iconic 256-foot-high Fall Creek Falls, reportedly the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River. That evening we enjoyed a campfire at the Harris's campsite.





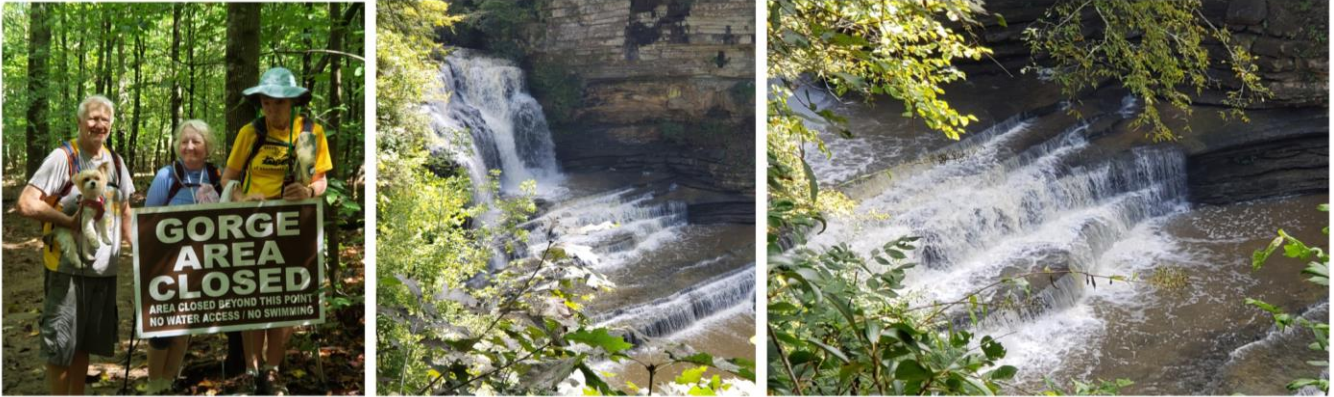
Tuesday, we hiked the entire nine-mile difficult trail to Virgin Falls. This waterfall exits a cave then drops about 100 feet, entering a large sinkhole at the bottom. The water was quite low due to recent lack of rain, the lowest we have ever seen. We checked out two other waterfalls, one of which was totally dry, and also checked out Sheep Cave. Two of us explored into the cave with headlamps a-ways. We returned to our campsites near dark and everyone ate, showered, and crashed in bed. No campfire.



Wednesday, we went to Burgess Falls and Rock Island State Parks. There was plenty of water in the waterfalls since it had stormed heavily overnight. These two gorges with large waterfalls were truly spectacular. Jack Bell and his little dog JJ made for great photo ops. Such a cute little bugger who loves to pose for pictures. After returning to the campsite, we again enjoyed a campfire and Brenda's three cousins who live close by joined us. It was a very fun evening.



Thursday, we went to Cummins Falls State Park with plans to swim below the falls. However, the water levels were so high after more big storms overnight that we were not allowed to enter the gorge and swim. Usually, folks can hike up the gorge in the river bed about a half mile to the base of the falls, but it was just too dangerous to do that on Thursday. The park staff had to rescue with ropes a person who illegally went into the gorge then got stuck by the high water. Can't fix stupid.



Since we got back fairly early, most everyone packed up and returned home that afternoon. Rick and Brenda were the only ones staying till Friday to check out.

This was a great trip in spite of low, then high water levels. We hope to repeat this joint campout in the future.

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

Canceled.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

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



THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Each month the club meets at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland for good food and 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.

OCTOBER 9, 2021 SATURDAY JOHN MUIR TRAIL WORKTRIP AND CLEANUP

Clayton Pannell will be leading this. Additional details will be released later.

OCTOBER 14, 2021 THURSDAY 6 PM MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

We will meet at Charleston, TN, Park Pavilion. Bring your own food again this month.

OCTOBER 19 - 24, 2021 TUESDAY - SUNDAY BIG SOUTH FORK ANNUAL CLUB CAMPOUT

This is located at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It is located a few miles east of Oneida, TN, and is about a three-hour drive from Cleveland. We will again be camping at the Bandy Creek Campground in group site E-1. There are 18 campsites available on a first-come basis. There is a large covered and screened shelter with picnic tables, electricity, cooking space and a large stone fireplace. A nice restroom and bathhouse are also nearby that are heated and have hot/cold water as well as a place to wash dishes. The individual campsites are paved but do not have electricity. Around September we will be asking folks to let us know who is planning to attend. There is a group reservation in place and paid for so there is no need to make an individual reservation. The actual cost will vary depending upon how many people end up attending. Besides the cost of the campsite, we also typically split the cost of the wood to keep the fire going in the group pavilion. Typically, the cost ends up being somewhere in the ballpark of \$8 per person per night. This is a great opportunity to fellowship in a beautiful place. We always have a lot of different hikes and activities available to folks of all hiking levels and anywhere from a slow stroll to a difficult all-day hike. The Event Leader this year is James Anderson. You may call or text 423-715-8824 or email jeandersonishere@gmail.com for more info.

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, including the [Annual Meeting and Hike Fest](#).

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

CHEROKEE HIKING CLUB MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President James Anderson with 16 persons in attendance. Lettie and Jim were thanked for arranging for the pavilion use in this beautiful setting. Introductions were made, with two guests and one person who had previously been a member being especially welcomed.

A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Jack Callahan and seconded by Clayton Pannell. The motion was approved unanimously.

As the Treasurer was absent, James presented the Treasurer's report that the current balance was \$2,154.00. There is an outstanding check for \$125.00 to American Hiking Society. We had \$75 in membership renewals come in.

Recent hikes since the last meeting were mentioned and a reminder was given of upcoming hikes.

James also mentioned that it is important any folks let him know if they are going on the Big South Fork Club Campout, and also if they will lead any hikes or activities during the campout.

Ruth announced the plans for the Christmas party to be held at the Western Sizzlin in Athens at 6pm on Saturday December 11. It will be dutch treat and a dirty santa gift exchange will take place, as well as installation of officers for next year.

The question was also discussed of what activities or hikes would the club like to see next year.

A report was given of the Officers' meeting in August that was held to discuss how to best meet the needs of the Club's members in the future. An overview included combining the position of President and Secretary since the President prepares the agenda it is pretty easy for the President to do a brief and to the point version of the minutes. The position of Vice President will be in charge of Programs and New Member follow-up. Jack Callahan has agreed to take on that role. Jennifer has agreed to handle the duties of Treasurer for next year and that includes keeping the membership list up to date as Randy has asked to step down. Rick has agreed to continue as Webmaster and publicity. It is also recommended to see if Claire Sullivan will assist in some of these duties as she is doing some of these for the BMT Association. Judy Price has agreed to continue preparing the newsletter with the understanding that she will not be pursuing hike/activity leaders for any pictures or reports of their hikes/activities. She will give them a deadline and if they do not deliver the info to her in a timely and appropriate manner then it simply won't be included.

On another topic James asked if anyone was thinking about going on the Big Frog backpack in November. No one indicated they were.

With no other business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.

Lettie and Jim then led some of the group in a hike around the lake.

Respectfully,

James Anderson, President