



The Cherokee Hiker

DECEMBER 2021 Volume 38, Issue XII

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

www.cherokeehikingclub.org

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Cherokee Hiking Club Members.

Reminder! The Annual Christmas party is December 11, 2021, at 6 pm at Western Sizzlin in Athens, TN. Please plan to attend and to participate in the Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. Everyone who plans to participate should bring a \$10 gift for that.

Also, don't forget about the Trail Work trip on the Benton MacKaye Trail/John Muir NRT! See Upcoming Events below for more information.

Finally, Rick Harris suggests that everyone please "LIKE" mischief_onthetrail on FACEBOOK. It is by Chris Phillips and he just put up a video on the BMT from Big Creek to Laurel Gap Shelter. He is doing a daily video post of his southbound BMT hike. He has a lot of days in pictures down to the Lakeshore Trail area that are already posted.

Thanks.

James Anderson Club President

EVENTS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

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



This year the Club once again sponsored a group camp out at the Big South Fork Recreation Area which covers parts of northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky. We had a total of 23 campers who turned out. They showed up in everything from tents, to pull-behind campers, pickup truck camper shells, to drivable RVs. The weather was pretty close to perfect with temperatures being not too hot nor too cold. The fall colors did seem to be a bit late this year, although we did notice some color change while we were there. As usual, there was lots of good food, sometimes shared by all and a nice mixture of short and longer hikes and excursions. At least one bear was seen by one group on their way to the Arches trail and the coyotes serenaded us almost nightly at the campground.



A variety of hikes and activities were offered. On one day these included hikes around Blue Heron area and a visit to the discovery center which told about the mining in that area. We also visited Devil's Jump Overlook and Crack in the Rock in that same general area. Other hikes included walking to Yahoo Falls and an 8.3 mile walk on the John Muir Trail by another group. On another day there was a hike to the Twin Arches, to Charit Creek Lodge, and then a loop back to the Arches. On other days there were hikes to Angel Falls, a visit to the Burnt Mill Area, and the Oscar Blevins Farm Loop. On the final day a group of us also visited the Obed River Scenic area near Wartburg.



Besides all of these wonderful hikes, we spent lots of time socializing and eating together around the big stone fireplace in the group pavilion. So, we hope you enjoy these pictures from the camp out and will consider joining us next year if you didn't this time. It's a lot of FUN!

NOVEMBER 8, 2021 BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL



Six club members and a guest hiked up to Black Mountain to the overlook of Grassy Cove. On the way, we took a short spur to Windlass Cave. Then we proceeded up to "the cubes" of massive rocks. Views at the top were spectacular on this sunny day! Afterwards, we had a cold beer and food at American Grill.



NOVEMBER 11, 2021 MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

See minutes below.

NOVEMBER 12 – 14, 2021 BIG FROG AREA BACKPACK TRIP

Canceled.

NOVEMBER 18 – 21, 2021 BACKPACKING TRIP IN THE GSMNP

A total of nine members of the Club made this ambitious hike. James Anderson led the advance group with himself, Buddy Arnold and Stuart Johnson, and they went a day early. They spent the first night at Walnut Bottom Campground and left on the 18th to hike up Gunter Fork trail to Laurel Gap shelter.

Hike Leader Jack Callahan led the second group including Jerry Schneider, Rick Harris, Otis Pannell, Jennifer Schroll and Darrell Morgan, which started on the 18th. They hiked in up Big Creek Trail 5.2 miles and stayed the first night at Walnut Bottom campsite. A light rain caught the group about an hour prior to reaching the camp and with the help of wood that the advance group had left; Jennifer got a nice fire going. Overnight it dropped into the upper twenties, and we awoke to frozen condensation on our rain flies.



After a group meeting, we decided to take the longer route to Laurel Gap using the Swallow Fork Trail. Concern about wading numerous stream crossings in sub-freezing weather and the reports of no maintenance on the Gunter Fork Trail led to this decision. The hike up Swallow Fork was a constant uphill climb, and we reached Pretty Hollow Gap around 1 pm, a four-mile hike. We ate lunch in the sunshine, and hiked on Mt. Sterling trail to Laurel Gap shelter, another four miles.



We arrived at the shelter around 4:30 pm, to meet the advance group, who had a nice fire going in the shelter fireplace. After a round of handshakes, we had supper, and got sleeping arrangements in order. Several folks stayed up till almost 7 pm feeding the fire. It gets dark around 5:30 and the temp drops rapidly above 5000 ft. elevation. Even though we were in Hodag territory, none were heard during the night.



The next morning, Otis had a nice fire going and the temps were in the mid-thirties. After breakfast, the group headed out for Pretty Hollow Gap for lunch. After lunch, James and his group headed down Swallow Fork Trail back to Walnut Bottom, and Jack's group continued up Mt. Sterling Trail to the top of Mt. Sterling, elevation 5843. Arriving at the top, the group spread out and set up camp, and some climbed the fire tower to take photos of the views.



Again, Jennifer got a nice campfire going and the group enjoyed supper near a warm fire. A few hearty souls stayed up till almost 7 pm burning the wood and tending the fire. By morning the temps were in the lower forties, a nice reprieve from what we had been having. After breakfast the group headed down Baxter Creek Trail back to Big Creek trailhead to catch our shuttle at one pm. We hiked six miles in four hours, and the trail conditions were somewhat difficult. The elevation drop was about 4100 feet, and the leaf fall had the obstacles in the trail well hidden. Several long sections had a lot of cobble which made walking tentative. We reached the trailhead fifteen minutes early and our shuttle arrived at exactly one o'clock. James and his crew had already hiked out and were already headed home.



We all made a safe journey home with the exception of Jerry, who had to test his Mercedes safety equipment. He hit a pool of water on the road in Kentucky, hydroplaned off into a ditch and totaled his vehicle. It was a single car accident, and Jerry had no injuries. He said the next day, he hurt from head to toe, but that was from the hike, not the car accident. Jerry, we are all glad you were unhurt. All in all, we hiked about 26 miles with a total elevation gain of 5100 feet. Everything in the Smokies is uphill.

NOVEMBER 27, 2021 SATURDAY LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL GREENWAY HIKE



Three club members strolled on the Cleveland/Bradley County Greenway on the annual Saturday after Thanksgiving Hike conducted in memory of club member Linda Davis. This was my 10th year leading the walk and we enjoyed a beautiful, crisp, late fall morning with great conversation and only a handful of other folks on the trail. We were treated to a large amount of frost flower (thanks Leon for naming the plant for me!) along the trail and viewed a young spike buck grazing on the Cleveland High Soccer Field. Enjoying the hike were club members Carol Guhne, James Anderson, and Randy Morris, reporting.

WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND GREENWAY

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

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.

DECEMBER 1, 2021 WEDNESDAY 9 AM WORK DAY ON CHILDERS CREEK SECTION OF BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL/JOHN MUIR NRT

If you still have some of those turkey and dressing calories you need to burn off then please consider joining Rick Harris and I for a work day on the Childers Creek section of the Benton MacKaye Trail/John Muir NRT. This is the section just above Reliance that begins at the Childers Creek Trailhead and extends about 3 miles upstream to the Big Bend parking area. It is a really beautiful and relatively flat section that, for the most part, is within sight of the Hiwassee River. We will meet at 9 am at the Childers Creek Trailhead parking lot for a brief safety talk and to plan the work for the day. Depending on how many attend, we may do brushcutting, lopping, and/or cutting out some blowdowns on the trail. You need to bring plenty of water--at least two bottles of around 32 oz each--, lunch and/or snacks; wear your boots; and bring work gloves. We can provide hard hats or safety glasses if needed. However, if you have your own hard hat or safety glasses please feel free to bring them. Also, if you want to bring your own sling blade, loppers, or brushcutter you may. If you do plan to join us please let me know by **texting or calling me at 715-8824** so we will have enough hard hats, etc., for all who need them. I hope you will consider participating if your schedule allows as we could definitely use your help. Also, if you want to try to carpool from Cleveland then please contact me about that as well. Thanks, James Anderson.

DECEMBER 11, 2021 SATURDAY 6 PM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WESTERN SIZZLIN ATHENS TN

The President encourages all to attend and to participate in the Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. Everyone who plans to participate should bring a \$10 gift for that.

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.

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

November 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

After the potluck dinner the President, James Anderson, called the meeting to order with over 20 in attendance. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

As the October meeting minutes were not included with the newsletter, the President reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. Jack made a motion to accept the minutes and Gayle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer, Randy Morris, presented the financial report which stated the checking account balance as of October 6 was \$2029. There was an expense of \$30 to the City of Charleston for the use of the pavilion for the October meeting. Since then, we have had two memberships paid and a few dollars of miscellaneous income from the Big South Fork Campout as revenue was slightly greater than expenses. As of November 11, the checking account balance was \$2,013 and it should be noted the club has paid the campground cost for 2022 to reserve the group campsite at Big South Fork. Gayle made a motion to accept the report and Margaret seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming hikes and events were discussed. It was mentioned the Big Frog backpacking trip was cancelled and that a group will be backpacking in the Smokies next week. It was mentioned there will be a 5 mile hike to the Narrows above the Appalachian Powerhouse on the Hiwassee River. It is scheduled for Friday November 26. Claire Sullivan is leading the hike and her email address was given. And lastly, it was mentioned that Randy will be leading the annual Linda Davis Memorial Hike on the Cleveland Greenway. Meet at 9am at the Greenway Park on Raider Drive.

A reminder was also presented about our Club Christmas Party that will be held at 6pm on Saturday December 11 at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant in Athens. The President encouraged all to attend and to participate in the Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. Everyone who plans to participate should bring a \$10 gift for that.

The President mentioned that he would be in touch with all who volunteered to help work on the display for the Outdoor Dinner that Westmore Church of God is having as soon as he has the display board. It was also shared that the dinner has been changed to Friday evening of January 21, 2022.

At this point our Treasurer, Randy was recognized for his 10 year service as Club Treasurer. He was also presented with a thank you card and a \$50 gift card as a token of appreciation since he is retiring from this position.

Next the President presented the following slate of Officers to serve in 2022. They were as follows:

Rick Harris—Webmaster and Publicity

Judy Price—Newsletter Composer and Publisher

Jennifer Schroll—Treasurer and Membership Roster Record Keeper

Jack Callahan—Vice President in charge of Programs and New Member Followup

James Anderson—President and Secretary