

The Cherokee Hiker

January 2007 Volume 24, Issue 1

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 2349 Varnell Road • Cleveland, TN 37311

~CHC Calendar~

January 6	2008 Hike Planning Session
January 10	Monthly Meeting
January 12	Big Frog Loop
January 19	Unicoi Mountain Trail
January 27	Athens Regional Park Trail

If you wish to receive *The Cherokee Hiker*, 2008 membership dues are **\$15**. Make checks payable to Cherokee Hiking Club (address above) or remit cash to Ann Gray.

JANUARY HIKES

January 12 – Big Frog Loop, 12 miles, Difficult.

Hike Leader: James Anderson, 476-1028 (h) or 715-8824 (c).

This hike will ascend Big Frog Mountain via the Benton MacKaye Trail. Part of the descent will be on the Peavine Ridge Trail and then connecting back over to the Benton MacKaye near Rough Creek to finish the loop. It will be about 12 miles in length and will involve over 2,000 feet in elevation gain. Therefore, it will be considered strenuous. Generally since the leaves are gone, the winter offers the best views off the top of Big Frog. Also, depending upon the temperature, there is sometimes snow near the top even if there is none down below. Anyone interested please contact James Anderson.

January 19 – Unicoi Mountain Trail, 7.5 – 9 miles, Moderate.

Hike Leader – Randy Morris, 338-9464 (h).

We will leave from the parking lot of Ocoee Hardees at 8:30 AM. This trail has great winter views of the Hiwassee River Gorge and the surrounding mountains. There is an approximate 800 foot elevation change on the trail between the highest and lowest points. The distance hiked will depend upon the number of individuals hiking. If we only have a few individuals, we will hike the trail (distance of 4.25 miles) to its terminus with the John Muir Trail and back out for a total of 8.5 miles. If we have sufficient numbers for a car shuttle, we will do a loop with either the John Muir Trail back to Hwy. 68 or the Coker Creek Falls Trail. The John Muir Loop would be a distance of approximately 9 miles (and only a 2.5 mile car shuttle on Hwy. 68) while the Coker Creek Falls Trip would require a shuttle of around 10 miles and the hike would be approximately 7.5 miles. Which of the two loops will be completed will depend solely upon the wishes of the group. Anyone interested in going must contact Randy by Friday evening, January 18. Please call 338-9464 with questions or to confirm your attendance. On Saturday morning, you may call 400-2895.

January 27 – Athens Regional Park Trail, 3.1 miles, Easy.

Hike Leader: Jane Bohannon, 745-9534 or 381-8388(c).

Plan to meet at the trailhead at 2PM. The mountain bike/hiking parking lot is the first turn to the left after entering the park. This trail has its ups and downs and scenic views in woodland, an open field, and paved area around the lake. It is a hike around the perimeter of the park and along North Mouse Creek where beaver are sometimes seen.

Directions: From Cleveland: take I-75 North to first Athens exit, then turn right onto Hwy 30 toward Athens. The park is approximately 1 mile on the right. From Etowah: take Hwy 30 through Athens all the way to the park. The park is approximately 1 mile on the left from the Hwy 11 (Congress Parkway) & Hwy 30 (Decatur Pike) intersection.

***NOTE:** As a courtesy to the hike leader, always contact him or her **in advance** of the hike to facilitate planning.

Club News

December Meeting Minutes: The Cherokee Hiking Club met on December 15, at 6PM at the home of Ann and Bill Gray for its monthly meeting and annual Christmas party. We enjoyed finger foods, desserts, and drinks in this festive gathering place for the large party. Following the meal, President Clayton Pannell called a brief business meeting to order by greeting 23 members. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and approved as read. The treasurer's report was read by Ann Gray, reflecting a current balance of \$***left out on purpose***.

Old business: Clayton encouraged everyone to attend the hike planning meeting on January 6 at Evette & Jack Strickland's home.

New business: None

Hikes completed: See Below

Upcoming hikes: See Above

New officers for the year 2008 are as follows:

President:	Randy Morris
Vice President:	James Anderson
Secretary:	Jane Bohannon
Treasurer:	Ann Gray
Publicist:	Debbie Flower
Newsletter Editor:	Evette Strickland

Christmas gifts were exchanged and everyone shared an interesting hiking story while opening a gift. It was announced that the next monthly meeting will be in Cleveland at Carol & Carroll Guhne's home. The Guhne's will furnish all food. Gail and Edmond Gray will host the Feb 14th meeting which is on Valentine's Day.

The party/meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

January Club Meeting: The meeting will take place at the home of Carol & Carroll Guhne on Thursday, January 10 @ 6:30. The address is ***left out on purpose***.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

December 1 – Little River/Cucumber Gap Trail Loop

Hike Leader Martha Firestone met Bob & Effaleda Lee at the trailhead to hike this 5 mile loop in the Elkmont area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The river was up a bit after recent rains and flowing nicely. It was a beautiful and perfect day for hiking in God's Country. All of you other members missed a great day and a great hike!

~submitted by Martha Firestone

December 8 – Unicoi Trail

Five of us made the Unicoi Turnpike Trail hike; Boyd & Martha Firestone, Ann Gray, Jane Bohannon and Marc Bernatti. We met at Coker Creek Welcome Center and took two cars up; leaving one at the lower trail head and taking the other up to the Gap. The weather was very overcast and drizzly at times but not bad enough to distract from our hike and no one became soaked. Except for a couple of blow downs, the trail (which roughly follows the actual Turnpike) was clear. Without leaves, the old Turnpike road bed was clearly visible in many places. In some upper sections, wet leaves made for some slippery footing. Half way down is the site of Rolling Stone CCC Camp and a side trail from there leads to the Civil War era gravesite of a man bushwhacked by 'Rebels'. That marked grave is near where a Turnpike toll booth stood. Martha discovered a hidden geocache box half way up to the gravesite. Continuing north, no one was brave enough to explore the gold mine, a very dark hole in the side almost under the trail about 60 yards north of the two trail connection. This half way point has a trail which goes from the gravesite to a small parking area on Joe Brown Hwy. All in all everyone enjoyed the 2 hour hike.

~submitted by Marc Bernatti

Other Items of Interest

The Hike & Activity Planning Session for 2008 will be held Sunday, January 6 @ 2 PM at the home of Jack & Evette Strickland, 1775 Delano Road, 263-7959. If you cannot attend, submit your ideas using the allotted space on the membership form, by phone or email. Contact Clayton Pannell at 263-9730 or Randy Morris at 338-9464 with any questions. **Directions:** From the intersection of Hwy 64 & 411, take Hwy 411 north for 13 miles. Turn left onto Delano Road (.5 mile after crossing the Hiwassee River). Go .3 mile & look for the paved drive on the right just past the Savannah Oaks Winery.

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