

The Cherokee Hiker

February 2007

Volume 25, Issue 1

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

~CHC Calendar~

February 9	Brush Creek Trail
February 10	Thunder Rock on BMT
February 14	Monthly Meeting
February 17	Scenic Spur Trail
February 23	John Muir Trail

Special Thanks! To Carol & Carroll Guhne, who treated the entire CHC to a fabulous dinner at the monthly club meeting on January 10.

FEBRUARY HIKES

February 9 – Brush Creek Trail, 6.7 miles, Moderate.

Hike Leader: Gary Smith, 559-1800 or ***deleted on purpose***

Rating is moderate r/t length. Meet at Ocoee White Water Center on Hwy 64 at 9:00 a.m.

This is a mountain bike/hiking trail which is fun, flat, and gentle. The trail starts at Boyd Gap Overlook and ends at Brush Creek on Hwy 64. We will have views of the Power House # 3 Lake and Brush Creek. Bring lunch and water. Contact Gary if you are interested in doing this hike.

February 10 – Thunder Rock on BMT, 6 miles, Moderate.

Hike Leader – Clayton Pannell, 263-9730 or email ***deleted on purpose***

Sunday afternoon hike up the Benton MacKaye and then back to near Thunder Rock on bike trails, with a short road walk back to Thunder Rock trail parking area. Due to the short days meet at Hardee's in Ocoee at 1:30 PM or at the trail head at 2:10 PM.

February 17 – Scenic Spur Trail, 3.5 miles, Easy.

Hike Leader: Randy Morris, 338-9464 (h)

This trail goes to a nice waterfall in the Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area. Although the hike is easy, please be aware there are two stream crossings which could require wading if there has been recent rainfall.

When dry, these are easy “rock-hops”. The trail head is on Hwy. 30 about 100 yards from US 64. When we get to the end of the trail at the falls, anyone desiring can join me for a short “bushwhack” up the side of the hill to see a much larger waterfall that few people view. This bushwhack is why I am scheduling this as a winter hike. We will leave from Hardee’s in Ocoee at 1:45 p.m. Call if you have any questions.

February 23 – John Muir Trail, 15 miles, Moderate, but long.

Hike Leader: Bill Ristom, 476-2945 or ***deleted on purpose***

Contact Bill for further details.

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

Club News

January Meeting Minutes: The Cherokee Hiking Club met on January 10, at 6PM at the home of Carol & Carroll Guhne with 27 members and one guest attending. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given.

Old business: "Release of Responsibility" forms were handed to members and attention brought to the checklist for hike leaders with emphasis on having a trail sweeper.

New business: Richard Harris brought his laptop to show the website he has developed for the CHC. The web site address is: www.cherokeehikingclub.org. Marc Bernatti made a motion that the club should accept the web site for use. Linda Davis seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote for acceptance. Discussion of what information will be included on the web site is ongoing.

Hikes completed: See Below

Upcoming hikes: See Above

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

February Club Meeting: Gail and Edmond Gray will host the Feb 14th meeting at 6:30, Valentine's Day. Their address is *****deleted on purpose*****. **This is a covered dish affair**. Bring a covered dish to feed about 10 people or so. Contact Gail if you need suggestions of what to bring.

Directions: From Athens: *****deleted on purpose*****.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

January 12 – Big Frog Loop

We had an AWESOME turnout for our Big Frog Loop hike. There were a total of 11 persons who hiked with us that day. The weather was sunny and the temperatures were pleasant. We climbed "the Frog" going up the Benton MacKaye Trail and came back down on the Big Frog trail for a total of slightly more than 13 miles. We had some especially good views to the east where we could see the Copper Basin area and where Hwy. 64 goes through the mountains into North Carolina. We could also see Chilhowee Mountain to the north and Sugar Loaf near the dam. We had a little excitement with our stream crossings since we had some recent rain. Everyone made it across without too much difficulty though. We also experienced a Rhododendron tunnel about 100 yards long near the top. It truly was a great day to walk in the woods while enjoying good company and good scenery. You may also want to check out the club website for some pictures of the hike thanks to Richard and Jack.

~submitted by James Anderson

January 26 – Albright Grove

Six hearty hikers braved the cold temperatures to hike a 7 mile section of Albright Grove in the Cosby section of the Smokies. The trees were awesome...and HUGE.

~excerpt from email sent by Rick Harris

January 27 – Athens Regional Park Trail

Eleven hikers enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon walking the perimeter of the 165 acre park. We hiked 3.1 miles and along the trail enjoyed the clear water of North Mouse Creek where six mallards were

having a swim. We met at the trailhead at 2:00 PM and began at the paved area around the lake, then followed Mouse Creek to the wooded areas and an open field. Hikers were: Jane Bohannon, Bob & Effaleda Lee, Brenda & Richard Harris and their dog Jake (on a leash), Linda Davis, Esther & Ron Nunley, Al Rymer (Cherokee Club members) and Paul & Barbara Ketron (Hiwassee Club members).
~submitted by Jane Bohannon

Other Items of Interest

The Bartram Trail hike is scheduled for April 4-5. Anyone wishing to stay overnight must contact Carol or Carroll Guhne before March 5 so cabins can be secured. The trip to the Nantahala will take about 2 hours from Cleveland with a stop in Murphy for dinner. The trail is 7.4 miles, all downhill except for a 350 ft. climb up to Jarrett Bald. The last 2.5 miles to the lake are a little steep. Travel time and a meeting place will be finalized after we see how many people are interested. For additional information, contact either Guhne at 715-2004 (c), 476-8922 (h).

DESPARATELY SEEKING: A place to hold the March CHC Meeting. To volunteer your home or facility, please contact Randy Morris at 338-9464 A.S.A.P.

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. Please pay your dues no later than March 15, 2008 to be included in the membership directory.

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