

The Cherokee Hiker

December 2008

Volume 24, Issue 12

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

~CHC Calendar~

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| December 6 | Dry Pond Lead |
| December 7 | Unicoi Turnpike |
| December 12 | Monthly Meeting |
| December 13 | Indian Flatts Falls |

Welcome New Members!!! Leon & Pat Bates and Brendan & Rebecca Levings

DECEMBER HIKES & OTHER EVENTS

December 6 – Dry Pond Lead, 9 miles, Difficult.
Leader: Randy Morris

We will hike part of Section 12 of the Benton-MacKaye Trail—commonly known as the Dry Pond Lead Trail— for a total mileage of approximately 9 miles. There is in excess of 1700 feet of elevation gain within the first 4 miles so I am rating this hike as strenuous. There are normally great winter views of Brock Mountain, the Ocoee Gorge and sometimes Big Frog Mountain on this trail, which meanders along the NW boundary of the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness Area for much of the hike.

We will meet at Hardee's in Ocoee at 8:30 AM for the trip up the gorge to the parking lot at Thunder Rock Campground to begin the hike. If interested in attending, please call Randy by Friday evening, December 5.

December 7– Unicoi Turnpike Trail, 3 miles, Easy to Moderate.
Hike Leader: Marc Bernatti

Plan to meet at the Coker Creek Gift Shop/Welcome Center/Post Office at 2 PM. We'll drop off at least one car at the lower trail head on Joe Brown Highway, then drive up to the top one and hike 'down'. With leaves on the trail, footing may be a bit tricky, especially in one segment where the trail is rocky. Those ambitious enough can warm up or cool down on the 'loop trail' (an easy hour's stroll) alongside Coker Creek and around Doc Rodgers Field, 1/2 mile from the Gift Shop/Welcome Center/PO. The CC Gift Shop & Welcome Center are on TN Hwy 68 at mile marker 34 on the left, 10 miles south from Tellico Plains. If coming north from Ducktown it is about 22 miles on the right. To carpool from Etowah, meet at 1 PM at the BiLo. POC is Al Rymer.

December 13– Indian Flats Falls, 7.5 miles, Moderate.

Leader: Randy Morris

Indian Flats Falls Trail is in the Tremont area of the Great Smoky Mountains. We will go to Indian Flats Falls—a 7.5 mile moderate hike. This trail follows the Lynn Camp Prong of the Little River for much of the way and sports some nice small waterfalls and rapids just a few tenths of a mile into the hike as well as the beautiful and unusual Indian Flats Falls, where we will eat lunch. There is an elevation gain of 1,200 feet, but it is very moderate as it follows an old rail bed for most of the hike. Please be aware that much of this trail is maintained as a horse trail so it can be muddy if there has been recent rain.

We will meet at the commuter parking lot off of Exit 25 in Cleveland at 8:00 AM for the approximate 2 hour trip to Tremont. If participants are interested, we may have an early dinner on the way home after the hike. If interested in attending, please call Randy by Friday evening, December 12 or tell him at the hiking club Christmas Party on Friday the 12th. Email him if you need further information.

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

Club News

November Meeting Minutes: The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held on November 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM at Antonio's in Cleveland. Thanks go to James Anderson for arranging the meeting place. There were 25 members and two guests present. We would like to welcome new members Kathy Seymour, Leon & Pat Bates and Rebecca & Brendan Levings. Following dinner, President Randy Morris called the business session to order at 7:34. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and were approved as read. Treasurer Ann Gray reported the current balance..

New Business: James Anderson suggested using name tags for our meetings. Randy will check on prices for permanent name tags for members. Paper ones are an option for guests and new members. Randy reminded us to start thinking of a place and date for our hike planning meeting coming up soon after January 1.

Old Business: Club tee shirts are still available for \$15.00 in all sizes except small. Diana Ristom will serve as the club's alternate representative to the Southeast Foot Trails Coalition. The club voted to oppose sending a letter of support for the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition Wilderness Proposal. The nominating committee announced its proposed slate of officers for the 2009 year as follows: President - Randy Morris, Vice Pres - James Anderson, Secretary - Jane Bohannon, Treasurer - Ann Gray, Newsletter Editor - Verna Townsend, Publicist - Debbie Flower, and Webmaster - Rick Harris. There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion by Boyd Firestone that nominations cease was seconded by Brenda Harris and the slate of officers was unanimously elected.

Upcoming hikes: See Above.

Hikes completed: See Below

December Club Meeting: The December meeting will be held at Antonio's Corner Restaurant, 3700 Michigan Avenue in Cleveland at **6:00 PM** on **Friday**, December 12. **Directions:** Antonio's is located at the corner of Michigan Avenue & Stuart Road, east of the YMCA. For additional information call 559-9716. We will be ordering from the menu. A gift is to be brought by each attendee valued at \$10-\$15 for the gift swap. The installation of new officers will be held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

November 1 – Possum Creek Gorge

On a beautiful fall day eight hikers and two dogs hiked part of the Possum Creek Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail from the trailhead at Retro-Hughes Road to Imodium Falls—for a round-trip mileage of nine miles. Although there was very little water going over the falls due to the persistent drought, the rock formations at the unique C-shaped falls were fascinating. The fall colors were beautiful along the trail—with maples, hickories and sourwoods providing beautiful foliage. The group also enjoyed seeing large stands of hemlocks—some of which were quite old. Hikers were guests Reggie Jay & Charli Wyatt along with club members Donna Brandon, Lettie Burress, Rick & Brenda Harris (and Jake), Kathy Seymour (and Rosie) and hike leader Randy Morris.

~submitted by Randy Morris

November 2 – Twin Rocks Creek

Five joint members of the Cherokee and Hiwassee Hiking Clubs, two new members of the Hiwassee Hiking Club and one guest had a great day for this joint Sunday afternoon hike. The weather was wonderful and the changing leaf color against the blue sky background was picture perfect. We completed the 2 1/2 mile hike in two hours taking our time to admire the leaves and to take in the views. This was a first time trip on this short trail for most of the group. One indolent black snake was observed by some on the shady side of the hill. Hike participants were Jane Bohannon, Ken Duncan, Vicky Brown, Cecelia Jack, Sandra & Jerry Liner and Effaleda & Bob Lee.

~submitted by Bob Lee

November 8 – Flatts Mountain Trail

The weather man was correct in his forecast for a beautiful Saturday. The temperature was also perfect for hiking. Rain on Friday made most of the trees bare of leaves so the views of the mountains and Indian Boundary and Tellico Lakes were great. We encountered no bears, boars, bugs, hound dogs, hunters or other hikers on the trail, but we did meet up with a slow moving garter snake!

Ester Nunley, Verna Townsend and Brenda Harris were joined by Gail Henley, Debby & Larry Moore, John DeKerk and Libby Lowry, members of the Sequoyah Hiking Club and a new friend, David Young from Cleveland who read about our club on the internet!

~submitted by Brenda Harris

November 29 – Linda Davis Memorial Walk

Ten outdoor enthusiasts met at the Commuter parking lot at Candies Lane at 9 AM. We began our hike with unpredictably cloudy weather at Coolidge Park. We were all prepared with rain gear. We hiked along the Walnut Street Bridge, past the Hunter Museum thru the Art District and across the walking bridge over Georgia Ave. The bridges and path are painted blue to identify the River walk.

The nine hikers and one bicycler were not going to let the weather report of possible thundershowers stop them. *Linda Davis would not let the weather prevent her from hiking and enjoying great friends* so we were determined to complete this hike in honor of our dear departed friend. The path was not crowded and many fishermen were on the banks and in their boats fishing. We observed families of mallards in their natural swamp habitat enjoying the feast of green algae. Evette informed us this was “duck weed.” Further along the path we observed cranes and herons waiting on a fish feast. The light rain began at six miles and we proceeded in the rain, completing the 8 mile walk and ready for some lunch. The Out of the Blue Café along the path was closed due to Thanksgiving, so we agreed to eat at The Boathouse. The awesome Clam Chowder, Salmon Bisque and Roasted Chicken platter were fit for a King and the after Thanksgiving Hike begun by Linda Davis was a success.

Hikers were Belinda Mantooth, Jane Bohannon, Verna Townsend, Virginia Orr, Lettie Burrell, Randy Morris, Al Rymer, Evette Strickland and guest Bruce Aulds. Steve Mantooth was the bicycler who rode 16 miles.

Found: A pair of white-framed eyeglasses was left at Al’s house at the OCT meeting. Call Al to claim.

Lost: Serving spoon. Also left at Al’s house at OCT meeting. If found, contact Evette..

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