

The Cherokee Hiker

July 2009 Volume 25, Issue 7

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

~CHC Calendar~

Welcome New Members!!!

JULY HIKES & OTHER EVENTS

July 5, 2009. Sun - Conasauga River Swimming Hole (5 mi) easy – Leader: Karen Young

Sunday afternoon stroll to the swimming hole on the Conasauga River (trail # 61) downstream from the Jacks River Bridge. Swimming not mandatory. Bring water, rain gear, and I'm taking a late lunch and a sand chair.. Meet 11:00 am Cleveland. Call Karen Young for meeting places.

July 12, 2009. Sunday Afternoon. Benton Falls. Easy. Leaders: Effaleda and Bob Lee

Using four trails around Chilhowee Campground, we will make a loop trip to Benton Falls. The final 1/2 mile to the Falls will be in and out but the remainder will be on the loop.

The falls provide a good resting spot and a good place to wade and cool off. Bring sun screen and insect repellent. Portions of the trail are in full sun.

This will be a joint hike of the Hiwassee and Cherokee Hiking Clubs. From Athens meet at Comcast in time to leave at 1:15 p.m. Cleveland hikers can meet us at the Lake McKamy parking lot (fee area) at 2:15 p.m. Parking is \$3 per vehicle (\$1.50 for Golden Passport holders)

The hike is 4 1/2 miles rated easy with about 300-400 feet of elevation change. Bring water and rain gear. Call leaders if additional information is needed.

Leaders: Effaleda & Bob Lee

July 19, 2009. Sunday afternoon. Hiwassee River Canoe Trip. Leaders: Esther Nunley and Clayton Pannell. *This trip has been cancelled due to schedule changes.*

**July 25, 2009. BMTA TN/NC Worktrip. See Cherokee Hiking Club website:
www.cherokeehikingclub.org**

August 1 Sat. – Lower Sycamore Creek/Benton MacKaye Trail[Cherokee National Forest, Tellico Rd.] total of 4 miles rated easy. Leader: Jane Bohannon *This is a joint hike – Hiwassee and Cherokee Clubs*

Meet at Hardy's on hwy 68 at Tellico at 9:00 a.m. or near the trail head at 9:45 a.m. in the Pheasant Field picnic area parking lot on Tellico River Road beside of the fish hatchery. The trail starts right

beside the bridge over the river to the fish hatchery. There is a bathroom at the parking lot. The hike is 2 miles in and 2 miles out along the beautiful Sycamore Creek on an old logging road/railroad bed. The trail is relatively level and tends to have a couple of wet spots. Hiking sticks would be definitely recommended if there has been recent rain causing slippery roots and slippery rocks. Bring plenty of water and trail food. We will have a late lunch at the Tellico Bakery following the hike. Please contact hike leader if you plan to go.

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

Club News

Recent Hike & Event Reports

Saturday, May 30, Lower Hiwassee Canoe Trip. Leader: Rick Harris

Six canoeists and Jake, the Harris' golden retriever, in 3 open tandem canoes went on this wonderful trip. The sky was blue and the temperatures were perfect. We put on the river about 2PM and had a wonderful float through the gap in the mountains. We all took on some water going through the powerline rapids but noone turned over. We ate snacks on a gravel bar just upstream from Al Rymer's cabin. Jake spent the whole time swimming in the river chasing minnows, sticks and leaves. We then floated on down to Patty Bridge, getting off the river about 5PM. Two canoeists and Jake stayed at the takeout while the others returned to retrieve the cars. Jake again spent the whole time in the river. Afterwards, we all went to eat dinner at the Big Bear Cove Restaurant on TN30 just a mile or so east of US411. The dinner was great and not very expensive. Canoeists included Rick and Brenda Harris (+Jake), Steve and Dottie Kidd, Sheila Bailey, and Mike Dorsett.

Raven Cliffs Hike, June 13, 2009 Leader: Gail Gray

The Raven Cliffs hike on Saturday, June 13, 2009, was enjoyed by nine enthusiastic hikers. We carpooled in two vehicles and arrived before 11:00 a.m. at the trailhead just north of Helen, Georgia. The trail was rated moderate due to a modest elevation gain and was a little over 5 miles round trip.

We passed numerous cascades and small waterfalls and arrived at the cliffs in time for a relaxing lunch. The 35-foot waterfall was beautiful and due to recent rains was quite full. Several brave souls climbed further up to enjoy the view of the waterfall between the cliffs and a brief X-rated interlude between the rocks.

We had the sheer joy of stopping at the Booger Holler Store for a brief time of shopping and snacking. We had to stop since Randy was in our group. We didn't want him to pout all the way back to Ocoee.

Clayton had the pleasure of the company of four charming females in his van. Every male is trying to horn in on Edmond's program.

Our fearless leader was Gail Gray. Hikers were Jane Bohannon, Sunni Campbell, Edmond Gray, Randy Morris, Virginia Orr, Clayton Pannell, Sheri Stewart, and Karen Young.

Minutes from June 28, 2008

Cherokee Hiking Club

June/July Meeting on June 28, 2009

At the home of Ann & Bill Gray

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Morris at 8:50 p.m. There were twenty-two members present, with two guests. He thanked Ann and Bill for having us at their home. Ann Gray gave the Treasurer's Report.

Gail Gray read the minutes of the May meeting in the absence of Secretary Jane Bohannon. Jane and Verna Townsend were on a trek to the top of Mt. Leconte.

Old business:

Jane researched the possibility of having rack cards printed for the club. This information was presented and discussion followed. Concern was expressed over liability of the club if hikers participated in our hikes and became medical problems in the process. Aggie Scott moved that we not have these cards printed and distributed in the area. Mark Cameron seconded the motion. The club voted in favor of the motion, so we will not be printing or distributing rack cards.

New business:

Rick Harris presented information on a National Trails Symposium to be held in Chattanooga in October of 2010. Volunteers are needed to help in various ways with the volunteers being granted free admission to the seminars. He was told to tell the group that we will help by providing volunteers.

Hikes completed: Past hikes were discussed. Rick Harris reported on trail maintenance, both past and future.

Upcoming hikes: Future hikes were presented for the consideration of hikers. Check your newsletter, webpage, and email regarding upcoming hikes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The group then enjoyed watching the fireworks occurring at the Exposition Center at Exit 20 of Interstate 75.

Next meeting: The club decided to hold our next meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sugarloaf Picnic Area in Ocoee. It will be the usual covered dish meal. Sugarloaf Park is located on Hwy 64 near the Hwy 64 and Hwy 314 junction. The park is on the right just prior to Ocoee #1. If you are traveling west on Hwy 64, the park is on the left just past the dam. Bring picnic style foods to share. The club will provide ice, plates, drinks, and utensils.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gray in the absence of Secretary Jane Bohannon

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