

Cherokee Hiking Club Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2016

Charleston Park, Charleston TN

We met at 6:00 and ate. The meeting was called by President Leon Bates at 7:00 p.m.; 22 people attended. This included Sandra Corn, who was a former member from about 7 years ago. She brought an interesting hiking stick and showed it off to us; it also doubled as a cattle (or bear/bad guy/etc.) prod, packing one million volts. The business end also sported some sharp spikes that would discourage any attacker. A friend bought it for her at a gun show in Nashville; it is made by the Zap brand. (This walking stick is available online from Amazon and other sources also). It also has a flashlight. It looked quite useful.

Minutes were read by Secretary Rebecca Levings and voted as accepted, with one correction: the Warrior's Path trail maintenance scheduled for Saturday, June 11 was not held. It will be rescheduled in the fall some time. Instead, Rick Harris, who was hosting the Warrior's Path maintenance, helped instead to sponsor a local version of the national "Get Outdoors Day" in Tellico Plains on June 11.

Treasury Report:

- Randy Morris reported a \$45 addition to the club account, including 2 new memberships and one renewal, bringing the amount to **\$1767.17**.

Old Business:

- Club business cards are still available from Jack Callahan.

New Business:

- The Cleveland Rock Creek would not allow the Club business cards to be displayed in the store, as reported by one member. Also, neither Rebecca Levings nor Michael Friedman could contact Chad (the manager of the Cleveland and other area RC stores) for a 10% merchandise discount, which the Chattanooga Hiking Club members are somehow able to get. We discussed this seeming lack of customer-friendliness on the part of RC. The Club membership could constitute some of their best customers. More efforts may be made to approach the management; otherwise other dealers (including online) may be more worth pursuing.

News:

Past Hikes in June:

- Saturday 6/4: Jack Callahan reported that 8 hikers and one dog (Jake) attended his Whigg Meadow Hike. There was a slight sprinkle of rain, but was very brief. It was about 71 degrees on the Meadow around 1:00, and the air was hazy, but nice. Club member Carolyn Hyde brought a friend Faye Nicholson of Turtletown with her, and Joanne Jackson drove 900 miles from Texas to make it to the hike. Michael Friedman took several photos with his tripod.
- Sunday 6/5: Clayton Pannell had to cancel his Scenic Spur hike due to rain.

Upcoming Activities:

- Saturday 6/11: Warrior's Passage Trail Maintenance (Rick Harris, hike leader) – as stated above, this activity is to be rescheduled sometime in the fall. Rick Harris announced instead that he and others helped to sponsor Tellico Plain's "Get Outdoors Day", as part of the national celebration of the same name. For participants willing to help out, a free dinner and t-shirt will be offered.
- Saturday 6/11: Gahuti Trail Hike – Michael Friedman, hike leader. Michael had to cancel this hike due to personal reasons.
- Thursday-Friday, 6/16-17: Gregory Bald Hike near Townsend TN, leader Buddy Arnold. This hike is still on, according to meeting attendee Randy Morris. Randy, Rick Harris, Jack and Margaret Callahan, Buddy, Michael Friedman and new member Elizabeth Weikert are going, and possibly more. The hike will be 11 miles round trip with about 2900 feet of elevation gain. The Parsons Branch Road is closed, so an alternative route will be taken to arrive at the trailhead, probably through Cades Cove to Forge Creek Road, according to the latest posts on the club Meetup site by the hike leader. See <http://www.meetup.com/Cherokee-Hiking-Club-of-Southeast-Tennessee/events/231546169/> for the latest in communication about this hike.
- Saturday 7/9: Sequatchie Canoe Trip on the Hiwassee/Sequatchie, to be led by Chris Swain. Bring your own canoe or kayak; swimming will also be available. Rebecca Levings will contact Chris Swain to make sure that he is still leading this event.
- Saturday 7/16: Hiwassee Canoe Trip, leader Clayton Pannell. Bring your own canoe or kayak. This event is still happening, according to meeting attendee Clayton.
- Sunday, 7/17: Gee Creek Falls/Lowry Falls Hikes, to be led by Al Rymer. Al, who was at the meeting, assured us this event was still on. Gee Creek Falls Trail is an easy 7 mile round trip, and Lowry Falls Trail is .4 miles round trip, and moderate/strenuous.
- Saturday 8/13: Arbutus Trail Hike, leader Leon Bates. It is a 4.5 mile loop around Benton Falls and Lake McCamie in the Chilhowee Recreation area. It is rated easy. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. Those with a golden age pass can pay ½ price to get in to the rec area. It was announced that the National Park Service may be eliminating this special pass at some point soon.

Next Meeting:

- There will be no July meeting.
- The August meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, at the Ocoee/Hiwassee State Park headquarters (also known as Gee Creek SP). Richard Taylor will speak to the club at the August meeting about hike emergencies: helping a severely injured hiker to safety, or dealing with a deceased hiker (these include found people not on a club hike). Mr. Taylor has served as a search and rescue person in the Cherokee National Forest and surrounding areas for many years now and has helped save many lives in the wild. Mr. Taylor will bring his own laptop/projector. We will have a pot luck dinner, then a short business meeting, so that Mr. Taylor can have more time for his presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Afterwards the attendees walked with Phil and Lettie Burress around the paved trail at the park, as part of the Phil and Lettie Burress Courage hike. It was a pleasant late evening at the Charleston Park, and several other community members were enjoying the playground and park grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Levings, Secretary