

OLD-TIMERS HIKING CLUB SCHEDULE—WINTER-2012-JAN-FEB-MARCH

Please check your e-mail before each hike in case there is a change---leaders e-mail me your change as soon as you are aware of the need to change. I understand from CB our dinner this year will be late April— membership dues for 2012 will be due at that time.

MONDAY-JAN-2	Moderate 6 mile hike from the Houston Mt. Campground to the Meadow Creek fire tower and back. Form your carpools at the church and meet the leader at Ma and Pa's for breakfast. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072
WED JAN-4	Iron Mountain, Northeast of US-421. Going south on US-421 from Shady Valley, up the Iron Mountain, towards Sandy Gap and Mountain City, at the last inside switch-back, you encounter Forest Road 4052, which traverses the northwest side of the mountain. That forest road, the Iron Mountain Trail, which follows the ridge in both directions from Sandy Gap, and two connectors between them form a trail complex somewhat like a backward "B". With US-421 substituting for a missing base, the scalloped left side of the backward B would lie along the Forest road, and the straight right side along the Iron Mountain trail. This time we will start out exactly the same way we did the last time. We'll leave a drop car(s) at the FR-4052 gate, drive on up to the Sandy Gap parking area, and hike north to the top of the "B", on Grindstone Ridge. Then we'll bushwhack down to FR-4052, and head back towards US-421. The difference this time will be that those desiring a short hike can take the connector at the middle of the "B" back to the Iron Mountain trail and then walk back out to Sandy Gap, for a total distance of 5.6 miles. Long Hikers can continue on FR-4052 to US-421, a distance of 8.2 miles. Both hikes are moderate. Leader: Dave McMillin, 913-2345 (h), 791-4562 (m).
MON. JAN-9	6 mile moderate, in and out, hike from near Indian Grave Gap to the Nolichucky Overlook. [I think, there are some creeks on this route, Faye] Breakfast at Clarence's. Leader Rick Culbertson 423-246-7298
WED. JAN-11	8 mile moderate hike on Holston Mountain from Griffith Branch to Hinkle Branch-short shuttle. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072
MON-JAN16	A moderate, 4 mile loop hike to the Old yellow Mountain Resort near the Cedar Creek Community south of Greeneville. Form your carpool and meet the leader at Ma and Pa's Restaurant for breakfast on the Ashville Hwy south of Greeneville. Leader, Lamar Adcox, 234-0296 or cell (423) 823-1768.
WED.-JAN-18	Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Shelter and back --8.2 miles if you go all the way to the shelter or as few miles as you wish since it is in and out and no shuttle. Form your carpools at the church and meet the leader at Clarence's for Breakfast; where there will be signup sheet. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072-cell 741-7755
MON-JAN-23	An easy 2.3 mile hike around the lake at Bays Mountain Park. If you want more mileage, it is available but just be sure you have a ride home. I will meet you at Hardees's just off of I-26 on Dennis Bypass in Kingsport. Bring warm, layered clothes, water and lunch if you plan to hike further. Bob Miller, 423/245-1465—CB has said he is coming as sweep again.
WED.JAN-25	A moderate 9 mile hike from Rocky Fork to Higgins Pond on top of the mountain and back. Form your car pools at the church and meet the leader at Clarence's for breakfast. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072.
MONDAY-JAN-30	Moderate to strenuous 8 miles on the AT from Creek Junction to Hwy. 601 and return. Leader, Jerry Jones 423-282-2199

WED-FEB-1	A moderate 8 mile loop on Buffalo Mountain starting at the Lone Oak Trailhead and returning to the Lone Oak Trailhead. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072-cell 741-7755
MON-FEB-6	Moderate to difficult 5.7 miles on the AT between Hwy. 601 and Whitetop Mt. at VA 600 AT Elk Garden. Key Swap. Leader Jerry Jones 423-282-2199
WED.-FEB-8	Moderate to Strenuous 10 mile hike at Bays Mountain. We will cross the dam and then the bridge at the end of the water and make a sharp left onto the Cherry Knobs Trail which we will follow for 1.6 miles to the Cross Ridges Trail; which ends at an old barn and a three way cross roads—we will go straight ahead onto the Pretty Ridge Trail which will take us to the Indian Pipes Trail and in 2.3 miles will take us to the fire tower.[total of 5.5 miles to the fire tower] From the fire tower those who wish a shorter hike can go down the fire tower trail to the lake and back to the Nature Center.[about 1.5 miles back to parking] The others will go on River Mountain Road to the Antennas and then take the Azalea Trail back Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072-cell 741-7755
MON.-FEB-13	A 5.6 mile moderate hike from Devil Fork Gap to the Flint Mountain Shelter and return. Form your car pools at the church and meet the leader at McDonald's in Erwin for Breakfast. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072—cell 423-741-7755
WED.-FEB-15	Strenuous 10 miles from Rock Creek Park to Rattlesnake Ridge.—since this is up and back—you can do whatever miles you wish-just carpool according to the miles you wish to walk. Form your carpools at the church and met the leader for Breakfast at Clarence's where there will be a sign up sheet. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072-cell 741-7755
MON.-FEB-20	An easy 8.5 miles on the Saltville Trails. Leader Jerry Jones 423-282-2199
WED.-FEB -22	A strenuous 10 mile loop on Holston Mountain to the cell towers starting at Griffith Branch Trailhead. Leader Howard Guinn 423-753-4072.
MON-FEB-27	Moderate to difficult 6.5 miles on the AT between Cross Mountain TN91 and Low Gap at US Highway 421. Key Swap. Leader, Jerry Jones 423-282-2199
WED-FEB-29	A 9 mile strenuous hike to the top of Jenkins Mountain starting on FS road 53628. Great views of Fork Mt, Stone Mt, Pond Mt, Buffalo Mt. and into the gorge in Hampton. Leader Ernie Hartford 423-543-1276
MOM.-MARCH-5	A moderate 3.7 miles on the AT from Low Gap at US421 to McQueen's Gap. Keyswap or depending on FS road conditions we could go in and back. Leader Jerry Jones 423-282-2199
WED-MARCH-7	An 8 to 10 mile hike with Brenda Whitt at Big Bald. Brenda will meet group at gate around 9:30 or possibly at Little Creek. Drive to the Bald and hike Blue Trail down and then up over Bald and on toward High Rock for as far as the group and/time permits and back to the cars for a total of 8-10 miles. Around 1.5 miles down Blue Trail and up to Bald and then about 4.5 miles out to High Rock (down and gentle ups) and then 4.5 (mostly up on the return). (One could plan to hike up over Bald and back to the car for about 3 miles; this can be flexible if you group by cars according to your personal interest. Doing this hike as an in-out allows for other shorter variations. Breakfast at Little Creek Cafe. Leader , Brenda Whitt 245-2550/676-5096,Leader from the church Jerry

	Jones 423-282-2199
MON.-MARCH-12	We will be hiking in Warrior's Path SP near Kingsport on the Devil's Backbone and Fall Creek Loop Trails. This will be a 4 mile moderate in and out hike. Leader, Lamar Adcox, 234-0296 or cell (423) 823-1768.
WED-MARCH-14	Approximately 10.5 to 11 mile key swap hike to Sand Cave and Whiterocks and on over to the Hensley Settlement on the ridge trail. One group will start at the Ewing Trail and see the Sand Cave and Whiterocks first and then proceed to travel the ridge trail another 3.2 miles to the Hensley Settlement and down to the cars parked at the trailhead of the Chadwell Gap trail. The other group will start on the Chadwell Gap trail around 2.9 miles up to the ridge trail turning left for .5 mile to the settlement and then follow the Ridge trail over to Sand Cave and down the Ewing trail. There is a 1500 foot elevation gain with both access trails steep. We have done the Sand Cave hike before but the Settlement is new to most. It should be a beautiful hike. Please have breakfast before coming to the church—there will be no breakfast stop. Rated extreme moderate to strenuous. Leader Wayne Jones 423-928-5398
MON-MARCH-19	WORK DAY—We will start the spring clean-up of our section of AT. If we have enough people we will do a walk-thru of the entire 11.9 miles with handsaws and pruners-doing what can be done and seeing where we may need to return with chain-saws which will be a “called” work day not on the hiking schedule or another work day on the April schedule. Form your carpools at the church and meet the leader at Clarence’s for breakfast where Mike will have a sign-up sheet. Leader Mike Hupko 423-929-2626.
WED-MARCH-21	<u>Cross Mtn - Bulldog Hollow via Holston Mtn Trail.</u> Moderate, 9.3 miles Hike begins on Cross Mountain, where the AT crosses TN-91. Just beyond the AT, Double Spring Shelter, turn left onto the Holston Mountain Trail (FT-44). After 3.2 miles of ridgeline hiking, again turn left, off the mountain onto the southern leg of the Josiah Trail (FT-50 -- intersection can be identified by the deep bay on the right side of the trail, from which a spring issues). The southbound trail winds its way down the mountain, eventually following Blevins Branch, then crossing over to Flint Mill Branch. In this direction, the hike provides a descent of 1830’ from its high point. (Leader: Dave McMillin, 423- 913-2345 -- Reschedule of rained-out 12/7/11 hike)
MON-MARCH-26	<u>Beacon Heights - Rough Ridge.</u> 4-5 miles, Moderate, Drive is about 90 miles round trip (an hour each way) The hike parallels the Blue Ridge Parkway. Key swap or shuttle (depending on the desires of those attending). Beginning at Beacon Heights take the Mountains to Sea Trail to the Tanawha Trail and continue north to the Linn Cove Viaduct, up the slopes above the viaduct to the Shiprock Overlook, where there are spectacular views of Grandfather Mountain, Hawks Bill, Table Rock and Mt. Mitchell. After soaking in all of that, proceed down Rough Ridge to the Rough Ridge Parking Area (Milepost 302.8 -- Leader: Dave McMillin, 423- 913-2345).

WED-MARCH-28	Pond Mtn: Rough Ridge to Laurel Fork. 9.2 miles - Difficult -- Drive: approximately 27 miles, one way. This hike, begins on the Pond Mountain Trail (FT 40), off Forest Road 50, crosses the high point of Pond Mountain, joins the south-bound AT (after 2.1 miles of bushwhacking), descends into Laurel Fork Gorge, goes past Laurel Falls (or past the Laurel Fork Shelter, for those who want to avoid the steep climb out of the gorge) and ends at Dennis Cove. (Leader: Dave McMillin, 423- 913-2345 -- Reschedule of rained-out - 11/16/11 hike.)
	<p>We leave Covenant Presbyterian Church, 603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, Tenn. each Monday and Wednesday at 8am. We make a breakfast stop at a small restaurant or fast food IF it is the only choice. Come join us; bring lunch, PLENTY of water, gas money, a snack, each person should carry a small first aid kit, you should also carry a little extra food just in case, raingear [it may rain where the hike is even if the weather here does not say rain], and most important bring yourself and a smile and come enjoy our hikes. Everyone is welcome, member or not. Participation in club activities carries with it the obligation to hold the club and its representatives free of liability for individual safety.</p>
	<p>President and founder of Old-Timers Hiking Club—CB Willis 423-282-3325 cbwillis@charter.net Treasurer and person to give your membership dues—Gil Derouen 423- 283-7767 –2702 Avondale Drive—Johnson City, Tenn 37604 -- gilderrouen@comcast.net Website—Kent Ganshirt-423-788-3034 oldtimershikingclub@live.com Trail Work Coordinator—Mike Hupko-423-929-2626 mcmbhupko@comcast.net Hike schedule—Faye Guinn-423-753-4072 wegonehiking@embarqmail.com [SEND ME YOUR HIKES written up exactly as you wish them to appear in the schedule] Membership List—Dave McMillin-423-913-2345 djmcmillin@comcast.net [any time you have a change of address; phone no. or e-mail address please let Dave know]</p>