

2020 OLD-TIMERS HIKING CLUB SCHEDULE—JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH

Founded in 1991 by CB Willis and Don Frederick and named by Jim Widener

Wed, Jan -1	Pinnacle Trail—If you want to hike today meet at the Pinnacle Trail at 9am, The Johnson City Hikers are hiking there with an 9am start –so you will have lots of company. Come start your new year with a hike. —Faye
Mon, Jan 6	Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter. We will take the AT beginning at Iron Mountain Gap and walk to Cherry Gap Shelter and return, for a 6-mile hike. This section has some good views of the surrounding mountains. Last year, we caught those views through some rather spectacular rime ice. Breakfast at Clarence’s. Leader: Jeannine Edwards jeannine21@bellsouth.net Ph: (H) 423-202-7207; (C) 901-351-1779
Wed, Jan-8	Iron Mtn / Feathercamp Loop - A moderate, 8.2-mile hike on the Appalachian, Iron Mtn, and Feathercamp Trails near Damascus. We will park at Straight Branch and travel south on the Appalachian Trail approximately 2 miles to Cuckoo Gap where we will meet the Iron Mtn. Trail and follow it north 4 miles to the Sandy Flats Shelter. We will then turn right onto the Feathercamp Trail, which will take us 2.2 miles back to Straight Branch. There will be approximately 5-6 creek crossings. Brief rest stop in Damascus. Leader: Eric Middlemas, (423) 282-6987, emiddlemas@gmail.com .
Mon, Jan-13	Suggest 4 miles from Elk River Falls to Jones Fall??? Leader ??
Wed, Jan-15	An 8-9 mile moderate with a few short strenuous sections starting on Dry Creek Rd. across from the ATV parking lot. We will take a trail to the crest of Cherokee Mt. where eventually we will pick up the forest service rd. out to the power lines and walk the road back. We can call this the Howard's Cherokee ramble as he called it. Leader Wayne Jones 423-737-4852
Mon, Jan-20	Steele Creek Park, Ridge Trail 5 miles. We will climb the ridge trail which starts out near the golf course, then make our way down to follow the lake trail back to the cars. 5 miles rated easy. Form your carpools at the church and meet Jamie at the Steele Creek Nature Center parking area. Leader: Jamie Aiello 423-579-0467
Wed, Jan-22	A 7 to 8-mile hike at Bays Mountain Park to the fire tower and back. There is a \$5 entry fee per vehicle. You are allowed free entry if you have a military ID or a Bays Mt. membership card. Leader: Lana Scott 423-929-9094
Mon, Jan, 27	A 6-mile moderate to strenuous in and out hike from Hwy. 19-E South on the A/T to the TN./ N.C. border at Doll Flats Leader Wayne Jones 423-737-4852
Wed, Jan-29	Devil Fork Gap to Sugar Loaf Gap. An in and out of approximately 8 miles. Cool remnants to find in the Gap! Leader Joy Cook 423-913-2220
Mon, Feb-3	Pinnacle Trail –[I know the group decided they did not want this on the schedule every first Monday BUT?? not enough hikes to fill the schedule SO if someone wants to turn in different hike just let me know and I will gladly send out-Faye] Everyone seems to want to drive on their on to this hike so just meet at the trailhead at 8 [-or if someone wants to pick -up at the church let me know and I will send that out— then meet at Trailhead will be 8:15] as you know you can hike 2 miles 4 miles or 9.8 miles if you go to Tower and back on the trail. If Howard feels up to a hike that day he will be there. I do not believe we need an appointed leader and that way everyone is their own leader --Faye
Wed, Feb-5	Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot and Beyond. We will hike on the AT to the Beauty Spot, a bald that on a clear day gives a near 360 view of the surrounding

	mountains. No guarantees, but in winter, we have been surprised by rime ice and snow. Those who wish a shorter hike can return from this point, for about 4.5 miles. Anyone wishing the longer hike can continue with us on the AT for an 8-mile round trip hike. Breakfast at Clarence's. Leader: Jeannine Edwards Phone: (H) <u>423-202-7207</u> ; (C) <u>901-351-1779</u> email: <u>jeannine21@bellsouth.net</u> .
Mon, Feb-10	The Persimmon Ridge loop. Form your carpools at the church and meet the leader at the parking lot at Persimmon Ridge Park in Jonesborough at 8:20 am Leader: Joy Cook 423-913-2220
Wed, Feb-12	Open date ?????
Mon, Feb-17	Tanyard Gap to Hot Springs. 5 miles. Moderate. Lunch in Hot Springs. Leader: Rick Culbertson 423-579-8508 <u>culbertsonrick@gmail.com</u> ;
Wed, Feb-19	Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap and return. We will hike the AT from Iron Mountain Gap past Rock Pillar (ca. 4.5 miles roundtrip) past Greasy Creek to Greasy Creek Gap and return. Approximately 9 miles roundtrip. Moderate, with some steep climbs. Leader: Jeannine Edwards Phone: (H) <u>423-202-7207</u> ; (C) <u>901-351-1779</u> email: <u>jeannine21@bellsouth.net</u> . (If this falls on a Wednesday, let's try Maple Grove Restaurant in Unicoi for breakfast, 1207 Gouge Road, Unicoi, <u>423-735-3003</u> . From Johnson City, I26, cross over the expressway and take the first right BEFORE you reach the stop at Main Street.)
Mon.Feb-24	Pond Mountain---A Beautiful 7.5-mile hike overlooking views of the Watagua Lake as we hike up and over Pond Mountain. Descending into the Laurel Fork Gorge, picking up the Hampton Blueline trail to our shuttle car parked along Hwy 321. Leader: Janice Miller <u>423-543-5602</u>
Wed, Feb-26	A 6 mile in and out hike to The Channels of Virginia. Starting from Va. 80 at the Russell County/ Washington County line. Drive is 60-70 miles from Church picking up Va.80 at exit 24 on I-81. This is a maze of 400-million-year-old large sandstone boulders with crevices 30-40 feet deep that you walk through and explore. Elevation gain of 1200 feet but rated moderate. Leader: Wayne Jones 423-737-4852
Mon, March-2	Pinnacle Trail --same write-up as Feb 3th
Wed, March-4	Open Date????
Mon, March-9	Laurel Fork Falls from U.S. 321. Moderate, 5 miles. We will hike the blue blaze trail to the AT to these beautiful falls. Some easy spots, some strenuous ones, and a couple that are really tricky. On the way back, we can opt to return via the blue blaze high water trail that takes us by the Laurel Fork Shelter and possibly down to a lesser, but very beautiful, waterfall. Leader: Jeannine Edwards <u>jeannine21@bellsouth.net</u> Phone: (H) <u>423-202-7207</u> ; (C) <u>901-351-1779</u>
Wed, March-11	A moderate 9.2 mile in and out hike south on the AT beginning at Tenn. 91 at Cross Mountain to Iron Mountain Shelter. a shorter 6-mile hike is possible if you turn around at the Nick Grindstaff Monument. Leader: Lana Scott <u>423-929-9094</u>
Mon, March-16	Open date in case we need to move a hike due to weather
Wed, March-18	Va. 603 to Dickey Gap - A moderate 8.5-mile hike on the AT around and over Iron Mountain in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. There is a short car shuttle between the trailheads, but driving time will be about 1½ - 2 hours each

	way. If there is sufficient interest, some of us may stop at a restaurant in to eat dinner on the way home. Leader: Eric Middlemas (423) 282-6987; email: emiddlemas@gmail.com.
Mon, March-23	Work Day – A work-day on the OTHC section of AT. We will focus on removing debris and small blow downs from the trail, cleaning out water bars, and lopping back woody growth. Form your carpools at the church and to Clarence’s for breakfast, where there will be a sign-up sheet. Leader: Eric Middlemas (423) 282-6987; email: emiddlemas@gmail.com.
Wed, March- 25	Hidden Lake Loop – A strenuous loop hike to Hidden Lake (also known as Camp Birchfield Lake) along the short but steep Camp Birchfield Lake Trail and the longer, but mostly downhill, Lower Higgins Creek Trail in the Rocky Fork area. The total distance is about 8 miles with several beautiful waterfalls along the way. We will have to deal with about 10 creek crossings on the Camp Birchfield Lake Trail on the way up to the lake and about 3-4 on the way back on the Lower Higgins Creek Trail —hopefully on rocks— so, be prepared either way (the first crossing is the hardest). There is also the option of returning via the Camp Birchfield Lake Trail for those hikers who desire a shorter walk. Gather at the church for carpooling. Leader: Eric Middlemas (423) 282-6987; email: emiddlemas@gmail.com.
Mon, March-30	Late March: Porters Creek in the Greenbrier section of the GSMNP. Hopefully lots of early Spring wildflowers! 7.4-mile moderate hike that can be shortened since it is an in and out. We pass old cemeteries and homesteads, walking along Porters Creek. We cross about the longest footbridge there is in the Smokies and pass Fern Branch Falls heading up to the terminus of Campsite #31. Leader Joy Cook 423-913-2220

We leave Covenant Presbyterian Church, 603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, Tenn. each Monday and Wednesday at 8am. 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. We are an alcohol-free activity. Participation in club activities carries with it the obligation to hold the club and its representatives free of liability for individual safety.

President and founder of Old-Timers Hiking Club—CB Willis -423-218-7130

Treasurer and person to give your membership dues [per year/per family \$10.00]

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Richieritch1.0@gmail.com Phone 765-414-4253

Website---<http://oldtimershikingclub.weebly.com> [Joel Zabel is the webmaster 423-631-6385]

Trail Work Coordinator—Eric Middlemas 423-282-6987 emiddlemas@live.com.

Hike schedule—Faye Guinn-423-753-4072 wegonehiking@embarqmail.com