

OLD TIMERS HIKING CLUB SCHEDULE

Oct-Nov-Dec 2021

Founded August of 1991 by CB Willis and Don Frederick and named by Jim Widener

30 Years of Hiking and Counting

Mon, Oct 4	Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter and back (6.8 miles, moderate): A 6.8 mile moderate hike south on the AT from Hughes Gap to the Clyde Smith Shelter and return. Form up and leave the Church at 8:00 am. Leader Wayne Jones 737-4852.
Wed, Oct 6	Grayson Highlands State Park (6+ miles, moderate): This hike will be on 3 different trails. Two of our trails will start from the Massey Gap parking lot. We will hike the Rhododendron Trail to see the ponies and take in some beautiful views. On the Cabin Creek Trail, we will cross over the creek several times and see waterfalls. The Twin Pinnacle Trail will start at the visitor center. We will reach an elevation of 5,089 at the Little Pinnacle and hike on to the Big Pinnacle with an elevation of 5,068. The Big Pinnacle has a steep climb at the end to take in the views. It can be gusty at the Pinnacles. I am working on having the sun shining so we can have beautiful views! Lunch can be at the tables at Massey Gap or we can sit at one of the waterfalls. We will meet at the Fireworks Supermarket store off of Exit 69 on I-81 and leave at 8:00 am. Sharon got the approval for us and we will park at the far end of the parking lot. If you are meeting at the church, depart at 7:30 am. The drive is about 100 miles and 2 hours from the church. Drive will be less than an hour and a half from the Fireworks Supermarket. I prefer to take exit 35 off of I-81 in Virginia. Park entrance fee is \$7 per car. Leader: Maureen McCarty, 423-612-2730.
Sat, Oct 9	Volunteer Speedway (Bulls Gap) Race Night Out: Time/Meeting place TBD. Come join us for some local dirt track car racing. Volunteer Speedway is located just off I-81 at Exit 23 at 14095 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy in Bulls Gap. Approximate cost: \$15. POC: Dave Polon, 423-302-8368, DPolon123@yahoo.com
Mon, Oct 11 (Federal Holiday)	Beech Mountain Trail System (5 to 6 miles, easy to moderate): A crazy loop thru Beech Mountain ski resort and its Emerald Outback with weather permitting, will have scenic overlooks, Beech forests and beautiful rock formations. Total of 5 to 6 miles if hike leader doesn't get lost!!! About a 1-hour drive and plenty of parking. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am; we'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 8:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Leader: Dave Polon, 423-302-8368, DPolon123@yahoo.com
Wed, Oct 13	Rattlesnake Ridge Trail to Pleasant Garden and return (9 to 10 miles, strenuous): Starting in Rock Creek Park National Recreation Area near Erwin, we will hike the Rattlesnake Ridge Trail to Pleasant Garden and return. This is a strenuous 9 to 10 mile hike through the changing colors of autumn up to a spectacular view (if the weather cooperates). 2582 ft elevation gain. Of course, you can make this a shorter hike if you wish. There is a \$2 day-use fee per car at the entry, (Only \$1 if you have a National Parks Senior Card.) Form up and leave the

	church at 8:00 am. Leader: Jeannine Edwards, 901-351-1779; jeannine21@bellsouth.net
Mon, Oct 18	Camp Creek Bald to Jerry Cabin Shelter and return (8+ miles, moderate to strenuous): This hike includes the always popular Big Firescald Knob with its spectacular views of Greene County and the Bald Mountains. On a clear day, you can truly see forever from the knob. There are options for those who do not wish to hike all the way to the shelter and back. We will meet at the church for an 8 am departure. Hike leader: Pat Kenney, (276) 791-8063, patkenney28@hotmail.com
Wed, Oct 20	Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot and Beyond (4.5 to 8 miles, moderate): 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. Some may choose to return from this point, for about 4.5 miles. Others may choose to extend the hike to 8 miles by continuing to the Gap of the Ever-Changing name—and back. In the fall the colors are lush, and mushrooms abound. There may even be a bit of closed gentian and a few other autumn flowers. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. Leader Jeannine Edwards, 901-351-1779, jeannine21@bellsouth.net.
Mon, Oct 25	Table Rock and Hawksbill (about 4 miles total, moderate): This is a hike that is not about mileage, but about the breathtaking views into Linville Gorge. Always a favorite hike. We will drive to Table Rock first then hike up Hawksbill on the return run. This will allow us to have a shorter drive out of the park and onto the pavement when we're done hiking. We will meet at the church for an 8 am departure. We'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 8:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Hike leader: Pat Kenney, (276) 791-8063, patkenney28@hotmail.com
Wed, Oct 27	<p>Three hikes to choose from! One long one (17 miles), one shorter one (9.4 miles), one even shorter one (6.8 miles). Make sure you sign up with Wayne Jones for the long hike and with Lana Scott for the two shorter ones.</p> <p>TN 91/Cross Mountain to Wilbur Dam Rd (17 miles, strenuous) Our annual 17 miler from TN 91 at Cross Mt. to Wilbur Dam Rd. Rated strenuous because of the mileage. We will do a key swap if enough people attend. Several have told me they want to hike north this year so we will see if we can make it happen. Have plenty of water and snacks. It takes 8 hours to hike, therefore, we will leave the Church at 7 am. We'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 7:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Leader Wayne Jones 737-4852.</p> <p>or</p> <p>TN 91/Cross Mtn Trailhead to Iron Mtn Shelter (9.4 miles moderate): A moderate 9.4 mile hike in-out south on the AT from Cross Mountain to Iron Mountain shelter. A shorter version would be to hike to the Grindstaff monument for a 6.8 mile hike. Depart from the Church at 7:00 am, We'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 7:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Leader - Lana Scott 423-929-9094 or 423-741-7058</p>

Mon, Nov 1	Fall work day on the OTHC section of the AT: Our work will focus on mowing, clearing the trail of debris, and removing blow downs. Some of us will pre-hike the trail ahead of time and determine what needs to be done, if anything. If no work is needed, then we will hike this day, possibly moving Pat Kenney's Dec 6 hike (Carvers Gap to Stan Murray Shelter) forward and backfilling Dec 6 with another hike. More information will be provided about a week ahead of time.
Wed, Nov 3	Indian Grave Gap to Fort Foster, then Curley Maple Gap (9 miles, moderate): This is a moderate hike on the AT from Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Shelter and back. On the way to the shelter, we will take a rugged side trail to "Fort Foster," a stand of high rocks that will offer a great view of the showy autumn leaves and the surrounding mountains. After a short break on the high rocks, we will return to the AT and continue to the shelter. Last, we will return to our cars via the AT. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. Leader Jeannine Edwards, 901-351-1779, email jeannine21@bellsouth.net.
Sun, Nov 7: Daylight Savings Time Ends... Set clocks back 1-hr	
Mon, Nov 8	Kingsport Greenbelt (2 miles, easy): This is truly an Old Timers hike with a 103 year old leader!!! It will be about 2 miles on the Kingsport Greenbelt. To reach the starting point, travel I-26 to Kingsport, getting off at US-11W (Stone Drive). Turn left (west) and drive about a mile until you cross the North Holston River. Almost immediately, turn left on the narrow Netherland Lane and follow it through a couple of turns and turn left on Netherland Inn Dr. Again, cross the North Holston River and take the second turn to the right to a boat launch parking lot where our hike will start. Rain gear may be desirable but we will be finished well before lunch. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am or meet at the trailhead 8:30 to 8:40 am. Parking is limited, so please car-pool as much as possible. Bob Miller, 423/245-1465 or robertwmiller1918@gmail.com. (New email address)
Wed, Nov 10	Shortoff Mountain/ Linville Gorge, NC (6 miles, strenuous): Soak in some views of Lake James and Linville Gorge Wilderness area, the Grand Canyon of the East. Hike 6 miles round trip, with an uphill elevation gain of 1,300 ft in the first couple strenuous miles. We will walk the ridge (easy) enjoying several panoramic views. It is a two hour drive one way so plan on a long day. Weather will be key, so watch your email for a change of hike. Depart from the Church at 8:00 am, we'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 8:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Leader Rich Ritter: 765-414-4253.
Thu, Nov 11: Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)	
Mon, Nov 15	Dupont State Forest Waterfall Hike (9 miles easy/moderate): Four Beautiful waterfalls for the most vigorous hikers which will be about 9 miles of easy walking. 3 falls for those who want to go a shorter distance. Many picnic shelters for enjoying a snack throughout the hike. Many dining stops around Asheville for those wanting lunch afterwards. Form your carpools at the church, leaving at 7:30 due to the drive time of 2 hours. Hike leader: Rich Ritter 765-414-4253.
Wed, Nov 17	Two Hikes: Pick one. One hike has a long drive/day with a very early departure time and the other hike has a short drive with the normal departure time. Alum Cave Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (11 miles strenuous): Let's plan to meet at the Sugarlands parking lot in the GSMNP at 8:30

	<p>am. Travel from Johnson City to Sugarlands is approximately 110 miles and should be no more than 2.5 hours. We can get to the Alum Cave trailhead by 9 am and get a jump on parking, I hope. Now to describe the trail: One way is about 5.5 miles. So total mileage will be 11 miles. We gain about 3,000 ft elevation and the summit is close to 6500 at which point we will travel through Red Spruce forest. Along the way we pass Arch Rock, the actual Alum cave, and the bluffs. A lot of history can be read about this hike, definitely one of the Smokies iconic hikes! And once we get to the Mt LeConte Lodge, we will want to explore, have lunch and rest awhile. It is well worth checking out! I would like to spend the night prior to the hike in Gatlinburg, so if that suits anyone else we might discuss it prior to the hike. Hike leader: Joy Cook, 423-913-2220.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Buffalo Mountain Loop Trail Plus (6 to 7 miles, moderate): We will start at the upper parking and hike the Loop Trail. On the way, we will take a side trip to Huckleberry Knob, visit the Cascades, trek to TipTop, rest on White Rocks, and return to the creek. 6-7 miles. Though we sometimes forget because it is right here in Johnson City, Buffalo Mountain has great trails, wonderful views, lush wildflowers in the spring and early summer, spectacular leaves in autumn, and occasionally some nice ice in the winter. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. Leader: Jeannine Edwards, jeannine21@bellsouth.net, 901-351-1779.</p>
Mon, Nov 22	<p>Devil's Fork Gap to Rocky Fork State Park (7 miles, moderate): After pre-positioning a car at Rocky Fork State Park, we'll start the hike at Devil's Fork Gap. We'll hike on the AT past Flint Mountain Shelter to Flint Mountain Gap. We'll then turn off the AT and hike down though Rocky Fork along the beautiful creek with its cascades and waterfalls. Once we reach the parking lot, the drivers will be shuttled back to their cars to retrieve their cars and pick everyone up. Form up and leave the Church at 8:00 am. Leader: Wayne Jones 737-4852.</p>
Wed, Nov 24	<p>Pinnacle Trail (9.8 miles, moderate): The day before Thanksgiving typically has many of our members busy with traveling, cooking, shopping, cleaning, etc. And some may be doing nothing at all. So, take a time out and enjoy the pre-holiday weekend with your hiking friends on the Pinnacle Tower Trail. You can hike as little as you want, or all the way to the top for a hike distance of 9.8 miles. We'll form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. Or you can drive to the trailhead and we'll start hiking at 8:30 am. (Directions: Leaving Johnson City, take I-26 to Exit 32. You will see the trailhead on your right). Leader: TBD.</p>
Thu, Nov 25: Thanksgiving (Federal Holiday)	
Mon, Nov 29	<p>Hughes Gap to Toll House Gap and back (9 miles, strenuous): Starting at Hughes Gap, we hike the AT up 2200 ft to Roan High Knob/Toll House Gap and the picnic area which will be our lunch stop/turn around point. For those that want a shorter hike, you can turn around at Ash Gap for a 6 mile, moderate hike. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am; meet the hike leader at Food City in Elizabethton at 8:20 am where the signup sheet will be. Leader: Caro Dellenbaugh, 207-504-0440, cdellenbaugh@gmail.com.</p>

Wed, Dec 1	Paint Mountain to Weavers Bend to Chimney Rocks Loop (6.5 miles moderate): We begin by climbing the Paint Mountain trail for 3 miles and stop at the beautiful Weavers Bend view of the French Broad River. We'll continue on the Chimney Rocks Trail, fairly level, for 2 miles and descent to the railroad crossing and the dirt road. We walk along the road for 1.5 miles back to our cars. The rock formations along the second half of the hike is what gives the trail its name. Travel time to the trailhead is about 45 minutes. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. Hike leader: Joy Cook 423-913-2220.
Mon, Dec 6	Carvers Gap to Stan Murray Shelter (7.4 miles, moderate to strenuous): Instead of our usual turn up to Grassy Ridge, let's try the downhill stretch to Stan Murray Shelter. We'll get great views as we cross Round and Jane Balds and then pass through some beautiful forests on the way down to the shelter. The return climb is steady, but has enough switchbacks to ease the strain. We will meet at the church for an 8 a.m. departure. We'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 8:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Hike leader: Pat Kenney, (276) 791-8063 or patkenney28@hotmail.com.
Wed, Dec 8	Buck Mountain Rd to Jones Falls (4.4 mile, moderate): This will be a 4.4-mile in/out hike on the AT. If there is interest, it can be extended another two to three miles to Splash Dam Falls. Form up and leave the church at 8 a.m. Meet the hike leader at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 8:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Hike leader: Dave Polon, 423-302-8368.
Mon, Dec 13	Open Date. No hike scheduled as of yet. We can reschedule a hike that may be cancelled.
Wed, Dec 15	Watauga Dam Road to the Vandeventer Shelter (9.2 mile, strenuous): A 9.2 mile strenuous in and out hike on the Appalachian Trail from Watauga Dam Road to the Vandeventer Shelter. This trail follows the spine of the Iron Mt ending at the shelter where there are great views of Watauga Lake. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. We'll make a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Be ready to depart Food City at 8:20 am, depart when the group from the church arrives. Leader: Lana Scott 423-929-9094 or 423-741-7058.
Mon, Dec 20	Open Date. No hike scheduled as of yet. We can reschedule a hike that may be cancelled.
Wed, Dec 22	Steele Creek Park Loop (5 miles, easy/moderate): We'll meet and start off at Rooster Front parking area and hike the Lakeside Trail to the Hickory Ridge Trail. Then we'll hike the Powerline Trail to Rock Cut Trail, Quarry Cave Trail and the Lakeside Trail back to the parking area. Afterwards, you are welcome to stop by Windy Ridge (Dave's house) for some Christmas cookies/snacks and hot chocolate. Form up and leave the church at 8:00 am. Meet the hike leader at the trailhead at 8:30 am where the signup sheet will be. Leader: Dave Polon, 423-302-8368, DPolon123@yahoo.com
Sat, Dec 25: Christmas (Federal Holiday)	
Mon, Dec 27	Open Date. No hike scheduled as of yet. We can reschedule a hike that may be cancelled.
Wed, Dec 29	Bays Mountain (7.2 miles moderate): I will lead you on a hike where I haven't taken you yet. From the parking lot, we'll cross the dam and hike the Bays Ridge Trail. Without the leaves, there will be splendid views along the way. We'll turn

	around near the end, and return via Jones Road and Lake Road. There is a \$5 entry fee per vehicle; with a valid military ID, you are allowed free entry. Form up and leave the church at 9:00 am and meet the leader in the Bays Mountain parking lot near the Nature Center at 9:40 am where the sign-in sheet will be. Leader: Dave Polon, 423-302-8368; DPolon123@yahoo.com.
	Sat, Jan 1: New Year's Day (Federal Holiday)

Come join us! On most hikes, we leave Covenant Presbyterian Church, 603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN each Mon and Wed at 8:00 am. Showtime is 7:45-7:50 am so we can sign hikers in and form carpools if needed. **We leave at 8:00 am sharp!** Please check the hike descriptions for the meeting times. Some hikes we may depart earlier or later. On some hikes, we also have a second stop at Food City in Elizabethton. Those that meet there will **be ready to depart at 8:20 am and leave as soon as those from the church arrive.**

Bring lunch/snack, PLENTY of water, and gas money. Each person should carry a small first aid kit, you should also carry a little extra food just in case. Bring raingear (it may rain where the hike is even if the weather here does not say rain). Most important, bring yourself and a smile and come enjoy our hikes!!!

Everyone is welcome, member or not.

We are an alcohol/drug-free activity. Drinking alcohol is prohibited before the hikes, during the hikes, or at any trailhead. Participation in club activities carries with it the obligation to hold the club and its representatives free of liability for individual safety.

Treasurer and person to give your membership dues (per year/per family\$10.00): Rich Ritter, 1125 Biltmore Dr, Piney Flats, TN 37686 Richieritch1.0@gmail.com. Phone: 765-414-4253.

Secretary/Hike schedule: Dave Polon, 423-302-8368; DPolon123@yahoo.com

Trail Work Coordinator: Alan Liggett, 423-926-4391

Website---<http://oldtimershikingclub.weebly.com>

Webmaster: Dave Polon 423-302-8368; DPolon123@yahoo.com